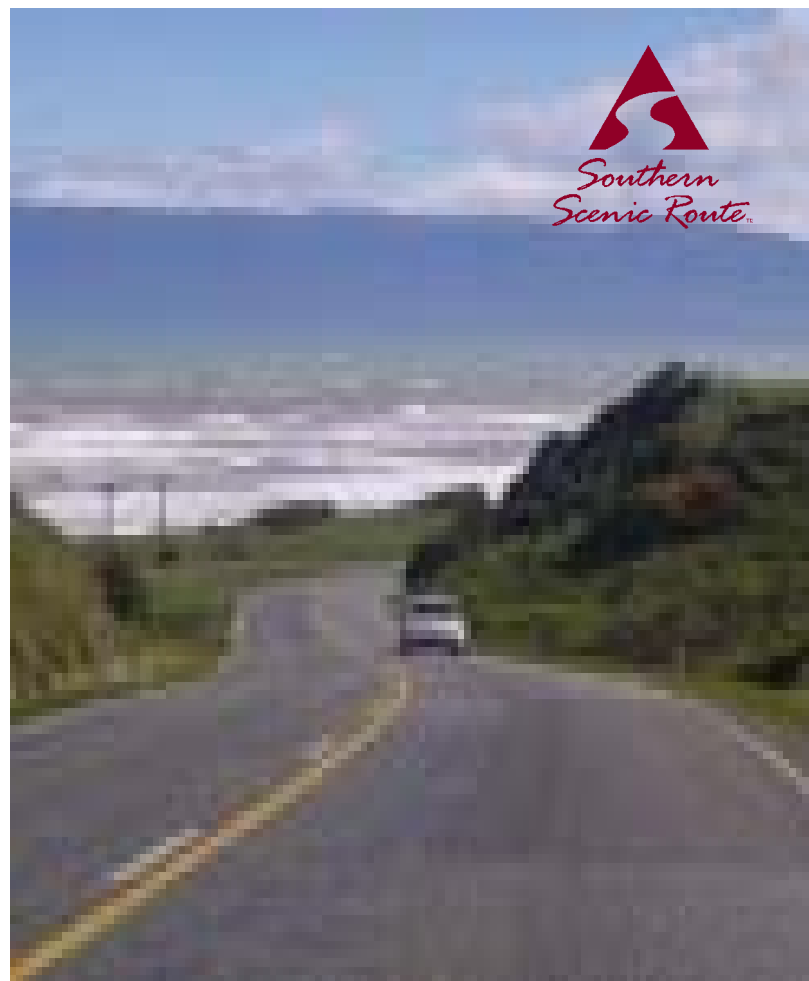


Southern Scenic Route

A Traveller's Guide



SOUTHLAND AND OTAGO 2005



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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The Southern Scenic Route

This brochure is your comprehensive guide to the Southern Scenic Route. The complete journey between Dunedin and Te Anau is approximately 440km or 273 miles long. The drive will ideally suit those who have time to leisurely explore the many natural and historical points of interest along the way. The route starts in the bustle of Dunedin City and within a few hours the traveller will be driving through large areas of native forest which traverse the ridges and valleys of the Catlins, a forgotten corner of New Zealand. The route then continues through Southland, a region steeped in natural and cultural history, and then on to Te Wāhipounamu *South West New Zealand* World Heritage Area and Fiordland National Park. There are a wide variety of opportunities for recreation along the way – camping, tramping, wildlife viewing, mountain-biking, fishing, hunting, boating and caving, to name a few.

Enjoy your journey and please travel safely and with care.



Geology

The drive from Dunedin to Te Anau takes the traveller through a myriad of landscapes, shaped by many natural processes in New Zealand's young but varied geological history. While driving through the Catlins you will see distinctive parallel ridges and valleys of the Southland Syncline which runs in a north-west to south-east direction. West of Tuatapere the sandstone hills were formed during uplifting and folding of the earth's crust, beginning 150 million years ago. Around Clifden are found limestone rock outcrops, and caves created by the action of streams. The basins of Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri were created by the gouging action of huge glaciers, which then melted leaving the lakes behind.

Flora

Most of the hills of the Catlins are clothed in rimu, kamahi, rata and silver beech forest, forming the largest area of native forest on the east coast of the South Island. Of considerable interest are the forest sequences behind the beaches at Tautuku and Tahakopa, formed on old sand dunes. Beech forest dominates Fiordland National Park and the Takitimu Ranges. Other species present include kamahi and podocarps such as miro, rimu, kahikatea and tōtara. A feature of the forest is the abundance of ferns, mosses and perching plants due to the high volume of rainfall.

Fauna

On your journey you are likely to encounter many native wildlife species, some of which may require special care. Please take heed of any warning signs you may see, and do not feed any wildlife.

Forest Birds

Bellbirds, tūi, wood pigeons, parakeets, fantails, tomitts and grey warblers are likely to be seen. The rare yellowhead/mōhua may be found in the beech forest of the Catlins Conservation Park.

Seabirds

Stewart Island shags can be seen on rock stacks below the Porpoise Bay headland. Muttonbirds/tītī can often be seen in large flocks offshore during summer, but they migrate to the Northern Hemisphere for the New Zealand winter. White-fronted terns can also be seen around the bays. The Catlins estuaries at Pounaweia, Owaka, Papatowai, Tautuku and Fortrose are rich habitats for many wading birds, such as royal spoonbills, wrybills, herons and dotterels.

Blue Penguins/Kororā

Blue penguins nest in burrows and rock caves along the coastline.

Yellow-eyed Penguins/Hōiho

Endangered yellow-eyed penguins are one of the rarest penguins in the world. About 450 pairs are found on New Zealand's south-east coast, with 1500 pairs on New Zealand's remote sub-antarctic islands. Declines in the population can be attributed to the reduction of their natural coastal forest habitat and introduced predators such as stoats, ferrets, cats and dogs. Please use the designated viewing platforms and hides provided at Nugget Point and Curio Bay, since these are the best vantage points and the penguins are easily frightened. Yellow-eyed penguins are extremely shy and vulnerable to disturbance, particularly from September to February when their eggs are laid and chicks are being raised, and from February to April when they are moulting. The penguins can sometimes be seen coming ashore in the early evening. Please remain at least 20m away at all times and never stand between the penguins and where they want to go.



Blue penguin. Photo: Ros Cole



Yellow-eyed penguin nest. Photo: Cheryl Pullar

Hectors Dolphins/Papakanua

During summer and autumn at viewpoints along Te Waewae Bay and at Porpoise Bay you may be lucky enough to see the world's smallest dolphin. Please follow these guidelines should you encounter dolphins in the water:

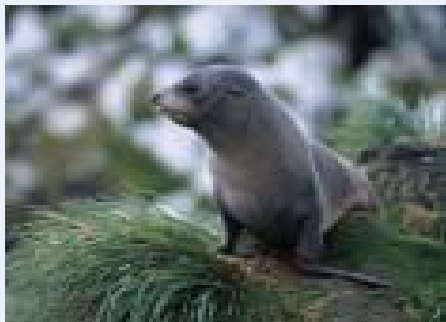
- When entering the water, do so at least 50m from any dolphins.
- When swimming, surfing or kayaking do not approach the dolphins; they may choose to come to you.
- Please do NOT feed the dolphins.
- Dolphins have sensitive skin – please do not touch them.



Hectors Dolphins. Photo: Erin Green

Fur Seals/Kekeno

Fur seals are most likely to be seen from October to February on the boulder beaches and rocky platforms of



Fur seal. Photo: Tui De Roy

the south coast. Seal and sea lion pups may be left on the shore whilst adults are away fishing, for hours or days at a time. Please do not presume they have been abandoned, and do not disturb them. Males are aggressive during their breeding season December to February.

All seals may look placid, but they are powerful, wild predators and can be very dangerous if they are approached too closely. Keep at least 30m away and never get between them and the sea.

Sea Lions/Rāpoka/Whakahao



Sea lion. Photo: Karen Baird

The most popular haul-out areas for sea lions are the sandy beaches of Surat and Cannibal Bays, where large groups of sub-adult and adult males rest and socialise. Waipapa Point is another popular spot for sea lions.

Elephant Seals/Ihupuku



Elephant seals, "George and Mildred". Photo: Mark Townsend

A pair of elephant seals can often be seen at Nugget Point during late summer when they mate.

Leopard seals are infrequent visitors and turn up to rest occasionally.

Māori History

Māori have occupied the south of the South Island for around 1000 years and in pre-European times developed patterns of use according to available food supply. Permanent settlements at Riverton and Colac Bay were linked to a string of seasonal camps around the coast, including one at Papatowai. Midden sites from moa-hunter camps are visible at Tahakopa Bay, and the caves in the limestone outcrops around Clifden show evidence of having been stopping places for travelling Māori parties. Fishing was an important activity at Māori camps and this was beginning to replace moa hunting and sealing as early as 1350.

Ngāi Tahu are the Māori people of the southern islands of New Zealand. They have their origins in three streams of migration. The Waitaha arrived in the North Island, probably from Rarotonga and quickly moved to the South Island (Te Wai Pounamu – the greenstone isle), possibly around 850 AD. They named the island and prominent features like Aoraki (Mount Cook). In the late 1500s the Ngāti Māmoë stream arrived from the Wellington area. These people integrated with the Waitaha through warfare and marriage in the same way as Europeans did in their conquests. In the early 1600s the largest migration stream, the Ngāi Tahu arrived over the space of two generations from the North Island's East Coast and integrated with the existing people through intermarriage and treaties. By the mid eighteenth century the three streams of descent had been fused by intermarriage into one iwi. By 1800 there were about 20,000 people calling themselves Ngāi Tahu.

European Settlement

The first Europeans to explore the south coast were sealers, many of whom kept their movements secret in order to protect their interests. Whaling became the next industry and Riverton was established as a base by John Howell in 1836. The first mixed-race settlements in the region were formed around whaling bases, including those at Port Molyneux, Tautuku and Waikawa, but like their quarry these were to soon disappear. The Europeans brought measles to Port Molyneux and wiped out all but seven of the resident Māori.

In 1888 there was a little-known gold rush at Round Hill, with 300 Chinese miners living at the town of Canton. A 25km water race was built from the Longwood Range for sluicing operations. In 1896 a track was cut along the south coast of Fiordland to provide a land link with the gold mining settlements of Cromarty and Te Oneroa in Preservation Inlet.

Over the years more than 200 sawmills have operated in the forests of western Southland. From beginnings with axes and bullocks the industry developed sophisticated, steam-powered haulers, locomotives and mills. In the 1920s the mill at Port Craig was the largest in the country. All that remains today is the school, now a trampers' hut, and four spectacular wooden viaducts.

The Owaka River was also a site of immense activity – in 1863 one of the region's early explorers, Otago provincial councillor J.W. Thomson, described the Owaka River as being crowded with “overhanging branches, meeting in some places, giving the impression of an immense arcade.” Sawmilling quickly became a major industry and in 1872 more timber left the Owaka river than any other South Island port. Construction of a railway line from Balclutha began in 1879, reaching Owaka in 1896 and its final railhead at Tahakopa in 1915. In its wake followed sawmills, schools and farms. As the accessible forests were milled and burned, pioneer farmers turned the land to agricultural use, which is predominantly what we see today in Southland.

Hydro-electric development of the Waiiau Valley began in 1925 with the raising of the level of Lake Monowai for power generation. In 1971 the Manapouri hydro station was completed, diverting water from Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri to Doubtful Sound and supplying power to the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter near Bluff.

Tips For Travellers

Some roads detouring from the Southern Scenic Route are unsealed (gravelled) and require particular care. Slow down, take your time and drive to the road conditions.

It is not uncommon to encounter sheep and cattle being moved along some of the roads you may travel on. Please drive slowly and show consideration. If unsure how to drive through a mob of sheep, please ask the farmer for advice.

For your comfort and enjoyment it is recommended that you carry insect repellent and apply it in areas where sandflies are prevalent, particularly in the Hauroko and Borland areas.



Viewing Wildlife



Protect plants and animals
Remove rubbish
Bury toilet waste
Keep streams and lakes clean
Take care with fires
Camp carefully
Keep to the track
Consider others
Respect our cultural heritage
Enjoy your visit
Toitū te whenua
(Leave the land undisturbed)

New Zealand is one of the few places in the world where wildlife viewing is very accessible. Some simple rules will enhance the experience for both you and future generations.

- Use viewing platforms and hides where provided.
- Remain at least 20 m (or further in some instances) away from all wildlife and never block their path.
- Please do not feed or touch any wildlife.
- Be aware of areas where dogs are prohibited (including National Parks) and abide by these conditions - they are a threat to New Zealand wildlife.

Note: It is an offence to disturb or harass any native wildlife.

For Your Safety

- Even the easiest walks need safety sense - Be prepared!!
- Wear comfortable shoes.
- Dress for the weather (and be prepared for it to change).
- Stay on the track and remain behind any barriers.
- Allow enough time to walk at your own pace.
- Keep young children in sight.
- On longer walks take a snack and drink.
- Check tide times before you start.
- Ask advice from local visitor centres regarding more remote walking opportunities.
- Keep your distance from wildlife.

Track Classifications



Short Walk - well formed, easy walking



Walking Track - well formed, easy longer walk



Easy Tramping Track - well formed, for comfortable overnight tramping trip



Tramping Track - mostly unformed but with track directional markers, poles or cairns



Marked Route - marked but with little or no formed track

Your Journey Begins . . .

You will find the main orientation map in the centre of this brochure, with areas requiring more specific detail being enlarged to assist your navigation. The Southern Scenic Route is indicated by brown signs and this symbol.



Please note that some points of interest may be across private land and access is by courtesy of the landowner. Where a name is shown, permission to enter must be obtained. Access may not be available at certain times, e.g., during lambing. Please leave all gates as you find them. Some tracks are partly or fully accessible to wheelchair users. Contact the local visitor centre for details.

Camping is permitted only in designated camping areas. Fires are prohibited except where fireplaces are provided. The owner's permission must be sought before camping on private land. Please do not disturb archaeological sites.

Please travel safely and with care and enjoy your journey.

Dunedin City

Known as the "Wildlife Capital of New Zealand", Dunedin is Otago's largest city, and is renowned for its many wonderful natural, cultural and architectural features. Dunedin has the largest concentration of Victorian and Edwardian buildings in New Zealand and is home to our first university. The city is surrounded by many swimming and surfing beaches, and the Otago Peninsula features many special wildlife species including yellow-eyed penguins, sea lions and the world's only mainland royal albatross colony.



Tunnel Beach – 1 hr return



As you leave Dunedin take in the coastal scenery at Tunnel Beach, Blackhead or Brighton. Follow the Southern Scenic Route signs as you travel south from the city, taking the Brighton Road which follows the coastline.

Taieri Mouth



A great spot for swimming and surfing, with interesting rocks to explore at the southern end of the main beach.

Taieri River Track – 4hr return



The track begins at Taieri Mouth and follows the Taieri River, passing through many distinctive vegetation types. Both salt and freshwater species are abundant due to the tidal nature of the river. The track then rises to a higher level above the river and enters lush regenerating kahikatea forest.

Picnic Gully Track – 45min return



This track, starting at Taieri Mouth, crosses a fence midway up the gully as it passes from the DOC reserve into private land. The route from the bush edge takes a left hand turn, and follows the white painted posts to reach the Waihola Road. Tree



ferns and numerous other ferns can be found along the edge of the track and up on the banks, indicating the dampness of the area. Wood pigeons, fantails and grey warblers can be heard.

Waihola



Lake Waihola is 40km from both Dunedin and Balclutha. The lakeside Domain has many activities available including kayaking, fishing, a pontoon, and children's water slides – a great place to make a lunch stop.

Sinclair Wetlands/Te Nohoaka a Tukiauau



A short drive to Ngāi Tahu's Sinclair Wetlands/Te Nohoaka a Tukiauau will bring you to a remnant of what all this area once was, the home to many species of native waterfowl. Several tracks meander through the wetlands, some of which are accessible by wheelchair. Please stop at the visitor



centre before departing on any of the walks. Some accommodation is available – contact the manager ph. (03) 486 2654. Dogs are strictly prohibited.



Tunnel Beach. Photo: Neville Peat



Lake Waihola. Photo: Nyia Strachan



Nugget Point Lighthouse. Photo: Cheryl Pullar

Milton



This township has a rich history in woollen mills and timber mills, both of which are still productive industries in the town.

Balclutha



Balclutha is the main service centre for South Otago and the Catlins, and is the biggest town on the Southern Scenic Route between Dunedin and Invercargill. The Clutha River/Matau bridge, with its concrete arches, spans the second longest, but largest by water volume, river in New Zealand.

Turn off State Highway 1 on to Southern Scenic Route at Balclutha (signpost says SH82 Owaka Highway)

Awakiki Bush Scenic Reserve – 40min return



By using the foot access through a neighbouring farm and following a short loop walk an outstanding example of lowland tōtara forest can be explored. Awakiki Reserve is signposted from the main road south of the Telford Rural Polytech.

Kaka Point



Kaka Point is a beautiful seaside settlement of both permanent and seasonal residents. It has a thriving surf and boating club, a playground and safe swimming beach, with a native bush backdrop and view of the Nugget Point lighthouse. Seaside dining and refreshments are available from the popular café and bar. A range of accommodation

options is available, from luxury to campsites. Its beauty is reflected in the works of local literary and artistic talents.

Kaka Point Bush Walk – 30min return



Access is from the top of Marine Terrace, with the two entry/exit points being signposted. Another access track (5min.) links into the loop track off Rata Street.



Nugget Point/Tokata Lighthouse –  **10 to 20min return**

Views from the lighthouse platform provide a spectacular vista north across Molyneux Bay to Wangaloa and the Otago Peninsula, and south down the Catlins Coast to Long Point. Being such an important landscape feature, Nugget Point/Tokata is a taoka/treasured site for local iwi, and has traditional importance as a mahika kai.

Nugget Point to Roaring Bay –  **20min return**

This 47ha reserve is a breeding place for many of the southern coast's animals and birds. You may see fur seals, sea lions and elephant seals. Yellow-eyed penguins/hōiho are best seen from the Roaring Bay hide as they return from the sea in the evening. They nest within the forested areas of the headland.

Tunnel Hill – 20min return 

Construction of the Catlins railway commenced from Balclutha in 1879, reaching Owaka in 1896. Located approximately 5km north of Owaka, the tunnel is 250m long and a torch is recommended to enable the intricate craftsmanship of the tunnel interior, lined with locally made bricks, to be seen. A barrier at the north end of the tunnel marks the end of the reserve – private farmland lies beyond.

Surat Bay to Cannibal Bay – 5hr return 

From New Haven walk along the beach to Surat Bay (named after the ship *Surat* which was wrecked there on New Years Day 1874), and on to False Islet. A track then cuts across to Cannibal Bay through the sandhills, where remains of a forest buried by blown sand and evidence of moa-hunter living areas can be found. Access to and from New Haven Road end can only be achieved at low tide. If the tide is not suitable, access from Cannibal Bay is the other option.



Ship on the estuary at Pounaweia. Photo: Nyia Strachan

Owaka 

Owaka is an ideal base from which to explore the wider Catlins, with a variety of facilities and day trips available. Early pioneers established this town and community, carving a future from the bush. Visit the Catlins Information Centre and the interesting museum, which focuses on Catlins cultural history. Shopping attractions include tourist/adventure shops which can provide numerous recreational opportunities, art and craft supplies and displays, and an internet café. Local cuisine can be enjoyed at any of several restaurants.

Pounaweia 

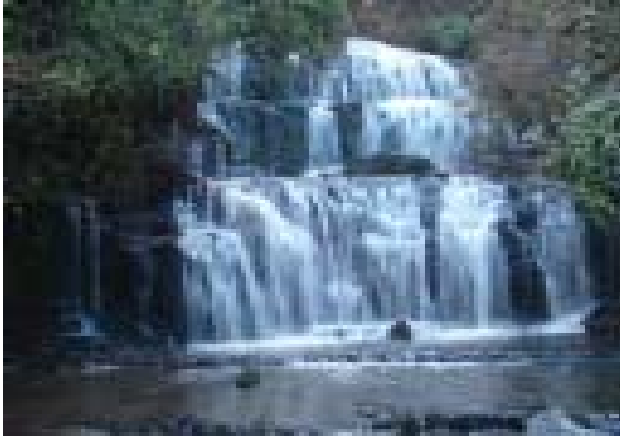
Nature and Bush Walking Tracks – 15 or 45min return

Park your vehicle outside the camping ground and choose either the nature walk (15min) or the longer walk (45min return). The longer walk offers virgin podocarp forest, rich in birdlife, with the return via saltmarsh and estuary where wading birds are often seen. These areas are ecologically important because the vegetation type from the estuary shore to the forest is now quite rare. Each year godwits return from northern Asia to the sand spit near the mouth of the estuary. Please note that there is access to the saltmarsh section of the track only at low tide.

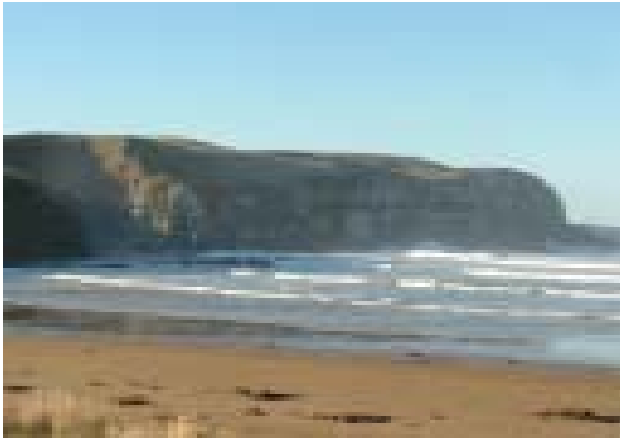
Jacks Blowhole – 1hr return 

Like the nearby island and bay, Jacks Blowhole is named after the Māori chief Tuhawaiki (known to European settlers as Bloody Jack). The blowhole is situated in Tunnel Rocks Scenic Reserve and is a large cavity 55m deep, 200m from the sea. It has been formed by the caving-in of a section of roof from a large subterranean cavern eroded by the sea. This coastline, exposed to the heavy swells of the Southern Ocean, has many such fascinating indentations and caverns. Large seas provide entertainment as the waves are compressed through the underground tunnel and explode into the blowhole. The area surrounding the blowhole has been replanted in native trees. Please do not lean or climb over the safety fence around the blowhole. The route to the coast has been marked with painted posts and you are requested to respect the access granted by the landowner. Please use this track and the stiles provided rather than the gates and do not disturb stock. Access is closed during lambing (September/October).

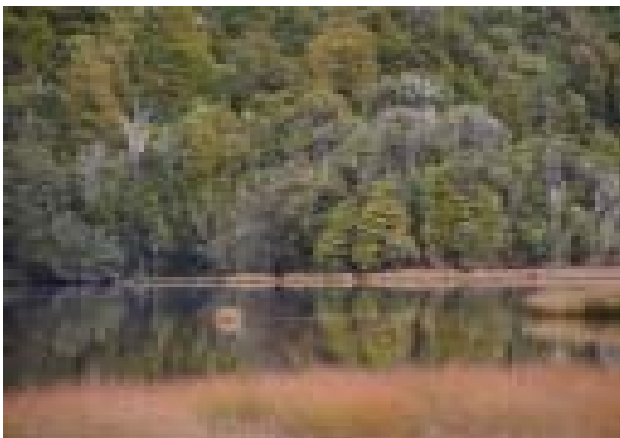




Purakaunui Falls. Photo: Cheryl Pullar



Jacks Bay. Photo: Cheryl Pullar



Tautuku Estuary. Photo: Cheryl Pullar

Catlins River Walk



Tawanui to Franks Creek – 2.5hr

Franks Creek to Wallis Stream – 1.5hr

Wallis Stream to The Wisp – 1hr

A well-formed track follows the Catlins River from Tawanui to The Wisp. It is in several sections, each of which can be walked separately, as there are short connecting tracks back up to the forestry road, and it



can be walked in reverse if you prefer. The track is suitable for family groups, and provides excellent opportunities for trout fishing. The track begins at the Tawanui camping and picnic area. Starting in exotic forest, the walk follows the true left bank of the river up through silver beech forest. The river walk takes you across the Catlins River four times on swing bridges. The section between Franks Creek and The Wisp is where you are most likely to hear the endangered forest bird mōhua/yellowhead, where they can be seen in pairs or large family flocks depending on the season. Mōhua, like many native species, are severely threatened by stoats and rats. The Department of Conservation is trapping extensively within this forest, so please do not tamper with any traps or tunnels you may come across.

Purakaunui Falls – 20min return




This walk is suitable for wheelchair users to the top viewing point. Renowned for their beauty, the Purakaunui Falls are one of New Zealand's most photographed, gracing many calendars, postcards and book covers. A true icon of the Catlins.

Matai Falls/Horseshoe Falls – 30min return



Matai Falls are situated in the Table Hill Scenic Reserve, approximately 18km south of Owaka. The walk to the falls is through regenerating podocarp/broadleaf forest and are best viewed late in the morning.



Old Coach Road and Tahakopa Loop Track 
Return to Beach from Old Coach Road – 40min
Return on the Tahakopa Bay Loop Track – 3hr

Commencing at the carpark at the north end of the Tahakopa River bridge, the track follows the same route that coaches took after leaving Tahakopa Beach. The coaches forded the river below the present bridge and the old formation is still visible in places. The walk is flat and easy going. Vegetation types seen alongside the walk include silver beech, tree ferns and young tōtara. The silver beeches, whose seeds were probably distributed by the river, are the southern-most stand of this species. Near the mouth of the river is an almost-pure stand of young tōtara which is situated where the moa-hunters camped while searching for food in the area. This historic site has been the centre of much archaeological interest. The Tahakopa Bay Loop Track takes you through the heart of the reserve, including the dune forest, the beach and the Old Coach Road. Keep an eye out for the native golden sand sedge/pikao on the dunes on your return along the beach.

Papatowai 

Papatowai is a small township nestled in native bush, with a spectacular beach and coastline on its doorstep. It has become popular for 'big wave' surfing competitions. A local shop provides basic essentials or snacks. A large camping ground with full facilities provides an ideal base for the freedom camper, while popular backpacker accommodation and more up-market options at local motels are also available.

Coastal walking tracks – 40min to 1hr return 

These popular walks in the Papatowai Scenic Reserve are suitable for all age groups. You may encounter penguins, sea lions and oystercatchers on the beach. The Kings Rock Track and Picnic Point Track (wheelchair grade) area starts from Cross Street. Other short walks around the beach and estuary can be accessed via the picnic ground on the foreshore.

Lake Wilkie – 30min return 

A short walk through a unique forest sequence is explained through a series of interpretation panels. When the rata is in flower around the viewing area there can be a magnificent feast of colour, as well as sound, when tūi and bellbirds enjoy feeding on the nectar. Suitable for wheelchairs to the top viewing point.



Tautuku Bay – 15min return to the beach 

A spectacular sweeping bay backed by forest. The walk begins opposite the Outdoor Education Centre on the main Chaslands Highway – Southern Scenic Route. Alternatively, you can drive to the beach via the narrow gravel Tautuku Beach road. Although there is a picnic area available at the end of the road, the beach itself is suitable for 4WD vehicles only.

Tautuku Estuary Boardwalk – 30min return 

This partly-boardwalked track will take you through podocarp forest, then out over the estuary flats. The jointed rush/oioi has vibrant colours enhanced at sunrise and sunset. It is home to a population of fernbirds who are often heard but seldom seen.

Lenz Forest and Bird Reserve 

While this is officially a Forest and Bird Society reserve, it is also open to the public. There is a 5min walk to an interpretive display of an old Traill bush tractor. For further information on other walking tracks and accommodation contact the Forest & Bird lodge caretaker. Ph (03) 489 6388. The tracks in the reserve are not suitable for wheelchair users.

Cathedral Caves – 50min return 

This attraction is managed by the Tautuku Blk X Sec 3C Trust (a group of landowners of Ngāi Tahu descent) and an entry fee is charged. Access to the carpark is via a private road signposted from the Southern Scenic Route. The caves may be visited only at low tide (tide tables are posted at the Catlins Information Centre, the road turnoff and the carpark) and when beach conditions are suitable. Access from May to October is limited to weekends and school holidays. The walk passes through the podocarp/kamahi forest of Waipati Beach Scenic Reserve to Waipati Beach. A short walk north along the beach leads to the 30m high caves, formed by the persistent action of the sea on weaker sections of rock, cutting deep into the cliffs.

McLean Falls – 40min return 

This track takes you through a mixture of forest types, from divaricating shrubland, to huge tree fuchsia, olearia and podocarp hardwood forest, as you walk to the spectacular falls.





Destination	Distance	Driving Time
Dunedin – Taieri Mouth	35km 22 miles	45min
Taieri Mouth – Balclutha	50km 31 miles	1hr
Balclutha – Owaka	32km 20 miles	20min
Owaka – Papatowai	26km 16 miles	30min
Papatowai – Waikawa	46km 29 miles	40min
Waikawa – Invercargill	83km 52 miles	1hr
Invercargill – Riverton	38km 24 miles	30min
Riverton – Tuatapere	48km 30 miles	35min
Tuatapere – Te Anau	82km 51 miles	1hr
Te Anau – Milford Sound	119km 74 miles	2hr 20min
Total	440km 273 miles	



- Southern Scenic Route
- Other Roads
- i-SITE Visitor Centre i
- Petrol P
- Campervan Dump Station C

Fortrose



The first settlement, known as the Kaik (derived from the Māori term for village, kāika) was on a hill overlooking Fortrose Estuary. Fortrose Cemetery is one of the earliest European cemeteries in Southland. The grave of Captain James Wybrow, an early whaler buried in 1878, can be found here.

The drive from Fortrose to Invercargill passes mostly through coastal farmland. Along the banks of the Tītiroa and Mataura Rivers you will see many quaint huts and shelters. These are used by whitebaiters during the annual whitebait season which runs from 15 August – 30 November inclusive.

Waituna Lagoon



Waituna Lagoon and wetlands was one of the first places in the world to be registered under the RAMSAR convention, recognising it as a wetland of international significance. The main access is via Kapuka South Road

which is signposted on State Highway 92 approximately 5kms past Gorge Road township. It is an important habitat for birds, native fish and trout and is home to some unusual plants – like the cushion plant *Donatia* which normally grows in sub-alpine areas. A great area for exploring, bird watching and fishing.

Invercargill

Known as the “City of Water and Light”, Invercargill is New Zealand’s southern-most city, and Southland’s major centre. The variety of heritage buildings in the city centre add to its character. Invercargill has a large network of parks and gardens near the city centre. There are also many walking and mountain-biking opportunities around the city. Contact the City Parks office in Queens Park for details, ph (03) 219 9070.

Situated near the entrance to Queens Park, the Southland Museum and Art Gallery is the largest pyramid in the southern hemisphere. It is home to the Roaring 40s Gallery, where the sub-antarctic islands come to life, and the Tuatara enclosure. The Visitor Information Centre is located in the foyer of the museum, ph (03) 214 6243.

Flights to Stewart Island/Rakiura operate daily from Invercargill Airport.

Sandy Point/Oue



Sandy Point is a natural playground 10km from Invercargill – access is from Dunns Road, Otatara. A 13km network of well-formed signposted walking tracks makes it easy to explore the river banks, estuary and forest on foot. There is a great area of well-marked mountain-biking tracks to suit all skill levels. There is also a horse-float park and a good network of tracks available for people who wish to experience the area on horseback. The Visitor Centre is located on Sandy Point Road, and provides detailed information on walks, flora and fauna and human history of the area.

Oreti Beach



The sweeping sandy expanse of Oreti Beach was the trail used by Māori when travelling between Riverton and Oue/Sandy Point. The south end of the beach was called Ma te Aweawe (Misty Way). The beach is 30km long and the main vehicle entrance is at the end of Dunns Road, Otatara.

Omaui



From SH1 turn right at Greenhills, shortly past the railway overhead bridge. Turn right again at the intersection and follow the gravel road until you reach Omaui – a small settlement on the shores of the New River Estuary near the mouth of the Waihopai and Oreti Rivers. A very early Māori settlement, it was here that Waitai was killed, the first Ngāi Tahu member to venture this far south. The estuary and adjoining coastline was the primary food source for the village. Today this is a quiet and relaxing place for picnicking and beach walks.

Greenpoint Reserve



Greenpoint is signposted from SH1 immediately before the Greenpoint Cemetery. A well-graded track and boardwalk follows the shoreline to Greenpoint, providing panoramic views across Bluff Harbour and highlighting features of natural and historic interest that include a ship graveyard.



Bluff

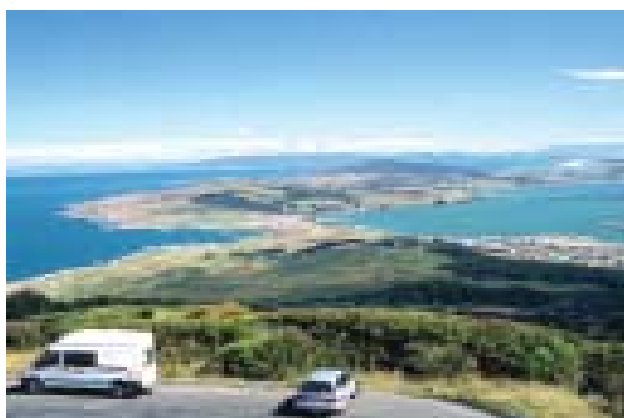


Bluff is the oldest European town in New Zealand, having been settled continuously since 1824. No visit would be complete without visiting the famous pāua shell house. The oyster boat *Monica* sits alongside the Bluff Maritime Museum on Foreshore Road. The museum documents the development of Bluff's oyster, whaling, muttonbirding, port and ferry industries. Bluff is also where visitors catch the ferry to Stewart Island/Rakiura, just one hour away.

A network of walking tracks is accessible from carparks located at the summit of Bluff Hill, Gunpit Road and Stirling Point – the beginning of SH1.



This old fishing boat can be seen on the Greenpoint Track near Bluff.
Photo: Dawn Patterson



View of Bluff and Coastal Southland from Bluff Hill. Photo: Chris Rance

Bluff Hill/Motupōhue



The Māori name for Bluff Hill is Motupōhue (motu because of its island-like appearance from the sea and pōhue for the white convolvulus that flowers in the forest). Recognised as a place with special cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu, Motupōhue is a tōpuni site – derived from the traditional Ngāi Tahu custom of rangatira (chiefs) extending their mana (power and authority) over areas or people by placing their cloaks over them.

From the viewing platform at the summit of Bluff Hill there are panoramic views of Stewart Island/Rakiura, Ruapuke and Dog Islands, Tiwai Peninsula, Rarotoka/Centre Island and the southern mountains.

Foveaux Walkway – 50min return



The coastal track from Stirling Point to Lookout Point can be used by wheelchairs, although it is uneven in places.

Glory Track – 1hr return



A return loop track through the quiet shelter of native coastal forest. It climbs to an historic World War 2 gun emplacement, which can also be accessed from Gunpit Road, then drops steeply back to the Stirling Point carpark.

Millennium Track – 45min uphill



A steep track from Lookout Point to Bluff Hill summit through wind-shorn shrubland.

Topuni Track – 45min uphill



The Topuni Track links Gunpit Road and the Glory Track with the summit of Bluff Hill. It follows an undulating path (steep in parts) through regenerating forest and coastal shrublands.

Thornbury

Thornbury is signposted from SH99 about 5km east of Riverton. Visit the Vintage Farm Machinery Museum for a fascinating look at early farm mechanisation. Open Sundays 1.30pm to 4.30pm from Labour Weekend through to Queens Birthday. Other times by arrangement. Ph (03) 224 6213 or (03) 224 6198.

Riverton/Aparima



A popular seaside and holiday resort Riverton has become known as the 'Riviera of the South'. Rich in early Māori history, followed by sealing, whaling, timber milling, pastoral farming and fishing, it is one of the earliest European settlements in New Zealand.

Riverton Rocks is a must see, its many beaches providing good swimming and leisure opportunities. The large pāua shell on the main street is a regular photo stop for visitors. A new heritage and cultural centre, 'Te Hikoi – a Southern Journey', is expected to open in 2006.

Te Wai Korari Wetland Reserve



A community restoration project located near the town boundary on the Riverton-Invercargill Highway. A short track winds through the reserve to the estuary.

Mores Scenic Reserve – 10min to 3hr



Mores Reserve, at the top of Richard Street (turn left at end of bridge over the estuary and follow the signs), offers several short (10-30 min) walks and great views over Southland and Foveaux Strait to Stewart Island/Rakiura.

Taramea/Howells Point



Situated at the end of the 'Rocks Highway', this large area consists of open grasses, native flax and volcanic rocky outcrops. Privately owned by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, but managed as a recreation reserve, it is valued by Māori for its historic, intrinsic and cultural importance. A great place for walking, picnicking, fishing, bird watching, with spectacular views of Taramea Bay and Invercargill, Bluff and Stewart Island/Rakiura.



View of Stewart Island from the back beach at Riverton. Photo: Dawn Patterson



Cosy Nook. Photo: Dawn Patterson



Colac Bay/Oraka



A large statue of a surfer riding a wave greets visitors to Colac Bay, 11 kms from Riverton. First settled by early Māori, the rocky coastline, great sandy beach and popular surfing spot continues to attract people to this small settlement.

Cosy Nook



A rocky cove sheltering several fishing boats and cribs (holiday homes) 5 km from the main road. Early European settlers reported Pahi's village – a Ngāi Tahu settlement of forty houses. The small island, Matariki, was once a defended pā site.

Monkey Island/Te Puka O Takitimu



Monkey Island is known by Ngāi Tahu as Te Puka o Takitimu, the anchor stone of the legendary Takitimu waka/canoe, captained by Tamatea and wrecked at the mouth of the Waiuu River. Walk across the beach and up wooden steps to a viewing platform which affords splendid views of Te Waewae Bay and its coastline. Access to the islet is tide-dependent – beware of incoming tides.



McCrackens Rest



A viewing platform provides excellent views of Te Waewae Bay and the tiny Solander Islands to the south. Outliers of Fiordland National Park, these islands are an eroded skeleton of a volcano about one million years old. The tooth shape is recognised in the Māori legend of Kewa the whale, said to have chewed between Stewart Island/Rakiura and the mainland, tossing aside crumbs and a broken tooth in the process.



Tuatapere



The Tuatapere Domain and Scenic Reserve has a network of walking tracks through a remnant of the lowland beech and podocarp forest which once covered much of the Waiu Valley. Tuatapere is also the gateway for the Waitutu/South Coast and Tuatapere Hump Ridge Tracks. The Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track offers spectacular views, ranging from the wild and rugged southern coastline to sub-alpine settings. For further information about tracks, jet boating the wild southern rivers and other recreation opportunities in the area, contact the Tuatapere Information Centre, ph. (03) 226 6739. If tramping in this area, you can also complete your intentions forms and purchase DOC hut tickets at the Information Centre. The Bushman's Museum next door has a variety of displays featuring the region's sawmilling history.

Rarakau/Bluecliffs Beach



Located 20km from Tuatapere this is the starting point for the Tuatapere Hump Ridge and Waitutu/South Coast Tracks. Hectors dolphins can often be seen from the beach and, on rare occasions, southern right whales

Port Craig – 6 hr to 7 hr (each way)



This is the site of a 1920s timber mill and town. The school is the only remaining building from the township, and is now used as a DOC backcountry hut. This is also the site of the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track accommodation and facilities. A self-guided heritage trail takes visitors around relics of the town and mill site. The Percy Burn viaduct (approx 2hr walk west from Port Craig) is the largest wooden viaduct in the world.

Lake Hauroko



Signposted near Clifden, Lake Hauroko is approximately 30km from the Southern Scenic Route on the Lillburn Valley Road. A good portion of the journey is on gravel so please take care. To Ngāi Tahu, Hauroko means "the sougning of the wind". Wind can blow up huge waves in a matter of minutes, funnelled by the steep hills around the lake. The lake bed reaches depths of 462m (dropping below sea level), making it the deepest lake in New Zealand. The Wairaurahiri River leaves Lake Hauroko and flows through the Waitutu Forest to the South Coast. There are several operators providing jet boat transport down this wild river.



Bush Walk – 40min return



From the carpark at Lake Hauroko an easy loop walk skirts a swampy area close to the lake. In the wetter areas trees include matai, tōtara and rimu. Further inland where it is drier the trees are mostly mountain beech/tāwhai rauriki.

Lookout Bluff – 3hr return



The track passes through trees and undergrowth next to the lake shore. The climb up to the bluff is steep and rough but the lookout gives spectacular views out to Foveaux Strait, and panoramic views of the mountains and valleys surrounding the lake.

Dean Forest, Big Totara Walk – 30min return



Dean Forest is 23km from Tuatapere. Travel along the Clifden Road, take the Lake Hauroko turnoff and the Big Tōtara Walk is signposted to your right off this road. A pleasant drive for 12km through farmland and native bush will bring you to the track. Here you will see some of the largest tōtara trees in Southland, over 1000 years old.

Clifden Suspension Bridge



Construction of the suspension bridge started in 1898 when it replaced the punt used by early sheep stations.

Clifden Caves



These limestone caves are one of the few cave systems in Southland. Turn onto Clifden Gorge Road which is near the limeworks located on SH96 (the Ohai-Tuatapere Road) approximately 1km north of the Clifden-Blackmount Road corner. The entrance to the caves is signposted approximately 1km from the main road. If you wish to fully explore these caves, experience in caving is essential. Ensure you have a good torch with spare batteries and wear sensible clothing. The caves are dark and wet and will probably be much colder than the temperature outside. Ask for advice from the nearest visitor centre.

Warning – This cave system is subject to flash flooding. Do NOT enter during or immediately after heavy rain.

Borland Lodge and Borland Road



Borland Lodge is operated by the Adventure and Education Trust and many Southland schools use its facilities for outdoor and environmental education. It provides a range of accommodation, conference and meeting facilities. For further information and bookings contact the Lodge Manager – ph. (03) 225 5464.



The Borland Road provides access to the Monowai – Borland area to trampers, hunters, mountain-bikers, anglers, kayakers and those wishing to take a backcountry scenic drive on a 90km return journey to South Arm of Lake Manapouri. The narrow road is unsealed, steep, subject to slips, washouts, snow, ice, high winds and fallen trees. The road is suitable for 4WD vehicles only and may be closed for long periods of time. Contact a DOC office or the Borland Lodge Manager for access and road conditions.

Borland Nature Walk – 40min return

A short interpretive self-guided nature walk located opposite Borland Lodge, introducing visitors to beech forest ecology and telling the story of the forest. Please return the self-guiding fact sheets when you have finished your walk so that others may also enjoy it.

Lake Monowai

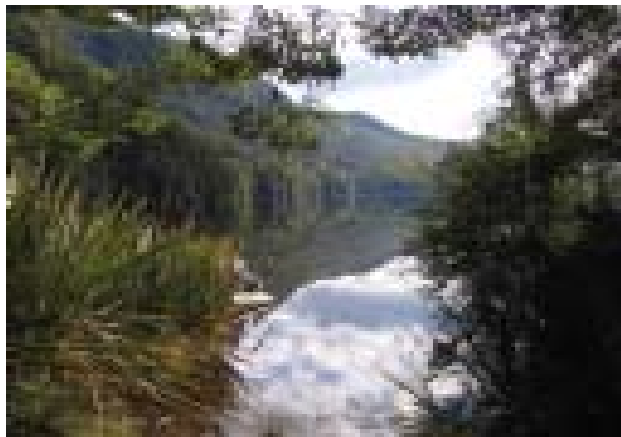
When the level of Lake Monowai was raised 2.5m in 1926 it became one of the first lakes in New Zealand to be controlled for hydro-electric power production. In 1990 the outstanding natural values of the area earned it a place within Te Wāhipounamu – South West New Zealand World Heritage Area.

The Peninsula Lookout – 30min return

A walk through attractive mature beech forest takes you to a seat overlooking the lower reaches of Lake Monowai.

Te Koawa Turoa O Takitimu/Jericho Valley

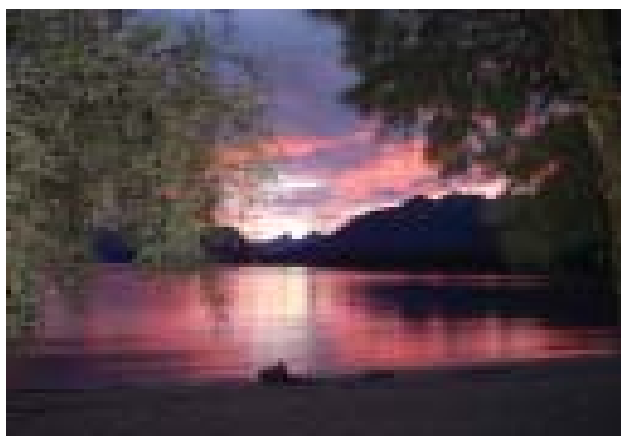
This lodge and cultural restoration project is administered by Te Waiiau Mahika Kai Trust. Accommodation, with wheelchair-friendly facilities, is available by arrangement – contact the Manager, ph. (03) 249 7636.



Lake Monowai. Photo: Wayne Baxter



Takitimu Mountains near Blackmount. Photo: Dawn Patterson



Lake Manapouri at sunset. Photo: Dawn Patterson

Redcliff Wetland



From the road there is a wonderful view of the clear waters of the wetland from a parking area on the side of the road. The wetland is home to many waterfowl species, including scaup, grey teal and paradise shelduck. Walking tracks are to be developed in the future.

Lake Manapouri



Lake Manapouri is the fifth largest and second deepest lake in New Zealand. It was originally known as Roto-ua (rainy lake) and Moturau (many islands) by early Māori. The natural beauty of Lake Manapouri was threatened in the 1960s by plans to significantly raise the lake level, to generate hydro-electricity at the West Arm power station. After a campaign by environmentalists however, the lake was granted statutory protection by the Government and is now controlled within natural levels. Manapouri township has several businesses that offer guided walking, boat trips on the lake, tours through the West Arm power station and on Doubtful Sound. There are plenty of walking opportunities, from 45 minutes to several days in duration. Contact your nearest visitor centre for more information.

Frasers Beach – 45min one way



A pleasant stroll along the Waiiau River bank and Lake Manapouri shore from Pearl Harbour to Frasers Beach. There are exit points at several places along Frasers Beach back to the Main Road. The track is signposted from the Main Road and Pearl Harbour.

Te Anau

Te Anau township, nestled on the shores of Lake Te Anau, is known as the walking capital of the world and is the gateway to Fiordland National Park. An ideal place to spend a few days, it offers a wide variety of accommodation, restaurants and services, as well as many commercial operators that will help you explore the park and the surrounding environment.

Fiordland National Park is part of Te Wāhipounamu - *South West New Zealand* World Heritage Area and is the largest National Park in New Zealand (over 1.2 million hectares). There are numerous tracks situated within the park. These vary from a short stroll along the lake shore, to the Milford, Kepler and Routeburn 'Great Walks' tracks. For the experienced trumper, there is a number of remote back country tracks. Visit the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre on Lakefront Drive for further information.

Te Anau is the end of the Southern Scenic Route but Milford Sound and Queenstown are both only a two hour drive away.

If driving on to Milford Sound, please enquire at the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre for current road conditions and a copy of the Milford Road Tips driving guide.

Visitor Centre to Te Anau Wildlife Centre – 15min

Visitor Centre to Control Gates – 50min



From the visitor centre follow the path to the yacht club. Behind the yacht club the track passes through regenerating forest to reach the park-like grounds of the Wildlife Centre. Native birds such as tūī, kākārīki, kākā, kea, morepork and takahe can be seen in the aviaries there. The path to the control gates continues beside the lake and across open land offering views of the lake and mountains. The control gates regulate water flows between Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri for the West Arm Lake Manapouri hydro-electric power station. The gates mark the start of the Kepler Track, a 3-4 day walk.

Rainbow Reach to Moturau Hut, 3 hr return



From the carpark cross the swingbridge over the Waiiau River. Enjoy beech forest, river and mountain views, a kettle bog and diverse wildlife on this gentle section of the Kepler Track to idyllic Lake Manapouri. Moturau Hut offers shelter and toilet facilities before the return journey.



Te Wāhipounamu - *South West New Zealand* World Heritage Area

South West New Zealand is one of the great wilderness areas of the Southern Hemisphere. Known to Māori as Te Wāhipounamu (the place of greenstone), the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area incorporates Aoraki/Mt.Cook, Westland/Tai Poutini, Fiordland and Mount Aspiring National Parks, covering 2.6 million hectares.

World Heritage is a global concept that identifies natural and cultural sites of world significance, places so special that protecting them is of concern for all people.

Some of the best examples of animals and plants, once found on the ancient supercontinent Gondwana, live in the World Heritage Area.

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Stewart Island Experience – Ferry Services

Experience Foveaux Strait in comfort and style on board our express catamarans. During the one-hour crossing between Bluff and Stewart Island keep a look-out for wildlife, especially sea birds. Vehicle storage at Bluff is available. Tel (03) 212 7660, Freephone 0800 000 511 (NZ only), info@sie.co.nz, www.stewartislandexperience.co.nz.

Stewart Island Experience – Cruises, Tours & Rentals

Readily accessible by ferry, Stewart Island is perfect for a day excursion or an extended stay. On arrival join one of our fascinating tours – Paterson Inlet Cruises, Village and Bays Tours or Underwater Explorer Cruises. Alternatively, explore at your own pace – rental cars, mountain bikes and scooters are available for hire. Tel (03) 212 7660, Freephone 0800 000 511 (NZ only), info@sie.co.nz, www.stewartislandexperience.co.nz.

Tuatapere Information Centre

Accommodation, activity and transport bookings. Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track, Dusky and Stewart Island Tracks. e: scenic@tuatapere.com t: 03 226 6739, 0800 486 774

TUATAPERE – TE ANAU Accommodation, Transport, Activities

Shakespeare House B&B

Open all year round. 10 Dusky St. Te Anau. Ph 03 249 7349 or 0800 249 349. Email: marg.shakespeare.house@xtra.co.nz
www.shakespearehouse.co.nz

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Te Anau Lakefront Backpackers

Central lakefront location. Short walk to start of Kepler Track. Full range of affordable accommodation. BBH member hostel. Internet; spa pool; secure gear storage; off-street parking; drying room; kitchens and laundries. Track information (see website) and tour bookings. 48-50 Lakefront Drive, Te Anau. Tel: +64 (3) 249 7713, 0800 200 074 (Toll free in NZ only), Fax +64 (3) 249 8319. Email: info@teanaubackpackers.co.nz
Website: www.teanaubackpackers.co.nz

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Real Journeys – Doubtful Sound Cruises

Daytime Wilderness Cruises and Overnight Cruises include a crossing of Lake Manapouri, coach over Wilmot Pass and a full-length cruise of Doubtful Sound. Overnight Cruises include accommodation (private cabins or quad-share compartments), meals, kayaking, tender craft and wildlife sightings. Tel (03) 249 6602, Freephone 0800 65 65 03 (NZ only), info@realjourneys.co.nz, www.realjourneys.co.nz.

Real Journeys – Te Anau Glowworm Caves

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Web: www.fiordlandseakayak.co.nz SKOANZ; QUALMARK

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johan.joyce@wjet.co.nz www.wjet.co.nz

Further Information

For further information contact:

Department of Conservation
Conservation House
77 Lower Stuart St, Dunedin.
Tel (03) 477 0677, Fax (03) 477 8626

Department of Conservation
20 Ryley St, Owaka.
Tel (03) 419 1000, Fax (03) 419 1003

Department of Conservation
33 Don St, Level 7, Invercargill.
Tel (03) 214 4589, Fax (03) 214 4486
Email invercargill@doc.govt.nz

Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre
Department of Conservation
Lakefront Drive, Te Anau.
Tel (03) 249 7924, Fax (03) 249 7613
Email fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz

Catlins Information Centre
Corner Campbell and Ryley Sts, Owaka.
Tel and Fax (03) 415 8371
Email info@catlins-nz.com

Department of Conservation website: www.doc.govt.nz
Southern Scenic Route website: www.southernscenicroute.co.nz
Southland website: www.southlandnz.com