

Have the best time or make the best time. Lycra optional.



Otago Central Rail Trail  
Photo: Mick Holden

### Three great cycle rides

When it comes to New Zealand's best cycle trails, Central Otago is home to New Zealand's original 'Great Ride' – the Otago Central Rail Trail. It's also home to the Roxburgh Gorge Trail complete with its spectacular boat trip, and the Clutha Gold Trail following the mighty Clutha River / Mata-Au for much of its journey.

Central Otago is truly a hub for experiencing a holiday on a bike. If you were to combine all three of our great rides there is over 250km of off-road cycle trails to enjoy. Best of all our great rides are graded easy with just a few short sections of moderate cycling. Each trail offers easy access points so there are options for shorter trips to suit whatever time you have available.

Local operators offer a range of half, full and multi-day options, great bikes and gear to hire (including E-bikes) and they will soon have you off enjoying your own memorable cycle experience.

### The need for speed – two wheels or four

If you are into a bit of downhill single track mountain biking, heli-biking, road cycling at race pace, unleashing your competitive spirit go-karting or enjoying the exhilaration of fast laps in a high performance racing car at Highlands, Central Otago has tracks for all. You can even hire your own Harley Davidson or trail bike to enjoy some of the best motorcycling roads in New Zealand.

If off-roading is more your style, ask about some of the region's accessible 4WD tracks. Keep in mind that even if you're a pro SUV driver in the city, there are some slightly different challenges here.

### Take a hike and take in the views

Wellness experts say that walking is good for your overall wellbeing, so be sure to make time for some of our favourite trails while you're here.

Think moonscape for the Bannockburn Sluicings track through historic gold workings with expansive views over vineyards and orchards to Lake Dunstan and beyond.

Walk over the Shaky Bridge in Alexandra and climb the hill to stand beside the 11 metre high clock and be rewarded by spectacular vistas overlooking the town.

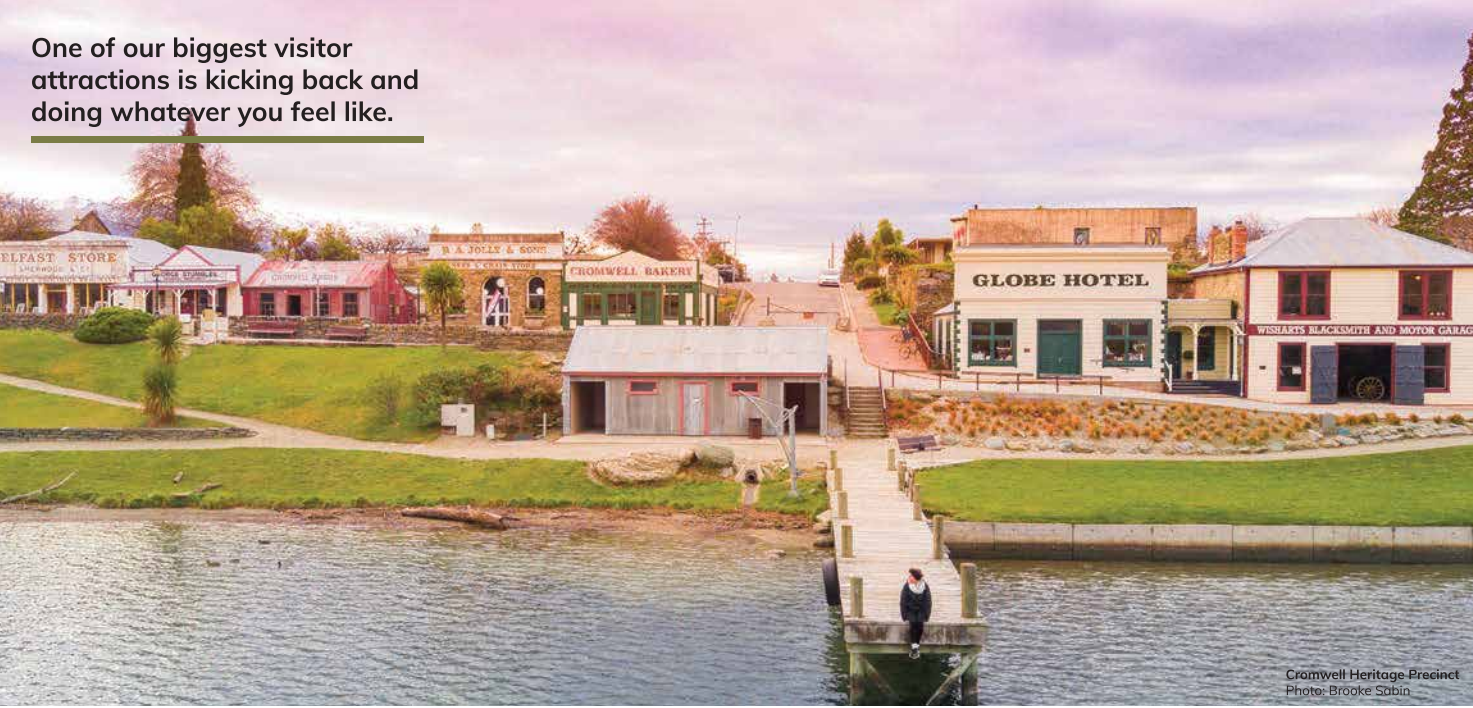
Other popular local walks include the track alongside the Clutha River between Clyde and Alexandra, trails along the shorelines of Lake Dunstan at Cromwell and the 45th Parallel Track to the top of the iconic sugar loaf with stunning views over Lake Dunstan.

Visit one of our Central Otago i-SITES for maps and more information.

### Picture perfect

It's been said that driving through Central Otago is like viewing a series of paintings. Central Otago is a magnet for talented and creative people – many of whom have works on display in the galleries, studios and museums that make up the Central Otago Arts Trail. Pick up a brochure from one of our i-SITES or check out [artstrail.co.nz](http://artstrail.co.nz) for maps and trail guide to plan your outing.

One of our biggest visitor attractions is kicking back and doing whatever you feel like.



Cromwell Heritage Precinct  
Photo: Brooke Szabo

### Small towns - Big history

Most Central Otago towns sprang up during the rush to find gold in the late 1860s. Many buildings were made of stone or mud brick and it is a privilege to see these examples of historic architecture finding new life in today's world.

Cromwell Heritage Precinct, Clyde, Naseby, St Bathans and Ophir are great places to see many heritage buildings refurbished as cafés, bars, gift shops and galleries along with boutique accommodation. The significant impact of gold mining on the landscape has now been mellowed by the increasing number of vineyards at locations like Bendigo, Bannockburn and Earnsclough.

Roxburgh's Scottish street names, Ranfurly's Art Deco buildings, Alexandra's historic bridges and Cromwell's 'new' town highlight the journey from small rural settlements to the modern towns we live in today. Yet they still retain the charm of their pioneering beginnings.



### Golf - on the ball

Despite some Scottish heritage you won't find a St Andrew's here. What you will find is the most inland links course in New Zealand and multiple choices of quality designed greens and fairways on which to play a round of golf (or two). The bounce of the ball on some rocky fairways presents a distinctive hazard.

### Water sports - fresh or frozen

Central Otago offers a range of water sports from self-powered kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding to high-powered boating and water skiing. There are also some great fishing spots and talented local guides around the region.



If you want to take your pick of ski fields depending on the conditions on the day, Central Otago is a great place to base yourself with the four world class ski fields of Coronet Peak, Remarkables, Treble Cone and Cardrona plus the Snow Farm all within an easy hour's drive.

Curling (of the Gaelic kind on ice) is enjoyed year round indoors at Naseby. In winter it's great family fun to try ice skating on outdoor rinks in Alexandra and Naseby. A unique experience is to enjoy a sled or rig ride behind a team of Alaskan Malamutes.

### Night sky - watch this space

Central Otago's big blue skies by day become incredible dark skies by night. Naseby residents know this for a fact – they've been taking scientific readings and their night skies are up there with the best.

It's hard to say Central Otago without adding pinot noir!



Alexandra Basin Vineyards  
Photo: Todd Sisson

### World-class wine

We are of the firm belief that although you can enjoy Central Otago wine in lots of top bars and restaurants around the world, the very best place to enjoy them is right here.

Central Otago is best known for its pinot noir and there's always a new vintage to enjoy, but don't deny your taste buds the other wine styles made here. Our vines must have tenacity to grow up in the highest, driest, hottest, coldest wine region on the planet. See what Central Otago's terroir, viticulturists and winemakers make of chardonnay, pinot gris, riesling and sauvignon blanc and the difference that the pinot fruit makes to the region's bubbles and rosés.

For those that like to fit in exercise with their wine tasting – the Four Barrels Walking Wine Trail is an 8km circuit that takes you to cellar doors around Cromwell. If you prefer a guided option there are companies that offer tours of a selection of the cellar doors and tasting rooms around Bannockburn, Cromwell, Alexandra and Clyde. Or you may just choose to visit your favourite label. While our cellar doors are open most of the time, a number are by appointment only so book ahead to avoid disappointment.



### Seasonal fare

The choice of food and wine here will keep even the most discerning foodie satisfied year round. In summer and early autumn pick juicy, sweet, sun-ripened fruit straight from the tree and choose full-of-flavour artisan produce from the local markets.

Sit under a shady tree or bask in the summer sun with a cool ale in hand. In winter take a seat by a cosy fire with your favourite warming meal matched with a fabulous pinot. Look out for the Eat.Taste.Central regional menu in spring, when our chefs develop competition dishes inspired by local flavours. Autumn is harvest time and perfect for lunch al-fresco surrounded by vineyards and orchards turning vivid shades of gold, red and orange.

### Take a road trip

Central Otago has an uncrowded road network criss-crossing the region where the opportunities for a day out are endless. Fuel or power-up the car, sort your favourite playlist, wind down the windows and plan a road trip.

You'll find something new around every corner. Landscapes of flat-top mountains, wide valley floors, crystal clear lakes, fast flowing rivers, rocky outcrops and rolling tussock covered hills, all under Central Otago's bigger-than-big, bluer than blue skies.

Pack a picnic lunch, pick up some local fruit and journey out to find a scenic picnic spot in the hills or beside a lake or river. If picnicking isn't your style then dine at one of the many country pubs or restaurants that love to make a feature of the region's amazing local produce, craft beers and premium wines.

Find Yourself (but not too many others)

# Central Otago

Visitor Guide & Map

## About this map

We've designed this map to help you find all the best places and things to do in Central Otago. Whether it's enjoying a leisurely 'road trip'; taking time to reconnect with friends and family on one of our stunning cycle trails or on a walk through early goldmining areas; remembering what summer fruits used to taste like; or finding out what great ales and award winning wines should taste like this map is designed to help you find all this and more.

And, if you still haven't found what you're looking for, there are special cycle maps, wine maps, walking maps, arts trail maps and 4WD guides available. Visit our website [centralotagongz.com](http://centralotagongz.com) for more ideas and extra information or pop into one of our four i-SITES (visitor information centres) where you'll meet passionate locals who will point you in the right direction.

Enjoy our World of Difference!

## Experience the real Central

Every place has 'must do' experiences, sometimes quirky, sometimes quaint but always the stuff that great holiday memories are made of. Here are our top 12 (we were going to suggest 10 but we couldn't agree on what to drop).

- Not that we're boasting – three of NZ's Great Cycle Rides are right here in Central Otago. Not just the original great ride, but also two others with more to come. Pedal your way through our landscapes – lycra optional.
- There's no better place than Central Otago to taste Central Otago wines. Spend quality time with your taste buds and take a wine tour.
- Unwind at a different pace here. Take the back seat, or take the wheel, the choice is yours at Highlands.
- Throw some stones – of the Curling kind. Naseby's indoor curling rink gives you the chance to try curling all year round.
- See it all from on high. Cromwell and Alexandra have scenic and charter flights and even hang gliding available.
- A table for two, or picnic by the lake? Eat your way through the region savouring the local flavours from talented chefs. Pick your own fruit and call in to one of the local markets to meet our artisan producers.
- Stargazing Heaven! Famous for our inspiring big blue skies, our dark skies are worth observing too. Step outside after dark and look up.




Photo: Todd Sisson

 **CENTRAL OTAGO**  
A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



### Find out more

 visit us at [centralotagongz.com](http://centralotagongz.com)  
 [centralotagongz](https://www.facebook.com/centralotagongz)  [@centralotagongz](https://www.instagram.com/centralotagongz)

 While you're here hashtag your images with **#centralotagongz** and link to [@centralotagongz](https://www.facebook.com/centralotagongz)

 **SITE** call in to our Central Otago i-SITES  
P: +64 3 262 7999 E: [visitorcentre@codc.govt.nz](mailto:visitorcentre@codc.govt.nz)

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[centralotagongz.com](http://centralotagongz.com)

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Clyde Lookout  
Photo: Todd Sisson



Find Yourself (but not too many others)

Central Otago

Visitor Guide & Map

Approximate drive times to / from Cromwell:

Within Central Otago	Time	Distance
Clyde	17 mins	24 km
Alexandra	23 mins	32km
Roxburgh	52 mins	70km
Ophir	37 mins	52 km
Ranfurly	1 hr 17 mins	113 km
Naseby	1 hr 22 mins	113 km

Our Neighbours

Time	Distance	
Wanaka	40 mins	54km
Queenstown (Airport)	50 mins	54km
Dunedin (via Ranfurly)	2 hrs 50 mins	242 km
Dunedin (via Roxburgh)	2 hrs 45 mins	221 km
Christchurch (via Lindis Pass)	5 hrs	424 km
Haast / West Coast	2 hrs 15 mins	187 km
Invercargill	2 hrs 50 mins	230 km
Oamaru	2 hrs 40 mins	228 km
Te Anau	2 hrs 46 mins	219 km
Mt Cook / Aoraki	2 hrs 20 mins	204 km

Legend

State Highway

Road

Cycle & Walking Trail

Taieri Gorge Railway

Cycle Trail

Golf Course

Art Galleries

Museum & Heritage Site

Ice Skating (Seasonal)

Curling

Night Sky Viewing

Tohu Whenua Site

Scenic Photo Spot

Highlands Motorsport Park

Food & Wine Experiences

Cycle Trail Transfer

Scenic Flights

Conservation Area

Garden of National Significance

Airport

i-SITE Visitor Centre

Vineyards & Wineries

Orchards

centralotagoz.com



Get away from it all, then keep going a bit further.



Our buildings are pretty old but our beer, wine and food have come a long way since the 1860s.

### Flying in or out

We are spoilt for choice in Central Otago with three international airports all in close proximity. The closest international airport is Queenstown which is a scenic 50 minute drive from Cromwell. Dunedin is a 2.5 hour drive and Christchurch 5 hours.

On arrival, rent a vehicle to give yourself the freedom to explore or catch a bus or shuttle. Uber hasn't established itself in Central Otago yet, but there are limited taxi services, tour providers and courtesy shuttles. These have the added benefit of local drivers to share a few tips and tales.

### Driving to or from

We're not called Central Otago for nothing. We are so central that you can arrive by road from any direction – north, south, east or west. You will travel through some dramatically different and jaw-droppingly beautiful landscapes whichever route you take.

In rural areas many roads are unsealed gravel, so if your journey takes you down one – slow down and take extra care.

Driving conditions are great for most of the year, but winter weather can be extreme on some of our roads. Please stay aware, ask for advice and drive to the conditions. Being ice or snow bound can be the perfect excuse to relax beside a roaring wood fire and stay cosy while you wait for conditions to improve.

### Services and conveniences

In Cromwell and Alexandra you will find the full range of retail and essential services that you'd expect to find outside the big city. These include supermarkets, fuel stations, public toilets, waste and transfer stations, medical centres, police, pharmacies, postal services, banks and a range of retail shops. Our smaller towns will generally have ATMs, general stores and grocery shops, fuel, public toilets and some smaller retail options.

Wi-fi internet access is available and offered free in some towns and locations.

Should you need medical treatment, visitors should first contact the nearest medical centre or in an emergency dial 111 for police, fire or ambulance. There is no public hospital accident and emergency department.

### Accommodation – be our guest

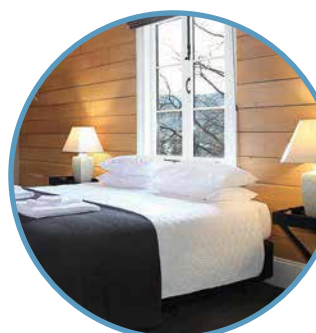
Central Otago offers a broad choice of accommodation from boutique B & Bs and intimate lodge-style accommodation, to vineyard and farm cottages, country pubs, hotels and motels, backpackers and campsites. As a rule of thumb the larger the town the wider the choice of accommodation you will find.

Summer is a busy time in Central Otago so it pays to book well in advance. You'll find further details about the region's accommodation options on our website and at any of our i-SITES.

### Camping – be responsible

Generations of families and friends come every year to enjoy their traditional camping holidays at Central Otago's holiday parks and camping grounds.

For the most up-to-date information and responsible camping guidelines visit [centralotagoz.com/camping](http://centralotagoz.com/camping) or call into an i-SITE.



### Tohu Whenua

The Tohu Whenua programme promotes New Zealand's unique culture and connects visitors to our stories and places. Be sure to visit one of the officially recognised sites to discover, experience and enjoy the places that have shaped our nation and created our stories.

Hayes Engineering at Otarehua, the Otago Central Rail Trail and the Bannockburn Sluicings have all been awarded landmarks status in Central Otago.

### Our Values

There are few places in the world that will leave you with a lasting sense of difference. Central Otago is one of them.

From its landscapes, its seasons, its people, its heritage, its produce and its experiences, moment by moment it will quietly reveal its many differences to you.

The people of Central Otago share a set of values that are designed to protect all of those things that make our region so distinctive.

Values like respecting others, learning from the past, protecting our heritage and preserving the environment. Some people might think that these values are a bit old fashioned, but we believe that living by them will shape a better future in the same way that they have shaped our past.

These values underpin the plans that Central Otago has for the development of the region's visitor industry and are embodied in the region's 'A World of Difference' brand mark.



A solitary cloud is whisked upwards against a vast deep blue sky. A native falcon — the Karearea — soars high above the golden contoured landscape of Central Otago.

In symbolic terms, the falcon is associated with a noble-natured people, strength, bravery, ingenuity and high spirits — evoking freedom and pride.

There are many stories that stitch this place together, from high country history to artisan food, fashion and wine.

Be inspired at [aworldofdifference.co.nz/our-stories](http://aworldofdifference.co.nz/our-stories)

### Our Promise

Sitting beside our values, we are proud to embrace New Zealand's 'Tiaki Promise' in welcoming you to our world.

Tiaki means to care for people and place.

The Tiaki Promise is a commitment to care for New Zealand, for now and for future generations.

By following the Tiaki Promise, you are making a commitment to New Zealand. To act as a guardian, protecting and preserving our home.



WHILE TRAVELING IN NEW ZEALAND I WILL

CARE FOR LAND, SEA AND NATURE, TREADING LIGHTLY AND LEAVING NO TRACE

TRAVEL SAFELY, SHOWING CARE AND CONSIDERATION FOR ALL

RESPECT CULTURE, TRAVELING WITH AN OPEN HEART AND MIND.



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