

# Southern Scenic Route™

## 'DON'T MISS...'

- Dunedin's architectural grandeur and the natural wonders of Otago Peninsula
- Tunnel Beach with its striking sandstone sea cliffs, arches and caves
- Sinclair Wetlands, home to some of New Zealand's rarest birds
- Nugget Point, spectacular coastal views and yellow eyed penguin viewing from the hide at Roaring Bay
- Cannibal Bay & Surat Bay watch New Zealand (Hooker) sea lions
- Purakaunui Falls, one of the most photographed falls in New Zealand
- Lake Wilkie, an amazing unique succession of forest development
- Cathedral Caves, spectacular beach walk and cave access at low tide
- Curio Bay with one of the most extensive examples of a Jurassic fossilised forest
- Slope Point, the southern-most point of the South Island
- Waipapa Point is the scene of New Zealand's worst civilian shipping disaster
- Invercargill's 'live' Tuatara display at the Southland Museum & Art Gallery
- The picturesque fishing village of Riverton
- Colac Bay with a long history of Maori occupation
- McCracken's Rest with occasional viewing of Hector's dolphin
- Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track and the Bushman's Museum
- Borland Nature Walk with magnificent displays on NZ forest life

- The legendary glow worm caves in Te Anau, the gateway to beautiful Fiordland World Heritage Area
- A boat cruise on the majestic Milford Sound past Mitre Peak and Bowen Falls

## 'DID YOU KNOW THAT...'

- The Southern Scenic Route is the first touring route in New Zealand
- Riverton (Jacob's River) - is one of the earliest European settlements in NZ
- Curio Bay's Petrified Forest is 180 million years old
- The Tunnel Beach stairway was built in the 1870's by John Cargill for his family to go swimming and picnicking.
- Southland has the longest daylight hours in New Zealand
- Within Southland is New Zealand's third island - Stewart Island (Rakiura National Park)
- Ancient Podocarp forests still exist in South Fiordland
- The Percy Burn Viaduct (near Tuatapere) is believed to be the largest wooden rail viaduct remaining in the world
- The Southland Museum and Art Gallery's 'Tuatarium' is home to over 50 live tuatara ranging from baby tuatara to those over 100 years old



**ENVIRONMENTAL CARE CODE**

- 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

*Toitu te whenua (Leave the land undisturbed)*

*\*Ngāi Tahu are the iāngata whenua (people of the land) of the areas traversed by the Southern Scenic Route. Travellers are encouraged to read the Department of Conservation information panels in the areas they visit and seek out information on the Ngāi Tahu traditions associated with the sites along the way.*

### WILDLIFE CARE CODE

*"Love them from a distance or lose them forever"*

#### Hectors dolphins/Papakanua

Might be seen along the Catlins Coast, Porpoise Bay or in Te Wae Wae Bay. To avoid disturbing these dolphins it is best to watch them from the shore.

#### Yellow-eyed penguins/Hoiho

Best seen from the viewing hide at Roaring Bay and at the Nuggets/Tokata. Never approach a penguin, they are shy and sensitive birds.

If you think a penguin has seen you, please leave the area. Don't take your dog near penguins. Dogs kill penguins.

#### New Zealand sea lions/Rāpoka

New Zealand fur seals/Kekeno Best seen at Cannibal Bay and Surat Bay. Never go between them and the sea. The sea is their escape route. Never go closer than 20 metres.

Male New Zealand sea lions may be aggressive during the breeding season (summer). Be careful! Keep your dog on a leash.

**Dolphins, seals, sea lions and penguins are fully protected under New Zealand law. It is illegal to disturb them.**



Coastal scene - Catlins



Yellow-eyed penguins



Hectors Dolphin



New Zealand sea lion

### SOUTHERN SCENIC ROUTE

The beauty of the Southern Scenic Route is best enjoyed at a leisurely pace, with frequent breaks, short walks and overnight stays along the way. The following are estimated driving times only. Motorists not familiar with country or unsealed roads are advised to allow additional travelling time. Cyclists should be prepared for frequent and substantial hill climbs at all stages, and slower times on unsealed roads.

	Distance	Driving Times
Te Anau - Milford Sound	119 km	74 miles 2 hr 20mins
Te Anau - Tuatapere	82 km	51 miles 1hr 30mins
Tuatapere - Riverton	48 km	30 miles 50 mins
Riverton - Invercargill	38 km	24 miles 40 mins
Invercargill - Waikawa	83 km	52 miles 1 hr 45 mins
Waikawa - Papatowai	46 km (unsealed 22.5kms)	29 miles 1 hr
Papatowai - Owaka	26 km	16 miles 45 mins
Owaka - Balclutha	32 km	20 miles 35 mins
Balclutha - Taieri Mouth	50 km (unsealed 9kms)	31 miles 1hr
Taieri Mouth - Dunedin	35 km	22 miles 45 mins
	440 km	273 miles

Please travel safely and with care.

For further information on the Southern Scenic Route:

Telephone: 0800SCENIC  
Telephone 0800 723 642  
Telephone +64 3 214 9733  
Facsimile +64 3 218 9460

email: info@southernscenicroute.co.nz  
http://www.southernscenicroute.co.nz



For information on accommodation and attractions:



**Fiordland Visitor Information Centre**  
Lake Front Drive  
TE ANAU  
Telephone +64 3 249 8900  
teanau1@fiordlandtravel.co.nz

**Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre**  
Department of Conservation  
Lake Front Drive  
TE ANAU  
Telephone +64 3 249 7924  
fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz

**Invercargill Visitor Information Centre**  
Southland Museum & Art Gallery  
VICTORIA AVENUE, QUEENS PARK  
INVERCARGILL  
Telephone +64 3 214 6243  
tourismandtravel.invercargill@thenet.net.nz

**Clutha Information Centre**  
4 Clyde Street  
BALCLUTHA  
Telephone +64 3 418 0388  
clutha.vin@cluthadcc.govt.nz

**Dunedin Visitor Centre**  
48 The Octagon  
DUNEDIN  
Telephone +64 3 474 3300  
visitorcentre@dcc.govt.nz

**The Southern Scenic Route is a joint project supported by**

**Clutha District Council  
Tourism Dunedin  
Tourism Southland  
(Part of Venture Southland)**

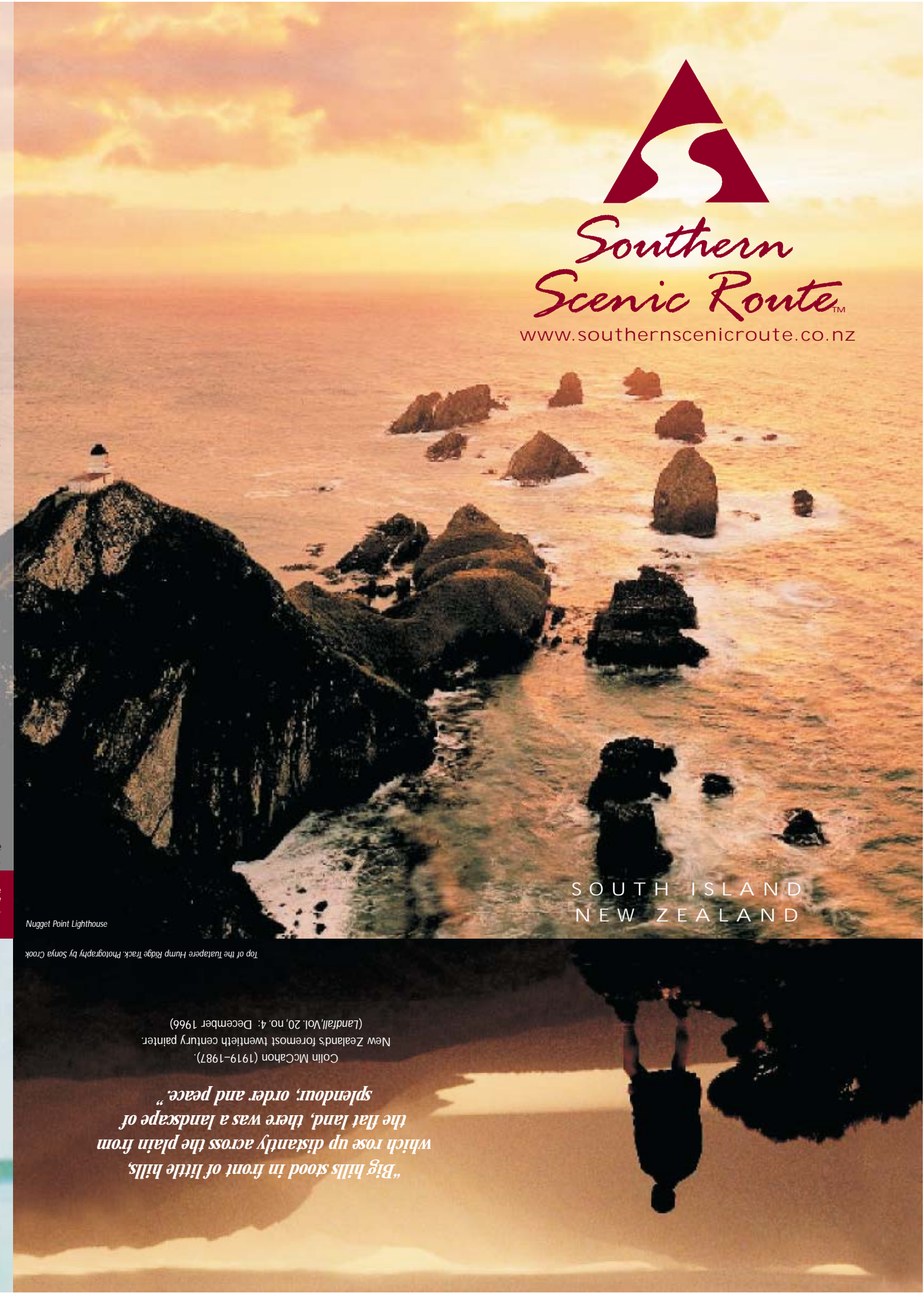
Thanks to the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Department of Conservation for their assistance.

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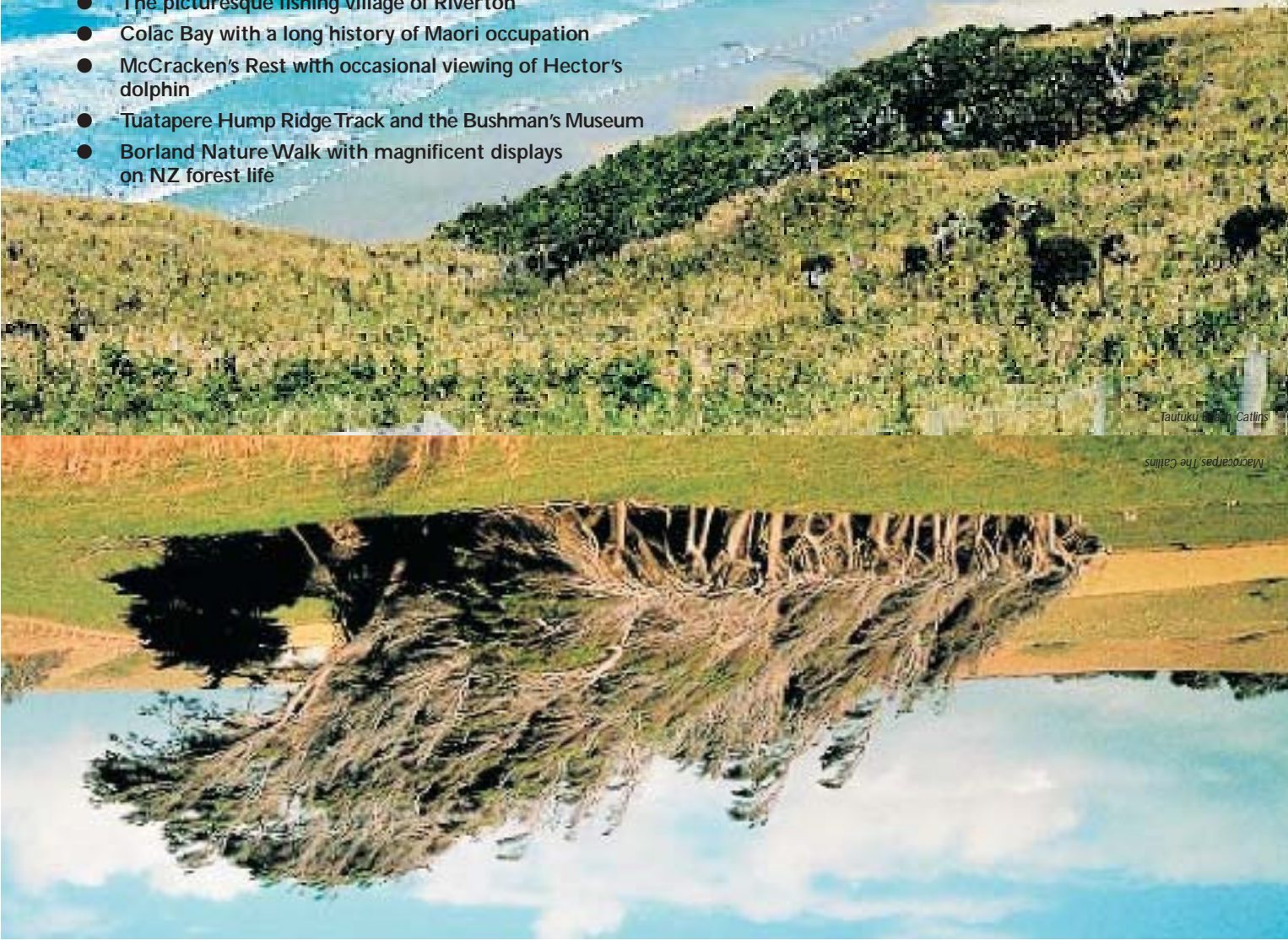


SOUTH ISLAND  
NEW ZEALAND

Nugget Point Lighthouse

Top of the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track. Photography by Sonya Crook

"Big hills stood in front of little hills, which rose up distantly across the plain from splendour, order and peace."  
Colin McCahon (1919-1987),  
New Zealand's foremost twentieth century painter.  
(Landfall, Vol. 20, no. 4: December 1965)



Tuatara on the Catlins

Macropus in the Catlins



Sinclair Wetlands

# Southern Scenic Route



Percy Burn Viaduct, Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track

**1. Milford Sound**  
Milford Sound is world renowned and extremely accessible. 2 1/2 hour drive from Te Anau with approx a 2 hour launch cruise on sound. Wildlife such as bottlenose dolphins, fur seals and penguins.

**2. Te Anau**  
An attractive holiday resort nestled on the shores of Lake Te Anau, the hub of Fiordland National Park and World Heritage Area, within walking distance of magnificent rain forest. Cruise the deep dark waters of Lake Te Anau.

**3. Kepler Track**  
1.5 hour family walk to Maturau Hut. 3 - 4 days to complete entire Kepler Track walk.

**4. Manapouri**  
Departure point for launch trips to West Arm power station, Dusky Track and Doubtful Sound/Patea. Access to walking tracks across the Waiau River (hire dingy in Manapouri).

**5. Redcliff Wetland**  
Waterfowl can be viewed from the road.

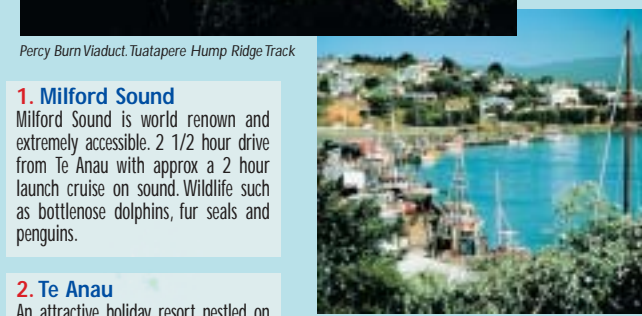
**6. Borland Road**  
Built to service transmission lines. Access for hunting, tramping, biking, fishing and sightseeing. 90km return. Unsealed, no services, not suited to campervans. Closed during winter, occasionally closed in summer.

**7. Dean Forest**  
Short walk to 1000 year old totara trees. 23km from Clifden.

**8. Lake Hauroko**  
Deepest lake in New Zealand. Challenging walk up Lookout Bluff gives spectacular views. This area has many ancient urupa (burial sites) and as such the area holds the memories of the Ngāi Tahu tūpuna (ancestors) who are buried there. 30km from Clifden. Regular boat service to Dusky Track and Wairaurahiri River. Book in Tuatapere.

**9. Clifden Suspension Bridge**  
Construction started in 1898 and bridge opened 1899 to replace punt used by early sheep stations.

**10. Tuatapere**  
World Heritage Area display at the Bushmans Museum. Walk through podocarp forest in Tuatapere Domain.

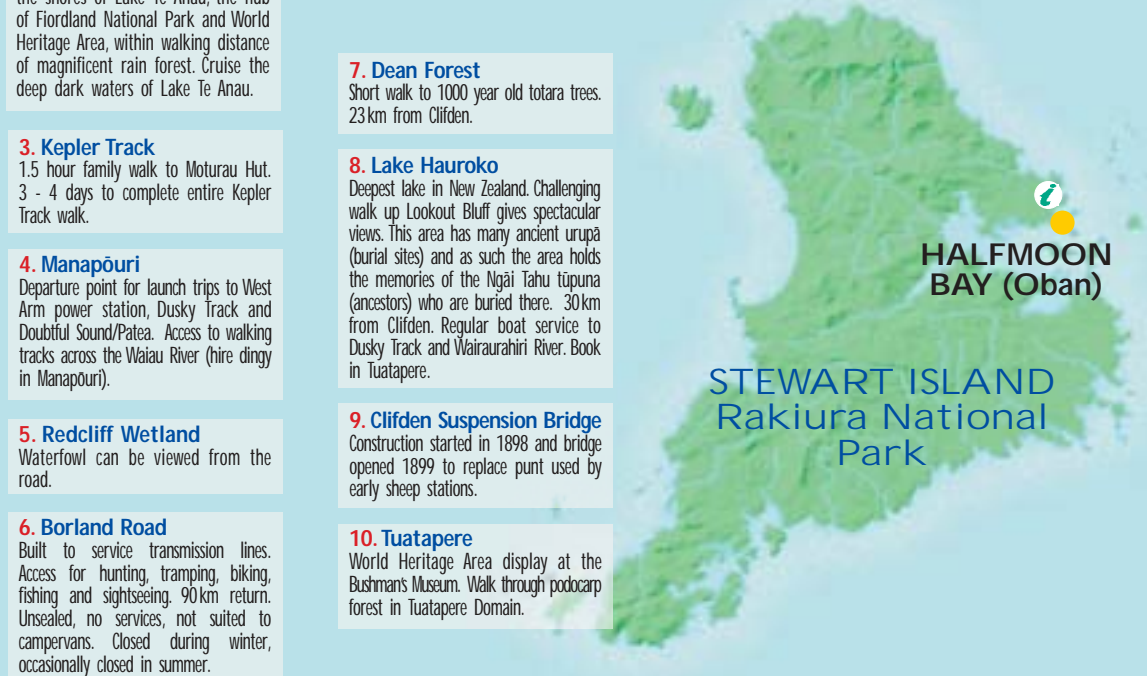


Riverton Harbour



**KEY**

- Southern Scenic Route
- Other Routes
- Camp Sites
- Picnic Sites
- Accommodation
- Petrol



Southland Museum and Art Gallery

**11. Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track**  
Three-day/two-night walking experience. Key attraction - Percy Burn viaduct - largest remaining wooden viaduct in the world.

**12. McCracken's Rest**  
Viewpoint of Te Wae Wae Bay and Solander Island. Occasional viewing of Hector's dolphins.

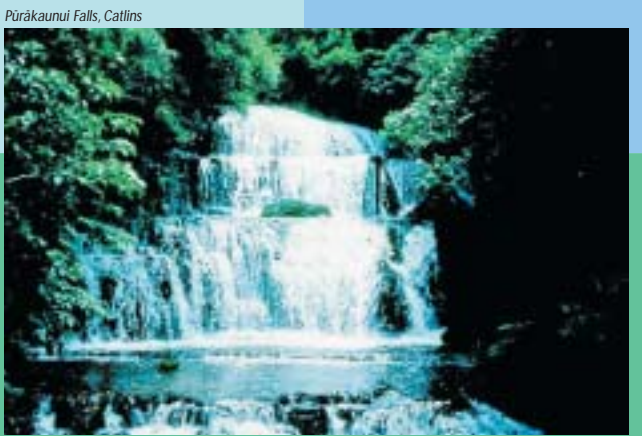
**13. Monkey Island/Te Puka a Takitimu**  
Anchor stone of the Takitimu canoe captained by Tamatea, wrecked at the mouth of the Waiau River. Short walk to viewpoint.

**14. Cosy Nook**  
Craggy cove sheltering several fishing boats and holiday homes. Early settlers reported Pahi's village, a Ngāi Tahu settlement with forty houses. The small island Matariki was once a defended pa site.

**15. Round Hill**  
Site of Chinese and European gold mining. Private museum and guided walks to relics at Midland Farm.

**16. Colac Bay/Oraka**  
Long history of Māori occupation. Rarotoka (Centre Island) also site of occupation. Rarotoka was mainly an urupa site. It is said that the bones of the tūpuna (ancestors) were buried in the dunes of Taramea (Howell's Point) before being transported to the island for burial.

**17. Riverton**  
Safe swimming beaches. Mores Reserve - great vantage point to see Stewart Island. Riverton Rocks. Excellent Cafes and Restaurants.



Pūrākaunui Falls, Catlins



**21. Slope Point**  
The southern-most point of the South Island.

**22. Waipohatu**  
30 min walking track and picnic area on conservation land on the edge of the Waikawa forest. Podocarp forest noted for its ferns and logging remnants.

**23. Curio Bay**  
One of the world's most extensive and least disturbed examples of a Jurassic fossilised forest. Best viewed at low tide.

**24. McLean Falls**  
Forest walk to spectacular waterfall. 40 minutes return. Travel 6 km up Rewcastle Road.

**25. Cathedral Caves**  
Bush and beach walk to spectacular caves accessible only at low tide. 80 minutes return. There is a small toll fee for access to this attraction.

**26. Trails Tractor Historic Walk**  
This 10 minute walk, rich in early Catlins timber milling history, travels to Cook's old mill site and a restored 'Trails Tractor' logging machine. Walk starts from Fleming River Bridge.

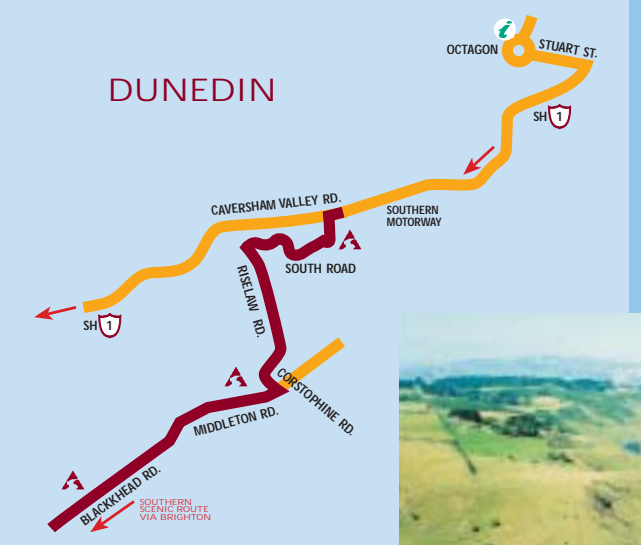
**27. Lake Wilkie**  
This walk shows the unique succession of forest development from lake edge to mature forest. Flowering rata are splendid during summer. 40 minutes return.

**28. Tautuku Estuary Boardwalk**  
A peaceful walk out onto a pristine estuary. Look out for the rare fernbird. 30 minutes return.

**18. Thornbury**  
Vintage farm machinery museum.

**19. Bluff**  
Bluff Hill/Motu Pohue Lookout. Said to be the burial place of two prominent Kati Mamoe chiefs. Coastal and forest walks at Stirling Point. Displays on coastal and historical features. At Bluff, the Maritime Museum and Port.

**20. Waipapa Point**  
Golden beach and rock platform. Lighthouse. Scene of New Zealand's worst civilian shipping disaster in 1881 when 131 lives were lost in the wreck of the Tararua.



Tunnel Beach, Dunedin

**29. Picnic Point**  
Bush and a sandy coastline with rock pools provide variety on this easy walk. 40 minutes return. Suitable for all age groups.

**30. Old Coach Track/Tahakopa Loop Track**  
Coastal podocarp forest fringing a sandy bay. Walk along the Old Coach Road to a moa hunter camp at the river mouth. 40 minutes return. There is also a 2-3 hour (return) tramp through this significant reserve.

**31. Matai Falls**  
Through regenerating podocarp/broadleaf forest, beautiful Matai Falls are best viewed late in the morning. 30 minutes return.

**32. Pūrākaunui Falls**  
Walk to view Falls through beech and podocarp forest. 20 minutes return.

**33. Catlins River Walk**  
Tramp between Tawanui camping area to Franks Creek, Wallis Stream and onto the Wisp roadend, through beautiful beech forest. Views of exotic pine plantations, silver beech forest and grassed flats. Look out for the rare mohua (yellowhead) high in the trees. 5 hours (one way).

**34. Jack's Blowhole**  
Farm track leads to deep blow hole on the cliffs. 1 hour return. Access closed during lambing (September/October).

**35. Pounaweia Nature Walk**  
An easy walk through virgin podocarp forest and return at low tide via the salt marsh.

**36. Cannibal Bay/Surat Bay**  
Wonderful place to look out for New Zealand (Hooker) sea lions. The sailing vessel Surat was wrecked on this coast in 1874.

**37. Tunnel Hill**  
Easy walk to railway tunnel, excavated by hand between 1891-92. 20 minutes return.

**38. Nugget Point/Tokatā**  
Walking path leads to lighthouse. Spectacular coastal views. New Zealand fur seals (kekeno), Southern elephant seals (lhpuku), New Zealand (Hooker) sea lions (rāpoka), sooty shearwaters (liti), the rare yellow-eyed penguin (hoiho) and many other seabird species. Binoculars recommended. 20 minutes return.

**39. Kaka Point Bush Walk**  
Walk into the gorge that begins up the river from Taieri Mouth. 4 hours return.



Robbie Burns and St Pauls Cathedral, Dunedin

**40. Naish Park/Blair Athol Walkway**  
An easy walk along the bank of the Clutha River to the Blair Athol Farm. 2 hours return.

**41. Milton/Milburn Limeworks**  
Rare fossils can be seen at the Milburn Limeworks. View glow worms in the Manuka Gorge Tunnel. Obtain information at the Milton Information Centre.

**42. Cook's Rock**  
A pleasant walk along the beach to the Rock. 30 minutes return. At the end of Chrystals Beach Road. Best at low tide.

**43. Allison Conservation Area**  
Descend into the gully of ferns, kamahi and rimu. Climb up to the ridge where in December you walk on a carpet of crimson rata flowers. 1 hour return. Reasonable fitness required.

**44. Taieri River Walk**  
Walk into the gorge that begins up the river from Taieri Mouth. 4 hours return.

**45. Waihola/Sinclair Wetlands**  
Lake Waihola is a popular recreation area for boating, swimming and fishing. Nearby, the Sinclair Wetlands are home to wild fowl and some of New Zealand's rarest birds.

**46. Tunnel Beach**  
Striking sandstone sea cliffs, arches, stacks and caves. Stairway tunnel gives access to beach. 1 hour return. Drive short distance to end of Tunnel Beach Road. Access closed during lambing (September/October).

## THE CATLINS