



Dunedin & Otago

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Best Places to Eat

- » Dunedin Farmers Market (p197)
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Best Places to Stay

- » Arden Street House (p194)
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Why Go?

Coastal Otago has attractions both urban and rural, offering a chance to escape Queenstown's crowds, party in the South Island's coolest city, and come face to face with the island's most accessible wildlife.

Otago's historic heart is Dunedin. With excellent bars, restaurants and cafes, it also hosts a vibrant student culture and arts scene. From Dunedin's stately Victorian train station, catch the famous Taieri Gorge Railway inland, and continue further on the craggily scenic Otago Central Rail Trail.

Those seeking backcountry NZ can soak up historic Clyde, atmospheric St Bathans and scenic, rustic Naseby. For wildlife, head to the Otago Peninsula, where penguins, albatross, sea lions and seals are easily sighted. Seaside Oamaru has a wonderful historic precinct, resident penguin colonies and a quirky devotion to Steampunk culture.

Unhurried, and overflowing with picturesque scenery, Otago is undeniably generous to explorers after something a little less intense.

When to Go

February and March have settled, sunny weather (usually...), and the juicy appeal of fresh apricots, peaches and cherries. Take to two wheels on the Otago Central Rail Trail during the quieter months of May and December, or ride graciously into the past on a penny farthing bicycle at Oamaru's Victorian Heritage Celebrations in November.



Dunedin & Otago Highlights

- ① Sampling local beers and gastronomic excellence in the cafes and restaurants of **Dunedin** (p189)
- ② Discovering laid-back charm along the quiet northern shore of **Otago Harbour** (p199)
- ③ Peering at penguins, admiring albatross and staring at sea lions and fur seals on **Otago Peninsula** (p201)
- ④ Cycling through lonely vistas of brown and gold along the **Otago Central Rail Trail** (p208)
- ⑤ Tasting some of the planet's best pinot noir amid the vineyards of **Bannockburn** (p206)
- ⑥ Winding through gorges, alongside canyons and across tall viaducts on the snaking **Taieri Gorge Railway** (p200)
- ⑦ Exploring NZ's southern heritage in villages like **Clyde** (p207) and **Naseby** (p210)
- ⑧ Experiencing a heritage past and a Steampunk future in historic **Oamaru** (p213)