

# Kiwi Wilderness Walks

## The Dusky Track Fiordland National Park

Here is an opportunity to explore one of New Zealand's most daunting tracks the Dusky Track. This is not for the faint hearted. One trip we had half a metre of rain and got stuck in the Loch Maree Hut for two days when the lake level rose 4 metres overnight. We had a near vertical ascent clambering up rocks and tree roots hand over hand for four hours .... in the pouring rain. Then we hit snow on the tops! These kinds of experiences reinforce the raw nature of the Fiordland wilderness.

The trip starts in the tramping capital of the world Te Anau. We then fly across the Southern Alps to start our walk from Dusky Sound. Settlers here used to cover themselves in kerosene to escape the wrath of Fiordland's biggest sandflies.

The track follows the Seaforth River to Loch Maree Hut set beside this dramatic lake formed by a slip with tree stumps still plainly visible in the Lake.



Lake Roe Hut set beautifully amongst massive granite outcrops, travels along the tops of the Pleasant Range with spectacular views of Dusky Sound and the surrounding mountains

The track then proceeds down the Hauroko Burn to Halfway Hut and finally Lake Hauroko where we catch the boat the deepest Lake in New Zealand, passing the remains of a Maori princess called the Princess of the Lake resting in the cleft of a rock on Mary Island.

From here we return to civilisation and a good hot bath. Believe me, you will have earned it. This is New Zealand's wilderness at it's rawest. For the experienced fit trampers only. A jewel in the crown of wilderness walking experiences in New Zealand.

The Dusky Track is an all inclusive six day / five night guided walk and costs NZ\$2 695 per person. Departures are on demand November to April with a minimum of three and maximum of six people. It is wise to have a spare day (or 2) in case of inclement weather. Accommodation on the trail is public DOC huts with outside bathroom facilities – “long drops” as we say. A very high level of fitness and agility is required.

The itinerary is as follows;

Day 1: Arrive Te Anau, Supper Cove

Arrive in Te Anau. Meet your fellow walkers and your guide around 6pm for a briefing, gear check and dinner .

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Day 2: Supper Cove, Loch Maree Hut

Walk 6 to 8 hours.

Take a spectacular helicopter flight across the Southern Alps to Supper Cove and the mouth of the Seaforth River draining in to Dusky Sound.

Follow an old track cut in 1903 as part of an ambitious road planned up the Seaforth to Lake Manapouri, but abandoned well before completion. Skirt around Loch Maree with trees poking eerily above the water....if you can't see them you may well be staying a second night at Loch Maree!

Day 3: Loch Maree Hut, Lake Roe Hut

Walk 6 to 8 hours.

Cross the mighty Seaforth River by suspended wire bridge then climb steeply out of the Seaforth Valley on to the Pleasant Range. In some places assisted by a chain "handrail", you will be glad you are not walking down this part of the track!

We then traverse over the tops of the Pleasant Range skirting a series of mountain lakes with spectacular views of Dusky Sound and the surrounding mountains.

Lake Roe Hut is at the northern end of Lake Laffy on Furkert Pass.

Set amongst massive granite outcrops Lake Roe is a short walk above the hut with stunning views of Mt Tamatea.

Day 4: Mt Tamatea / Rest Day

A day to tackle Mt Tamatea or if weather or weariness dictates a rest day.

Day 5: Lake Roe Hut, Halfway Hut

Walk 3-4 hours

Snow poles and mountain grasses guide us to the track entering the bushline, descending quite steeply at first then reasonably flat to Halfway Hut.

Day 6: Halfway Hut, Hauroko Burn Hut, boat across Lake Hauroko, Te Anau

Walk 4-5 hours

Steady descent to Hauroko Burn Hut nestled on the shores of Lake Hauroko.

Catch the boat across Lake Hauroko the deepest lake in New Zealand ( 462 m ) , passing the remains of a Maori princess called the Princess of the Lake resting in the cleft of a rock on Mary Island. Drive to Tuatapere or shuttle to Te Anau.



**For further information or to make a booking contact:**

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