

Southern Scenic Route – Self Drive Itinerary

Days	Suggested activity/attraction	Suggested dining	Suggested accommodation	Special hints/tips
<p>Day 1: Depart Dunedin for the Catlins and travel south on the Southern Scenic Route, via Ocean Beach, Brighton, Taieri Mouth, Waihola, Milton and Balclutha.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taieri Mouth – fishing village • Nugget Point – lighthouse and wildlife sanctuary. • Cannibal Bay – sea lions often sighted. • Papatowai – take the Picnic Walk. • Tautuku Estuary Broadwalks – 30 mins return • Purakaunui Falls and McLeans Falls – spectacular waterfalls. • Cathedral Caves – 20min bush and beach walk. 	<p>Lumberjacks or tearooms at the Visitor Information Centre at Owaka or dine in with your farm/homestay hosts.</p>	<p>Stay in one of the many Farmstay/B&B in the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical walking shoes and wet weather clothing. • Insect repellent. • Please note that there is petrol available at Papatowai and then at Tokanui (but this garage closes at 12.00pm on Saturdays).
<p>Day 2: Depart the Catlins for Invercargill and discover breathtaking coastlines in the South Catlins region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Bay – one of the world’s finest fossil forests (best viewed at low tide) • Slope Point – the southern-most point of the South Island. • Waipohatu – short bush walk and a pleasant picnic area. • Waipapa Point – scene of the wreck of the “Taratua” one of New Zealand’s worst civilian shipping disasters. • Travel on to Invercargill and explore the city, parks and gardens, The Southland Museum, The Roaring 40’s Exhibition, Tuatarium and Art Gallery. • For a small fee there is the opportunity to view Invercargill city from the Watertower. 	<p>Invercargill has a vast selection of eateries specialising in Southland delicacies including famous Bluff Oysters and Blue Cod fish.</p>	<p>A hotel within the Mainstay Group Private boutique hotel Motels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When at the museum the tuataras are more visible if the sun is shining. Henry is the main player along with his extended family.

<p>Day 3: Travel from Invercargill via Riverton to Tuatapere</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paua shell factories and souvenir shops. • Riverton Rocks • Colac Bay/Oraka – long history of Maori occupation. • Cosy Nook – craggy cove sheltering several fishing boats and holiday cribs. • McCracken’s Rest – brilliant sea views and occasional viewing of Hector’s dolphins. • Bushman’s Museum, Tuatapere – ‘picture of Tuatapere’s past’. • Clifden Suspension Bridge – a fine example of 19th Century design. 	<p>Waiiau Hotel, Waiiau Town and Country Club, Highway 99 Café/Bar or dine in with your B&B hosts.</p>	<p>At Tuatapere there is family run Hotel or try a Western Southland farmstay (B&B)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical walking shoes and wet weather clothing.
<p>Day 4: Travel from Tuatapere via Te Anau to Garston</p>	<p>In the morning take a one day jet-boat/heli adventure. Jet boat across Lake Hauroko and down the Wairaurahiri River. <u>Options are:</u> Walk to the famous viaducts on the South Coast track or helicopter over the viaducts and The Hump Ridge Track.</p> <p>Continue on to Te Anau <u>Attractions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Anau Glowworm Caves. • ‘River Bug’ down the Eglinton River. 	<p>Te Anau has a wide selection of cafes and restaurants for lunch.</p> <p>Recommend dining with your farm hosts this evening</p>	<p>A Northern Southland Farm stay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical walking shoes and wet weather clothing. • Insect repellent. • The jet-boat ride would not be recommended to clients with back problems.