



Larnach Castle

145 Camp Road, Dunedin

Image: Michael McQueen



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.



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

TOHU WHENUA

Landmarks that tell our stories



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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Top: Huriawa, Scrambler.

Bottom left: Arrowtown, Claudia Babirat

Bottom right: Otago Central Rail Trail, Miles Holden

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TOHU WHENUA

Landmarks that tell our stories



Otago



Main Centres

Dunedin

Image: DunedinNZ



Queenstown

Image: Destination Queenstown



Ōamaru

Image: Claudia Babirat



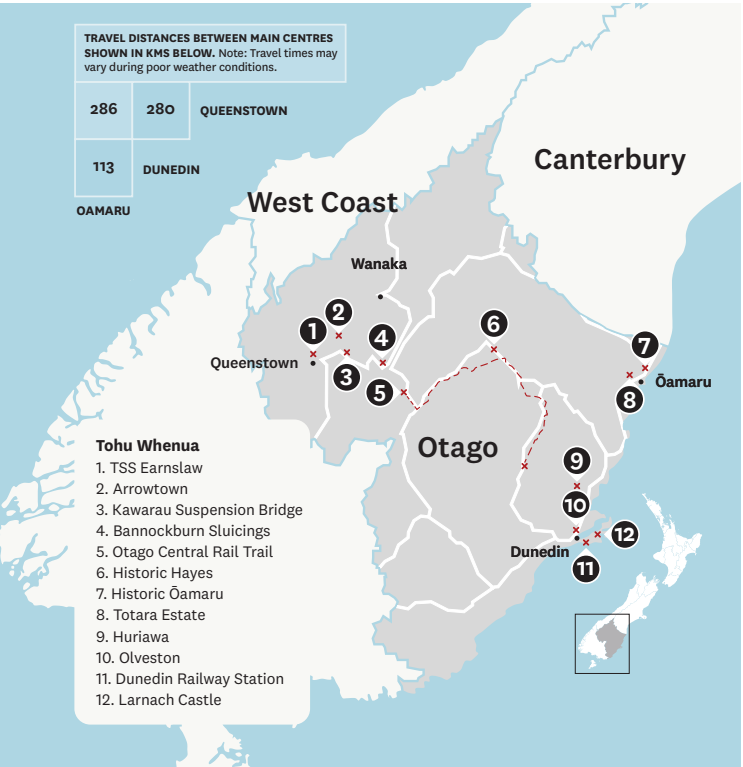
[tohuwhenua](https://www.tohuwhenua.nz)

www.tohuwhenua.nz/otago

The Otago Story

Homes of invention and innovation, ancestral landscapes and cycle trails bursting with history are just some of the must-dos you'll find in our Otago itinerary.

Cruise on the water, tour opulent houses and step back in time as you visit Tohu Whenua in this region.



Information Key

Great for families

Parking

Restrooms

Wheelchair access

Walking involved

Bicycle friendly

Food and beverage available

Entry fee

Otago Central Rail Trail

1

TSS Earnslaw
Steamer Wharf, Queenstown

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.

Image: Real Journeys



5

Otago Central Rail Trail
Clyde to Middlemarch, Central Otago

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.

Image: Tim Hawkins



9

Huriawa
Barvas Street, Karitane

Living history in an ancestral landscape

A strategic vantage for early Māori settlers and rich in natural resources, this peninsula, and the surrounding landscapes are home to layer upon layer of treasured Kāi Tahu stories. Take a self-guided walk (2.4km loop track, no charge) or book a Māori Pā Experience or Māori Waka Experience with Karitāne Māori Tours (fees apply).

Image: Caroline Toplis



2

Arrowtown
Off State Highway 6, 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.

Image: Clare Toia-Bailey



6

Historic Hayes
Hayes Road, Oturehua

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.

Image: Clare Toia-Bailey



10

Olveston
42 Royal Terrace, Dunedin

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 the life of the wealthy Theomin family who lived at the house from 1906-1966. 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 only.

Image: Michael McQueen



3

Kawarau Suspension Bridge
State Highway 6, Gibbston Valley

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 birthplace of bungy jumping with people leaping from the equivalent of a 10-storey building. Jump, cycle or walk on the bridge and marvel at the extraordinary feat of design and incredible landscape.

Image: Clare Toia-Bailey



7

Historic Ōamaru
Harbour Street, 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.

Image: Reframed Media



11

Dunedin Railway Station
Anzac Square, Dunedin

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.

Image: DunedinNZ



4

Bannockburn Sluicings
Felton Road, Bannockburn

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.

Image: Clare Toia-Bailey



8

Totara Estate
State Highway 1, 8km south of Ōamaru

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.

Image: Reframed Media



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Larnach Castle
145 Camp Road, Dunedin

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.

Image: Michael McQueen

