

PUBLIC CONSERVATION LAND

A quarter of all protected land in New Zealand is located on the West Coast. 5 of New Zealand's 14 national parks are wholly or partly located within 1.9 million hectares of land managed by the Department of Conservation's West Coast Tai Poutini Conservancy for the use and enjoyment of the public.

The region includes three remote Wilderness Areas and an internationally recognised UNESCO World Heritage Site called **Te Wahipounamu South West New Zealand World Heritage Area**.

- The Conservancy manages 1.91 million hectares of land within the region
- More than 1,000 km of walking tracks and routes
- Two National Parks within the region - Paparoa & Westland Tai Poutini
- Three National Parks straddle regional boundaries - Kahurangi, Arthur's Pass & Mt Aspiring
- Okarito Lagoon is the largest unmodified wetland in NZ with 3,000 hectares of shallow open water and tidal flats and more than 70 bird species



There are more than **150 huts, conservation campsites, lodges and other accommodation** throughout the public conservation land. They range from small, basic huts to larger serviced huts.

FLORA AND FAUNA

- Okarito brown kiwi (rowi) is the rarest species of kiwi
- Home to the world's stronghold population of Hector's dolphin
- Tuis, bellbirds, pigeons, kea are easily seen and heard
- Abundant birdlife along coastline
- Virgin broadleaf and podocarp forests with rata, rimu, red and silver beech
- Nikau palms and dozens of ferns

The World Heritage Area covers about 10% of New Zealand's land mass and includes the spectacular glaciers within the **Westland Tai Poutini National Park**. It is a vast place covered with ancient and mature stands of **southern beech** and **podocarp** trees. The **kea**, the world's only alpine parrot, lives in the area as does the rare and endangered **takahe**, a large flightless bird. Within the area there are three species of **kiwi**, **rowi**, **Haast tokoeka** and **Fiordland tokoeka**. The first two are the most endangered varieties of kiwi in New Zealand.



They have their own kiwi sanctuaries which are staffed by Department of Conservation rangers assigned to the specific task of ensuring their long-term survival.

Further north the **Paparoa National Park's** coastal forest is typified by clusters of **nikau palms** which are the most southerly growing palm tree in the world. Limestone cliffs and canyons, caves and underground streams literally collide with the Tasman Sea along an unspoiled coastline. The most dramatic place to see this is at the **Pancake Rocks and Blowholes** walk adjacent to the highway at Punakaiki.

Development West Coast works closely with Department of Conservation in many areas such as major tourism projects involving heritage areas in the Oparara Valley, Ross Goldfields and Denniston Hill.



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