



Larnach Castle

The Tohu Whenua Story

Nau mai, haere mai ki te kaupapa o Tohu Whenua.

Tohu Whenua are places that have shaped Aotearoa New Zealand. Located in stunning landscapes and rich with stories, they offer some of our best heritage experiences.

Walk in the footsteps of extraordinary and ordinary New Zealanders and hear about the deeds, struggles, triumphs and innovations that make us who we are.

With Tohu Whenua as your guide, embark on a journey to some of our most important landmarks and immerse yourself in our diverse and unique history.

Visit Tohu Whenua in Northland, Otago and West Coast.

Local Information

To report or check current road conditions on the state highway call 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49) or check online at www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/otago/

In the event of an emergency, dial 111

Weather in Otago can change unexpectedly. Make sure you take appropriate warm clothing, a waterproof jacket, food and water when embarking on walks in the area.

Cover image credits. Top: Oamaru, Waitaki NZ. Bottom left: Arrowtown, Claudia Babirat. Bottom right: Otago Central Rail Trail, James Jubb.

TWBR02

Otago



Main Centres



DunedinNZ



Destination Queenstown



Claudia Babirat

The Otago Story

The proof of a pioneering nation

Otago's Tohu Whenua are places that tell stories of our people's pioneering spirit - some of the cornerstones of our economic and entrepreneurial livelihood.

Fame, fortune and farming; understand how we have prospered as a nation. Experience the innovations and inventions born out of necessity, the wealth evident of an era, and appreciate the industries that set us up to be the self-reliant country we are today.

INFORMATION KEY

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Tohu Whenua Location

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Great for families

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Entry fee

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Bicycle friendly

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Walking involved

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Wheelchair access

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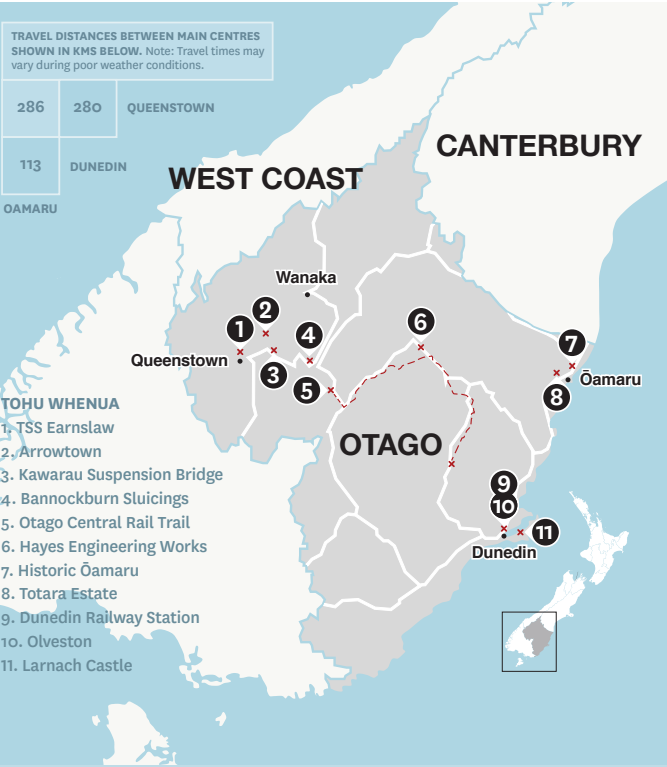
Amenities

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Otago Central Rail Trail



1

TSS EARNSLAW

Lady of the Lake

The *TSS Earnslaw* is one of the world's oldest and largest remaining steamships and has graced Lake Wakatipu since 1912. In the days before any roads existed, she ferried people, sheep and goods to lake destinations. Take a cruise from Queenstown, see the giant steam engines at work and let the iconic alpine scenery take your breath away.



Real Journeys

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Steamer Wharf, Queenstown

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ARROWTOWN

One golden village, two tales

Visit this thriving picture-postcard tourist town and view both sides of the gold-rush: the preserved avenue where wealthy banks and merchants traded in the mid-1800s, and the restored huts on the edge of town that reveal the more modest lifestyles of Chinese miners.



Nicole Kunzmann

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Off State Highway 6, Arrowtown

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KAWARAU SUSPENSION BRIDGE

A leap of faith

In 1882 Harry Higginson won a top world engineering award for his innovative design of the Kawarau Suspension Bridge, allowing safe crossing of the notoriously windy canyon. In 1988 it became the world birthplace of bungy with people leaping from the equivalent of a 10-storey building. Jump, cycle or walk the bridge and marvel at the extraordinary feat of design and incredible landscape.



Queenstown Trails Trust

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State Highway 6, Gibbston Valley

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BANNOCKBURN SLUICINGS

Man-made badlands

Visit the remains of the dams, tunnels, walls, and water races that were built to flush out gold. The result is a spectacular man-made landscape of cliffs and pinnacles to explore on foot or bike, where you can still see the remains of rammed-earth houses where miners lived.



Claudia Babirat

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Felton Road, Bannockburn

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OTAGO CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL

Pedalling Otago's rural heart

New Zealand's original Great Ride, this popular cycle journey offers a taste of genuine Southern hospitality. Gold exploration and pastoral farming were at the heart of Central Otago's economy and the railway the trail now follows provided the lifeblood for these isolated communities. Cycle or walk through rugged and spectacular scenery that is second to none.



James Jubb

✗

Clyde to Middelmarsh, Central Otago

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HAYES ENGINEERING WORKS

A home of Kiwi invention

The Hayes family defined the spirit of 'Kiwi ingenuity'. Marvel at their mud brick home and workshop where Ernest invented agricultural labour-saving devices including the fence-fixing wire strainer, rabbit baiters and windmills, while Hannah cycled around the region in ankle length skirts, taking orders for his wares. Visit on an operating day to see the original machinery in action.



James Jubb

✗

Hayes Road, Oturehua

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HISTORIC ŌAMARU

A Victorian time capsule

This atmospheric precinct of ornately carved stone buildings tells of Victorian hopes and dreams during the late 19th century boom years. Relive the era by strolling in and around well-preserved buildings that once housed merchant and engineering enterprises, grain stores and banks, now home to shops, artisans, galleries and Steampunk HQ.



Claudia Babirat

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Harbour Street, Ōamaru

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TOTARA ESTATE

Putting NZ sheep on the world's table

It was from this once grand estate that the first shipment of frozen mutton was sent to England, marking the start of an export industry that has underpinned New Zealand's economic prosperity. Wonderfully restored Ōamaru stone buildings provide a view of rural life in Victorian times, with family-friendly activities on offer.



Claudia Babirat

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State Highway 1, 8km south of Ōamaru

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DUNEDIN RAILWAY STATION

A first-class destination

Ornate and flamboyant, Dunedin's railway station is today considered one of the world's best. Built when 100 trains would come and go in a day, the 'giant gingerbread house' is now home to a restaurant, gallery and the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame. On Saturday morning the forecourt's farmers market is a popular meeting place for locals and visitors.



DunedinNZ

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Anzac Square, Dunedin

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OLVESTON

A slice of grand Edwardian life

Olveston has been loved by visitors since it was gifted to the City of Dunedin in 1967. Immerse yourself in how the wealthy Theomin family lived from 1906-1966, surrounded by beautiful things. Everyone will find something of interest among the vast array of fine art, furniture and artefacts collected from around the world. Entry to the house is by guided tour.



Nick Beale

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42 Royal Terrace, Dunedin

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LARNACH CASTLE

New Zealand's castle

Located on the Otago Peninsula, Larnach Castle tells a colourful story, but this is no fairytale. The majestic mansion was built in the 1870s sparing no expense. William Larnach's personal fortunes later crumbled and his grand vision fell into disrepair. The now lavishly restored castle is set in immaculate gardens and offers tours, accommodation and events.



DunedinNZ

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145 Camp Road, Dunedin

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SITE

Visitor Information

Dunedin

50 The Octagon, Dunedin

Queenstown

22 Shotover Street, The Clocktower Building, Queenstown

Waitaki and Ōamaru Visitor Centre

1 Thames Street, Ōamaru