

Lake Clearwater – Ashburton Lakes

How to get there

Go south out of Christchurch towards Ashburton. Turn off at Rakaia (40min), follow sign posts to Mt Somers (50 min) , then follow signs to Lake Clearwater (20 mins). The last 10 Kms is gravel road, take care.

Windsurfing

Suitable for all levels – Great for learning when light, also amazing for high wind junkies. Great for speed sailing, slalom blasting , freestyle & hi-wind bump & jump

Kiting

Best for intermediate to advanced kilters. Launching is tricky & conditions can get extreme very rapidly.

Accommodation

Camp site with honesty box, or rent a bach if you can.

What to take

WATER – All your own water, lake is fresh water, but take your own drinking water... (beer etc) – Nearest shop is 20 mins away..

TOYS – hi-wind gear, light wind gear / fishing rod+ License(lake has good stocks of trout) /mountain bike, lots of good terrain / tramping boots / boat, Lake camp is good for wake boarding, waterskiing etc / plus any other out door toy.

CLOTHING – Shorts , t-shirts & bikinis Plus polar wear. Can be nice & warm ,ALSO can be very damn cold. Has snowed many times in mid summer, be prepared.

What not to do

Lake Clearwater is a wild life reserve – please READ the signs

Dogs – no dogs allowed !!!!!!! Lake Rules.....

- No power boats on Lake Clearwater
- No kiting or sailing before 10am, this is fishing time.....
- Keep off the island and stay away from the roped off areas.
- Launch kites & windsurfers by the boat ramp,
- Stay away from the trees as this is a nesting ground.

Windsurf



Wind directions: All wind directions.

North Westerly – Best hi wind conditions. Can be gusty and wind can easily get up to 35knts ... often 50Knts + in summer. Nw can build very rapidly, always be aware of conditions.

Easterlies – Great flat water sailing at southern end of lake. Easterly can be very smooth, often in the 20 to 30knt range.

Southerly – Similar to easterlies.

Westerly – Is gusty & offshore at camp site.

Northerly – Gusty, also gives some of the best jumping conditions.

Tide: No tide – fresh water, lake levels can vary over summer, lake is often frozen in winter.

Kiteboard



Wind directions: All wind directions.

North Westerly – Best hi wind conditions. Can be gusty and wind can easily get up to 35knts +... often 50Knts + in summer. Nw can build very rapidly, always be aware of conditions.

Easterlies – Great flat water sailing at southern end of lake. Easterly can be very smooth, often in the 20 to 30knt range.

Southerly – Similar to easterlies.

Westerly – Is gusty & offshore at camp site. NOT suitable for Kiteboarding

Northerly – Gusty, can produce great speed kiting conditions on northern bank.

Tide: No tide – fresh water, lake levels can vary over summer, lake is often frozen in winter

DANGERS – The wind can change in an instance. It gets very windy here , very big gusts can happen unexpectedly, experience is required. Go with mates, don't go solo , it is isolated.

- Lake is surrounded by matagouri (thorn bushes), many a kite has been dealt to by these pricks.

KITERS BEWARE – **Stay away from the island**, (it is the Bermuda Triangle of islands) - It is a nature reserve & does strange things with the wind...