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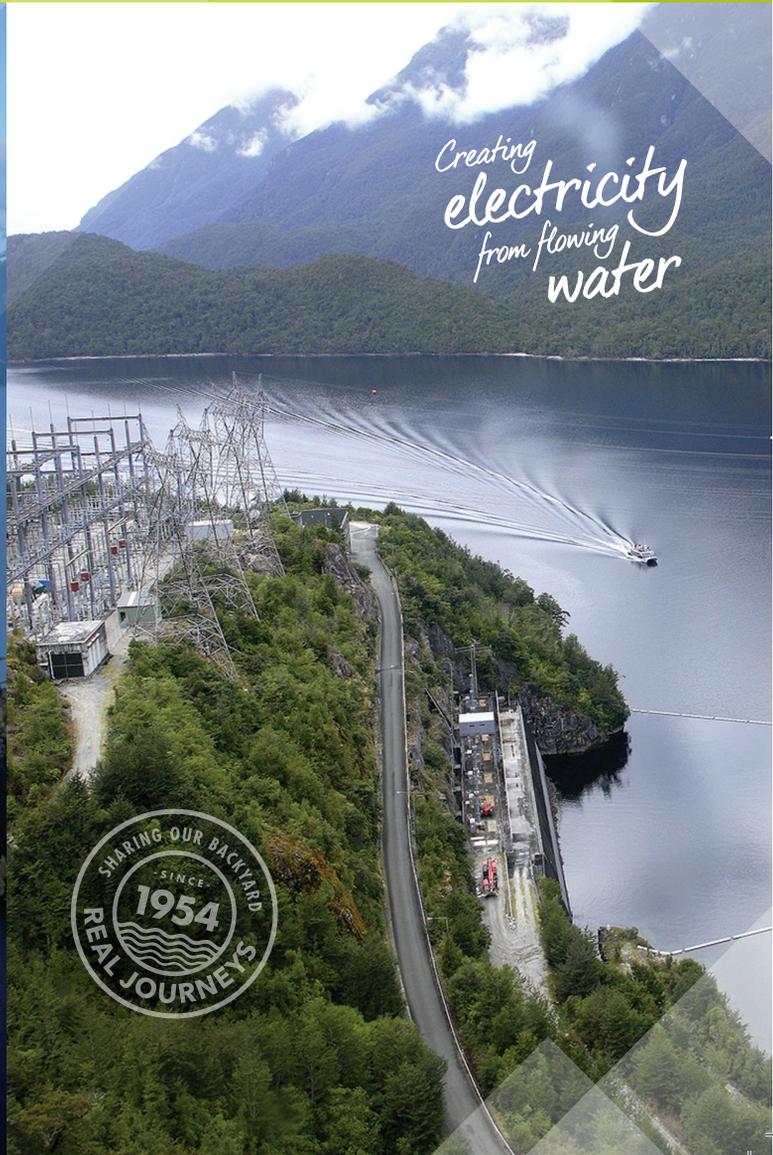
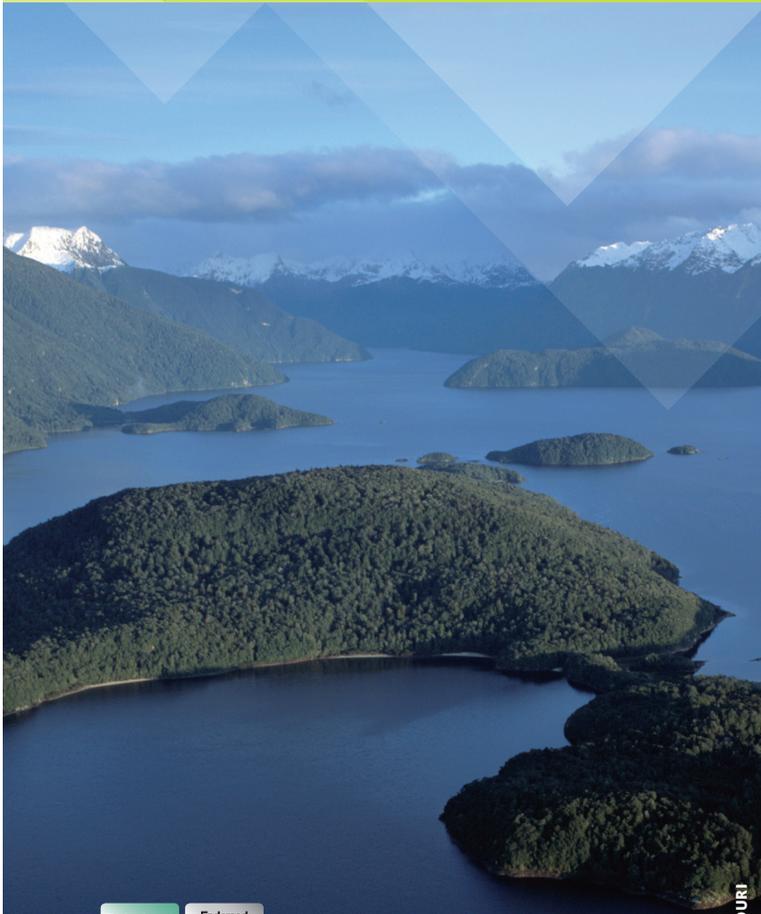
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See our website for more info, booking conditions and our cancellation policy

# Manapouri Underground Power Station

FIORDLAND, NEW ZEALAND



*Creating  
electricity  
from flowing  
water*

RJM/PS 09/16



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LAKE MANAPOURI



MANAPOURI

# Underground Power Station

 4hrs duration



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

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

A visit to the Power Station begins with a cruise across beautiful Lake Manapouri to West Arm. You will then travel by coach down a two kilometre (1.2 mile) 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 ups from most accommodation. Picnic lunches are also available (please order in advance).

Depart - Return	Season
<b>From Manapouri</b>	<b>Power Station Only</b>
1.30pm - 4.30pm	Nov - Apr*
<b>From Te Anau</b>	<b>Coach + Power Station</b>
1pm - 5.15pm	Nov - Apr*

\*Minimum numbers apply

Note: Access to the Manapouri Underground Power Station is a working one, it may not always be possible and we reserve the right to reschedule.

## Construction and Operation

The Power Station is one of New Zealand's greatest engineering achievements, 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.

Lake Manapouri is 178 metres above sea level, 10 kilometres 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 spiral access road underground, a 9.8 kilometre 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 flows through the intake, then down vertical penstocks. The force of the water powers the turbines. Seven turbines drive seven generators, which power the transformers in the machine hall, sending 220,000 volts to the station switchyard above.

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

