

The Tohu Whenua story

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

Discover history where it happened. Tohu Whenua is your essential guide to the most significant heritage experiences in Aotearoa.

These are the places that witnessed the defining encounters, challenges and innovations that have shaped our country and culture.

Uncover big stories, up close, with Tohu Whenua.

Plan your next heritage adventure at TohuWhenua.nz or scan the QR code for more information!

www.tohuwhenua.nz/southland

tohuwhenua

TOHU WHENUA
Landmarks that tell our stories

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

TWBR11

Cover images: Wade McClelland

TOHU WHENUA
Landmarks that tell our stories

Murihiku Southland





2 **The Kingston Flyer Railway**
221 Kent Street, Kingston
Image: Wade McClelland



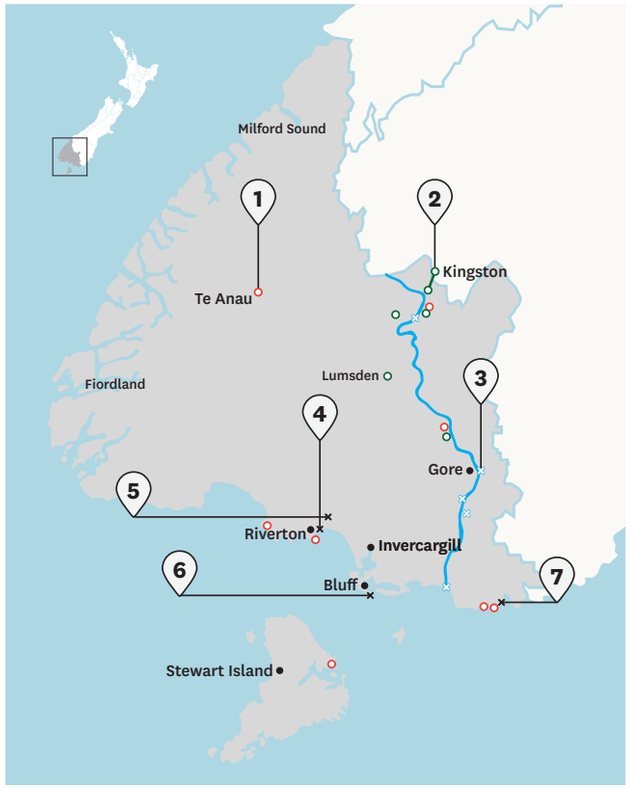
4 **Templeton Flax Mill**
End of Templeton Road, Otaitai Bush, Aparima Riverton
Image: Wade McClelland



7 **Tumu Toka Curio Bay**
Waikawa-Curio Bay Road, Curio Bay, South Catlins
Image: Wade McClelland

The Murihiku Southland story

Southland's story runs deep, from Māori celestial knowledge and the life-giving Mataura River to a Jurassic-era forest and a working flax mill. Each Tohu Whenua site in Murihiku invites you to step into a different chapter of its history, and to see the landscape through the eyes of those who know it best.



Tohu Whenua

1. Matariki Wayfinding Journey
   ○ *pou locations across the region*
2. The Kingston Flyer Railway
   ○ *railway stations*
3. Mata Ura Awa
   Mataura River
   ⊠ *key viewing locations*
4. Templeton Flax Mill
5. Southland Rural Heritage Centre
6. Motupōhue Bluff Hill
7. Tumu Toka Curio Bay

Information key

- Great for families
- Entry fee
- Bicycle friendly
- Walking involved
- Wheelchair access
- Parking
- Food and beverage available
- Restrooms

Mata Ura Awa Mataura River

1 Matariki Wayfinding Journey

Te Anau, Garston, Taramea/Howells Point, Cosy Nook, Mandeville, Rakiura/Stewart Island, Slope Point, Curio Bay.

Celestial pou telling our stories
This journey takes you to all corners of Murihiku Southland. Each culturally significant landscape combined with the artistic pou by mana whenua, enables you to learn about Māori astronomy, cultural narratives and history, local stories, flora, and fauna.



Image: Douglas Thorne

2 The Kingston Flyer Railway

221 Kent Street, Kingston

All aboard and steaming ahead
The Kingston Flyer Railway was built from the 1860s onwards to connect towns in Murihiku Southland. Today, railway precincts at Kingston, Fairlight, Garston, Athol, Lumsden and Mandeville display railway history and restored trains and carriages. Make sure to catch the iconic steam locomotive that runs Sundays, October to May.



Image: Great South

3 Mata Ura Awa Mataura River

Viewing points at Nokomai at Mataura Bridges, Ōnuku/East Gore Terrace, Te Au Nui/Mataura Falls, Tuturau, & Fortrose

Ki uta ki tai
From the mountains to the sea
For centuries this 240km river has been a vital travel route and mahika kai (food gathering place) for Kāi Tahu. Key viewing stops connect you to the stories, ecosystems and mauri of this mighty waterway.



Image: Wade McClelland

4 Templeton Flax Mill

End of Templeton Road, Otaitai Bush, Aparima Riverton

Flax stripping, scutching and storytelling
Aotearoa New Zealand's last working flax mill brings alive the early industry of processing harakeke fibre. See the machinery whirr into action, discover the vital role of flax in Murihiku Southland's history and hear stories about the Templeton family and the mill workers. Bookings essential for live demonstrations: templeflax@gmail.com or 021 377 997.



Image: Wade McClelland

5 Southland Rural Heritage Centre

61 Foster Road, Thornbury

Southern farming's origin story
Surrounded by the fields that supported the region's first livestock, the Heritage Centre's innovative displays tell the story of how farmers transformed the Murihiku Southland landscape. Take in first-hand accounts of early farming life and explore the varied collections and exhibits while you're here. Check website for opening hours.



Image: Wade McClelland

6 Motupōhue Bluff Hill

180 Flagstaff Road, Bluff

Up high, down south
Kāi Tahu creation narratives tell us that Motupōhue is the sternpost of the waka of Aoraki which became Te Waipounamu the South Island. Ascend the spiral walkway and read the panels on the way to discover Bluff Hill's geography, human history, environmental restoration and living cultural traditions. The Tōpuni and Millenium walking tracks connect the lookout to the Bluff coastline.

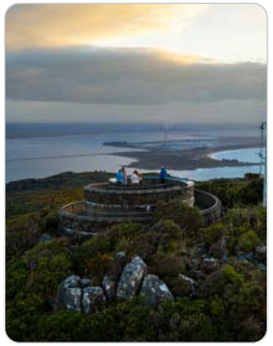


Image: Wade McClelland

7 Tumu Toka Curio Bay

Waikawa-Curio Bay Road, Curio Bay, South Catlins

Force of nature on the edge of time
Spot rare dolphins and penguins, explore the Jurassic-era petrified forest and walk through stunning native bush. Don't miss the view from the headland with its Matariki pou. Check out the Gateway Theatre and interactive experience to learn the unique history of the area (fees apply, seasonal opening hours).



Image: Wade McClelland

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