DOC VISITOR SITES DATA
To 28 February 2019

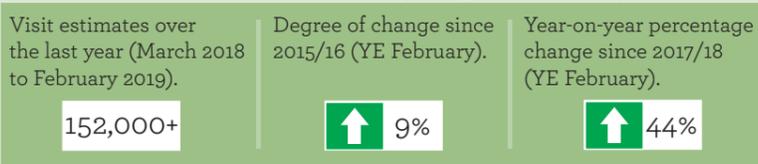**Department of Conservation**
Te Papa Atawhai

CONTEXT

Visitor data from some of the Department of Conservation's (DOC) top visitor sites shows another busy season despite an overall slowing in international visitor growth. International visitor arrivals to New Zealand have increased 43% in the last 5 years. In the year ending January 2019 compared with January 2018, overseas visitor arrivals were up 150,000 (4%) to a total of 3.8 million[1]. The estimated growth rate for international visitors to national parks is higher at 9% per annum.

Currently, across New Zealand, around 3.9 million New Zealanders visit public conservation areas (from national parks to marine reserves) at least once a year, alongside around 1.8 million international visitors.
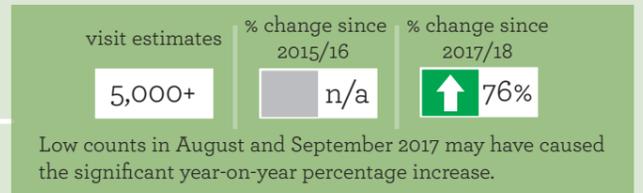
Information about the data: This report outlines visitor trends (numbers include both domestic and international visitors) at popular DOC sites up to 28 February 2019. Visit estimates are based on activity counts with assumptions made to estimate annual visits to that particular site. Visitation to specific regions fluctuates depending on multiple factors including weather.

SITES OF INTEREST

Tāne Mahuta Walk (Waipoua Forest)

Visit estimates over the last year (March 2018 to February 2019).	Degree of change since 2015/16 (YE February).	Year-on-year percentage change since 2017/18 (YE February).
152,000+	⬆ 9%	⬆ 44%

Te Whara Track

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
5,000+	n/a	⬆ 76%

Low counts in August and September 2017 may have caused the significant year-on-year percentage increase.

Mangawhai Cliffs Walkway

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
15,500+	⬆ 1%	⬇ 21%

Rangitoto Summit Track

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
37,000+	⬆ 37%	⬇ 9%

Ruakuri Walk (Waitomo area)

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
50,500+	⬆ 9%	⬇ 3%

Cathedral Cove Walk

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
282,000+	n/a	⬆ 7%

Visit estimates from **Feb 2018 to Jan 2019**. No long-term trend at site due to recently installed counter.

Mangorei Track

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
15,500+	⬆ 230%	⬆ 67%
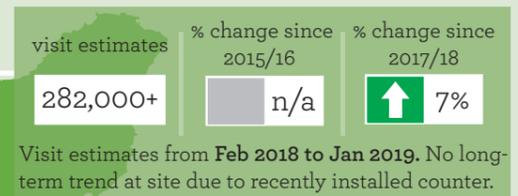
Tongariro Alpine Crossing

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
142,500+	⬆ 54%	⬆ 1%

Te Waikoropupū Springs Walk

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
89,500+	⬆ 8%	⬆ 4%

Cape Foulwind Walkway

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
74,000+	⬆ 33%	⬇ 3%

Aoraki/Mount Cook (via road)

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
1.04m+	n/a	⬆ 11%

Visit estimates are based on vehicle movements. The counters has been recently installed.
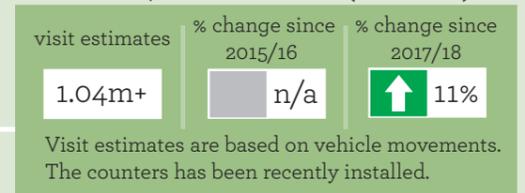
Franz Josef Glacier/ Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
759,000+	⬆ 38%	⬆ 3%

Hooker Valley Track

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
121,000+	⬆ 46%	⬆ 20%

Blue Pools Track

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
102,000+	⬆ 2,875%	⬆ 7%

Visits have increased from an estimated 3,400 visits in 2015/16 to 102,200 in 2018/19.

Roys Peak Track

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
75,000+	n/a	⬆ 6%

No long-term trend at site due to recently installed counter.

Milford Sound/ Piopiotahi (via cruise)[2]

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
840,000+	⬆ 34%	⬆ 3%

This figure does not account for non-cruisers.

Tunnel Beach Track

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
88,000+	⬆ 178%	⬇ 2%

Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara

visit estimates	% change since 2015/16	% change since 2017/18
17,000+	⬆ 31%	⬆ 76%