



Lake Manapouri



Scenic Cruise across Lake Manapouri

For all enquiries and reservations contact a Real Journeys Visitor Centre

Manapouri: Pearl Harbour, 03 249 6602

Te Anau: Lakefront Drive, 03 249 7416

FREE ☎ 0800 65 65 01

www.realjourneys.co.nz



Booking Conditions: Bookings recommended and pre-payment is required to confirm a booking. If cancelling, or amending a booking, a refund will only be granted when Real Journeys receives notification 24 hours prior to departure. Real Journeys reserves the right to amend timetables, cancel departures, substitute plant or equipment and alter ticket prices at any time.



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Manapouri Underground Power Station



Fiordland, New Zealand



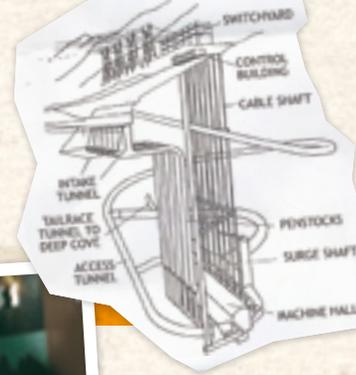
Travel deep underground

Creating electricity through the power of rushing water

- > Scenic cruise across Lake Manapouri
- > West Arm Visitor Centre visit
- > 2km trip underground to the power station's machine hall

RJMUPS 08/13

Manapouri Underground Power Station



Visit New Zealand's largest hydroelectric power station, located deep beneath Fiordland.

The construction of the Manapouri Underground Power Station was one of New Zealand's greatest engineering achievements, with the majority of the work completed underground in a remote location. The only external signs are the above-ground control building, a switchyard and two sets of transmission lines that loop across the head of the lake on their way to join the national grid.

A visit to the Manapouri Underground Power Station begins with a cruise across beautiful Lake Manapouri to West Arm. You will then travel by coach down a 2km (1.2 miles) spiral tunnel to view the immense underground machine hall and learn the story behind this power station, and how it harnesses the energy of rushing water to generate electricity.

Coach connections are available from Te Anau, with pick up from most accommodation. Picnic lunches are also available (please order this in advance).



Construction and Operation

Manapouri Underground Power Station was built to supply electricity for the Comalco aluminium smelter, 191km away at Bluff. Work began in 1963 and was completed in 1972.

West Arm, on the western shores of Lake Manapouri, was an ideal location due to its high rainfall. Lake Manapouri is 178m above sea level, 10km from Doubtful Sound and provides substantial water storage for generating electricity.

The huge development project involved construction of the power station beneath West Arm with a 2km spiral access road, a 9.8km tailrace tunnel to Doubtful Sound, plus a road between West Arm and Doubtful Sound to transport workers and equipment. At any one time there were around 1,800 men from 22 countries working on the project.

Water from Lake Manapouri flows through the West Arm intake, then down vertical penstocks. The force of the water through the penstocks powers the turbines. Seven turbines drive seven generators. "Rooms" excavated in the walls of the machine hall contain transformers, one for each generator and one spare. Cables carrying 220,000 volts lead from the transformers to the station switchyard, vertically above. After the water has been discharged it flows through the tailrace to exit at Doubtful Sound.

A second tailrace tunnel was completed in 2001 to improve the power station's output. It can as a result now generate 30% more electricity from the same volume of water.

Departs	Returns	Season
From Manapouri		
12noon	4.30pm	Apr
12.30pm	4.30pm	Nov - Mar
From Te Anau		
11am	4.30pm	Apr
11.30am	5.15pm	Nov - Mar

Check in 20 minutes prior to departure

Note: Manapouri Underground Power Station is a working power station, access is occasionally not possible.

We reserve the right to reschedule.



A visit to the Manapouri Underground Power Station can also be included as part of our Doubtful Sound Wilderness Cruise experience.