

MOUNT COOK – glaciers and glacier lakes

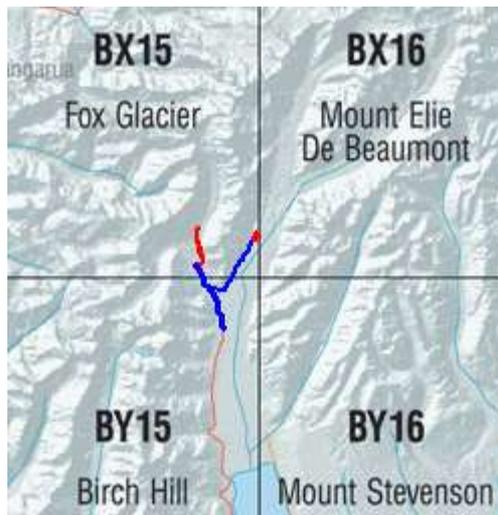
Topo50 Maps: BX15 Fox Glacier

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

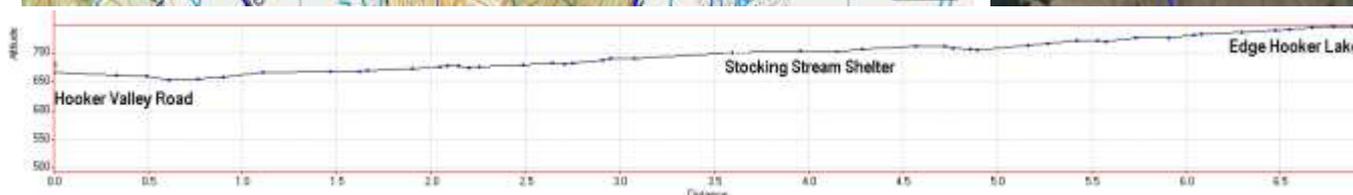
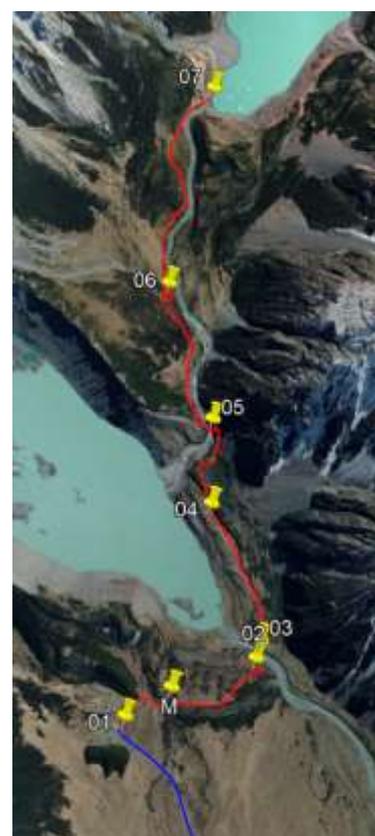
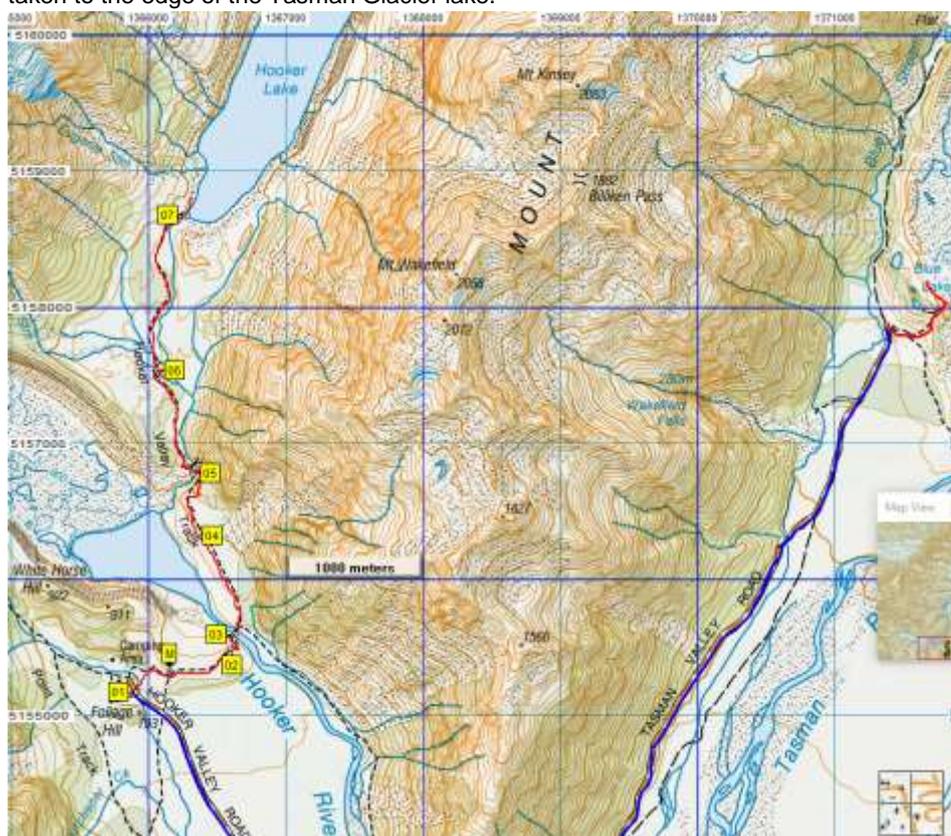
How to get to START – Hooker Track and Glacier

- First of all ensure you are on the South Island
- Mount Cook Village is reached via SH80 which goes virtually due North when SH8 turns to the East just north of Twizel almost halfway between Queenstown and Christchurch.
- A small, sign-posted gravel road branches off to the north east near the end of the asphalt road just before Mount Cook Village – follow this road to the end and park in the car park (WP01).
- The tramping route is the red line on the left hand side of the map opposite whilst the gravel road is shown in blue coming out of Mount Cook Village

Rough Description: The whole walk from the car park (WP993) to the edge of the Hooker Glacial Lake (WP07) and back takes less than 4 hours. On the way one passes the Mount Cook Memorial (M), the Mueller Glacial Lake and the Stocking Stream Shelter. This is an easy walk but there are one or two slightly tricky bits over rock outcrops to negotiate. A secondary walk of 20 minutes can later be taken to the edge of the Tasman Glacier lake.



Blue lines are motorable roads and red lines are walks.



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1365910	5155174	743	Mount Cook car park at start of Hooker Valley Track, Mataguri lined
02	1366605	5155503	778	21min (948m); Hooker Valley look out above Mueller Glacier and swing bridge
03	1366627	5155602	754	28min (1.19km); over swing bridge with L for Hooker and R for closed Wakefield track
04	1366335	5156325	802	41min (2.17km); bBoulder on terminal moraine above Mueller glacial lake, then into gorge near bluff
05	1366327	5156790	817	57min (2.74km); rocky ledge path with netting on bluff above then over swing bridge
06	1366057	5157542	843	57min (3.72km); rocky path to wooden bridge then up to sundial and Stocking Stream shelter + toilet
07	1366269	5158683	876	1:46min (5.82km); fairly good path to edge of Hooker Glacial lake with ice floes
M	1366153	5155334	782	Mount Cook Alpine Memorial

Detail: From the car park (**WP01743masl**) follow the sign-posted manicured track past the DOC toilets in an eastwardly direction. This track is lined with the spiky plant Mataguri so avoid close encounters. Within minutes the access branch to the Mount Cook Memorial (**WPM782masl**) goes off left – this is worth checking as it is a reminder that Mount Cook must be treated with respect. Within 10 – 15 minutes the Hooker Valley Lookout (**WP02778masl**) is reached and this offers good views of the Mueller Glacier plus its lake and the swing bridge (**WP03754masl**) over the Hooker River. Once over the swing bridge turn left for the Hooker Valley track, there is a clear sign stating that the Wakefield Track to the right (SE) is closed. Superb views of the Mueller Glacier and the associated terminal moraine walls can now be had from a huge boulder (**WP04802masl**) on one of the moraine walls.

Approach to Mount Cook



Mount Cook Memorial



From the boulder viewpoint the track continues into the very obvious gorge below the wall of a steep bluff seen almost due north from the boulder.

Mueller Glacier and Lake



There is now a slightly tricky path on a narrow rocky ledge (**WP05817masl**) to negotiate before crossing another swing bridge – note the wire mesh netting holding back any rocks which might fall off the bluffs on to the path or bridge.

The track is now less manicured (**WP06843masl**) with the odd boulder to step over or around and in about 15 minutes from the swing bridge there is a wooden bridge to cross.

Hooker Glacial Lake



After the wood bridge there is a sundial then the Stocking Stream shelter – no door on this but it would be a real haven in such inhospitable terrain during inclement weather – there is also a modern DOC composting toilet. From the shelter there is fair path leading to the edge of the glacial lake (**WP07876masl**) – 15 minutes or so are required from the shelter to the lake. As can be seen above the views are stunning and there can be impressive ice floes on the lake.

Lake Tasman:

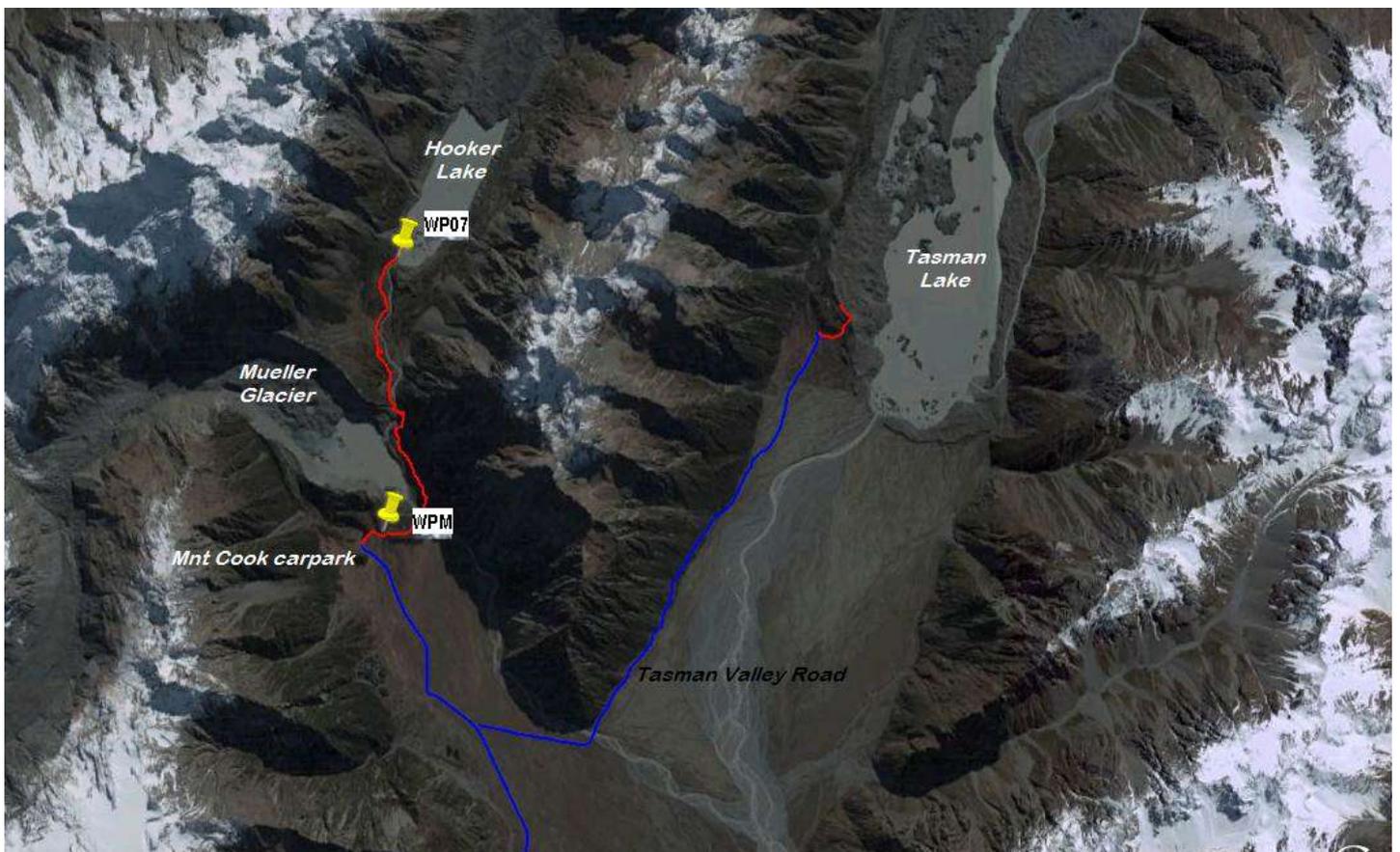
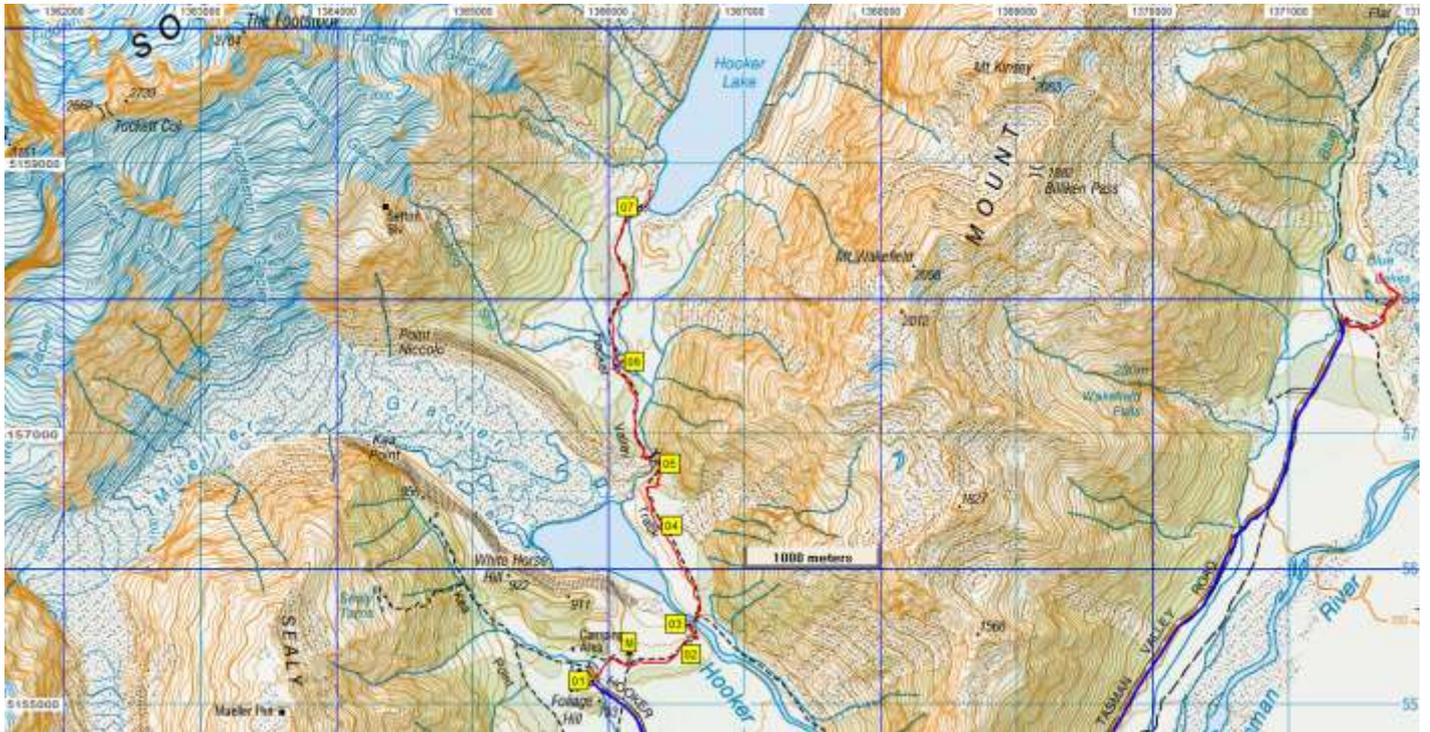
Ice Floes of Lake Tasman

From the Hooker Valley track head back to Mount Cook Village and then down the asphalt access road. A clearly sign-posted gravel road goes off left heading ESE to the Tasman Glacier.

There is a good car park and signed tracks leading to the lake and also one to view the glacier and lake. The better choice is to take the 20 minutes walk to the view of the glacier and the lake – of course both can be done as both are very short easy walks.



Glaciers map & Google



Notes: GPS = Garmin GPSmap 60CSx WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit masl = metres above sea level