
About the cover

Aoraki / Mount Cook (top right) is the highest mountain in New Zealand at 3,724 metres (12,218 feet). It lies in the Southern Alps, the mountain range which runs the length of the South Island. A popular tourist destination the mountain is the heart of the Aoraki / Mount Cook National Park which was established in 1953. It also became part of the Te Wāhipounamu – South West New Zealand World Heritage Region in 1990. The mountain attracts around half a million international visitors per year and its Visitor Centre provides information on the geology, landforms and processes in the park. Unique to the area is the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre, a tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary, humanitarian, ambassador and one of the world's greatest explorers. The centre showcases the Aoraki Mount Cook region, its people and its place in the universe. The mountain is also the base for a large number of activities including mountain climbing, hiking, glacier tours, and viewing by planes and helicopters. Thus, it is geotourism which is underpinning the tourism development in the region which is providing knowledge about the mountain and in turn is supporting its conservation.

Source: Ross Dowling (2017).