Leave only footprints

National parks are special places that are strictly protected through the National Parks Act, the Conservation Act, the Wildlife Act and the Marine Reserves Act.

Visiting a national park may require visitors to behave differently than they would in their home or school environments.

Respect the land
• Remove rubbish. Carry out what you carry in and encourage others to do the same
• Camp only in DOC approved sites, make bookings for camp sites and huts through DOC, and leave no trace of your visit
• Only light fires where permitted
• Stay on walking tracks to avoid causing erosion or damage to plant and animal habitats - snails are particularly vulnerable
• Only use the approved toilet facilities

Respect the water
• Keep streams, wetland areas, and the sea clean. Do not drop rubbish or wash dishes in natural water sources

Respect plants and animals
• Tread carefully to avoid disturbing bird nests, snails and fragile plants, such as tussocks and mosses
• Use your eyes to observe, and when touching plants be gentle. Avoid pulling, breaking off or hitting plants in the park
• Give animals the space and sense of safety they need by keeping your distance

Respect each other
• Respect our rich bicultural heritage by protecting historical sites and leaving objects where they are found
• Keep your voices down and make room for others on the tracks and at open sites
• Respect private property adjoining the park