

Lake Wanaka - Walks, Bike Rides and Drives

Wanaka is blessed to have numerous drives, rides and walks literally at our doorstep - and within a few minutes drive, many more. Please cycle with care. Most of our tracks are shared between walkers and cyclists so for those on wheels, be aware that around that blind corner there may be a slower walker. Our local walks can vary from very easy, moderate, or more challenging.

Local Walks within 5 - 10 minutes walk or drive

Lakefront to Waterfall Creek

Return time about 1 hour

Terrain mostly flat - easy walking

Best Time early morning / evening

The track starts just down the road at the end of Roys Bay (Roys Bay is the Lake Wanaka lakefront). The walk meanders along the lakefront past the Edgewater Resort, then past acres of vines belonging to Rippon Vineyard. This part of the track finishes at Waterfall Creek. There are photo opportunities every few metres along this track.

Millennium Track

Return time about 2-3 hours

Terrain moderate / undulating

Best Time early morning / any time

A marvelous walk on a track only minutes from town which rises and falls next to the lake. An information stall near the bridge over Waterfall Creek indicates the beginning of the walk. Anywhere along this track enjoy the views of the lake, and crystal waters where you can often see trout swimming in the shallows. Also many swimming spots in the summer months. At the end of this track is a hill which can be climbed which offers great views not only of Wanaka but also Glendhu Bay and the North Harris Mountains in the background (add an extra 30 minutes). Our preference - cycling.

Lakefront - Eely Point - Penrith Park

Return time 30 min - 2 hours

Terrain easy walking

Best Time early morning / late evening / anytime

This is a marvelous walk which can be done in stages or just gulp the whole thing (this is best done on a bike). The walks and drive along this side of the lake reveal magical views of mountains unseen at the lakefront or township. The track is basically flat so is a great option for

those who just want to enjoy amazing scenery at a leisurely pace. From the town centre head towards the marina, enter the boat ramp area, turn right & walk about 100 metres to the yacht club building. The track starts just to the right of the yacht club building. Wander along the track till you arrive at Eely Point picnic area and continue round the Point and pick the track up which then meanders along the lakefront to Penrith Point. You can then proceed along Fisherman's Track till you arrive at the Lake Outlet.

Lake Outlet Track

Return time about 1 hour from the carpark

Terrain very gently undulating

Best Time early morning / windy day / any time

Ask us for directions to drive there. This is a stunning walk where Lake Wanaka drains to form the Clutha River. The track follows the banks of the Clutha River finishing at Albert Town. This walk is utterly beautiful any time of the year. In Autumn, only photos can do this walk justice.

Mount Iron

Return time 60 - 90 minutes

Terrain moderate climb

Best Time any time

The perfect walk to appreciate the essence of why we live in Wanaka. From the top 300 metres (1000 feet) above Lake Wanaka there is no better location to enjoy a 360° panoramic view of Lake Wanaka, Cardrona Valley, and to the west, the peaks of the Buchanan, Harris Mountain ranges and those of the Mt. Aspiring National Park.

Walks and Drives - within about 15 minutes from Wanaka

Minaret Burn Track

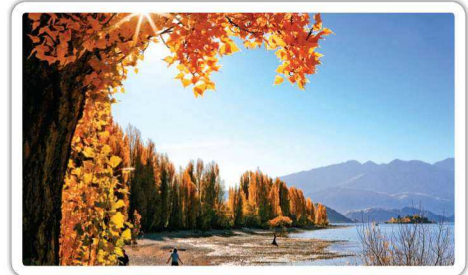
(or just a wonderful picnic spot)

Return time 3-4 hrs (bike) 6-7 hrs (walking)

Terrain undulating

Best Time early morning / any time

Firstly get some directions from us (it just makes it a little easier to get there). The 20 minute drive to this deserted lakeside location is a journey of discovery and wonder in itself. The drive can take a little longer depending on the number of photo stops! You will experience lakeside panoramas, cross a wooden bridge over the Matukituki River, maybe seeing dozens of



Lakefront - 5 minutes from Town Centre



Lupins - Beacon Point Road



Waterfall Creek - 5 minutes drive



Lakefront - Roys Bay

trout spawning below, through farmland where lambs, deer or cattle roam unfenced next to your car and then arrive at the very edge of the lake. You can just relax or drive a few hundred metres to the beginning of the Minaret Burn track. - a wonderful journey of discovery awaits you. Our suggestion is to do this track by mountain bike. The track is very well-formed and at the beginning has some steep sections before meandering along the lake front, through some tussock farmland and then deserted lake beaches and finally some bush-clad streams. The scenery on this bike/walk will leave you breathless to say the least. Best of all there is a number of access points to the lake foreshore for a cool-down on a hot day. These beautiful and deserted beaches make for sublime views across Lake Wanaka.

Diamond Lake – Rocky Mountain Walk (closed in winter)

Return time 1 - 3 hours

Terrain steady climbing

Best Time early morning / late evening / any time

Caution - after heavy rain, portions of the track may be slippery.

Ask us for a map of the best view points. If you had not turned off at West Wanaka, continue driving along a straight section of road, around 2 or 3 corners and you will arrive at the carpark for the Diamond Lake walk. The climb is quite vigorous as it is a constant ascent but once again the views from the top are spellbinding. Panoramic 360° views are probably the best in the Lake Wanaka area. If possible we recommend late afternoon for views of Lake Wanaka or morning for views of the mountains of Mt. Aspiring National Park.

Rob Roy Glacier Walk

Return time 5-8 hours from Wanaka

Terrain undulating

Best Time early / mid-morning / any time

Please check at office for road/weather conditions. The walk is in the mountains and can be subject to very rapid weather changes. Probably the most spectacular day walk in NZ. When driving to the end of the road, every corner provides uninterrupted views of the approaching mountains. Park at the Raspberry Creek carpark. From the carpark the track is extremely well marked. About 1 kilometre from the carpark, cross over a swing bridge and turn left. The first section of the track is a little steeper but then gently undulates through beech and native forests. The views of waterfalls, mountainous gorges and then the Rob Roy glacier itself are breathtaking. In the summer months you may well view gigantic avalanches as sections of the glacier break away.



Approaching Wanaka from Tarras



Fern - Rob Roy Glacier



Tussocks



New Zealand's Mountain Parrot - Kea



The hike to Rob Roy Glacier