

# Daily Glacier Access Update

Saturday, 16 May 2026

Issued 0830 Update #1

## Franz Josef Glacier Valley

Franz Josef Glacier Access Road: **OPEN**

Viewpoint: **3000m from the terminal face**

Walking Time: **30 min return**

Track conditions in the valley today: **Good**

## Fox Glacier South Side

Fox Glacier South Side Walk: **OPEN**

Viewpoint: **2600m from the terminal face**

Walking time: **2 hours return**

Track conditions today: **Good**

Note: Heed all warning signs and never cross barriers.

These hazards are always present in the glacier valleys:

 	<h3>Flooding</h3> <p>Rain can cause streams to rise rapidly with little warning.</p> <p>Sudden flooding can drown you or strand you in the riverbed. Stay on the track.</p>	 	<h3>River surge</h3> <p>Ice dams may suddenly release large amounts of water.</p> <p>Sudden river surge can drown you. Do not go beyond the barrier.</p>
 	<h3>Ice fall</h3> <p>Ice blocks larger than a campervan fall from the glacier daily.</p> <p>Ice fall can seriously injure or kill you. Do not go beyond the barrier.</p>	 	<h3>Rock fall</h3> <p>Rocks fall from the glacier and valley walls daily.</p> <p>Even small rocks can seriously injure or kill you. Stay on the track.</p>



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

Westland Tai Poutini National Park Visitor Centre  
69 Cron Street, Franz Josef  
Phone: 03 752 0360  
Email: westlandnpvc@doc.govt.nz

New Zealand Government