

Te Tai Poutini West Coast Story

Treasure seeker towns, snowcapped views and an ancient lagoon are just some of the must-dos you'll find in our Te Tai Poutini West Coast itinerary.

Explore abandoned mines, discover the Te Ao Māori creation story of Te Wai Pounamu and soak up the history in charming West Coast towns as you visit Tohu Whenua in this region.

NOTE: TRAVEL TIMES MAY VARY DURING POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS. (DISTANCES SHOWN BELOW IN KMS)

273	139	100	78	Westport
250	116	78	Reefton	
170	39	Greymouth		
135	Hokitika			

Franz Josef

Tohu Whenua

1. Denniston Mine
2. Historic Reefton
3. Waiuta
4. Brunner Mine
5. Hokitika Port, Commercial and Government Centre
6. Ōkārito
7. Te Kopikopiko o te Waka

Information Key

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

1 Denniston Mine

Off SH67, 18km northeast of Westport

Coaling in the clouds

Once a leading coal mining town, Denniston sits high on the edge of a steep incline railway once described as the 8th wonder of the world. A town of extremes, workers mined the highest quality coal but families suffered the lowest living conditions. Explore the remnants of the town and mine on foot, mountain bike or 4WD and take in magnificent coastal views.



Image: Jason Blair



2 Historic Reefton

State Highways 69 and 7, Reefton

Gold. Lights. Action.

Nicknamed Quartzopolis and the Town of Light, Reefton was the booming commercial centre of quartz reef gold mining and the first place in the southern hemisphere to supply electric lighting. Feel like you're in a movie as you tour the character town, then get in on some action with its mountain biking and walking trails.



Image: Stewart Nimmo



3 Waiuta

Off State Highway 7, 21km south of Reefton

A golden run

Explore this once thriving gold town and picture a working mine, whippet races, children trying to resist the temptation of a frozen over swimming pool, games of bowls and rugby, Nob Hill and Shinbone Alley. Visit for a day and take in the remains of the mine and town by walking one of its many tracks or stay longer at the lodge and really immerse yourself in the stories of the people who made history here.



Image: Jason Blair



4 Brunner Mine

State Highway 7, 11 km east of Greymouth

Fuelling New Zealand's safety

An event that shook the nation, Brunner Mine pays homage to New Zealand's worst workplace disaster with memorials amongst the mining relics. Cross the historic suspension bridge, stand at the mine entrance to one of the largest coal operations, and let the 65 men who were tragically killed fuel us all to never settle on safety.



Image: Jason Blair



5 Hokitika Port, Commercial and Government Centre

State Highway 6, Hokitika

Treasure seekers' town

The most valued port of the gold rush era and now the gateway to the West Coast, Hokitika draws discoverers. Wander the wide streets of the pounamu and goldfields capital, its numerous artisan stores, restored sites, and driftwood and sunset-famous beach, and take home a taonga of your own.



Image: Jason Blair



6 Ōkārito

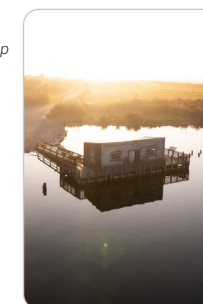
Off State Highway 6, 15km north of Franz Josef township

A golden oasis

A hub of conservation, Ōkārito is home to the ancient Ōkārito lagoon, Te Tai Poutini West Coast's oldest known building and over 70 species of birds including the rare kōtuku. Explore the lagoon via kayak or step inside historic buildings, including the iconic Donovan's Store, to learn about a town of goldrush and taonga.



Image: RodyNZ



7 Te Kopikopiko o te Waka

Cook Flat Road, 9km off State Highway 6 near Fox Glacier township

Where Te Wai Pounamu began

With panoramic views of Kā Tiritiri o te Moana/ The Southern Alps and a great vantage for Te Weheka/Fox Glacier, Te Kopikopiko o te Waka tells the Te Ao Māori story of how Te Wai Pounamu/ the South Island came to be. Co-designed with mana whenua from Ngāti Māhaki, this site uses sculpture to tell the celestial story of Aoraki, making it an immersive and interactive experience for all visitors.



Image: Jill Mitchell-Larrivee



Westport iSite

Coaltown Museum
123 Palmerston Street,
Westport

Reefton Visitor Centre

67-69 Broadway,
Reefton

Hokitika iSite

36 Weld Street,
Hokitika



The Tohu Whenua Story


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

Tohu Whenua is your free itinerary to places to visit and explore history where it happened.

Follow in the footsteps of extraordinary and ordinary New Zealanders and discover the traditions, triumphs, challenges and innovations that have shaped our country and culture. Whether on foot or on wheels, Tohu Whenua has something for every explorer.

Visit our website, follow us on social media and let us guide you to Aotearoa New Zealand's must-dos.

7 Te Kopikopiko o te Waka
Cook Flat Road, 9km off State Highway 6 near Fox Glacier township
Image: Clint Trahan



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

TOHU WHENUA Landmarks that tell our stories **New Zealand Government**

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