

Mavora Lakes

Mavora Lakes Conservation Park



Recreation opportunities

The table below identifies tracks suitable for tramping, 4WD vehicles, mountain biking, horse riding, fishing and hunting (by permit only) within the Mavora Lakes area.

LOCATION								
South Mavora Lake	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
North Mavora Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Careys Hut to Boundary Hut	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Careys Hut to Forks Hut	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boundary Hut to Taiupo Hut	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Taiupo Hut to Greenstone Hut	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenstone Hut to road end	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Mavora Lake to Kiwi Burn Hut	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*

* Kiwi Burn Hut is in Snowdon Forest. A dog permit for controlled access areas is required to take dogs into this area, available from the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre.

Further information

Te Rua-o-te-moko/Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre

Lakefront Drive, Te Anau, PO Box 29

PHONE: (03) 249 7924

EMAIL: fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nzwww.doc.govt.nz

Care for Aotearoa



Protect nature

Keep your distance and don't feed wildlife. Follow any rules restricting dogs, fires, drones or vehicles.



Keep NZ clean

Take all rubbish with you and use toilets where provided.



Show respect

Respect others, respect culture.



Be prepared

Stay safe in the outdoors by following the Land Safety Code.

- ▶ Choose the right trip for you.
- ▶ Understand the weather.
- ▶ Pack warm clothes and extra food.
- ▶ Share your plans and take ways to get help.
- ▶ Take care of yourself and each other.



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or conservation emergencies
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Introduction

The Mavora Lakes area is found to the east of Fiordland. This impressive landscape of serene lakes, open tussock, grasslands and indigenous beech forest is part of the Te Wāhipounamu – South West New Zealand World Heritage Area.

This is an idyllic place for camping and is bursting with recreational opportunities: fishing, water sports, horse riding, mountain biking, tramping, or just lazy lakeside strolls with your dog – a very popular destination in summer.

Mavora Lakes Campsite

Mavora Lakes Campsite has two main (standard) camping areas: one alongside South Mavora Lake, the other between South Mavora Lake and North Mavora Lake (marked as ‘(south)’ and ‘(north)’ on the map). Bookings required through www.doc.govt.nz/mavora-campsite. DOC rangers are present at these sites in summer. Dogs are welcome and there is a paddock for horses.

There are no rubbish bins – take your rubbish with you.

You can use portable stoves; fires are only allowed in the designated barbecue stands and campfires. Bring your own firewood to save the area’s scarce resources, or use dead wood only. *Chainsaws are not permitted*. At times conditions may also mean there is a total fire ban, including campfires.

Camping fees

For current prices and to book, visit www.doc.govt.nz/mavora-campsite.

Tents and caravans must be removed if unoccupied for more than 5 days. Caravans may be stored during December and January in the area set aside.

Remember: display your registration number so the rangers know how long you are staying.

Getting there

From SH94 between Mossburn and Te Anau, turn off at either Centre Hill or Burwood Station and follow unsealed roads for 39 km. There is no regular public transport to the area; connections are available from the end of the Greenstone Track to Glenorchy, or from The Divide on Milford Road.

Mountain biking, motorbikes and 4WD

The track from the camping area to Careys Hut is suitable for mountain biking, motor biking and 4WD vehicles. The track to Boundary Hut and the route to Forks Hut are very rough/difficult and not recommended for vehicle access; both are suitable for mountain biking.

Keep to the tracks and formed roads, and be considerate to others at campsites when driving. Vehicles and mountain bikes are not allowed beyond Boundary and Forks huts.

Note: There is a locked gate on the 4WD track along North Mavora Lake. 4WD and motorbike users must register with DOC to get the access code before taking their vehicles beyond the camping area. More information and a registration form are available from www.doc.govt.nz/mavora-lakes.

Remember: All vehicles must be driven/ridden by a licenced person. The road rules apply in the area. All vehicles must be registered and warranted, helmets worn and drivers licenced. Police conduct random inspections.

Boating

Small motorised craft are permitted only on North Mavora Lake – motorised craft are not allowed on South Mavora Lake. Hovercraft and jet skis are not permitted on either lake. Mararoa River, between the lakes and below South Mavora Lake, is good for canoeing.

Remember: navigation safety bylaws limit boat speed to 5 km within 50 m of another vessel or person in the water, and distances to within 200 m of shore or any vessel showing a divers flag. These laws exist for everyone’s safety.

Before launching your boat, check for invasive weeds and didymo. Refer to the didymo section below for details.

Fishing

Fishing in the lakes is permitted all-year round, but the season for the Mararoa River is 1 October – 30 April. All anglers must have the current season’s fishing licence. There are brown and rainbow trout in Mararoa River and both lakes – only artificial baits are permitted. The total bag limit is two fish per person.

Check your boat for didymo

Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) is an unwanted invasive freshwater alga. It infects many South Island rivers and lakes and is found in the area. Didymo cells are invisible until large colonies form (thick growths of whitish brown mats). To prevent the spread of didymo, **disinfect and dry all equipment and clothing, including wet socks and footwear, before moving between waterways.**



Check the noticeboards at the campsite kiosks at both lakes for the latest information on how to **Check, Clean, Dry** your gear, or ask the ranger (summer only).

Visit www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo or call **0800 80 99 66**.

Dogs and other pets

Dogs are allowed, but must be under control at all times. **All dogs must be on a leash in the camping areas and at hut sites.** No dogs in the huts, and please clean up after your dog in amenity areas.

Cats and other domestic animals are not permitted.

Horses

Horse riding is permitted. Holding paddocks are located at the bottom end of North Mavora Lake and at Forks Hut. Do not tether horses in the camping areas.

Trekking routes are not specified, but avoid all sensitive habitat areas, especially stream margins and wetlands. Cross Mararoa River only between the lakes or at the 4WD vehicle access point to the Windon Burn. No horse trekking beyond Boundary Hut.

Horse owners are responsible for providing feed, such as oats, for their animals. Ensure this feed is free of seeds to prevent weeds entering the area.

Huts and hut tickets

All the huts (except Forks and West Burn huts) in Mavora Lakes are ‘standard’ huts, requiring one hut ticket per night or an Annual Backcountry Hut Pass. Tickets can be purchased at DOC offices or approved outlets.

Please note:

- *There are no heating facilities in Boundary Hut or Taipo Hut and no cooking facilities in any of the huts, so portable stoves must be carried.*
- The water supply is turned off in Careys, Boundary and Taipo huts from May until October
- Forks and West Burn huts are ‘basic’ huts and free of charge. West Burn Hut is a 1920s musterers’ hut, accessible by boat – it is difficult to reach on foot as there is no maintained walking track. There are no toilet facilities at West Burn Hut – bury your waste away from the hut and water sources.
- Leave the facilities clean and tidy, and remove all rubbish. Smoking is not allowed in any of the huts.



Track grades



Walking track – well formed, easy walks from a few minutes to a day.



Easy tramping track – generally well-formed track for comfortable overnight tramping/hiking trips.



Tramping track – mostly unformed but with direction track markers, poles or cairns. Backcountry skills and experience required.



Route – unformed, suitable only for people with high-level navigation and backcountry skills and experience.



Please check for DOC track alerts on the DOC website or at the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre.



South Mavora Lake Tramping Track 2 hr 30 min

This walking track starts over the swing bridge near the camping area at North Mavora Lake. It follows Mararoa River downstream, and around the shores of South Mavora Lake to the swing bridge at its outlet. An unmarked route used by anglers also follows the shores of North Mavora Lake for about an hour.

Kiwi Burn Hut options

For routes beyond Kiwi Burn Hut, refer to NZTopo50 map CD09. A dog permit for controlled access areas is required to take dogs into this area. Please contact Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre.



South Mavora Lake to Kiwi Burn Hut 4 hr

From the South Mavora Lake outlet, cross the swing bridge and follow the track along the true right of Mararoa River. After 2 hr 30 min, the track meets another track coming from Mavora Lakes Road. Continue for 1 hr 30 min to Kiwi Burn Hut or return to South Mavora Lake the way you came.



Mavora Lakes Road to Kiwi Burn Hut 3 hr (return)

This is a good walk for families. From the access point signposted on Mavora Lakes Road (1.5 km south of Hikuraki Station), cross the swing bridge over Mararoa River. Follow the track for 1 hr 30 min to Kiwi Burn Hut.



Kiwi Burn Loop 3 hr 30 min

From the swing bridge, a marked route enters the forest and passes through several small clearings, then crosses a low ridge before descending to Kiwi Burn. From here, marked routes lead to Whitestone River or downstream, and to Kiwi Burn Hut (challenging progress over boggy grounds and through wetlands), returning to the swing bridge via Kiwi Burn and Mararoa River. Some stream crossings do not have bridges.

Mavora – Greenstone Walkway

This is a 50 km, 4-day tramping trip, linking the Mavora Lakes Campsite with the Greenstone Track. It also forms part of the Te Araroa Walkway. The walkway beyond Boundary Hut passes through Elfin Bay Station (privately owned).



Metal poles mark the track, except where it follows the 4WD track. Some sections are exposed to mountain weather all year, so trampers must be equipped well. We recommend NZTopo50 maps CB10, CC09 and CD09.

Rules of the walkway

- **Fires are prohibited** on the Mavora – Greenstone Walkway, except in Greenstone and Careys huts.
- Pack out what you pack in. There are **no rubbish facilities**.
- No vehicles (including mountain and trail bikes) past Boundary Hut onto Elfin Bay Station.
- **Dogs and firearms are prohibited beyond Boundary Hut.**



North Mavora Lake to Careys Hut 2 hr, 10 km

From the Mavora camping area, follow the 4WD track around the lake edge to the head of North Mavora Lake and Careys Hut (1 hr 30 min – 2 hr).



Careys Hut to Boundary Hut 2 hr, 6 km

From Careys Hut, the walkway climbs beyond the hut and then splits into two branches. The right branch continues on to Boundary Hut (4 bunks). **The left branch is a very rough 4WD track that crosses the confluence of Mararoa River and Windon Burn and then continues for 3 hr to Forks Hut (4 bunks).**



Boundary Hut to Taipo Hut 3–4 hr, 12 km

From the hut, cross the swing bridge and follow marker poles on the true right of the Mararoa River. The track sidles up along the toe of the hill and the true right of the valley, continuing to Taipo Hut on the north side of the river. Access to the hut is by swing bridge.



Taipo Hut to Greenstone Hut 4–5 hr, 10 km

The track follows the toe of the hill on the western side of the Pongburn valley. Watch carefully opposite the middle of the top pond, as the track veers up a terrace into forest and continues to the saddle of the Passburn valley (728 m). The track, marked by poles, drops steeply to the stream (crossing on boulders), climbing and sidling around to Greenstone Hut. The hut is sited in a bush clearing above the confluence of the Greenstone River and Sly Burn, under the rocky pinnacles of Tooth Peak.



Greenstone Hut to Greenstone road end 3–5 hr, 11 km

Cross the Greenstone River by a swing bridge, and continue downstream on the Greenstone Track to the road end and car park. Alternatively, follow the Greenstone valley up to Lake McKellar, Lake Howden and The Divide. Allow an extra day for this section of the Greenstone Track. Refer to the *Greenstone and Caples tracks* brochure for hut and track information.



THE DIVIDE
 ♀♂
 ♀♂
 P

Lake Mckellar

McKellar Hut

Mid Caples Hut

KINLOCH

GLENORCHY

GREENSTONE
 STATION
 ROAD

GLENORCHY
 QUEENSTOWN
 ROAD

Lake Wakatipu

94

MILFORD
 HIGHWAY

TE ANAU

LIVINGSTONE
 MOUNTAINS

David Peaks

LIVINGSTONE
 MOUNTAINS

Taipo Hut
 4 bunks

Greenstone
 Hut
 20 bunks

Tooth Peak

Sly Burn
 Pass Burn

THOMSON
 MOUNTAINS

Mt Mavora

MOUNT
 NICHOLAS
 STATION

Forks Hut
 4 bunks

Boundary Hut
 4 bunks

Mt Turnbull

Mt Nicholas

Pasture Hill

Wipon
 Burn

Careys Hut
 6 bunks

Cold Peak

Mt Lookup

West
 Burn Hut
 6 bunks

North Mavora Lake

Mt Richmond

Mt Eldon

Mavora Lakes
 Campsite
 (north)

Mt Campbell

Snowdon Peak

Mt Cerberus

South Mavora Lake

Mavora Lakes
 Campsite
 (south)

Hummock Peak

Upukerora
 River

Kiwi
 Burn

Kiwi
 Burn Hut
 12 bunks

♂♀
 ♀♂
 P

Mavora
 LAKES

ROAD

Whitestone
 River

Mararoa
 River

	Walking track
	Tramping track
	Route
	Metalled
	Sealed
	Camping
	Hut
	Car park
	Toilet

0 5 km

Base map by Geographix R-106407

