

Itinerary for the Southern Scenic Route including Fiordland, Southland and The Catlins

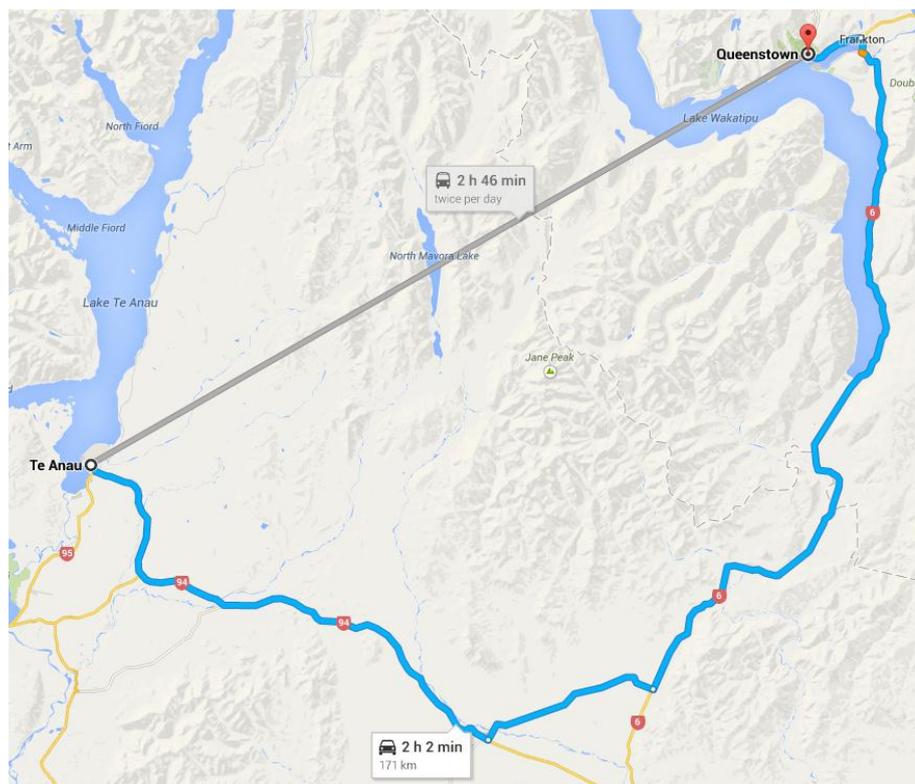
www.southernscenicroute.co.nz



There are a number of good accommodation options available in Fiordland and Southland. For more information please visit:

www.fiordland.org.nz
www.southlandnz.com
[Southland Trade Manual](#)

Drive from Queenstown Airport to Te Anau. The trip should take approx. 2 hours 30 minutes.



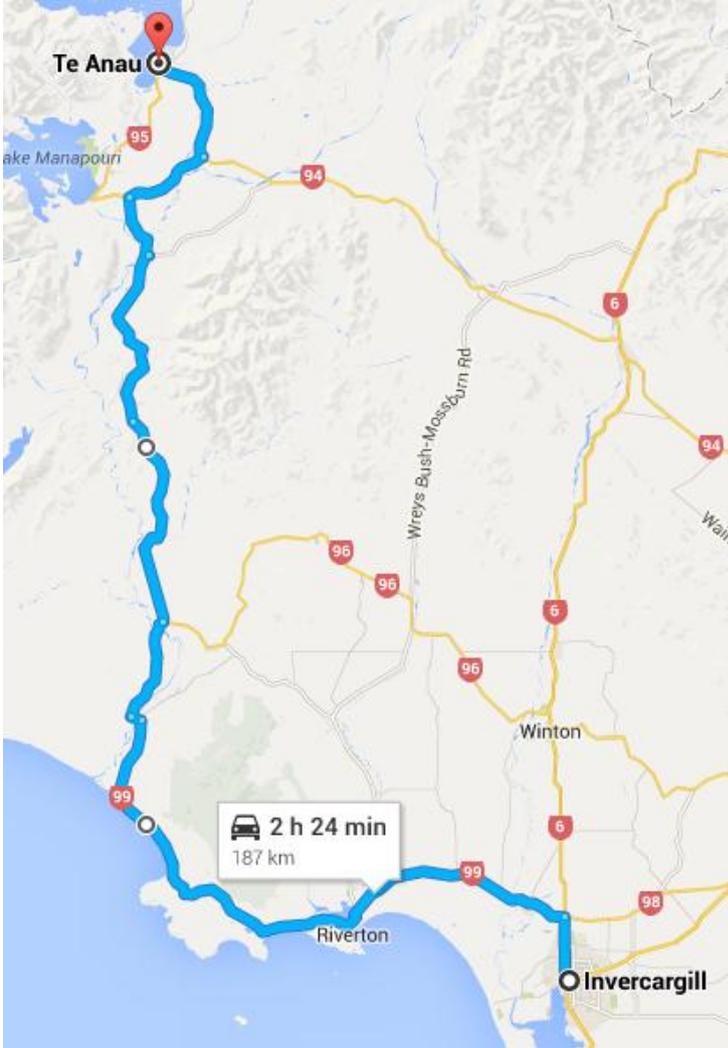
Fiordland

Fiordland National Park is a World Heritage Area and the largest national park in New Zealand. Here untamed waterfalls tumble hundreds of metres into virgin forested valleys, lonely fiords offer untold beauty and stretches of crystal clear lakes reflect the pristine mountain scenery. Maori legend tells a story of demi-god Tu-te-raki-whanoa who carved the fiords with his adze Te Hamo. Today, visitors are drawn by the remote, rugged landscape and the majestic Doubtful and Milford Sounds. The region is best explored hiking on the many walking tracks, sea kayaking or a relaxing boat cruise in one of the sounds.

www.fiordland.org.nz

DAY ONE	Arrive Te Anau approx. midday
	<p>Real Journeys Glow Worm Caves Experience a mysterious underground world of rushing water before drifting in silent darkness beneath the luminous shimmer of thousands of glowworms. Your trip to the Te Anau Glowworm Caves begins with a cruise to the western shores of Lake Te Anau on one of our purpose-built scenic cruise vessels. At the entry to the caves at Cavern House, view the informative displays and learn about this geological wonder before you join your guide underground. On the tour of the caves, our friendly guides will point out the highlights and share their knowledge of the caves and their history.</p> <p>This underground world is astonishingly beautiful. By geological standards the caves are very young (12,000 years) and are still being carved out by the force of the river that flows through them. The result is a twisting network of limestone passages filled with sculpted rock, whirlpools and a roaring underground waterfall. Deep inside the caves, beyond the roar of the water, you will be taken by small boat into a silent hidden grotto inhabited by thousands of glowworms, unique to New Zealand. In the subterranean darkness, they produce a glittering display that is nothing short of extraordinary.</p> <p>Contact: Real Journeys Phone: 03 249 8900 www.realjourneys.co.nz</p>
	<p>Fiordland Cinema – Ata Whenua You can't leave the region without viewing the award-winning Ata Whenua at the purpose built, Fiordland Cinema. This modern, boutique-style cinema was opened in 2004 for the main purpose of screening a spectacular half hour movie called Ata Whenua. Ata Whenua was filmed by helicopter pilot, and the creator of Fiordland Cinema, Kim Hollows. The movie shows aerial footage of the Fiordland World Heritage Park, and has been matched with music that has a Kiwi flavour, such as native birds, and sounds of Maori musical instruments. As the movie was filmed by helicopter, visitors who don't have the opportunity to see Fiordland by air can see parts of the region that they would otherwise have not been able to see. The cinema has a chic bar and lounge area, and you can take your coffee, wine or snacks into the 52-seat theatre while watching the movie.</p> <p>Contact: Bard Crawford Address: 7 The Lane, Te Anau Phone: 03 249 8844 Website: www.fiordlandcinema.co.nz</p>
DAY TWO	Explore Milford Sound
	<p>Milford Sound Wet or fine, Milford Sound is incredibly grand. Mitre Peak magnetises photographers, and the fiord's sheer cliffs excite both admiration and apprehension. Milford Sound is by far the best known of all of the fiords and the only one that can be accessed by road. It is approximately 16km from the head of the fiord to the open sea, which means visitors can comfortably travel the length of the fiord to open ocean and return on one of the many cruise options available in 1½ to 2 hours cruising time. Visitors to Milford Sound will not be disappointed.</p>

<p>Option two:</p>	<p>Full day Milford experience – Walk and Cruise Travel to Milford Sound where we begin with a short boat ride across Milford Sound's Deep Water Basin to Sandfly Point, adeptly named as you will see! This is the end point of the Milford Track, but the start of our Milford hike. From there we begin our guided walk, meandering alongside the cascading Arthur River then Lake Ada, on a well formed track. Our destination and half way point is Giants Gate Waterfall. This spectacular waterfall is best viewed and photographed from the large swing bridge spanning the river.</p> <p>There is much to see, from the ancient trees towering above, to the vibrant green ferns and mosses below. Your Trips & Tramps nature guide will point out the native fauna and flora, and share the fascinating human heritage of the track, bringing the area to life. On completion of the walk an opportunity is made for photos at the sign marking the end of the walk, festooned with the boots of walkers that have made it to the end of the walk, not a single step further. Then we re-join the boat for a transfer back to the Milford village. Following your walk you will be taken to the departure point for the Milford Sound cruises.</p> <p>Explore the stunning Milford Sounds this afternoon with the Scenic Cruise by Real Journeys. Your guide will drop you off for the correct sailing. Our Scenic Cruise vessels have purpose-built observation lounges and large decks, so you can be sure you'll get some great viewing opportunities. You'll see the geological drama of sheer cliffs, massive waterfalls, glaciers and rainforest. Look out for wildlife like seals basking on the rocks or dolphins swimming. During the cruise, our friendly crew provide commentaries in several languages and point out the sights such as Mitre Peak and the Pembroke Glacier.</p> <p>Contact: Steve Norris Phone: 0800 305807 www.tripsandtramps.com www.tripsandtramps.com</p>
	<p>Explore the Sounds - Doubtful Sound Sometimes called 'The Sound of Silence', there is a cloistered serenity within Doubtful Sound that contrasts with Milford Sound. The fiord is rich in flora and fauna, New Zealand fur seals and Fiordland Crested Penguins can be seen on many of the small islets at the entrance of the fiord. At 421 metres deep, Doubtful is the deepest of the fiords and is long and winding with three distinct 'arms' and several outstanding waterfalls in the area from Deep Cove to the open ocean, a distance of around 40.4 kilometres. There are many ways to experience Doubtful Sound - by kayak or cruise, as a day trip or on an overnight experience.</p>
<p>Option one:</p>	<p>Doubtful Sound Wilderness Day Cruise Real Journeys offer a variety of experiences in some of the most beautiful places on earth - from stunning Milford Sound to spectacular Doubtful Sound through to the unspoilt magic of the Te Anau Glowworm Caves. Discover for yourself what makes this Fiordland so inspirational.</p> <p>Board a modern catamaran for a three hour cruise exploring the vast and unspoilt wilderness of Doubtful Sound, including transport from Te Anau to Manapouri</p> <p>Phone: +64 3 249 7416 Email: contact@realjourneys.co.nz Website: www.realjourneys.co.nz</p>

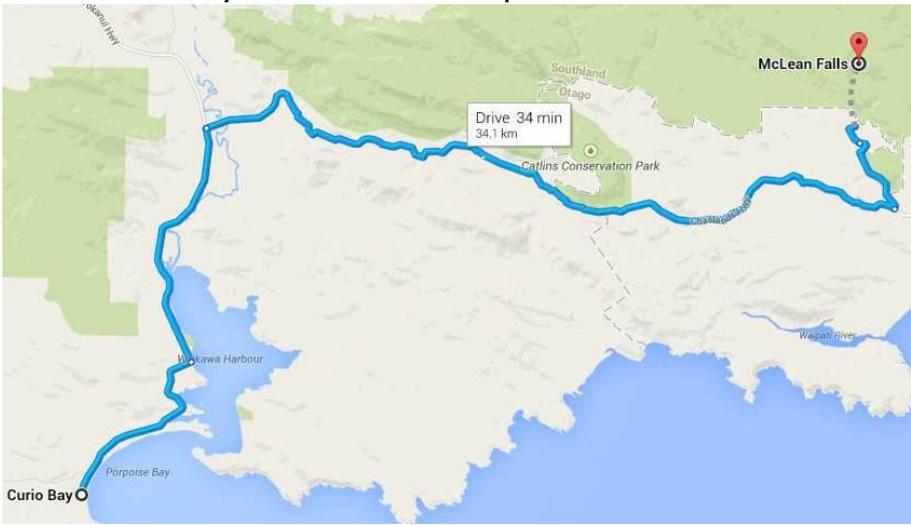
<p>Option two:</p>	<p>Overnight Cruise – Doubtful Sound</p> <p>For one night and two days explore the stunning scenery of Doubtful Sound. On-board activities differ between operators, but can include: fishing, sightseeing, stargazing, swimming and kayaking. There is always the possibility of an encounter with wildlife including bottlenose dolphins, seals and penguins.</p> <p>Return midday Day 3.</p> <p>Operator to be confirmed.</p>												
<p>DAY THREE</p>	<p>Depart Te Anau along the Southern Scenic Route.</p>												
	<p>Te Anau – Invercargill via Southern Scenic Route</p>  <p>The map displays the Southern Scenic Route from Te Anau in the north to Invercargill in the south. The route is marked with a blue line and includes several road numbers: 95, 94, 96, 99, 6, and 98. Key locations along the route include Te Anau, Manapouri, Riverton, and Winton. A callout box shows a driving time of 2 h 24 min for a distance of 187 km. Other roads shown include Wreys Bush-Mossburn Rd and Wai.</p>												
	<p>Approximate Distances and Driving Times</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Te Anau - Manapouri</td> <td>22 km</td> <td>15 min</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manapouri - Tuatapere</td> <td>79 km</td> <td>1 hr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuatapere - Riverton/Aparima</td> <td>48 km</td> <td>50 min</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Riverton/Aparima - Invercargill</td> <td>38 km</td> <td>40 min</td> </tr> </table>	Te Anau - Manapouri	22 km	15 min	Manapouri - Tuatapere	79 km	1 hr	Tuatapere - Riverton/Aparima	48 km	50 min	Riverton/Aparima - Invercargill	38 km	40 min
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	Suggested stops via the Southern Scenic Route
Option one:	<p>Wairaurahiri Jet</p> <p>Experience one of the most exhilarating and adrenaline-pumping rides in New Zealand! Enjoy 74km of jet boating into the heart of the Fiordland National Park, which includes a fascinating and educational guided nature walk, native podocarp forest, and South Coast beech forest.</p> <p>Being New Zealand's steepest jet boat-able river, enjoy thrills and spills as your driver Johan, manoeuvres through some of the most exciting and intense white water rapids in New Zealand!</p> <p>Appreciate the amazing scenery with a few stops for short walks along the way and when you reach your destination, enjoy a good old kiwi barbecue for lunch at the Waitutu Lodge, which is set amongst bush described by Dr. David Bellamy as "probably the most important forest in the world".</p> <p>Trip duration: 6.5 hours (minimum). Please ensure you take warm clothes and a waterproof jacket.</p> <p>CONTACT DETAILS Johan Groters and Joyce Kolk 1250 Clifden-Orawia Rd Clifden, Tuatapere Tel: +64 3 225 5677 Email: johan.joyce@wjet.co.nz www.wjet.co.nz</p>
Option two:	<p>Hump Ridge Jet</p> <p>Hump Ridge Jet is one of New Zealand's most exciting adventures - a premier jet boat experience based in a land of untouched wilderness and breathtaking beauty. See the rugged splendour of Lake Hauroko and the Wairaurahiri River – 27 kilometres of rock-strewn rapids leading right to New Zealand's wild south coast. There are a number of exciting options available – half day, one day, and two day adventures, as well as heli jet and various other hunting, fishing and group booking options.</p> <p>CONTACT DETAILS Paul and Gwen Roff 17 Main St, Otautau, Southland Tel: +64 3 225 8174 Free Phone: 0800 270 556 Email: jetboat@ihug.co.nz www.wildernessjet.co.nz</p>
	<p>Tuatapere</p> <p>The centre of a farming community, Tuatapere is often referred to as the 'Sausage Capital of New Zealand.' It has several art and craft galleries and the Bushman's Museum displays a detailed account of the area's sawmilling history. There are also a number of jet boating, fishing and tramping opportunities available.</p>

	<p>Orepuki A former gold mining settlement, the quiet town of Orepuki now has a population of approximately 100 and features a pub, store, bowling green, community hall and a church.</p>
	<p>Cosy Nook Cosy Nook is a rocky cove sheltering several fishing boats and holiday homes. Early European settlers reported Pahi's Village – a Kai Tahu settlement of forty houses' was situated here.</p>
	<p>Colac Bay/Oraka A large statue of a surfer riding a wave greets visitors to Colac Bay. First settled by early Māori, the rocky coastline, great sandy beach and surf continue to attract people to this small settlement.</p>
	<p>Riverton/Aparima A popular seaside and holiday resort, Riverton is known as the 'Riviera of the South'. Riverton is rich in early Māori history and is one of the earliest European settlements in New Zealand.</p>
	<p>Te Hikoi Southern Journey Te Hikoi Southern Journey is the South's ultimate heritage attraction, just 25 minutes from Invercargill on the Southern Scenic Route. Take an interactive journey through 'Te Hikoi', featuring authentic displays, adventurous characters and engaging stories. These reveal how our Maori and European ancestors adapted to survive on nature's edge.</p> <p>Te Hikoi 172 Palmerston Street Riverton Tel: +64 3 234 8260 Email: carole.tehikoi@xtra.co.nz www.tehikoi.co.nz</p>
	<p>Depart Riverton for Invercargill and Bluff</p> <p>Southland's largest urban centre is Invercargill, a city of over 50,000 people. Visitors come to admire the elegant Victorian and Edwardian buildings, gardens and landscaped parks. Invercargill is built around beautiful Queens Park - 80 hectares of gardens, wildlife and sporting fun. As well as an 18-hole golf course, the park has animal enclosures, a bird aviary and the Southland Museum and Art Gallery.</p> <p>A half hour drive south from Invercargill is the fishing port of Bluff - home to the famous Bluff oyster and a lively annual seafood festival. From Bluff, visitors can catch a ferry to Stewart Island - a haven for native bird life and one of the only places in New Zealand where you can see kiwi in their natural habitat. Stewart Island is an ecological wonderland. The clamour of civilisation is replaced by rapturous birdsong and sounds of the sea. Rendezvous with a kiwi, visit Ulva Island Bird Sanctuary or walk one of the many tracks www.southlandnz.com</p>

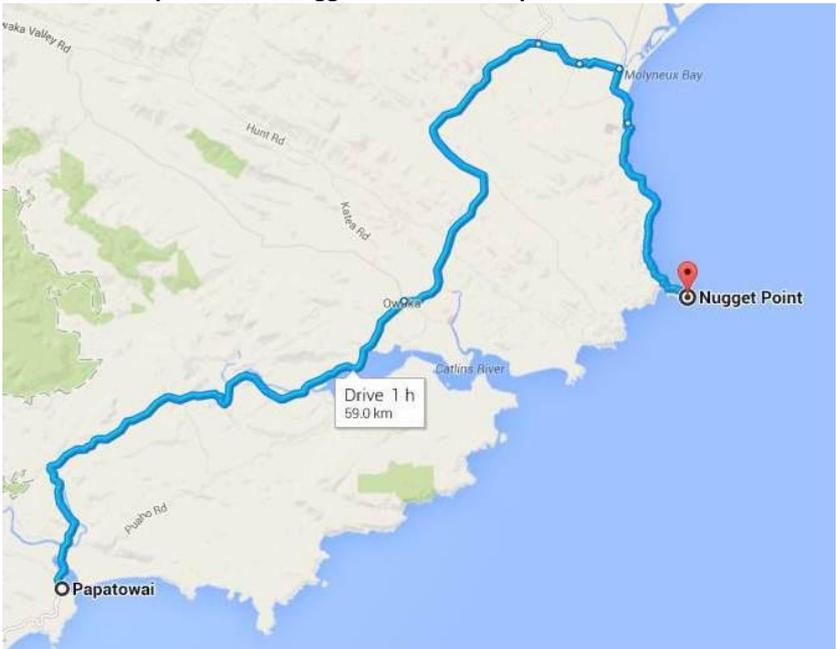
DAY FOUR	Invercargill Activity Suggestions
<p>Option one:</p>	<p>Blue River Cheese Factory Blue River Dairy is a producer of award winning sheep milk products and operates in the fertile plains of Southland. The Blue River sheep graze on the lush, green pastures which provide them with fresh milk daily. The unique flavour of Blue River cheeses comes from the natural grazing of their sheep and the traditional cheese making techniques used by the cheese makers.</p> <p>Blue River Cheese Factory 111 Nith Street, Invercargill Tel: +64 3 211 5150</p>
<p>Option two:</p>	<p>E Hayes & Sons Ltd Store owner Norman Hayes helped Burt get the materials he needed to modify the Indian. When Burt's health deteriorated Norman bought two of his bikes to keep his motorcycling legacy in Southland. E Hayes & Sons has a comprehensive display, together with merchandise, in their Dee Street premises.</p>  <p>E Hayes & Sons Ltd 168 Dee street INVERCARGILL Phone: +64 218 2059 Email: admin@ehayes.co.nz Website: www.ehayes.co.nz</p>
<p>Option three:</p>	<p>Invercargill Brewery New Zealand's beers are not only diverse in their varieties but also in their geographical locations, and there is no brewery further south than the Invercargill Brewery. Tour the brewery and try the unique flavour which is Invercargill's own beer and cider. What started as a hobby is fast becoming the all-consuming business that is Invercargill Brewery.</p> <p>Invercargill Brewery 72 Leet Street, Invercargill Tel: +64 3 214 5070 Email: info@invercargillbrewery.co.nz</p>

<p>Option four:</p>	<p>Southland Museum & Art Gallery and Queens Park</p> <p>The Southland Museum and Art Gallery is situated in the largest pyramid in the Southern Hemisphere (27m high) in Queens Park, the jewel of Invercargill. Visit the unique Roaring 40's Galley featuring the Sub-Antarctic Islands, and the Burt Munro exhibition - a tribute to a Southern legend and land speed record holder. It is also home to the successful Tuatara Breeding Programme which has over 80 tuatara. The museum also boasts wonderful heritage items and varying art exhibitions.</p> <p>Tuatara Breeding Programme</p> <p>He's grumpy, over 100 years old and tends to look down his nose at everyone, but Henry the tuatara is one of Southland's most popular residents. With a tendency to bite the tails off his girlfriends, it's fair to say Henry provides star, rather than paternal, qualities. The reptilian enclave is one of the few places to marvel up close at tuatara, "living fossils" whose ancestors walked in the footprints of giant dinosaurs 220 million years ago. Henry became a proud father for the first time in 2008 at the tender age of 111 years!</p> <p>Southland Museum and Art Gallery 108 Gala Street, Invercargill Tel: +64 3 219 9069 Email: office@southlandmuseum.com</p> 
<p>DAY FIVE</p>	<p>Depart Invercargill for The Catlins</p>
	<p>Drive from Invercargill to Waikawa and Curio Bay. The trip should take about 1 hour, 15 minutes.</p> 

<p>Visit</p>	<p>Curio Bay Fossilised Forest</p> <p>The fossilised remains of an ancient forest is exposed at Curio Bay during low tide. This is one of the most extensive and least disturbed examples of a Jurassic fossil forest in the world and stretches about 20 kms from Curio Bay south west to Slope Point.</p> <p>180 million years ago the Curio Bay area was a broad forested coastal floodplain. During this time, the middle Jurassic period, New Zealand was part of the ancient super-continent known as Gondwana. The forest predominantly consisted of trees forming a low canopy and undergrowth dominated by ferns.</p> <p>Over time, massive sheet floods of volcanic debris are believed to have destroyed the forest. In the millions of years since, the sediments were buried deeply and eventually turned the wood to rock. In some places fern fronds and leaves have been preserved as fossils within the mudstone rocks.</p> <p>Curio Bay is great for viewing yellow eyed penguins, which can be spotted from a safe distance at dusk and dawn.</p>
<p>Suggested lunch spot</p>	<p>Niagara Falls Café</p> <p>An oasis in The Catlins. Set in a historic Niagara school house, enjoy delicious New Zealand cuisine and wine. During summer the café is open for breakfast, lunch and extensive a' la carte evening dining. Specials include whitebait, Bluff oysters, green lipped mussels, salmon, venison and a dessert board to die for! The Gallery has locally produced arts and crafts. Families, groups and functions welcome.</p> <p>Contact: Laura and Sue Thompson 256 Niagara Waikawa Road Niagara Tel: +64 3 246 8577 Email: niagarafallscafe@xtra.co.nz</p>
	<p>Drive from Curio Bay to McLean Falls. The trip should take about 35 minutes.</p> 
	<p>Depart along the Southern Scenic Route. Key stops include:</p>

	<p>McLean Falls Take the turn off at Rewcastle Road and travel 3km to the car park where this 40 minute return walk begins. This is a forest walk to what some say is the most striking of The Catlins' waterfalls.</p> <p>Easy Walking - 40 minutes return</p>
	<p>Cathedral Caves The walk passes through the podocarp and kamahi forest of the Waipati Beach Scenic Reserve. After reaching the beach it's another 10 minutes to the caves. When the tide's right you can walk from one cave to another, though you should be prepared for wet feet!</p> <p>Access to the caves is limited at times due to tide levels, please visit the website below for more information www.cathedralcaves.co.nz</p>
	<p>Lake Wilkie Take a short walk through tranquil podocarp forest and you will reach a peaceful lookout and boardwalk over Lake Wilkie. The lake was formed as a result of the last ice age. When the rata is in flower you will be treated to a feast of colour and birdsong as the native tui and bellbird enjoy the nectar.</p>
	<p>The Lost Gypsy Caravan, Papatowai Deep in the heart of The Catlins, in a tiny hamlet called Papatowai. The intriguing figure of a man stands at the side of the road. His arms stretched high above his head; he holds a sign that points to a highly decorated and mysterious house-bus labelled The Lost Gypsy. Crunch up the path and, close to the entrance, there is a sign on a post and underneath a button reads: "There are many temptations in life and this is one of them". Who could resist? Press the button and a jet of water shoots from the mouth of a china mask of Maggie Thatcher and straight at your ear!</p> <p>This is the first surprise in this caravan of surprises where Blair Somerville, an escapee from Auckland, has honed the skills he learnt as an engineer to make ingeniously mobile what-nots that he calls 'rustic automata'. He fashions these gizmos from old tins, bits of wire, shells and wood that he finds nearby and powers them by tiny solar panels or clever dynamics.</p>
	<p>Purakaunui Falls A 10 minute walk on an excellent track brings you to the best known of The Catlins' forest waterfalls, located in a small reserve of mixed podocarp and beech forest.</p>
	<p>Purakaunui Bay A side trip to Purakaunui Bay is well worth while, whether to see the highest cliffs in The Catlins, to explore the sheltered beach and rocky shore or to camp.</p>
	<p>The Catlins Lake At low tide, many migratory and resident wading birds can be seen in this large tidal lake. There are pleasant picnic areas on both sides of the lake and fishing is possible.</p>

	<p>Owaka – is a key stop within The Catlins region. It has a number of good country cafes, accommodation and attractions.</p>
	<p>Owaka Museum Take yourself to the Owaka Museum on your journey to the south-east edge of Aotearoa / New Zealand. Discover Owaka's new architectural feature, the Owaka Museum: Wahi Kahuika the Meeting Place - a rest on your journey. Experience a visual, story-filled journey and discover what made The Catlins how it is today. This includes exhibitions, mini-movies, and shipwreck & settler stories.</p> <p>Contact: Kaaren Mitcalfe 10 Campbell Street Owaka Tel: +64 3 415 8371 Email: kaaren@in2net.co.nz</p>
<p>Café suggestion</p>	<p>Catlins Cafe Catlins Café offers fantastic espresso coffee using world class Allpress Coffee. Their menu boasts homemade cafe style food, traditional fish and chip takeaways and all the tasty NZ treats like Tip Top rolled ice creams and milkshakes.</p> <p>Contact: Aileen and Steve 3 Main Road Owaka 9535 Tel: +64 3 415 8040 Email: catlinscafe.co.nz www.catlinscafe.co.nz</p> <p>Winter hours: Sunday – Wednesday 9.00am – 7.00pm Thursday – Saturday 9.00am – 8.30pm</p> <p>Summer hours: Monday – Sunday 7.30am – 8.30pm</p>
<p>Café suggestion</p>	<p>Lumberjack Café The Lumberjack Café & Bar is well known throughout the south for its good food and great atmosphere. Situated in Owaka, it is within walking distance of all local accommodation, and in easy reach of all the activities the area has to offer.</p> <p>3 Saunders St Owaka Tel: +64 3 415 8747 Email: lumberjack_owaka@hotmail.com</p> <p><u>Summer Hours</u> Tuesday – Sunday Lunch 12 – 2.30 pm Dinner 6pm – 8pm</p> <p><u>Winter Hours</u> Wednesday – Sunday Lunch 12 – 2.30 pm Dinner 6pm – 8pm</p>

	<p>Drive from Papatowai to Nugget Point. The trip should take about 1 hour.</p> 
	<p>Nugget Point The Department of Conservation Wildlife Reserve at Nugget Point has dramatic views of “The Nuggets.” These wave-eroded rocks, which are likened to the shape of gold nuggets, can be seen from the viewing platform at the Nugget Point Lighthouse.</p> <p>Along the way to the lighthouse you may see the fur seal colony on the rocks at sea level to the left of the track and also below the lighthouse, or the many seabirds that make The Nuggets their home. During the months of December – February elephant seals also make The Nuggets their stopover point.</p> <p>Roaring Bay, which is on the road to Nugget Point, is only a short walk from the car park to a bird-viewing hide. Yellow eyed penguins can be seen here as they move from the sea to their nesting places in coastal vegetation.</p>
	<p>Cannibal Bay In this small sheltered bay and beach, which was the site of early Maori encampments, New Zealand sea lions can often be seen. The sedimentary rock formations are spectacular.</p>
	<p>Drive from Nugget Point to Dunedin. The trip should take about 1 hour 30 minutes.</p>

