

Hello from Fiordland National Park, New Zealand: 3.1 million acres of wilderness, which is 5% of NZ's total land area. It is a World Heritage Area. Only about 350 miles of trails (or "tracks," as they are called here. Also when you travel the backcountry, here it is called "tramping". There are over 52 backcountry "huts" in FNP.



Comparisons between YNP and New Zealand parks and thermal areas



Here a trail is a "track." Note that rather than give the distance in kilometers, they give it in time. So in YNP our sign would say, "Riverside Geyser 25 minutes," etc.



Note names for the women's and men's restrooms at a thermal area. Neat!



All thermal areas in NZ are privately owned. Note the prices for admission. And this is just one small thermal basin.



Note the "scheduled" time for Lady Knox Geyser. That's because it is soaped daily at that time. Fake!!!!



This is where the Pohuto Geyser is. Not cheap. The U.S. dollar was worth about \$1.15 NZ . Here the geysers are not soaped.



NZ version of Boiling River



Pretty emphatic water sign! We have one at Boiling River, but not as dramatic



We have the Geyser Grill; NZ has the Geyser Cafe



Now here is where we might learn from NZ. All of their boardwalks are covered by this plastic webbing material to prevent slippage when conditions are wet. It worked extremely well! Sort of like the tracs we wear on our boots.



Pohutu Geyser is indeed impressive. It is similar to Grotto in that it erupts for a lengthy period once it starts. Also, the stream running through the basin resembles our Firehole and is quite beautiful.



More warning signs.



The vegetation here in the geyser basins is certainly different from YNP!



The native Maori would use “steam boxes” to cook their food. Margaret referred to this as a “Maori crock pot.”



More warning signs



No raiding the crock pots!!



Mudpots here are more numerous than in YNP. Very impressive—like Pocket Basin



I don't know, maybe YNP rangers need to dress in native costume to interpret the basins (grin).



This sign might be appropriate in the Young Scientist Room.



Note the backdrop at this fabulous mudpot! So the bottom line: Yes, I'm glad I visited here and am now familiar with the thermal basins in New Zealand. However, there is absolutely NO comparison between here and Yellowstone. We are very fortunate that Yellowstone is protected in a wild and natural setting. We just need to work hard to ensure that it stays that way!