

Dunedin has been the starting point of more than a few epic journeys, but unlike the gold rush you can take your time.



Dunedin Railway Station

IF YOU LOVE HISTORY

- 1 Delve into Otago's provincial and Māori history at Dunedin's landmark **Toitū Otago Settlers Museum & Otago Museum**
- 2 Admire **Dunedin Railway Station**, a Renaissance-style masterpiece and one of New Zealand's finest buildings
- 3 Visit **Larnach Castle** for amazing tales alongside splendid architecture, glorious gardens and panoramic harbour views
- 4 Step back in time at **Olveston**, a historic home flush with art, furniture and other fine artefacts
- 5 Wander the streets, shops and cafes of **Ranfurly** to admire its striking art deco architecture
- 6 Throw some stones of the curling kind. Try the ancient ice-sport of curling all year round in **Naseby**
- 7 Get a glimpse into early farm life at heritage-listed **Hayes Engineering Works** in rural Oturehua
- 8 Dig into the gold rush days at **Lakes District Museum** then shop and dine your way around historic Arrowtown village

IF YOU LOVE NATURE, PARKS & GARDENS

- 9 Visit the world's only mainland northern royal albatross colony at the **Royal Albatross Centre** at Taiaroa Head
- 10 Head out on a guided tour or boat trip for a close encounter with **Otago Peninsula's** amazing natural world
- 11 Wander through the bird-filled native forest of **Orokonui Ecosanctuary** and learn about its ecological restoration
- 12 Immerse yourself in some city tranquility at the **Dunedin Botanic Garden** or **Lan Yuan Chinese Gardens**
- 13 Explore **Sinclair Wetlands** on short walks taking in bird-watching viewpoints amidst tranquil waters & bushland
- 14 Plan a picnic at **Conroys Dam** in the delightful tussock and historic reserve, Aldinga Conservation Area
- 15 Hop on a 4WD tour to remote corners of the region such as **Skippers Canyon, Macetown, Glenorchy & Paradise**
- 16 Cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the Earnslaw steamship to survey the gardens & grounds of **Walter Peak Station**

Get away from it all, then keep going a bit further.



Otago Central Rail Trail  
Photo: Miles Holden

IF YOU LOVE WALKING

- 17 Enjoy incredible mountain and lake views, wetland habitat and perhaps a swim on the easy **Lake Hayes Circuit**
- 18 Loop around **Bannockburn Sluicings** peculiar gold mining remains and get great views over Cromwell Basin
- 19 Soak up epic views of the Alexandra basin on a hike up to the iconic **Clock on the Hill** or **Flat Top Hill**
- 20 Amble around the **St Bathans Blue Lake moonscape**, then stroll along the old town high road
- 21 Wander around the wonders of **Naseby** – the swimming dam, historic cemetery, forest trails and charming township
- 22 See unique **Sutton Salt Lake** nestled in a hidden schist basin backed by the stunning Rock & Pillar Range
- 23 Take the self-guided **Dunedin Street Art walk** through the inner city's colourful streets & laneways
- 24 Enjoy grandstand coastal views on the Otago Peninsula's **Sandymount Track** and side trip to **Sandfly Bay**

IF YOU LOVE BIKING

- 25 Cycle the **Arrow River Bridges Trail** from Arrowtown to Gibbston, then treat yourself to a post-ride wine-tasting
- 26 Sidle around a rocky lakeshore on the new **Lake Dunstan Trail** between the heritage precincts of Cromwell & Clyde
- 27 Cruise along the peaceful Clutha Mata-au River on the family-friendly **Clyde to Alexandra River Track**
- 28 Tackle some of Central Otago's world-famous single track mountain biking trails on **Flat Top Hill**
- 29 Delve deep into the flinty history of Otago's mightiest river on the twin **Roxburgh Gorge & Clutha Gold Trails**
- 30 Enjoy stunning scenery, tunnels & bridges on the Auripo to Lauder day ride of the **Otago Central Rail Trail**
- 31 Head to the pine-scented groves of **Naseby Forest** for mountain bike rides for all ages and abilities
- 32 Tick off the city sights on Dunedin's **Harbour Cycleway** and other urban cycle paths



TSS Earnslaw, Lake Wakatipu

IF YOU LOVE EATING & DRINKING

- 33 Indulge in **Dunedin's sophisticated culinary scene** – from morning espresso to a midnight whisky
- 34 Get a generous helping of heritage alongside local flavours in **Ophir**
- 35 Take a break off your road trip or **Otago Central Rail Trail** ride at a historic country pub
- 36 Take a tour of **Bannockburn** for wine tastings and long lunches alongside lashings of spectacular scenery
- 37 Wander around Cromwell's vineyards on the **4 Barrels Walking Wine Trail**
- 38 Pick up delicious picnic supplies at weekly produce markets held in **Dunedin, Alexandra, Cromwell & Queenstown**
- 39 Take a wine tour by bike in **Gibbston**, a vine-lined valley with dramatic river and mountain views
- 40 Treat your tastebuds to the international flavours of **Queenstown's** diverse downtown dining precinct

IF YOU LOVE EXCITEMENT

- 41 Skim, whizz and zip along a choice of several stunning Otago rivers on a thrilling **jet boat ride**
- 42 Get some bucket-list bragging rights – do a **bungy jump** or **canyon swing**
- 43 Float, splash and dash down the rapids on a **whitewater rafting** trip on the striking Shotover or Kawarau Rivers
- 44 See the Southern Alps and surrounds from on high via a **skydive, paraglide or scenic heli or plane flight**
- 45 Go all-mountain with winter **snow sports** or summer **mountain biking** at Coronet Peak or the Remarkables
- 46 Go lugging on the super-fun, family-friendly luge at the top of the **Skyline Gondola**
- 47 Feed your need for speed at **Highlands Motorsport Park** – from go-karting to the 'supercar fast dash'
- 48 **Learn to surf** along the awesome point breaks around Dunedin with a local surf school



CENTRAL OTAGO  
Touring Route  
MAP & GUIDE

Slow down, relax and savour a spectacular southern road trip.

Follow the road less travelled from Ōtepoti/ Dunedin to Queenstown and see our regions at their brilliant best.

The Central Otago Touring Route is a journey through dramatic landscapes full of natural wonders, unique attractions and activities – along with warm local welcomes that make Otago such a memorable place to visit.

ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S FINEST ROAD TRIPS, the 341-kilometre journey follows scenic highways from the Pacific Ocean to the foot of the Southern Alps via the beautiful Strath Taieri and Maniototo Plain.

Leaving Dunedin, it winds through the heart of Central Otago taking in characterful settlements such as Middlemarch, Ranfurly, Oturehua and Clyde, as well as the larger towns of Alexandra, Cromwell, Arrowtown and Queenstown.

Soak up the scenery, see the sights, and enjoy all sorts of activities at a relaxed pace by taking 3–5 days – longer if you can.



The Central Otago Touring Route is full of things to do, places to see, rewarding detours & other reasons to take your time...

GET ACTIVE OUTDOORS

See the sights at the perfect pace on walkways, hiking and biking trails including four New Zealand Great Rides. There's something for everyone – from nature trails and gentle cycle paths, to challenging wilderness adventures.

EXPLORE BIG SKY COUNTRY

Admire an array of landscapes stretching from the alps to the ocean. Learn how these incredible places were created and shaped. See fascinating wildlife, and flora from lowland forest to alpine tussock. And survey the natural grandeur from epic lookouts along the way.

FOLLOW EARLY FOOTSTEPS

Retrace the journeys made by Māori, and Pākehā. Follow the rivers through valleys and gorges, head over high country passes and across the plains. Discover who came and why, and the stories behind the places they named.

SEE WHERE HISTORY LIVES

Delve deep into history in memorable ways and places – heritage buildings and streetscapes, railway bridges and tunnels, rustic farms, gold mining sites and more. A series of excellent museums, monuments and trailside interpretation brings Otago's past to life.

ENJOY FINE WINE TIME

Take time out for a tour around our vine-lined valleys. Linger over cellar door tastings or a long, al fresco lunch. Talk to local wine-lovers. Hear the tales of one of the world's most extreme wine regions – its fascinating roots, revival and flourishing vineyards.

FEAST ON LOCAL FLAVOURS

Savour a delicious food tour from gate to plate. Visit vineyard restaurants, urban eateries, rustic pubs, country cafés, bakeries, and farmers markets where you can meet the makers and stock up for your journey.

FIND YOUR SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

Take your trip up a level by going further, faster, higher or just pushing a personal limit. There are endless opportunities to try something new – from the adrenaline-fuelled activities of Queenstown, to gentler activities in our great outdoors.



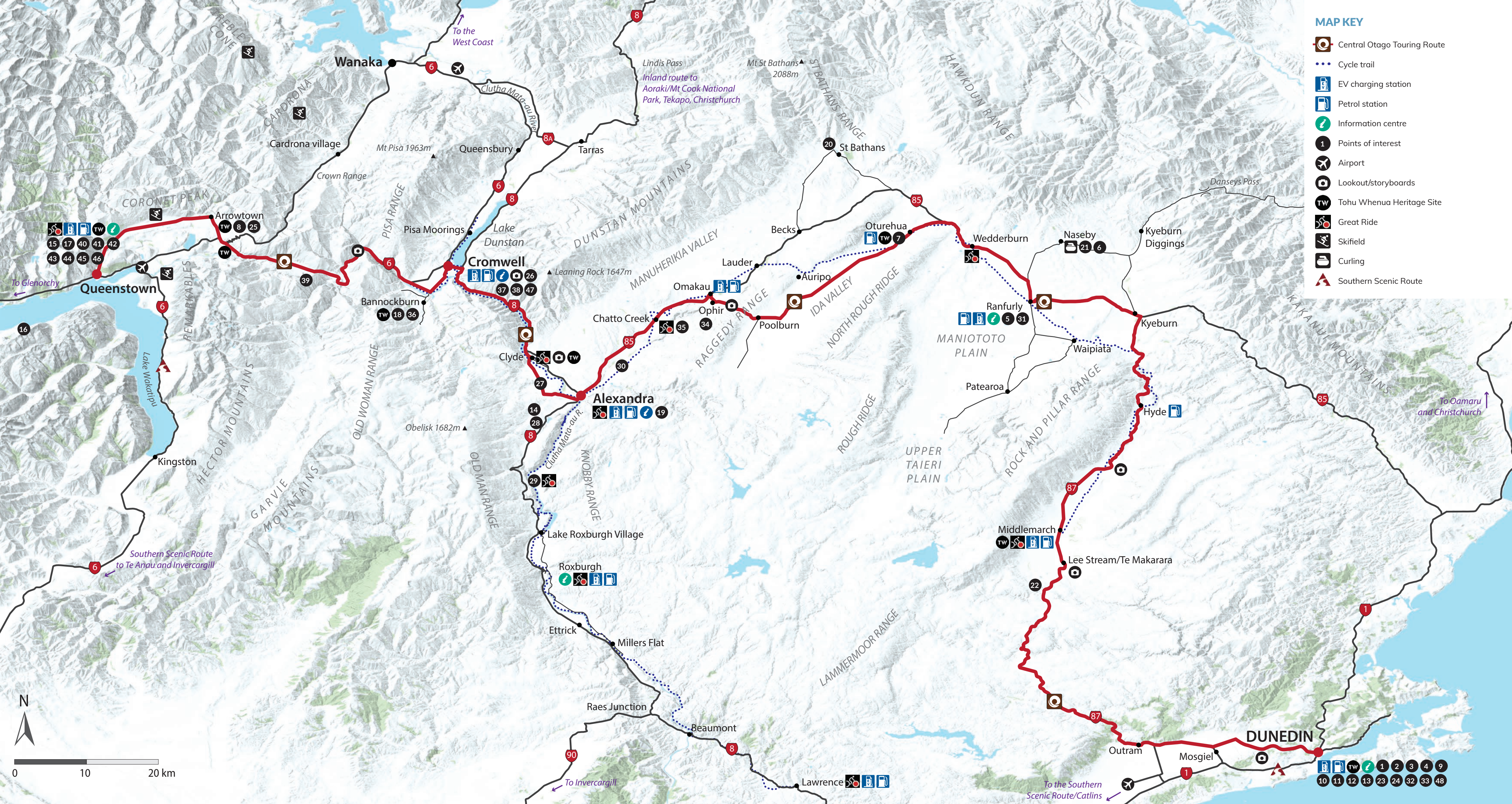
Plan your trip at [centralotagotouringroute.co.nz](http://centralotagotouringroute.co.nz)  
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KIA ORA – WELCOME

Stretching from the wild, Pacific Ocean coast, across the high country to the mountains, the Otago region is full of natural grandeur, captivating history, and diverse arts, culture and cuisine.

This part of Te Waipounamu/the South Island was first settled by Māori who lived in the coastal settlements of Ōtākou/ Otago and travelled inland for seasonal food gathering and to search for pounamu. Pākehā arrived as sealers and whalers, then farmers, but it was the 1860s gold rush that laid the foundations of the region you see today.

Dunedin’s museums and remarkable architecture tell of the region’s history as New Zealand’s first big city, built on wool and gold. Today, it is renowned for special wildlife, spectacular beaches and thriving urban culture.

The moa hunters were first to venture into the mountainous interior we now know as **Central Otago**. Following in their footsteps were the surveyors, pastoralists and prospectors, some of whom stayed to make their homes in and around Clyde, Alexandra, Cromwell and other towns.

Others travelled even further inland, through the narrows of the dramatic Kawarau Gorge to the breathtaking Wakatipu Basin. The courageous spirit and toughness of those early explorers and settlers helped shape **Queenstown** into one the world’s most loved outdoor adventure resorts.



Slow down, discover our places, meet our people...

A journey of 3–5 days is recommended to relax, soak up the scenery and take in top attractions along the way.

Explore Otago at the perfect pace on four **Great Rides** of Ngā Haere/nga New Zealand Cycle Trails.

**Discover Otago’s heritage** at Tohu Whenua sites – the places that have shaped New Zealand and created our stories. Visit [tohuwhenua.nz](http://tohuwhenua.nz) to learn more.

**Rewarding detours** lead to other special corners of Otago such as Naseby, Roxburgh, Glenorchy and Wanaka.

**Storyboards** at heritage sites and viewpoints share many fascinating tales from Otago’s past and present.

**Suggested itineraries** cater to all interests, time and budgets – visit our website to start planning.

**Accommodation** ranges from simple camping and boutique lodges to upmarket motels and apartments.

Wonderful **seasonal events** are held throughout the year – try timing your visit to join in!

**Fuel stops & other services** including EV charging points can be found at convenient locations along the route. In more remote towns fuel pumps may be card only.

**Roads can be icy or snowbound in winter**, so seek local advice, stay alert and drive to the conditions.

Visit [journeys.nzta.govt.nz](http://journeys.nzta.govt.nz) for up-to-date road conditions.

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DRIVING TIMES

|                      |       |        |
|----------------------|-------|--------|
| Dunedin–Middlemarch  | 77 km | 60 min |
| Middlemarch–Ranfurly | 64 km | 45 min |
| Ranfurly–Alexandra   | 86 km | 60 min |
| Alexandra–Cromwell   | 46 km | 40 min |
| Cromwell–Arrowtown   | 48 km | 40 min |
| Arrowtown–Queenstown | 20 km | 20 min |

Connect up with the Southern Scenic Route to explore more of the South.



Plan your journey at [centralotagotouringroute.co.nz](http://centralotagotouringroute.co.nz)

If it feels like you’re driving through a painting, you probably are.

