Mount Aspiring National Park
Grander of scenery - the Southern Alps

New Zealand has no animals that are harmful to humans, and introduced species control is in place. The main track splits the park into western (wetter) and eastern (drier) sections. Many of the species that exist in the west and, especially, in the township and surrounding area are threatened by a combination of introduced species, notably rabbits, and kahikatea-dominated podocarp forest can be seen at almost sea level in the Haast Valley.

The valley is a good place to see many species of birds, including some that are not found elsewhere in the park. These include the rare New Zealand robin, the yellow-crowned parakeet (kakariki), and the red-fronted (tui) and white-fronted (toitoi) parrots.

For more information on what to do in the park, please see the visitor centre in Queentown or the DOC office in Wanaka.

Climate - four seasons in one day

Summer is the best time to get out and about, but be prepared for weather that is notoriously changeable and the even brighter summer days can result in snow flurries. Mountain tops often experience freezing conditions year round, and many of them have permanent snowfields and glaciers. Annual rainfall varies from 300mm in Central Otira to over 8000mm in the Southern Alps. Access to the park is available all year round, depending on current backcountry conditions.

Vegetation

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