

Welcome to Wanaka

Wanaka is one of Otago's most popular holiday spots. A spectacular place for recreation: mountains, lakes and rivers, for all to enjoy and explore. Warm summers are ideal for the region's wide range of readily available facilities: tracks to walk, tramp or mountain bike; rock faces to climb; waterways to boat on. And in winter, skiing or snowboarding on one of the area's three internationally rated ski fields.


General


NOTE: The maps in this brochure are a guide only and should not be used for navigation purposes.


Always contact the nearest visitor centre for the latest information about facilities and conditions.

Many of the tracks in this brochure cross private land. Please respect the landowner's property and livestock.

Where horse riding is allowed, an access key may be required, as horse gates are limited. Please check with the local DOC office.

 Short Walk – a well formed track for easy walking, suitable for most ages and fitness levels.

 Walking Track – a defined, formed track, suitable for most ages and abilities.

 Tramping Track – limited track formation, often with steep grades. 'Boot standard', suitable for fit, properly equipped groups.

 Dog walking

 Mountain biking

 Lookout/views

 Horse riding


 Fishing

 Boating

 Historic sites

 Camping

 Hut


 No dogs

 No bikes

 No vehicles

 Managed by Queenstown Lakes District Council

 Managed by Department of Conservation

 Part of Te Araroa - The Long Pathway

Track times are one way unless otherwise stated.

Choosing a Track

How long do you want to walk?

One or two hours: walk up Mount Iron or along the lakefront on Waterfall Creek, Eely Point or Outlet Tracks.

Three hours plus: Roys Peak and Diamond Lake Tracks are close to Wanaka and offer great summit views. The Fern Burn is the nearest bush walk to town.

Mountain Biking

The region's range caters from beginners through to advanced: cruise alongside the Hawea River, the lakeside tracks or tackle the undulating Minaret Burn or Dingle Burn Tracks. For pedal-grinding a-plenty: Isthmus Peak, Lindis Peak and Grandview Range Tracks.

Please remember the Off-road Code, wear a helmet, respect other users and give way to walkers.

Wanaka's Weather

Oct – Dec: changeable, 11 - 17 °C

Jan – March: Hot and dry, 21 - 34 °C

April – June: Warm, temperate days, 12 - 25 °C

July – Sept: Frequent snow, crisp, clear days, 5 - 12 °C

Further Information

For further information please contact:

Mt Aspiring National Park Visitor Centre

Ardmore Street

PO Box 93, Wanaka 9343

Phone: +64 3 443 7660

Fax: +64 3 443 8777

Email: mtaspiringvc@doc.govt.nz

Web: www.doc.govt.nz

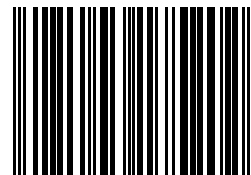


Cover Photos: Waterfall Creek Track (U Keck), Upper Clutha River Track (U Keck), Minaret Burn Track with Mou Tapu behind (DOC Wanaka)

Published by Department of Conservation
PO Box 5244, Moray Place
Dunedin 9058.

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New Zealand Government



Wanaka Outdoor Pursuits



INCLUDING HAWEA, LINDIS AND PISA AREAS



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Wanaka Islands



There are four significant islands on the lake, each a public reserve: Mou Waho Scenic Reserve (118 ha), Mou Tapu Scenic Reserve (126 ha), Ruby Island Reserve (3 ha) and Te Peka Karara/Stevensons Island Scenic Reserve (62 ha).

Mou Waho and Mou Tapu have high conservation value as havens for plants, birds and insects that have disappeared from the adjacent mainland. On Mou Waho, a well-formed track at the landing leads to Arethusa Pool, a small lake that sits in a rock cradle some 150 metres above the main lake.

Te Peka Karara/Stevensons Island is the key site for the return of the buff weka to mainland New Zealand. As a result of this successful joint project between Te Rūnanga O Ngāi Tahu and DOC, weka can also be seen on Mou Waho, Mou Tapu and the islands on Lake Wakatipu.

The islands are popular with local boaties during the summer months and several operators run daily island cruises. More information is available in the *Lake Wanaka's Islands* brochure.



Picnic guest on Mou Waho

Eco Wanaka Adventures

Rock Climbing

Wanaka is an international destination for rock climbing. Climbing was established here in the 1970s at Hospital Flat, 12 kilometres from Wanaka town on Mount Aspiring Road. The sport's growing popularity saw more and more spectacular routes opened up at Hospital Flat and on the neighbouring Diamond Lake Conservation Area. Further along Mount Aspiring Road both the Riverside and Roadside Recreation Reserves offer a range of crags for rock climbing enthusiasts.

Using the Australasian or 'Ewebank' grading system, Hospital Flat's climbing difficulty ranges from Grade 10 (Six Feet Under) to Grade 29 (Blue Meanie and Engage). A good starting point is Maincliff, with quality single-pitch routes ranging from Grade 12 to 22. Tombstone is the next most significant feature, with routes graded from 16 to 24. Be prepared for crimpy hand-holds but good friction for the feet.

The Wanaka Rock Climbing Club works hard to set a high standard of bolting and encourages a progressive attitude to rock climbing ethics. Check out their rock climbing and bouldering guide *Wanaka Rock* for further details.



Hospital Flat

M Painting

Natural History

Lake Wanaka is 45 kilometres long and up to 12 kilometres wide, making it New Zealand's fourth largest lake, and the main source of our biggest river, the Clutha/Mata-Au. At 277 metres above sea level, the lake's maximum depth is 311 metres, near Mou Waho, one of Wanaka's four significant islands; all of them public reserves.

With a 175-kilometre shoreline and a host of bays and inlets, Lake Wanaka occupies a deep valley excavated by huge glaciers that also sculpted the surrounding hills. Around 20,000 years ago the Wanaka and Hawea Basins were filled with ice and the glaciers carved the present terrain. Nearby Mount Iron, and Mou Waho and Mou Tapu Islands, all show the effects of glaciation – rounded on the upstream side, and steep, craggy faces downstream.



Beech forest in the Fern Burn

J Connell

The Wanaka area lies in the rain shadow of the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana, but it is wetter than other parts of Central Otago. Native vegetation is dominated by shrubland, featuring kānuka, pittosporum/kohuhu, cabbage tree/tī rākau and a range of coprosma and olearia species. Mount Iron has a representative sample of local native plant life.

Common native bird species include silvereye/tauhou, bellbird/korimako, kingfisher/kōtare, Australasian harrier hawk/kāhu and the much rarer New Zealand falcon/kārearea.

Human History

To Māori, Wanaka was originally known as Oanaka. This probably referred to the junction or meeting place role the area played, at the crossroads of the trading routes for the highly prized pounamu/greenstone.

Māori travelled great distances for Wanaka's resources and occupied it for varying periods over several centuries, before Europeans arrived. They came for the food and fibre that the lake, river and forest produced, and the earliest people hunted the flightless moa. Among their preferred foods were eel/tuna, wood pigeon/kererū, weka and kākāpo. Fern root/aruhe and young cabbage tree/tī rākau stems were staple foods. Tī rākau leaves and those from some celmisia (mountain daisy) species were used for plaiting garments and sandals.

The settlements were seasonal and, therefore, temporary, though a few villages were established around Lakes Wanaka and Hawea. The main Wanaka settlement, Takikarara, was on a peninsula near the Clutha River/Mata-Au outlet and incorporated a wharekura or school of learning. The first Europeans to reach Wanaka found potatoes growing wild there.



Historic Lindis Pass Hotel

J Gordon

In the 1850s European pastoralists and surveyors came inland looking for grazing land. Using Māori guides, a young farmer, Nathaniel Chalmers, reached Hawea from the south in 1853. But it was in the summer of 1857-58 that the surveyor, John Turnbull Thomson, put Wanaka and Hawea firmly on European maps when he explored

the lakes region via Lindis Pass. Thomson painted Lake Wanaka and the Alps beyond, and gave Mt Aspiring/Tititea its European name. Later in 1858 sheep farmer Jock McLean arrived to establish Morven Hills Station, the first of many such runs in the region.

Gold was discovered in Central Otago in the early 1860s and the subsequent rushes enlivened the region. A direct result was that timber became a very valuable commodity. There were substantial native forests in the adjoining Matukituki and Makarora Valleys and rimu, matai, kahikatea and red beech/tawhero logs were rafted down the lake to supply the goldfield towns. In the 1880s tourism began with steamers on the lake and the establishment of hotels at Pembroke – now Wanaka – and at the head of the lake. Mou Waho – then known as Pigeon Island – was another popular destination.



Fly fishing on the Timaru River

P Brownie

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies
For fire and search and rescue call 111

Pisa Conservation Area

These tracks provide easy access to the Pisa Conservation Area's attractive tussockland. The area is steeped in history with the route from the Cardrona Valley into the Kawarau Valley being a major pathway for Māori to and from the West Coast.

22. Meg Hut



Tuohys Gully Car Park to Meg Hut: 2 hr – 6 km
Tuohys Gully Car Park to Lowburn: 7 - 8 hr – 24 km
Tuohys Gully Car Park to Roaring Meg: 5 - 6 hr – 19 km

The carpark is signposted to the right, across the Snow Farm entrance bridge. The track climbs steadily up a 4WD track to 1,140-metre Tuohys Saddle, an easy grade track then leads down to the Meg Hut. It's possible to return to Tuohys Gully on a small circuit, via the Roaring Meg Stream. For a more adventurous tramp, follow the Roaring Meg gorge down to the Roaring Meg power station in the Kawarau Gorge, or cross over the tops on the Lowburn Pack Track. Take warm and windproof clothing as temperatures can drop quickly, even in mid-summer.



Meg Hut

DOC

23. Rock Peak Track



Crown Saddle Car Park to Rock Peak – 1.5 hr

This track at the southern end of the Pisa Range gives quick access to great views. Follow an old 4WD track as it zig zags up from the car park to the transmitter station at Rock Peak. For the adventurous and well-equipped, the track continues on to Tuohy's Saddle.

24. Little Criffel Track



6 - 7 hr – 20 km (return)

The track up to 1,341-metre Little Criffel is steep and unformed, but provides a good opportunity for fit, experienced walkers to enjoy extensive views of the Upper Clutha Valley. From the carpark, cross the Cardrona River and follow the markers and stiles up the hill. Take warm, windproof clothing; temperatures can drop quickly on this exposed upland, at any time of year.

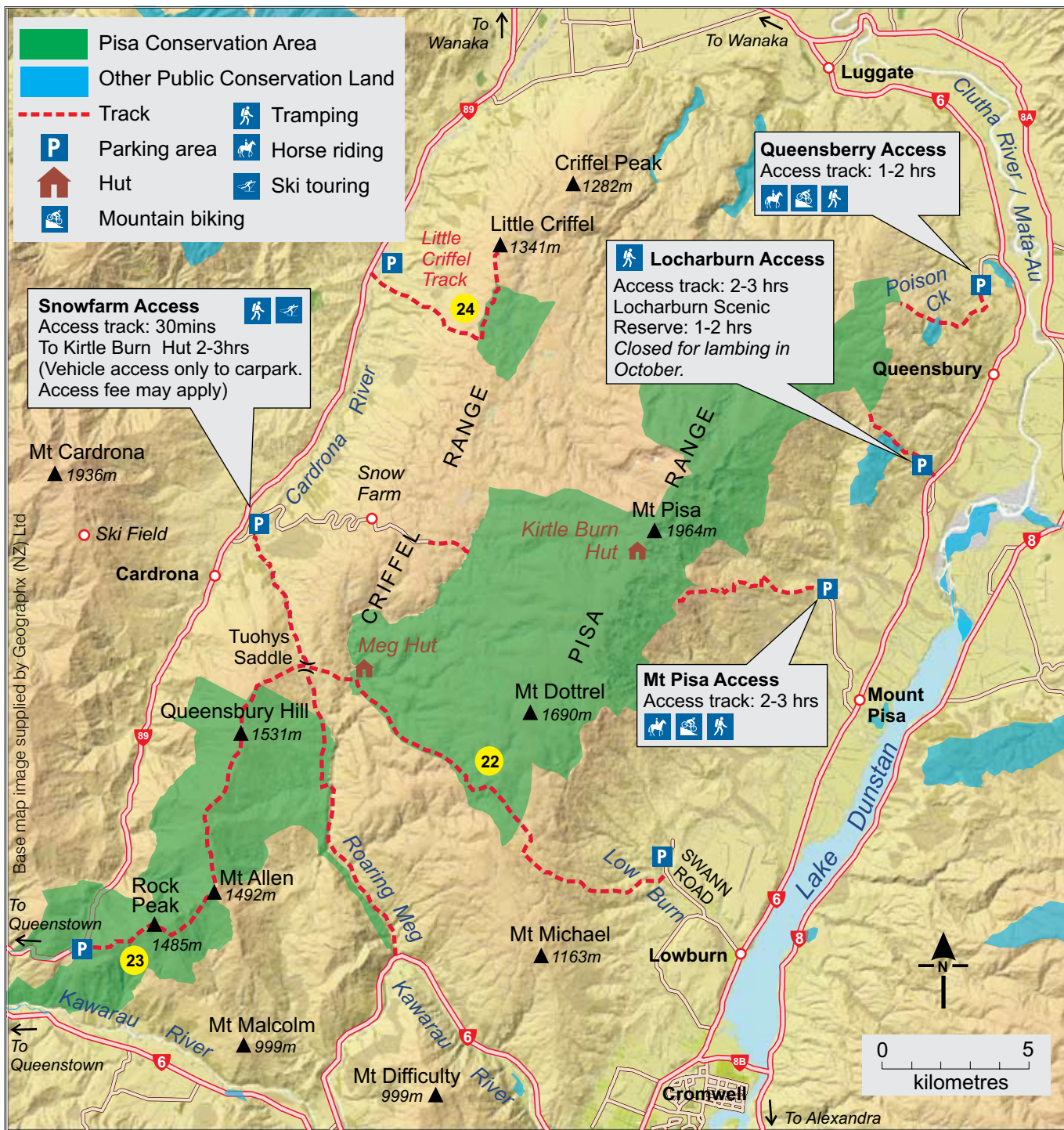


Rock Peak Track

DOC

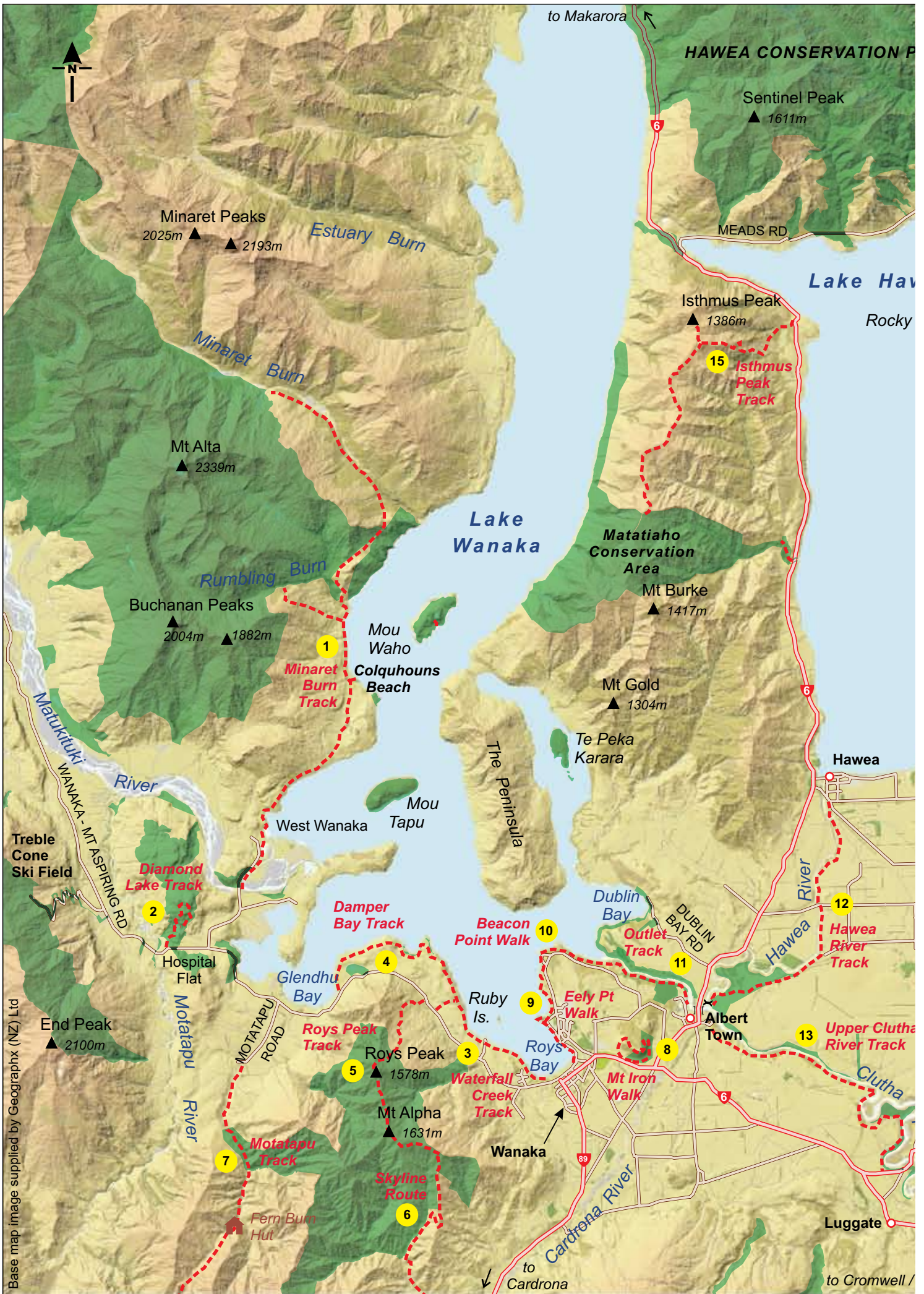
Acknowledgment

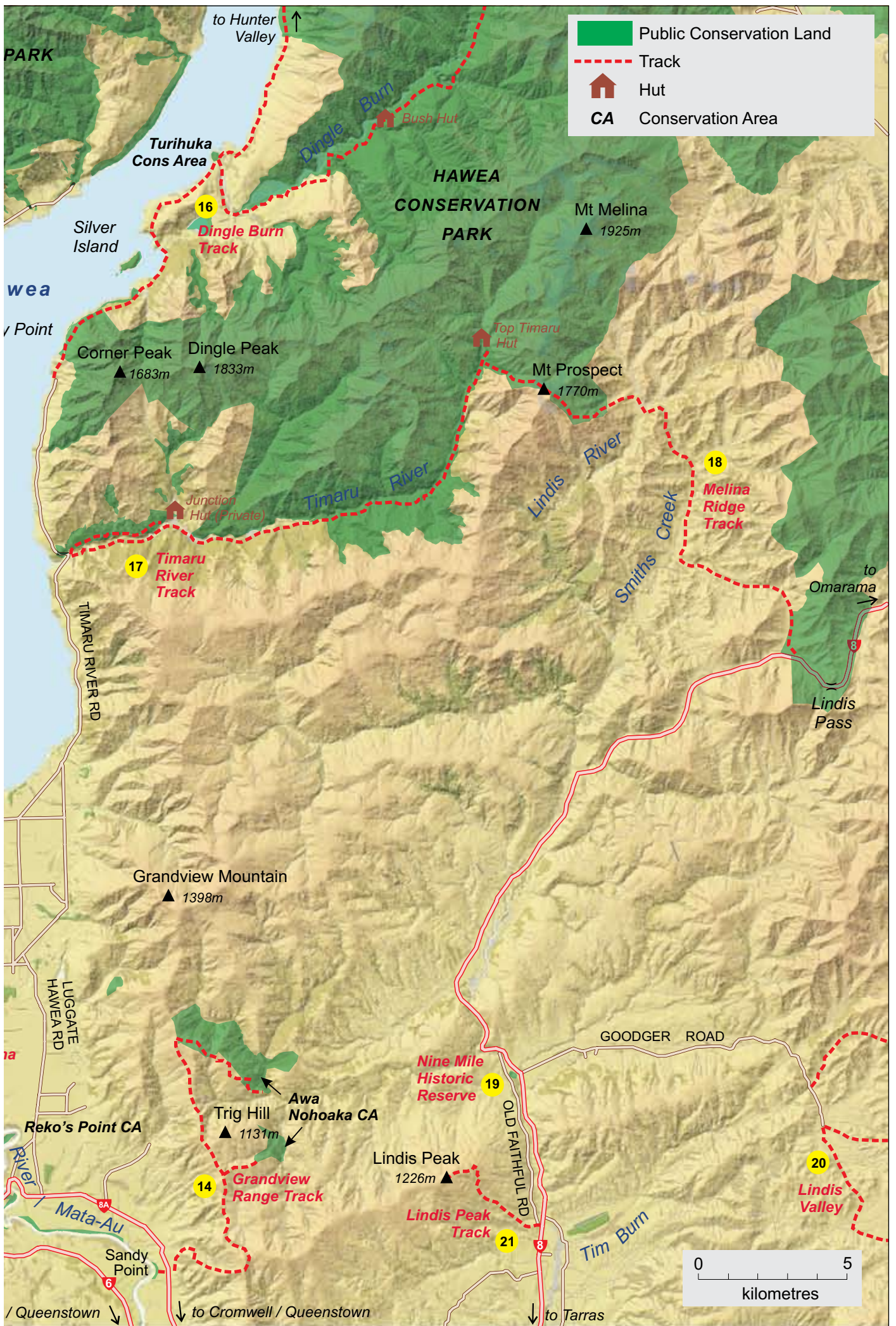
The Department of Conservation acknowledges the work of the Upper Clutha Tracks Trust, whose efforts in establishing the Hawea River, Upper Clutha River and Damper Bay Tracks are a major contribution to both residents and visitors alike.



NEW ZEALAND
environmental
CARE CODE

- Protect plants and animals
- Remove rubbish
- Bury toilet waste
- Take care with fires
- Camp carefully
- Keep streams and lakes clean
- Keep to the track
- Consider others
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Enjoy your visit
- Toitu te whenua (leave the land undisturbed)







Landing on Mou Waho Island

Eco Wanaka Adventures

1. Minaret Burn Track



Carpark to Colquhouns Beach: 2 - 3 hr – 7 km

This well-formed track provides easy access to beautiful beaches along Wanaka's western shore. From Homestead Bay carpark the track gently undulates towards small, sheltered, Colquhouns Beach; a popular swimming and picnic spot. The longer, more demanding trips beyond here are described in the Minaret Burn Track brochure.

2. Diamond Lake



Diamond Lake Circuit Track return 45 min – 2.5 km

Diamond Lake Lookout return 1 hr – 2 km

Lake Wanaka Lookout return 2 hr – 5 km

Rocky Mountain Summit Track return 3 hr – 7 km

Follow the 4WD track from the carpark, climbing to the lake where the circuit track is marked. Another track winds up to a lookout above Diamond Lake. Beyond here, there's a choice of the Lake Wanaka lookout, off to the right or to Rocky Mountain's 775-metre summit via a loop track. Spectacular views include Lake Wanaka and a skyline dominated by the surrounding peaks. The distinct shape of Mt Aspiring/Tititea lies to the west.

3. Waterfall Creek Track



1 hr – 2.5 km

This track starts from the west end of Roys Bay, soon reaching Wanaka Station Park, a beautiful picnic area on the left. The track then winds along the lake's western shores for superb views, passing Edgewater Resort and Rippon Vineyard before reaching Waterfall Creek.

4. Damper Bay Track



2 - 3 hr – 10 km

Across Waterfall Creek the track continues for a further hour on re-vegetated terraces above Lake Wanaka, to a small north-facing beach suitable for swimming.

5. Roys Peak Track



5 - 6 hr return – 11 km

The all-encompassing panorama from this 1,578-metre summit includes most of Lake Wanaka, the surrounding peaks and Mount Aspiring/Tititea. This is an exposed track and temperatures can drop quickly, even in mid-summer. Please take warm and windproof clothing.

Closed for lambing 1 October to 10 November.



Beacon Point Walk

A Smith

6. Skyline Route



10 - 11 hr – 19 km

This challenging tramp begins with the track to Roys Peak. From the peak, follow the ridge line over Mt Alpha and descend through snow tussock to a 4WD track. Then follow the poled route to the Cardrona Road, 10 kilometres from Wanaka Town. This track is prone to low cloud cover, and is not recommended during winter.

7. Fern Burn



Fern Burn Hut 3 - 4 hr – 7 km

The Wanaka end of the challenging, multi-day Motatapu Track provides an enjoyable day or overnight walk into Fern Burn Hut. Beginning with easy travel along the Fern Burn, the track then passes through steeper country as the burn cascades through remnant beech forest. Above the treeline it climbs through upland tussock to the hut.

8. Mount Iron Walk



1.5 hr return – 4.5 km

Mount Iron is an impressive, glacier-carved, 240-metre rocky knoll. From its summit a great panorama unfolds: Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, the Cardrona and Upper Clutha Valleys and all the surrounding peaks.

9. Eely Point Walk



20 min – 1 km

Eely Point is a popular, sheltered, boating and picnicking area. From Wanaka town follow the lake shore to the right, past the marina, and on to Eely Point. Carrying on round the point for another five minutes takes you to Bremner Bay, a good family swimming spot.

10. Beacon Point Walk



30 min – 1.5 km

The track continues from Bremner Bay to Beacon Point, with great lake and mountain views along the way. It suits all ages and abilities, baby buggies and bikes. From Beacon Point it's a 30-minute walk to link with the Outlet Track.

11. Outlet Track



1 hr – 3 km

Spectacular scenery and popular with walkers and bikers, the track follows the Clutha River/Mata-Au. You can start/finish at the Lake Wanaka outlet and Hikuwai Reserve in Albert Town. This stretch of the river is world-renowned for its trout fishing.

12. Hawea River Track



Albert Town to Hawea Dam: 3 - 4 hr – 14 km

Suitable for all ages and experience, this riverside walk is over easy country and links Lake Hawea township to Wanaka, via Albert Town.

13. Upper Clutha Track



3 - 4 hr – 13 km

From the carpark off Kinnibeg Street, Albert Town, follow the track a short distance to 'Pawsons Crossing' bridge over the Cardrona River. Walk or bike along the picturesque Clutha River/Mata-Au to historic Reko's Point Conservation Area – the site of 19th and 20th century goldmining activity – and on to Shortcut Road.

14. Grandview Track



Sandy Point Conservation Area: 5 min
Sandy Point carpark to Viewpoint: 2 - 3 hr

Viewpoint to Awa Nohoaka Conservation Area: 1 - 2 hr

The track starts across the road from and slightly north of the Sandy Point carpark. A poled route follows Deep Gully up onto the skyline ridge and its great views. The track then branches to access the northern and southern sections of Awa Nohoaka Conservation Area.

Closed for lambing, 15 September to 30 October.

15. Isthmus Peak Track



Isthmus Peak: 3 - 4 hr – 8 km

Matatiaho Conservation Area: 5 - 7 hr – 15 km

This track is signposted just south of Stewart Creek on SH6. Follow the poled route along the creek until it joins a farm track. From here it's a steep, winding, rocky climb to a skyline ridge, with sections where bikers will need to dismount and push. A sign on the ridge points right, to the track to 1,385-metre Isthmus Peak, and left, along the exposed ridge to the Matatiaho Conservation Area.

Closed for fawning, 20 November to 20 December.

Craig Burn Access: A short walk from the carpark leads to a pleasant picnic spot on the lower Craig Burn. There is no formed track above this point on the conservation area; access is via scrubby, steep and rocky terrain.

16. Dingle Burn Track



Carpark to Turihuka Conservation Area: 3 - 4 hr – 11 km

Walking along Lake Hawea's eastern shores there are great views up the Hunter Valley and on a clear day, to the west, as far as Mt Aspiring/Tititea. From the carpark, eight kilometres north of Timaru Creek, follow the 4WD track to Rocky Point and around the bluffs to Silver Island Bay, before gaining height to sidle around The Peninsula. The Turihuka Conservation Area is at the mouth of the Dingle Burn.



View from Roys Peak

DOC

17. Timaru River Track



Timaru River Loop Track: 3 - 4 hr return

Popular with trampers and anglers, the high river track is signposted 50 metres along the road from the Timaru Creek carpark and leads to a 4WD track above the river. Follow this somewhat demanding, undulating track to Deer Spur Creek near Junction Hut (1.5 hrs). Return by the lower river track. This requires several river crossings and is only recommended in normal flow conditions.

18. Melina Ridge Track



Lindis River: 13 km

Mt Prospect: 20 km (6 - 8 hr by mountain bike)

Signposted south of Lindis Pass on SH8; follow the marked track through to Smith Creek before climbing up and over to emerge at the Lindis River.

Experienced mountain bikers can continue on to 1,770-metre Mount Prospect by following the signposted 4WD track passing Burn Bush Hut (private).

19. Nine Mile



From SH8, drive six kilometres along Old Faithful Road to reach the reserve, which includes the remarkable stone ruins of the Lindis Pass Hotel. Originally the site of the general store for Otago's first gold rush in 1861, the building had become permanent by 1873. The hotel provided almost continuous service of some kind for over 70 years, ending its days as a residence in 1951.

20. Lindis Valley



The tracks in the Lindis Valley offer a range of thrills for mountain bikers combined with excellent views. Drive up Goodger Road to the Tim Burn or Pleasant Valley carparks to access the public tracks that extend from those start points. The tracks cross private property, please stay on them at all times.

Closed for lambing, 10 October to 5 December

21. Lindis Peak Track



4 - 5 hr return

The track is signposted at the start of Old Faithful Road, off SH8. The view from the 1,226-metre summit is one of the most extensive in Central Otago. The vista includes the stunning St Bathans Range to the east and numerous peaks along the Main Divide; from the head of the Hopkins Valley in the north, to Mount Aspiring/Tititea in the south.

Closed for lambing, 10 October to 5 December



Ski-touring on Lindis Peak

J Robinson