



Hooker Valley. Photo Credit: Hayward, M

Welcome to Te Papa Atawhai *Aoraki/ Mount Cook*

Our vision: Nature is thriving in Aotearoa | Te Oranga o te Ao Tūroa

Location

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park is part of the Te Wāhipounamu UNESCO World Heritage Area, encompassing approximately 70,000 hectares of spectacular alpine landscape, including Aoraki/Mount Cook, the Tasman Glacier and Hooker Valley.

The park welcomes more than one million visitors each year and is one of New Zealand's most iconic visitor destinations.

About the team

You will be joining a positive and enthusiastic team delivering conservation outcomes in Aoraki/ Mount Cook National Park and throughout the Te Manahuna district. The Operations team consists of approximately 20 permanent staff working across Visitor Centre and Community, Heritage and Visitor, Search and Rescue, and Local Body Services.

Over the Summer season (September - June), we have several seasonal ranger staff join us to assist during the peak tourist season.

Living in Aoraki/Mount Cook Village

Aoraki/Mount Cook Village is a small, remote alpine community located within the national park, approximately 45 minutes' drive from Twizel. The village is home to around 300 permanent and seasonal residents and offers a unique lifestyle surrounded by some of New Zealand's most spectacular scenery.

The village includes a DOC Visitor Centre, accommodation providers, restaurants, cafés and bars, self-service fuel pumps, and a small convenience store. The nearest full-service supermarket is located in Twizel.

Aoraki Mount Cook School is located within the village and caters for students from Years 1-8.

Accommodation

DOC offers a range of accommodation options for both permanent and temporary employees. Accommodation availability varies depending on operational requirements; however, we can generally accommodate partners and families. Market rent applies. Pets are not permitted within the village as it is located within the National Park.

Some staff choose to live in Twizel and commute to Aoraki/Mount Cook Village.

Weather

Aoraki/Mount Cook offers a true alpine environment, with dramatic seasonal changes and some of New Zealand's most spectacular mountain scenery. Weather conditions can change rapidly, with clear blue skies quickly giving way to wind, rain or snow, particularly in the cooler months.

Summers are generally warm and dry, with daytime temperatures often ranging between 20-30°C, while winters bring frosty mornings, regular snowfall on the surrounding mountains and temperatures that can drop below freezing. The area is known for its crisp air, stunning night skies and breathtaking views year-round.

Living and working in Aoraki/Mount Cook means embracing an alpine lifestyle where being prepared for changing conditions is part of everyday life. For outdoor enthusiasts, the region offers exceptional opportunities for hiking, climbing, skiing, mountain biking, photography and exploring the natural environment in all seasons.