

Wetlands you can visit in the: Tasman-Marlborough area

The Tasman-Marlborough area spans the top of the South Island, home to Nelson and Blenheim, two of New Zealand's sunniest towns. The diversity of the region's climate, topography, and geology, and its central location, supports a huge variety of plants and animals, many at their southern or northern limits of distribution.

The area includes:

- World famous Waikoropupu ('**Pupu**') **Springs**
- **Farewell Spit**, an internationally recognised 'Ramsar' site of immense beauty, cultural and ecological significance
- **Mangarakau swamp and Whanganui inlet**, currently being considered for Ramsar status.



Historically, extensive wetlands were found in the lowlands of Marlborough, particularly around Blenheim. These wetlands are now almost entirely gone, with just 1 % of the original freshwater wetland area remaining on the Wairau Plain.

Some of the remaining wetlands are still in a very natural state and provide habitat for a good range of native fish, including species like the banded and shortjaw kokopu, red finned bully and long fin eels. Rare wetland plants found in the area include swamp nettle (*Urtica linearifolia*) and matt-leaved mazus (*Mazus novaezealandiae*).

Faultline associated wetlands, formed by earth movement crushing rock into sticky clay that blocks drainage, occur along Marlborough's Wairau, Awatere and Clarence Faults. Beach ridge wetlands, found around Rarangi, a rare landform in New Zealand.



The Tasman-Marlborough Wetland Directory is sponsored by Tasman District Council

A recent survey of freshwater wetlands in the Tasman District identified over 800 natural wetlands, including 440 bogs and swamps, 63% of them in parks or reserves. Most of them are smaller than 10 hectares. The District also has many dune lakes, alpine tarns, glacial lakes, landslide-impounded lakes, sink holes, braided rivers, extensive estuaries, and unique kaarst (limestone) wetlands.

Many smaller and less well known wetlands are being restored or enhanced by agencies and community groups working in partnership. The region is also renowned for its wineries, and several have created their own wetlands.

Tasman-Marlborough Wetland Agencies











Tasman District Council
www.tdc.govt.nz

Marlborough District Council
www.marlborough.govt.nz

Department of Conservation
www.doc.govt.nz











Fish and Game New Zealand
www.fishandgame.org.nz

Wetlands to visit in the Tasman Area











Name / type	Description/ special features	Activities					Facilities					Access, further information
		 Walks	 Birdlife	 Boating	 Fishing / shooting	 Highly scenic	 Info centre	 Interp. panels	 Lookout / bird hide	 Picnic area	 Accom.	
Farewell Spit Sandspit with tidal and dune lakes ★★★★★	Stunning 30 km long sand spit at the tip of the South Island. Ramsar wetland Guided tours	✓	✓			✓						www.doc.govt.nz/templates/page.aspx?id=33699 Follow the Collingwood-Puponga highway. Signposted at Port Puponga.
Waikoropupu (Pupu) Springs Karst spring ★★★★★	Largest springs in the Southern Hemisphere. Stunning clear water Unique flora and fauna	✓				✓		✓	✓			www.goldenbaynz.co.nz/s_pupu_springs.html www.showcaves.com/english/nz/springs/Pupu.html From Takaka, take the Waitapu rd for 2km and then turn left into Pupu Springs Rd.
Mangarakau Swamp & Whanganui Inlet Swamp, estuary complex (400 ha) ★★★★★	Range of wetland types in a dramatic setting with striking limestone rock formations to the west. Community restoration project. Also visit Wetland View Park – private accommodation with covenanted portion of the wetland.	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		www.wetlandviewpark.co.nz/index.html www.nznfrt.org.nz Look under Reserves, South Island DoC, Golden Bay Area office, Takaka (03) 525 8026 Turn left north of Pakawau and follow Westhaven Inlet. The wetland and information centre are signposted. Remote area, take supplies.

★★★★★ Must see
 ★★★★ Worth a special visit
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Nelson Lakes Glacial lakes and tarns ★★★★★	National Park with two large, deep glacial lakes and many smaller tarns. Several lakeside walks or hikes to high view points above the lakes. Short or long hikes, trout fishing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/national-parks/nelson-lakes/ The gateway to the park is St Arnaud, a 1-2 hour drive from Nelson or Blenheim.	
Lake Otuhie Dune lake ★★★	Dune lake in stunning limestone bluff setting with giant kokopu and long finned eels. Public access across marked route (rough in places) across farmland.	✓	✓	✓		✓					www.gbweekly.co.nz/2010/5/8/golden-bay-s-latest-walkway-secures-public-access-to-lake-otuhie-on-the-west-coast Access from Cowin Road between Paturau and the Anatori, immediately after the road gate on the bridge that crosses Sandhills Creek. Closed for lambing 1 August-30 September. May also close during high fire risk periods.	
Kaihoka Lakes Lake ★★	Lakes with raupo margin in a native forest setting near the coast. Shags, paradise ducks, Canada geese and grey ducks present. Short 10 min walk between the two lakes.	✓	✓						✓		www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/nelson-marlborough/golden-bay/kaihoka-lakes-walk/ At Pakawau, turn left off the main road and head over Pakawau Saddle, turning right on to Kaihoka Road just before Whanganui Inlet. Follow this road for 6 kilometres to Kaihoka Lakes Scenic Reserve.	











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Marahau Estuary Coastal wetlands ★ ★	Community restoration project to restore an area of wetland. Stopbanks were removed to reinstate natural flows and shallow ponds excavated. Planting and pest control.	✓	✓				✓	✓				<i>Sandy Bay, Marahau Rd. near Abel Tasman National Park entrance.</i>
Milnthorpe Park Pakihi, estuary, freshwater ponds ★ ★	Sculpture trails in forest and wetland reserve with pakihi (heathland) vegetation. Art-works placed around the trail network- brochures available from local stores and information centres.	✓						✓				www.goldenbaynz.co.nz/w_milnthorpe_park.html <i>Signposted from the Takaka-Collingwood highway, close to Parapara.</i>
Motueka Sandspit Estuary and sandspit ★ ★	Important roosting and breeding habitat for wading birds including godwits, oystercatchers, terns, shags, turnstones, knots and dotterels. Loop walk along the coast and back via the town.	✓	✓					✓				<i>Track starts at the coastal end of Staples St, off SH 60 north of Motueka (also accessible off the main road through Motueka township (Thorp St).</i>

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Waimea Inlet Estuary ★★	At 3445 ha this is the largest shallow bar-built estuary in the Sth Island. It supports 41 species of fish, 50 species of waterfowl.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					<i>Inlet is adjacent to the city of Nelson. There are numerous access points.</i>
Lake Killarney Lake and wetland margin ★	Small lake in Takaka, pleasant urban park to relax and enjoy the open water and birdlife. Restoration project	✓	✓						✓			www.tasman.govt.nz/index.php?LakeKillarneyReserve-wastelandtoparkland <i>Commercial Street, Takaka</i>

Wetlands to visit in the Marlborough Area

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Wairau Lagoon Coastal lagoon ★★★★	Coastal lagoon with 3 hour walking track.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/nelson-marlborough/south-marlborough/wairau-lagoons-walkway/ <i>West of Blenheim. Access off Hardings Road Duck-shooter access is off Redwood Pass Road, or from the Wairau Bar using a boat.</i>
Grovetown Lagoon Oxbow lagoon ★★	Community restoration project. One of the largest remaining wetlands on the Wairau Plain.		✓		✓							www.marlborough.govt.nz/enviromonitoring/grovetown_project.cfm <i>Access from Grovetown village near Blenheim</i>
Spring Creek Floodplain forest ★★	Kahikatea floodplain being restored. Planned walking tracks, bird hides, boardwalks, and interpretation panels.	planned	✓				planned	planned				www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Land/Ecology-Projects/Projects-on-Council-Reserve-Land/Spring-Creek-Kahikatea-Reserve.aspx Contact the Council for details <i>Marlborough District Council, (03) 520 7400</i>
Para Swamp Freshwater wetland (120 ha) ★	Extensive valley bottom swamp visible from the highway. Limited access at present.				✓							<i>SH 1 between Picton and Blenheim in the Waitohi Valley. On the west-side of SH1 2 km north of Tuamarina.</i>

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