



MILFORD ROAD DRIVE GUIDE



Allow 3 hours from Te Anau to Milford to drive in, find a park (parking is limited), and make your way to the cruise terminal.

1. Lake Mistletoe

Enjoy an easy walk through regenerative beech forest to views of a small glacial lake. Loop walk, 35 minutes.

2. Te Anau Downs

Departure point for the World Famous Milford Track, a 53.5km overland track from the head of Lake Te Anau to Milford Sound, discovered in 1888 by explorer Quintin McKinnon.

3. Mirror Lakes

A must-see on a calm morning. See a perfect mirror image of the Earl Mountains reflected in small tarns, located by a short accessible stroll along boardwalk to the viewing platforms.

4. Knobs Flat

Named for the knobs that remained in the valley floor after the retreat of glaciers at the end of the last ice age, here you will also find basic amenities and the last flushing toilets before Milford.

5. Cascade Creek (Lake Gunn Nature Walk)

This accessible loop track starts at the Cascade Creek carpark and takes you through red beech forest, and along the edge of Lake Gunn. Allow 45 minutes and be on the lookout for native birds and flora.

6. Lake Gunn

Named after George Gunn a local runholder who was regarded as the first European to discover the lake in 1861 it is well worth a quick photo stop.

7. The Divide

The western beginning of the 32km Routeburn Track, which crosses the Southern Alps to end up in Glenorchy.

8. Key Summit

Hike the first section of the Routeburn track to climb up to Key Summit (918m above sea level) which on a clear day provides spectacular views of the Eglinton, Hollyford and Greenstone Valleys. Allow 2-3 hours.

9. Pops View

Hollyford Valley Lookout

A roadside stop that provides views of the Hollyford Valley and towering Darran Mountains.

10. Lower Hollyford Road

Turn off at Marian Corner to explore the Lower Hollyford (gravel road 22km in total, one way). Don't miss the 10-minute walk to Marian Falls, and continue on to Lake Marian if you're feeling intrepid (allow 2-3 hours). Carry on to the road end to visit Humboldt Falls or the beginning of the Hollyford Track.

11. Monkey Creek

Stop here for beautiful views of the Hollyford Valley and to fill your drink bottle up with fresh water in the creek. Kea (native alpine parrots) are often visiting here too, but remember not to feed them!

12. Homer Tunnel

The highest point on the Milford Road at 1270m, the Homer Tunnel opened in 1954 after almost 20 years of construction, creating easier access to Milford Sound. Named after William Henry Homer who discovered the Homer Saddle in 1889 and proposed the idea of a road tunnel. The tunnel is 1.2 km long and entry is controlled by traffic lights in peak times.

13. The Chasm

Full access to these impressive water carved rock formations was damaged in the 2020 floods, but a shorter walk is still available.

14. Mt Tūtoko

Keep an eye out for Fiordland's highest peak - at 2723m Mount Tūtoko was named after Chief Tūtoko, the last Māori rangatira to reside in the Hollyford Valley.