

Welcome to the Southern Scenic Route

Welcome to the Southern Scenic Route - This touring route has been described as unlocking many of Southland and South Otago's secrets. Linking Dunedin, Invercargill and Te Anau via a coastal road, the Southern Scenic Route is enjoyed by visitors wanting to take the time to experience the 'real' New Zealand.

From the rugged cliff tops of the Catlins to the ancient forests of the Fiordland mountains, it allows you to explore the region at your own pace and find hidden spots off the many side roads along the route.

Along the way look out for these unique photo opportunities:

- Sinclair Wetlands
- Nugget Point
- Purakaunui Falls
- Curio Bay
- Slope Point
- Waipapa Point Lighthouse
- Stirling Point Signpost in Bluff
- Southland Museum and Art Gallery and Queens Park
- The Historic Invercargill Water Tower
- The Giant Paua Shell in Riverton
- Riverton Rocks
- The Surfer Statue at Colac Bay
- The windswept Macrocarpa at Orepuki
- Cosy Nook
- McCracken's Rest
- The Historic Clifden Bridge
- The Mighty Wooden Viaducts along the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track
- Lake Hauroko
- Giant Totara Trees in the Dean Forest
- Lake Manapouri
- Lake Te Anau
- Milford Sound



We hope you enjoy the ride along the Southern Scenic Route - let us know how you enjoyed your trip at www.southernscenicroute.co.nz

1. Milford Sound/Piopiotahi

World renowned, Milford Sound is the only fiord accessible via road. Don't miss the opportunity to explore the many short walks and scenic-stopping points en route. The Milford Road is a spectacular alpine journey through World Heritage National Park. A guided journey with a local tour operator can offer insights, which add to the experience and leave drivers free to enjoy the scenery. Pre-book in the peak season and please check road conditions before departing, especially in winter.

2. Te Anau

An attractive township on the shores of Lake Te Anau, this is the perfect base to explore Fiordland National Park, including the Great Walks (the Routeburn, Milford and Kepler Tracks), short walks, day walks, lake cruises and glow worm cave tours.

3. Manapouri

The town of Manapouri sits alongside the lake of the same name and, with stunning mountain views, it is a great place to stop off and relax. Manapouri is the departure point for launch trips to West Arm Power Station, Doubtful Sound/Patea and walking tracks.

4. Redcliff - Rakatu Wetlands

Signposted from the Southern Scenic Route, formed tracks provide 5 minute or 3 hour walks to view these restored wetlands and the resident wildlife, or to access the Waiau River for angling. The wetlands are home to many waterfowl and fish species including NZ scaup, fernbird, paradise shelduck and long-finned eel. Access is free and information about the wetlands is available onsite.

5. Borland Nature Walk

A short, self-guided walk located opposite Borland Lodge, it provides an excellent example of native beech forest and is one of the best places in Southland to see native mistletoe, which flowers early summer.

6. Borland Road

From Borland Lodge, the Borland Road provides access to Fiordland National Park for walkers, hunters, mountain bikers, anglers and kayakers. The road is a 90km return trip to the South Arm of Lake Manapouri. Extreme care is required on this narrow road as conditions can be treacherous. The road is closed during winter and occasionally in summer. 4WD vehicle is recommended. Contact a DOC office or the Borland Lodge Manager for access and road conditions.

7. Big Totara Walk - Dean Forest

A short walk to 1000 plus year-old totara trees, Dean Forest is located 23km from Tuatapere on the Lillburn-Monowai Road (signposted from the Lillburn Valley Road).

8. Lake Hauroko

The deepest lake in New Zealand, it is situated 30km from Clifden on the Lillburn Valley Road. A 40 minute loop track skirts the lake edge or a challenging 4 hour walk up to the lookout gives spectacular views. 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.

9. Clifden Suspension Bridge

Construction started in 1898 and the bridge was opened 1899 when it replaced the punt used by early sheep stations.

10. Clifden Caves

These limestone caves are one of the few cave systems in Southland and are signposted along the Clifden Gorge Road. Ensure you have a good torch with spare batteries and warm clothing. Ask for advice at the nearest visitor centre.

Warning - This cave system is subject to flash flooding. Do NOT enter during or immediately after heavy rain, or if rain events are forecast.

11. Tuatapere

The centre of a farming community, Tuatapere is known as the 'Sausage Capital of New Zealand.' It has several art and craft galleries, the Bushman's Museum and boasts some centuries old totara trees in the town domain. There are also a number of jet boating, fishing and tramping opportunities available locally.



RIVERTON HARBOUR

12. Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track

3 day/2 night circuit walk along the Hump Ridge with sweeping views of the south west coast. From the top of Hump Ridge, the track descends along old tram lines and mighty wooden viaducts to the historic Port Craig. Bush and beach tracks following Te Waewae Bay complete the circuit.

13. McCracken's Rest

Great views of Te Waewae Bay and Solander Island with occasional opportunities for viewing the shy Hector's dolphin.

14. Monkey Island/Te Puka a Takitimu

The island is known by Ngai Tahu as the anchor stone of the Takitimu canoe, which was captained by Tamatea and wrecked at the mouth of the Waiau River. There is a short walk to a viewpoint that is only accessible at low tide.

15. Cosy Nook

A rocky cove sheltering several fishing boats and holiday homes, early settlers reported Pahi's village, a Ngai Tahu settlement with 40 houses. The small island Matariki was once a defended pa site.

16. Round Hill

A site of Chinese and European gold mining, the well-formed Longhilly (Round Hill) walking track off Round Hill Road leads through extensive historic gold mining and saw-milling relics in the forest. 2 1/2hrs return.

17. Colac Bay/Oraka

First settled by early Maori, Colac Bay is 11km from Riverton. A large statue of a surfer riding a wave greets visitors to this popular surfing and picnic spot.

18. Riverton/Aparima

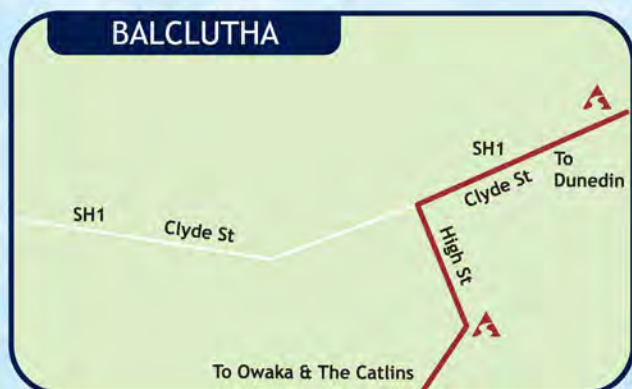
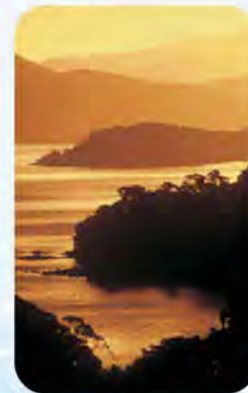
Riverton is a popular seaside destination. Rich in early Maori history, followed by sealing, whaling, timber milling, farming and fishing, it is one of the earliest European settlements in New Zealand. 'Te Hikoi a Southern Journey,' a heritage and culture centre, is located on the main street. Riverton Rocks is a must see and Mores Reserve is a great vantage point to view Stewart Island/Rakiura.

19. Thornbury

Visit the vintage farm machinery museum located at Thornbury or the nearby Templeton Flax Mill and Heritage Museum (both open by arrangement).

20. Bluff

Bluff is the oldest European town in New Zealand, having been settled continuously since 1824. Catch the ferry here to Stewart Island/Rakiura. The Bluff Hill/Motupohue lookout is a great vantage point with panoramic views. Several walks start from Stirling Point, including Foveaux Walkway - (50min return); Glory Track - (1hr return loop) and the Millennium and Topuni Tracks to the summit. The Bluff Maritime Museum documents the development of Bluff's oyster, whaling, muttonbirding, port and ferry industries.



21. Stewart Island

Stewart Island is home to Rakiura National Park, New Zealand's southern-most National Park. Rakiura is one of the Maori names given to the island, which recalls glowing sunrises, sunsets and the aurora australis or Southern Lights. View native birds at Ulva Island, enjoy short walks in the native bush around the town or for longer walking opportunities try the overnight tramps on the Rakiura Track, North West and Southern Circuits. Visit the local Information Centre for more information.

22. Waituna Lagoon

Waituna Lagoon is a wetland of international significance and is recognised as such by The Ramsar Convention. Main access is via Kapuka South Road, which is signposted from the Southern Scenic Route. It is an important habitat for birds, native fish and trout and is a great area for exploring, bird watching or fishing.

23. Waipapa Point

Waipapa Point is the site of New Zealand's worst civilian shipping disaster, the wreck of the SS Taramoa, which claimed 131 lives in 1881. The site has a working historic lighthouse that was built after the tragedy. Sea lions can often be seen on the beach (for your own safety please keep your distance).

24. Slope Point

The southern-most point of the South Island, the area offers views of Stewart Island/Rakiura and Bluff on a nice day. Access is closed during lambing season (August - October).

25. Waipohatu Recreation Area

A 30 minute loop track, or 3 hour walking track and picnic area on the edge of the Waikawa forest, this is a podocarp forest noted for its ferns and logging remnants.

26. Waikawa

Visit the Waikawa Museum and Information Centre. Short walk options include The Old Coach Road (20 minutes return), which is only possible at low tide, and the George Aitken Walk (20 minutes return).

27. Curio Bay/Tumu Toka and Porpoise Bay

This is one of the world's most extensive and best preserved examples of a Jurassic fossilised forest and is best viewed at low tide. A small population of endangered yellow-eyed penguins (hoiho) reside here - dogs are therefore not permitted. From the camping ground there is beach access to Porpoise Bay, a popular swimming and surfing spot. Rare Hector's dolphins are occasionally spotted in the bay.

28. McLean Falls

This is a walk through native bush to a spectacular waterfall. 40 minutes return. Travel 6km up Rewcastle Road.

29. Cathedral Caves

From the car park at the end of the 2km access road, there is a pleasant 20 minute walk on a gravel track leading down to a 10 minute walk along Waipati beach to the caves, accessible only at low tide (tide tables are posted at the Waikawa Museum, Catlins Information Centre and at the track entrance by the carpark). A road/track user fee is charged to maintain and upgrade the facilities, most of which are on privately owned land.

30. Lenz Forest and Bird Reserve

Rich in early Catlins timber milling history, there is a 5 minute walk to Cook's old mill site and an interpretive display of an old restored Traill bush tractor. Walk starts from Fleming River Bridge.

31. Lake Wilkie

This walk shows the unique succession of forest development from lake edge to mature forest. Flowering rata are splendid during summer. 30 minutes return.

32. Tautuku Estuary Boardwalk

This track will take you through podocarp forest and out on to the estuary flats. Look out for the rare fernbird. 30 minutes return.

33. Picnic Point

Bush and a sandy coastline with rock pools provide variety on this easy walk. 40 minutes return from Papatowai. Suitable for all age groups.

34. Matai Falls

A 30 minute return walk through regenerating podocarp/broadleaf forest, the beautiful Matai Falls are best viewed late in the morning.

35. Old CoachTrack/Tahakopa Loop Track

Coastal podocarp forest fringing a sandy bay, this walk begins along the Old Coach Road from the car park at the north end of the Tahakopa River bridge to an old moa hunter camp at the river mouth. 40 minutes return. There is also a 3 hour loop track that includes the Old Coach Road and a coastal walk.

36. Purakaunui Falls

A popular waterfall with photographers, this is an easy walk through beech and podocarp forest. 20 minutes return.

37. Catlins River Walk

A well-formed track follows the Catlins River from Tawanui to The Wisp through beautiful beech forest. Look out for the native mistletoe growing on the beech trees at the Tawanui end of the track and the rare mohua/yellowhead high in the trees. 5 hours (one way).

38. Jack's Blowhole

Farm track leads to a deep blow hole on the cliffs. 1 hour return. Access closed during lambing (September/October).

39. Owaka

Owaka is a great place to stop off and plan your trip through the Catlins. While in Owaka be sure to visit the Owaka Museum - Wahi Kahuika: the Meeting Place. Exhibitions capture the essence of the Catlins and feature the history of the Catlins area.

40. Pounaweia Nature and Bush Walking Tracks

From the camping ground at Pounaweia you can choose a nature walk (15 minutes) or a longer walk (45 minutes). Walk through virgin podocarp forest before returning via a saltmarsh (at low tide only) and estuary - a great place to view godwits.

41. Cannibal Bay/Surat Bay

This is a wonderful place to look out for New Zealand sea lions. The sailing vessel Surat was wrecked on this coast in 1874. Access to Surat Bay is via New Haven Road. At high tide follow the markers overland to the dunes. Please keep your distance from the sea lions. A 5 hour coast and dune walk links Cannibal and Surat Bays.

42. Tunnel Hill

Easy walk to 250m long railway tunnel, excavated by hand in 1891-92. Take a torch to explore the tunnel. 20 minutes return.

43. Nugget Point/Tokata

A walking path leads to the lighthouse, which has spectacular coastal views. New Zealand fur seals (kekeno), Southern elephant seals (ihupuku), New Zealand sea lions (rapoka), sooty shearwaters (titi), the rare yellow-eyed penguin (hoiho) and many other seabird species. Binoculars recommended. 20 minutes return.



PURAKAUNUI FALLS

44. Kaka Point Bush Walk

Good tracks providing easy access into this coastal remnant forest. Access is from the top of Marine Terrace. 30 minutes return.

45. Naish Park/Blair Athol Walkway

Beginning at Naish Park, this walkway takes you alongside the Clutha River to the Blair Athol farm and back. 2 hours return.

46. Milburn Limeworks

Rare fossils can be seen at the Milburn Limeworks. Obtain information at the Milton Information Centre.

47. Manuka Gorge Tunnel

View glow worms at the Manuka Gorge Tunnel well signposted off Highway 8 through the Manuka Gorge. Take a torch to explore the tunnel.

48. Cooks Rock

A pleasant walk along the beach to the rock, Cook's Rock is located at the end of Chrystalls Beach Road. Best at low tide. 30 minutes return.

49. Taieri River Track

The track begins at the Taieri Mouth and follows the Taieri River. 4 hours return.

50. Waihola

Lake Waihola is a popular recreation area for boating, swimming and fishing.

51. Sinclair Wetlands

Well signposted from the Southern Scenic Route, the Sinclair Wetlands are home to wild fowl and some of New Zealand's rarest birds. Dogs are strictly prohibited. There is a 25 minute walk to Ram Island, a native plant restoration area, where several different walks begin.

52. Tunnel Beach

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

Wildlife care code



- Protect plants and animals
- Remove rubbish
- Keep streams and lakes clean
- Keep to the track
- Consider others
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Enjoy your visit
- Toitu te whenua
(leave the land undisturbed)



WILDLIFE CARE CODE

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

Hectors dolphins/Papakanua

May be seen along the Catlins Coast, Porpoise Bay or in Te Waewae 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, the Nuggets/Tokata and at Curio Bay.

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 as dogs can kill penguins. Best viewed at dusk or dawn.

New Zealand sea lions/Rapoka

New Zealand fur seals/Kekeno

Best seen at Cannibal Bay, Surat Bay and Waipapa Point. Never go between them and the sea as the sea is their escape route. Male New Zealand sea lions may be aggressive during the breeding season (summer). Please keep your distance at all times. Keep your dog on a leash.

Driving times along the Southern Scenic Route

The Southern Scenic Route is completely sealed.

(Please be aware that attractions mentioned may be along unsealed side roads)

Destination	Kilometres	Miles	Driving Time
Te Anau - Milford Sound/Piopiotahi	119 km	74 miles	2 hrs 20 mins
Te Anau - Tuatapere	101 km	63 miles	1 hr 30 mins
Tuatapere - Riverton/Aparima	48 km	30 miles	50 mins
Riverton/Aparima - Invercargill	38 km	24 miles	40 mins
Invercargill - Bluff	27 km	17 miles	25 mins
Invercargill - Fortrose	45 km	28 miles	50 mins
Fortrose - Tokanui	13 km	8 miles	10 mins
Fortrose - Waikawa (coastal route partly unsealed)	36 km	22 miles	45 mins
Waikawa - Papatowai (coastal route)	38 km	24 miles	40 mins
Tokanui - Papatowai	50 km	31 miles	50 mins
Papatowai - Owaka	26 km	16 miles	30 mins
Owaka - Balclutha	32 km	20 miles	35 mins
Owaka - Kaka Point (coastal route)	17 km	11 miles	15 mins
Kaka Point - Balclutha (coastal route)	21 km	13 miles	20 mins
Balclutha - Taieri Mouth	50 km	31 miles	1hr
Taieri Mouth - Dunedin	35 km	22 miles	45 mins

Remember: "keep left"



For information on accommodation and attractions:



Fiordland i-SITE Visitor Centre Lakefront Drive Te Anau +64 3 249 8900 fiordland-iSITE@realjourneys.co.nz	Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre Hokonui Heritage Centre Cnr Hokonui Drive & Norfolk Street Gore +64 3 203 9288 goreinfo@goredc.govt.nz
Invercargill i-SITE Visitor Centre Southland Museum & Art Gallery 108 Gala Street Invercargill +64 3 211 0895 info@southlandnz.com	Stewart Island Information Centre 12 Elgin Terrace Halfmoon Bay Stewart Island +64 3 219 1400 stewartisland@i-site.org
Clutha Information Centre 4 Clyde Street Balclutha +64 3 418 0388 clutha.vin@cluthadcc.govt.nz	Dunedin i-SITE Visitor Centre 48 The Octagon Dunedin +64 3 474 3300 visitorcentre@dcc.govt.nz

For further information on the Southern Scenic Route visit:
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