

MILFORD SOUND DRIVE GUIDE



1. TE ANAU DOWNS 30KMS

In 1888 Quintin McKinnon discovered the first overland route to Milford Sound. This is the now world famous Milford Track and this sheltered harbour marks the departure point for Milford Track walkers.

2. MIRROR LAKES 59KMS

This is a must do stop! We suggest doing this early in the day as the calm mornings offer the perfect photo opportunity with The pools regularly reflecting a perfect mirror image of Earl Mountains on the far side of the valley.

3. KNOBS FLAT 63KMS.

Knobs Flat in the heart of the Eglinton Valley is named for the kames and hummocks which have been left by retreating glaciers at the end of the last ice age. Here you will also find amenities such as toilets, a phone and campsite.

4. CASCADE CREEK 75KMS

Here you will find a nature walk along a loop track through a red beech forest and along the lake edge.

5. LAKE GUNN 78KMS

In the 1970's an Otago University student named several features near Lake Gunn after J.R.R Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings, but the names were later rejected by authorities for being 'unimaginative'. Ironically Sir Peter Jackson choose this area to represent the Misty Mountains in the movie The Fellowship of the Ring. At the head of the lake there is a short gravel road that leads to the beach, this is a beautiful area and a good spot to view the fish in the lake.

6. LAKE FERGUS 80KMS

On your right you will see Lake Fergus, which was named by William H. Homer and George Barber in 1889, after Thomas Fergus a Member of Parliament for the Wakatipu (Queenstown) electorate at the time.

7. THE DIVIDE. 84KMS

This is the finish of the lowest east to west pass in the Southern Alps and the end for the Routeburn, Greenstone and Caples Tracks. If you have time you can take a walk to The Key Summit viewpoint which at 918m above sea-level provides a spectacular view of the Eglinton, Hollyford and Greenstone Valleys. (3 hours return)
(You should now have used approximately half of your allocated time to get from Te Anau to Milford)

8. HOLLYFORD VALLEY LOOKOUT 88KMS

This lookout provides an excellent view over the Hollyford Valley and Darren Mountains. (Caution: be careful with traffic pulling in and out of the lookout)

9. LOWER HOLLYFORD ROAD 89KMS

This turn off is known as Marian Corner to the locals. The Lower Hollyford Road is a 22km no-exit road, however is well worth a drive, 1km down the road you will find the Lake Marian track. It is a 10 minute walk to the Marian waterfalls or a 3 hour return walk via a relatively steep track to a hanging valley and Lake Marian. A Further 8kms down the road you will find "Gunn's Camp" once described as "The Home of Legends, Tall Stories and Laughter" this area is steeped in local history and the museum commemorating not just the Gunn family's famous exploits but the pioneer settlers at Martins Bay and the tough and hardy road-builders and has links to many local families. From Gunn's camp it is 16kms to the end of the road and the Hollyford to Martins Bay track. There is also a short side-track here that takes you to the 275m high Humbolt Falls.

10. MONKEY CREEK 96KMS

Rumoured to be named after William Henry Homers most loyal companion, his dog "Monkey", William Homer discovered the Homer Saddle in 1889, and suggested the nearby road tunnel believing it a worthwhile project because of the route's potential tourism value. Little did he know that almost 60 year after his death the project would be completed or how unbelievably right he would prove to be about tourism to the area. This stop also provides great views of the upper Hollyford Valley.

11. HOMER TUNNEL 102KMS

At 1270m this is the highest point on the Milford Road. Before continuing through the tunnel, stop at the parking bays outside the tunnel, this area is home to the friendly and inquisitive Kea (Native mountain parrot) which are frequently seen here, however they are known to be cheeky and often help themselves to visitors belongings so remember to shut the car doors if your away from you vehicle. The Homer Tunnel which opened in 1954. This tunnel descends 129m over its 1.2km length, has a gradient of 1 in 10 and exits at an elevation of 1141m. There are traffic lights in operation in the summer months and you can be stopped here for as long as 15mins. It is fine to leave your car in the queue to enter tunnel and have a look around but keep an eye on the information board it will show you how long you have till the lights change.
(Over winter months there can be times that there are restrictions on stopping here).

12. THE CHASM 110KMS

This is another most do!!! Via a concrete and decked track, take an easy 20 minute stroll through the forest to the 22m deep ravine where the Cleddau River has cut through the rock, carving fascinating formations in this landscape.

13. MT TUTUKO 112KMS

Directly in front of you is a view of Mt Tutuko at 2723m this is the highest peak in Fiordland National Park.

14. CRUISE MILFORD VISITORS CENTRE 122KMS

Park in the signposted carpark and take an easy 5 minute scenic walk to the terminal building via the raised walkway, check in at the Cruise Milford Desk on your right as you enter through the main entrance.
You can get a similar map on-board the Milford Adventurer for the cruise of the sound.

Now sit back relax and enjoy your Cruise.



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"the drive to Milford is as important as the Sound itself"

FREEPHONE 0800 MILFORD (645367)

1 GET THERE ON TIME

Depart Queenstown	Depart Te Anau	Cruise Depart Time
6.00 am	8.00 am	10.45 am
8.00 am	10.00 am	12.45 pm
10.00 am	12.00 pm	2.45 pm



Note the above times are guidelines only and allow for 30mins of stops and 15mins to check in at Milford. You may wish to add extra time to experience more of the amazing sites.

Queenstown to Te Anau = 2 hours driving (185 km)
Te Anau to Milford Sound = 2 hours driving (121 km)

2 FUEL UP

Make sure you have a full tank of fuel before leaving Te Anau as there are no fuel stations until Milford Sound. You can get petrol only at Gunn's Camp in Hollyford Valley which is a detour from Milford Road. Otherwise you can get petrol and diesel in Milford Sound, although the service is limited to certain credit cards with pin number access only.



3 PHONE COVERAGE

Telephone services are available at Knobs Flat (card phone), Homer Tunnel (satellite phone for emergency use only) and Milford Sound (card phone). There is no cell phone coverage after leaving Te Anau.



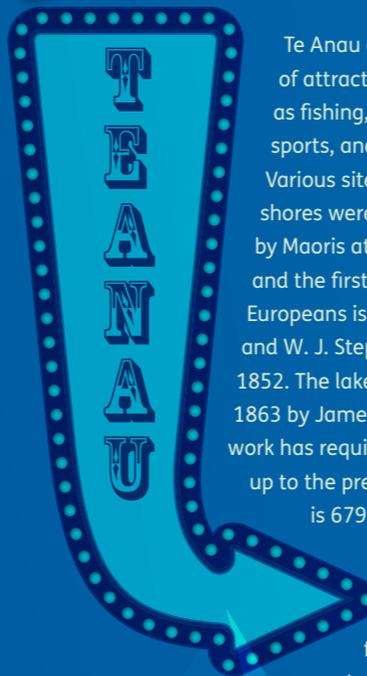
4 CHAINES

All vehicles on the Milford Road are required by law to carry chains over winter months.



FOR UP TO DATE ROAD INFORMATION GO TO

www.cruisemilfordnz.com/info



Te Anau offers a wide variety of attractions to visitors such as fishing, hunting, water sports, and sightseeing. Various sites around the shores were formerly occupied by Maoris at different times, and the first recorded visit by Europeans is that by C. J. Nairn and W. J. Stephen on 26 January 1852. The lake was surveyed in 1863 by James McKerrow whose work has required little alteration up to the present day. The lake is 679 ft above sea level and, although not completely surveyed, was found to be 906 ft deep at one point. The meaning of the areas name was much disputed for almost 100 years however it was believed that Te Anau is a shortened form of "Te Ana-au" which means "the caves of the rushing water" which remained a mystery until the discovery of a cave and underground river system on the western shore of the lake in 1948



The road to Milford Sound is highly scenic and has many beautiful stops and short works. If you plan on driving yourself you may like to consider staying in Te Anau overnight. Te Anau is the perfect place to experience true New Zealand hospitality, the locals pride themselves on great customer service however as you will soon work out, it's just their great attitude and friendly manner that sets Te Anau apart, this would give you more time to experience the amazing areas on your trip to Milford and as any local will tell you the drive to Milford is as important as the sound itself. You are welcome to join us on one of our day trips from Queenstown or Te Anau and let us show you a few of our "secret spots" however if you have your own car and some time, then you should at least check out these sites.



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