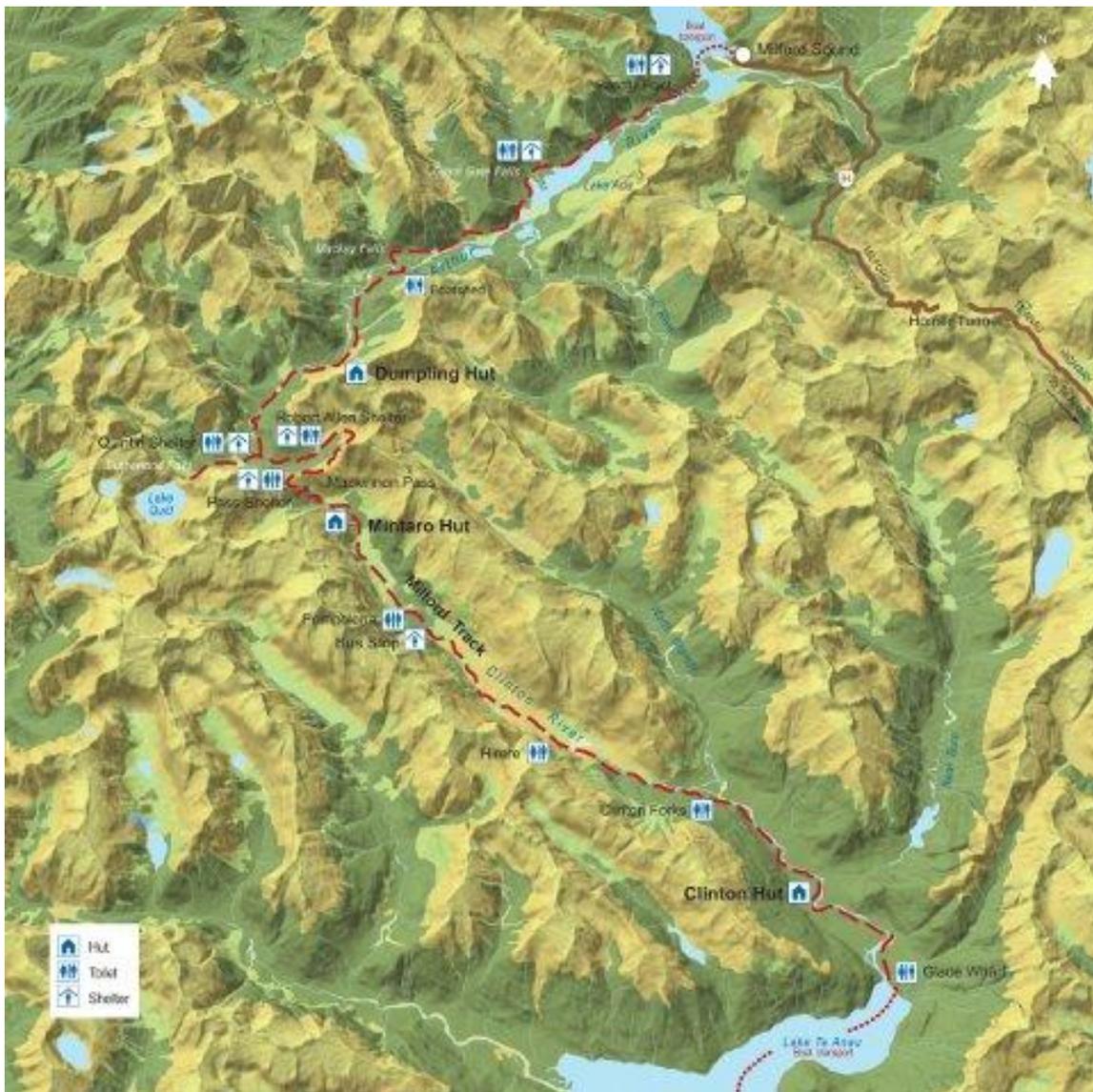


## Milford Track, Fijorland National Park

### South Island, New Zealand

This past March I took a trip to New Zealand to visit my sister. As part of the trip, my mom and I took an awesome backpacking trip through Fijorland National Park. It's on the west coast of the south island. The trip was on a pretty famous trail called the Milford Track. It starts at one of New Zealand's largest lakes (Lake Te Anau) and goes for 33 miles through a BEAUTIFUL glacial valley, up and over a pass and ends up at the Milford Sound. Here are some of the highlights of the trip...

The trail map...



**The trip took 4 days total. The first was mostly bus, and boat and a short hike. The other three were lots and lots of hiking and frolicking. This is my mom and I at the trail head:**



**The first half of the trip is through the Clinton Valley. It is one of many, many, many glacial valleys in Fijorland NP. We were lucky to have had a lot of rain the first day because it meant waterfalls. Hundreds of waterfalls!**



**Backpacking is pretty cushy in this park. The trails are very well maintained and there is no technical climbing. They only allow a certain number of people to start the track each day, there are awesome huts with cook stoves, bunk beds and fireplaces for lodging...**



**The water is so fresh, clean and uncontaminated; there is no need to carry lots of water because you can drink it right from the falls and the creeks...**



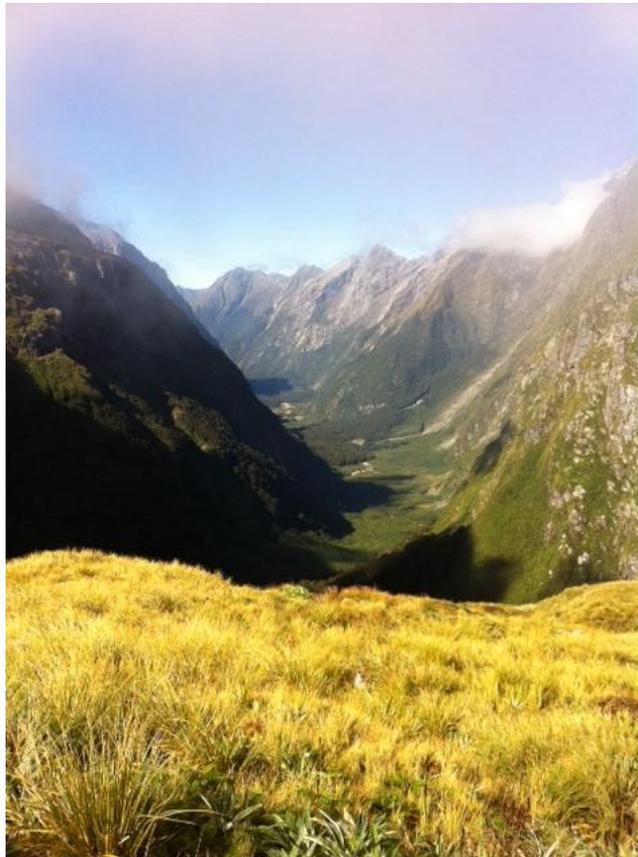
**Another example of some of the beautiful waterfalls...**



**There are hundreds of cool factoids about NZ's unique ecology, and here is one-  
The south island of NZ has over 30 species of ferns. One of my favorites, the tree fern can  
get up to 10+ feet tall:**

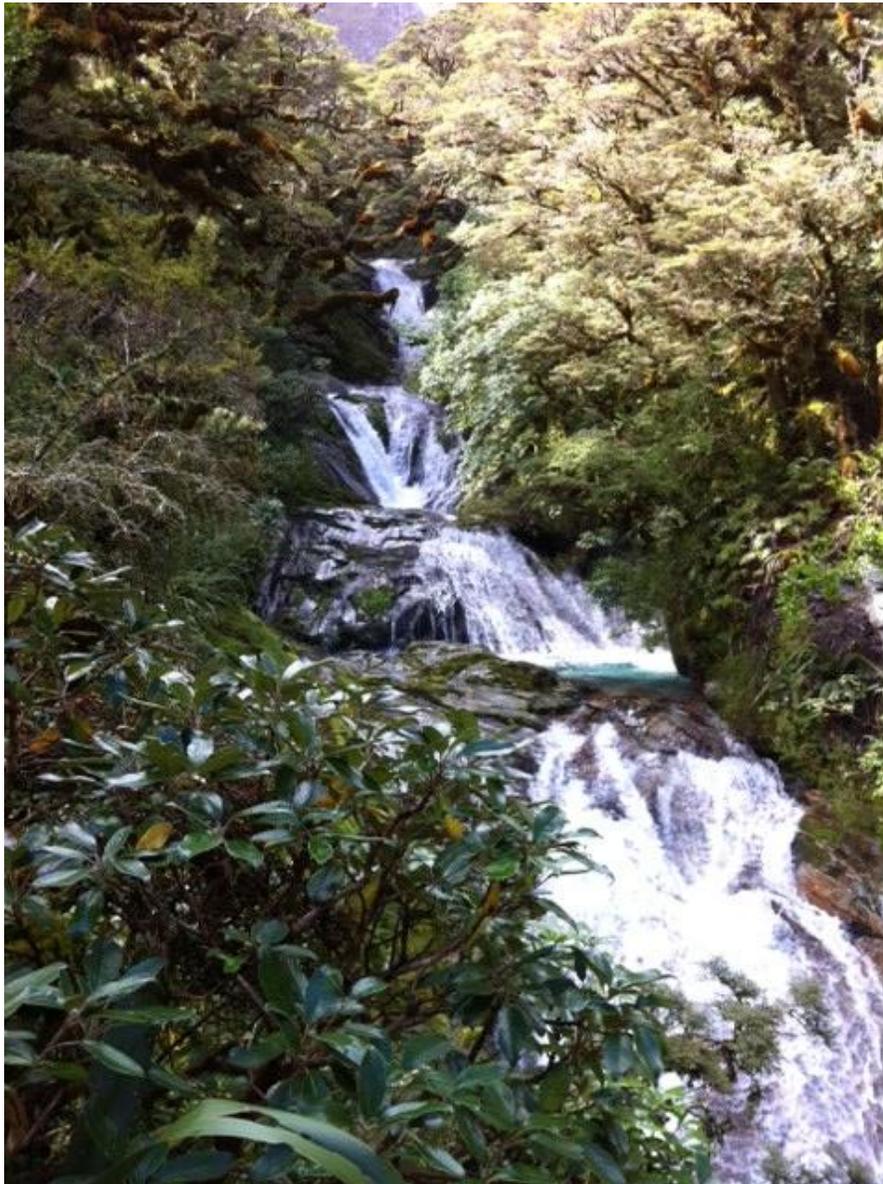


**The valley from one of the upper ridges...**



**From the same ridge, looking the other direction...**





If you ever want someone to talk you into a trip to New Zealand, please speak to me (or Dorothy, we are both in love with this country). My sister married a Kiwi (the affectionate term from someone from NZ) and has lived there almost 20 years. This was my 5<sup>th</sup> time there. The people are friendly and love to show off their country. It's a very easy county to travel, and you can get a bit of everything there!

For more info on this and other backpacking trips, see the NZ website:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/fiordland/northern-fiordland/milford-track/track-description/map-and-profile/>