

# CENTRAL OTAGO

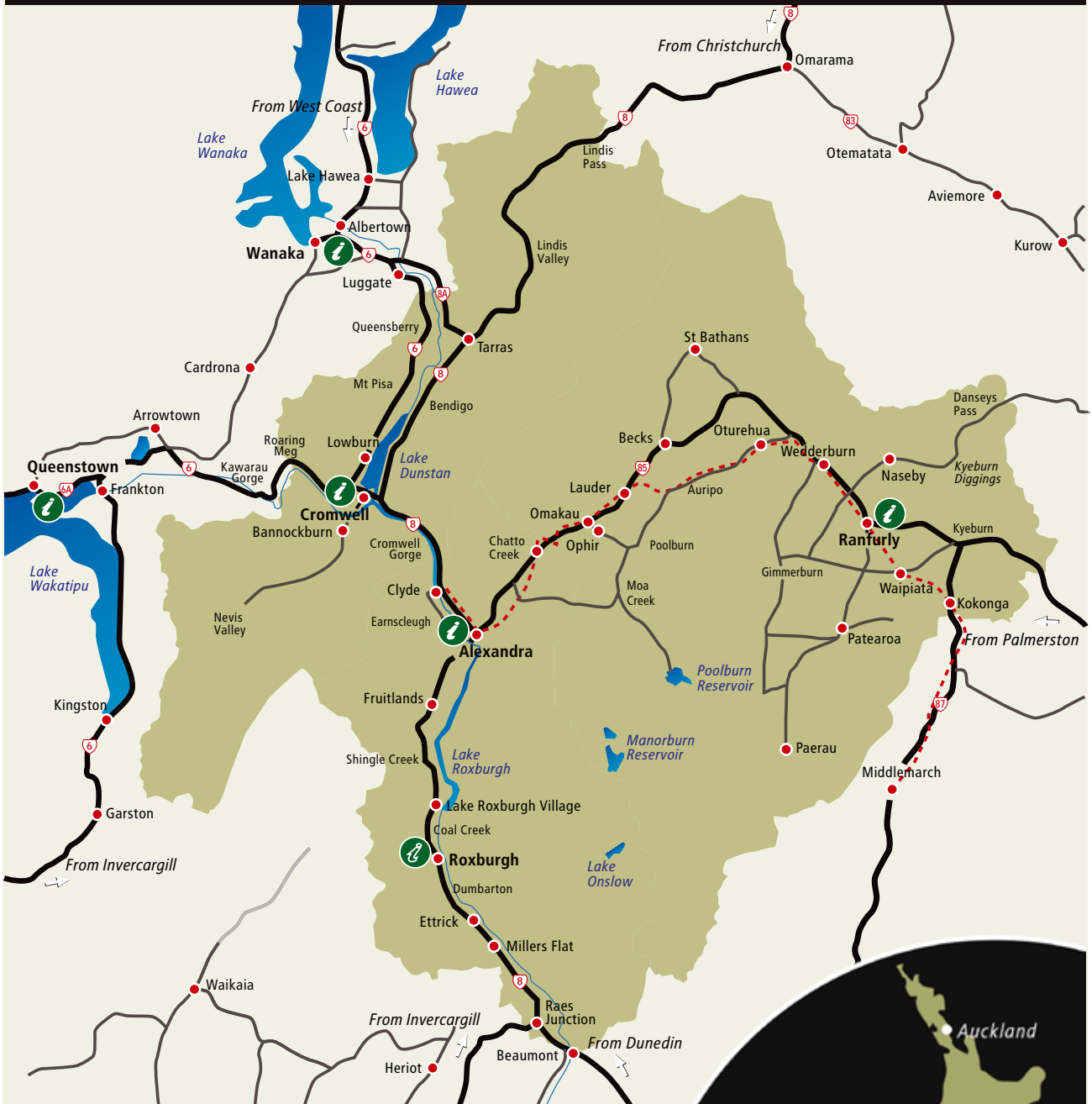
A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



2011 Product Directory

# CENTRAL OTAGO AREA MAP

## CENTRAL OTAGO



### KEY

- Roads
- Otago Central Rail Trail
- Towns
- Information Centres



# INTRODUCTION

## HOW TO USE THIS DIRECTORY



This directory is part of a range of generic marketing resources designed to keep you informed about the product on offer in the Central Otago region.

This directory is a PDF file and is interactive when viewed on screen. It is a comprehensive guide divided into sections that include the general introduction to the region, Accommodation, Activities and Attractions, Wining and Dining, Retail and Services.

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## DISCLAIMER



While all due care has been taken to ensure accuracy of this publication, Tourism Central Otago accepts no responsibility or liability for any error, omissions or the offers or details of operator listings. Prices, timetables and other details or terms of business may change without notice.

Tourism Central Otago is the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for Central Otago. It works closely with Tourism New Zealand, local and national tourism organisations' to coordinate and facilitate the marketing of Central Otago as a visitor destination.

Tourism Central Otago can assist accredited industry and media personnel with familiarisation visits to the region. Site inspections will be coordinated to ensure you meet with the right people. Tourism Central Otago staff visit domestic and international wholesalers and inbound operators, and attend TRENZ annually.

## "Destination Management

*The landscape and its people offer a lifestyle with refreshing openness and honesty. A way of life that shuns pretension, where true merits are valued and provide a deeper sense of satisfaction.*

The people of Central Otago have a strong sense of "Love of Place" and are proud to share their place with visitors. They also desire a balance between the environment, community and tourism. This is a place where respect for the land prompts sustainable solutions.

As a unit of the Central Otago District Council, Tourism Central Otago achieves this balance through a Destination Management policy – a "whole of community" approach. It's about working together to protect what is special in this place. Maintaining effective working partnerships between all the communities and businesses involved in tourism helps to ensure a sustainable future."

## Sales Material

Tourism Central Otago is able to provide generic marketing resources, assistance and promotional material which include:

- Central Otago Product Directory
- Central Otago Visitor Guide
- The Essence of Central Otago booklet

- Suggested itineraries
- Coordination of trade familiarisation itineraries
- Coordinating itineraries for international and domestic media
- Photographic Image Library - CD-ROM; Transparencies; On-line access
- Central Otago product information
- Central Otago specific brochures
- Central Otago poster

We want to ensure that your clients have the best possible experience in Central Otago and we look forward to assisting you in planning your clients' holiday to our region.

An order form for Sales Material is included in the back of this Product Directory.

## Trade

Listed in this Product Directory is a selection of products and services in Central Otago which you access via on screen PDF link. Commissionable products and services are coded by the above symbol. For individual product information please select and print your PDF fact sheet from appropriate links under Accommodation, Activities and Attractions, Wining and Dining, Retail and Services.

## Contact Us

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## [www.centralotagonz.com](http://www.centralotagonz.com)

Our website provides detailed information on the range of products and services available in Central Otago. It also provides comprehensive general information on the region as well as an events calendar.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Where is Central Otago and how do I get there?

Central Otago is located in the southern half of the South Island. The region is readily accessible by main highways from Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill, Queenstown and the West Coast via Wanaka. Queenstown International Airport is only 40 minutes drive away and Dunedin International Airport is 2.5 hours drive. Regular coach connections provide transport from Invercargill, Dunedin, Queenstown, Christchurch and the West Coast via Wanaka. Major rental car companies and campervan providers are represented in Christchurch, Dunedin and Queenstown.

*Refer to page 23 for more information*

## What can I do in Central Otago?

**Cycling** – The region boasts a diversity of cycling trails that suit all levels of cyclist. From the gentle gradients of the Otago Central Rail Trail, town cycleways and trails adjacent to waterways to suit the family; to easier and challenging downhill trails for the experienced mountain biker.

**Wine and Food** – From the harshest of climates comes the finest of produce. Central Otago vineyards thrive on short, hot growing seasons and cold nights to produce some of the world's best Pinot Noir wines. Olive oil, saffron, honey, thyme, walnuts and export quality stone fruit are produced right here – the local farmers markets, festivals and road side stalls celebrate the diversity of the region's boutique wine and food producers.

**Curling** – Introduced to Central Otago during the 1800s, curling is an ancient sport of precision and strategy which today can be enjoyed by the whole family all year round in the small alpine town of Naseby. Curling is similar to bowls but uses 20kg granite stones you slide along the ice. In winter curling can be played outdoors on natural ice, bonspiels (when they occur) are a spectacular sight not to be missed!

**Cultural Heritage** – Central Otago was rich in mostly alluvial (river) gold, mined from early 1860s until the 1930s. Those early pioneers shaped a landscape and left a social and cultural legacy that is part of what makes the region unique. Towering sluiced cliffs, herringbone tailings, water races, mining equipment, impressive stone masonry and assorted relics have been preserved. The region is also the home of great sheep stations, where Merino, Lincoln and Romney sheep excel. Discover a piece of New Zealand's agricultural history in Oturehua at Hayes Engineering Works.

**Camping** – The traditional and quintessential Kiwi camping holiday experience is still a welcome feature in Central Otago. The climate and lifestyle mean that this region truly is one of the prime camping centres in New Zealand. In and around urban areas campers can enjoy a wide choice of fully serviced camping grounds and a selection of limited facility camp sites in some smaller locations.

**Outdoor** – With four distinct seasons, you can set your own tempo of activity in Central Otago. Play a round of golf at any one of 11 golf courses; go fishing in high country lakes, rivers or dams with vast mountain vistas usually the backdrop; take a boat cruise down the Clutha River or go boating, yachting and swimming on Lake Dunstan; venture into the regions heartland on a 4WD trip or soak up the regions arts, museums and galleries.

## When is the best time of year to visit?

All year round! Summer is hot, dry and long (and generally) settled daylight hours mean you can take advantage of the full-on outdoor living and adventure. Central Otago stone fruit such as cherries, apricots, peaches and nectarines are just waiting to be picked from the tree and eaten!

Autumn is generally mild days and cooler evenings. The region is well known for its orchards and vineyards, so in April and May you will witness harvest time on the vineyards and a blaze of spectacular vibrant colour as the fruit trees and vines turn colours of fiery orange, red, golden yellow and rich brown.

Winter is crisp, very cold and icy. Snow-capped mountains dot the horizon, you maybe lucky enough to experience stunning hoar frosts where the land and everything on it is crystallised into mystical, magical apparitions. A perfect playground for ice sports such as curling or ice skating on dam or rink, luge and perhaps an opportunity to witness a seldom held bonspiel (curling) tournament on natural ice.

Spring is warm, skies brighten and the fragrance of blossom and thyme fills the air. It's the season of new beginnings and celebration! A patchwork of pink, white and green cloaks the region as orchards of fruit trees bloom (the Alexandra Blossom Festival is a long-held community-wide celebration of spring), lambs and calves are a typical sight on surrounding farm land.

## What is the Otago Central Rail Trail?

The Otago Central Rail Trail (Rail Trail) is a 150km wide gravel (stony) pathway for walkers or cyclists following the former railway line that ran between Middlemarch and Clyde. NO motorised vehicles are able to access the Rail Trail.

A gentle gradient means no 'steep' hills to walk or cycle, the Rail Trail is suitable for all ages and levels of cyclist, particularly good for family groups.

Queenstown and Dunedin Airports are about equal distance from either end of the Rail Trail. Dunedin is the preferred airport if starting the Rail Trail in Middlemarch and Queenstown the preferred airport if starting from Clyde.

[www.centralotagonz.com/otago-central-rail-trail](http://www.centralotagonz.com/otago-central-rail-trail)

## How long will it take me to cycle the Otago Central Rail Trail and when is the best time of year to do it?

Typically between 3-5 days to cycle the Rail Trail in its entirety, however because there are many entry and exit points along the trail you can cycle shorter sections. We suggest you allow at least an extra day to spend it in the Maniototo. If you are walking the Rail Trail allow 5-7 days.

Any time is a good time to experience the Rail Trail, particularly as each season offers something different to see, although the most popular time of year is between October and May. If you are considering the Rail Trail over this time of year it's recommended you pre-book accommodation as it's at a premium between February and April.

## Can I organise myself or do I need to do a packaged tour of the Otago Central Rail Trail?

You can organise all components from bike hire, accommodation, luggage transfers and transport to/from the Rail Trail yourself, or you can contact Rail Trail operators or the i-Sites who can help plan your itinerary and pre-book these components for you.

# CENTRAL OTAGO INTRODUCTION

## Regional Identity - Central Otago 'A World of Difference'



Creating a unique mark – the people of Central Otago enjoy the most generous environmental footprint of all New Zealanders. A unique world like no other; *a world of discovery, enterprise and magical lifestyles.*

The 'Brand' represents the values and expressions that include land and people. This has been symbolised with the upper part of the circular form representing a solitary cloud whisked upward against a vast deep blue sky. The lower form represents both the landscape and the New Zealand native falcon, the Karearea. In symbolic language, the falcon is associated with noble natured people, strength, bravery, ingenuity and high spirits, evoking freedom and pride as it soars above the golden, contoured land. We too can soar here.

Central Otago celebrates a magnificent natural and historic wealth. **A World of Difference.**   
[www.aworldofdifference.co.nz](http://www.aworldofdifference.co.nz)

## Celebrating and using the 'Brand'

Businesses listed in this manual who are approved users of the brand are identified by the logo shown within their listing.

Users of the Central Otago Regional Identity Brand have completed an application process and assessment to confirm that they adhere to the core principles and regional values of the 'Brand' as shown below.

### **Making a Difference**

Inspire and lead others with our special point of difference

### **Respecting Others**

Respect our cultural and personal differences

### **Embracing Diversity**

Recognise differences and embrace diversity

### **Adding Value**

Always ask ourselves if there is a better way – one that achieves a premium status

### **Having Integrity**

Seek to be open and honest

### **Learning from the Past**

Learn from past experiences with future generations in mind

### **Making a Sustainable Difference**

Make decision in business with the community in mind and in harmony with the natural environment

### **Protecting our Rich Heritage**

Protect and celebrate our rich heritage in landscapes, architecture, flora and fauna and different cultural origins

### **Meeting Obligations**

Meet legal obligations at both a local and national level





INTRODUCTION

# THE ESSENCE OF CENTRAL OTAGO

## Living the Difference

Central Otago is New Zealand's most inland region. It is also the hottest, coldest and driest. A fragmented schist plateau in a semi-desert environment, Central Otago is a living museum, scattered with historic features preserved by a dry climate. This peaceful, powerful place of physical challenge and seasonal contrast has barely changed over centuries.

Experience true solitude and get close to nature in an inspiring and timeless land. First time visitors are silenced and energised by this tumble of mountain, river, rock and tussock. See the grandeur of breathtaking vistas and be moved by their surging natural power. Central's clear light brings mountains within an arm's reach and displays a star-studded night sky. It is a place of extraordinary contrasts, our middle earth.

Central Otago, affectionately called "Central" by those that know it well, covers an area of 10,000km<sup>2</sup> and has fewer than 18,000 permanent residents. You will notice a change of pace when you come here.

It is a place where you can leave the stresses of work behind and just relax, soak in the atmosphere and let the rejuvenation process begin. Put your feet up in one of our many accommodation houses, where you will get to know the locals and be treated like a long lost friend rather than a visitor. Most never want to leave, but they take home treasured memories, and nearly always return.

Whatever your reasons for being in Central Otago, be they discovery, enterprise, or simply finding a more relaxed pace of life, here is a place which truly offers a *World of Difference*.

### *"A different escape..."*

*Visitors to this environment reflect on their complex lives when they experience the clear and simple definitions of nature in Central Otago."*

## Then and Now ... a different time

In pre-European times, Maori journeyed through Central Otago en-route to the West Coast, where they sourced *pounamu* (greenstone). They also came on seasonal expeditions to hunt eels, and birds, including the huge, flightless Moa (now extinct).

European settlement dates from the 1850s when large pastoral tracts were leased. The gold rush started in the 1860s and forms the foundation of many Central Otago communities and towns.

The production of hydro-electric power has also had a significant impact. The biggest dams are at Roxburgh and Clyde.

Nowadays agriculture and horticulture form the basis of the local economy. Other industries include forestry, viticulture, mining and tourism.

## Gold Heritage ... re-live the past

*They came in their thousands, Scottish, Welsh, Cornish, Chinese, Italians and others; endured searing summers and freezing winters; and lost lives and limbs amid the dangerous, back-breaking rush for Central Otago gold.*

The region was rich in mostly alluvial (river) gold, which was extensively mined from the early 1860s until the 1930s.

Retrace the gold rush through significant collections at the Alexandra and Cromwell Museums, along the Goldfields Heritage Trail and on Alexandra historic sites self-tours.

Marvel at early engineering achievements, and distinctions of architecture.

View diggings, and impressive cliffs with old water races and dams, created by sluicing.

Sight huge mounds of discarded tailings; and rivers deeply gorged by revolutionary dredging technology, dominant from the early 1900s.

Seek remains of stamper battery machinery at the occasional hard rock mines.





## High Country ... hear the difference

*Vast uncompromising beauty, the silence, the exhilaration of solitude*

*Just as winter starts to chill the air, teams of drovers on horseback take their dogs and head off to muster the traditional way. For three days they range across the mountains shepherding some 18,000 sheep down onto lower pastures.*

New Zealand is the world's largest producer and exporter of crossbred wool fibre, and Central Otago is the home of great sheep stations, where Merino, Lincoln and Romney sheep excel.

*High fashion begins in the Central Otago high country*

The Merino was here before the gold miner and has been refined over time. Its wool is much finer than traditional wool. Today, quality Merino garments grace leading fashion houses around the world.

## Wildflowers ... colour me central

*Delight in the beauty, rarity and tenacity of Central Otago's wildflowers*

They flourish alongside roads and rivers, in valleys, on hills and mountains. There are countless varieties, many rare, some endemic to their locations, and almost all, native to New Zealand.

Spring flowers peek through snow, thyme creeps up slopes, and incredible biodiversity prospers in desert drylands like Flat Top Hill and Pisa Flat.

Come summer, mountain ranges blossom with a myriad of alpine flowers, and the region is alive with cushionfields, herbs, daisies, shrubs, succulents and grasses.

In autumn wildflower flora is in seed or berry; as exotic trees bathe the landscape in shades of red and gold.

## Recreation ... a different pace

*Discover gratifying pursuits*

Snow skiing is distinctly different in Central Otago. It is a cross-country, self-discovery, ski adventure.

Winter ice-skating, ice-hockey and curling happens on outdoor rinks at Naseby and Alexandra. Once frozen, Manorburn Dam is a natural black-ice skating area.

Fishing in the lakes offers an abundance of trout. The Clutha River boasts excellent salmon fishing.

Kayaking, jetboating, sailing, wind-surfing, water-skiing and wake-boarding are popular on Lake Dunstan and Lake Roxburgh.

Central Otago has eleven golf courses and a mini-putt facility; endless hiking options, including the Otago Central Rail Trail; horse trekking; a busy multi-sport calendar; opportunities for four wheel drive excursions and hunting expeditions.

## The Otago Central Rail Trail

*Ride it, walk it, experience it!*

Once the route of a bustling railway line, the Otago Central Rail Trail (Rail Trail) is a 150km gravel path for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Modelled on Rails to Trails projects elsewhere in the world, the Rail Trail follows the former Otago Central Branch railway line from Middlemarch to Clyde. The Rail Trail provided a vital link between New Zealand's largest city - Dunedin and the country's major goldfields. For 83 years, the railway brought a steady stream of commerce and activity to a number of towns and communities throughout Central Otago.

As roads improved, and restrictions on distances trucks were permitted to carry goods were lifted, the railways use waned. In 1990 the 150km stretch of the line was closed permanently. In 1993 The Department of Conservation saw the disused railway's potential for outdoor enthusiasts. Its gentle gradient has no steep hills, and cycling takes 3-5 days to complete starting at either Clyde or Middlemarch or discover its treasures on any of its short sections. For an authentic experience take the Taieri Gorge Train from Middlemarch to Dunedin to begin or end your journey.

Central Otago is re-awakening with the Otago Central Rail Trail. The small gradients make it ideal for cycling, particularly for family groups. Cycle from spring to autumn (October – April). Springtime provides marvellous blossom and wildflowers filling the landscape with colour. Central Otago shows off in autumn with fiery colours and wonderful light capturing the natural landscape. In summer blue borage briar and Californian poppy are still abundant – the sky unpolluted blue and the night sky a blaze of stars. Be prepared for all types of weather; take plenty of water and sunscreen.

The Rail Trail enables the mountain biker, walker or horse rider to see hidden treasures not viewed from the road. You'll be surrounded by a sense of grandeur and space. From vast mountain vistas, wide open spaces, and meandering waterways you will be inspired to explore. The climate has preserved many old schist and stone buildings, some now re-furbished cafés and accommodation houses. Places to stay are plentiful from boutique lodges and country hotels to self-contained cottages and backpacker lodges. Each town you pass through has its own unique personality from historic Clyde, Ranfurly's art deco buildings and museum, classic country pubs, the Grahame Sydney Wedderburn goods shed and, best of all, the people!

This is New Zealand's first Rail Trail, let it take you across old wooden trestle bridges and viaducts; past schist rock, parched hills, tussock grasses, awesome gorge scenery and spectacular mountains; through farmlands and tunnels to historic landmarks, goldfields and pioneer settlements.

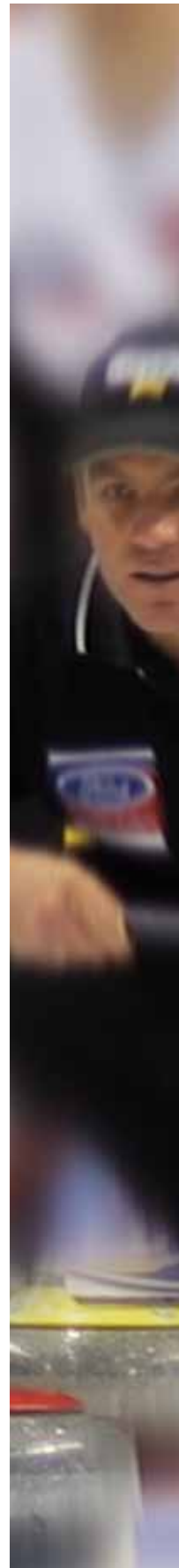
## Curling

*Grace the ice in an authentic, age-old, Scottish sporting tradition*

Curling was introduced to Central Otago during the 1800s, probably by miners passing the time when frozen winters made working impossible.

In this ancient sport of precision and strategy, smooth 20-kilogram granite stones glide over carefully groomed stretches of ice.

Time-honoured curling rituals dictate that after a Bonspiel (national tournament on natural ice) the *Curlers Court* must hold a secret ceremony to induct new members, and then serve a dinner of beef and greens.



Maniototo is the country's curling capital. It champions world-class curling sports people and is home to New Zealand's International Indoor Curling Rink at Naseby which is open year round.

New Zealand is the only place in the world where the traditional 'crampit' style of curling is still played.

## Mountain Biking

*Experience the freedom and the joy of getting off the beaten track*

A huge diversity of mountain bike trails beckon throughout the stunning Central Otago landscape.

Peddle around the towns and along bike paths adjacent to waterways.

Explore unpaved roads through remote tussock grass and unique wildflowers.

Ride the gentle gradient of the Otago Central Rail Trail. Discover its treasures on any of its short sections, or pace yourself over the full 150km and see it all.

Up the tempo, and hit the rocky single-track bike trails; or rise to the ultimate challenge of leg-burning climbs and exhilarating high-speed descents on the Central Otago mountain trails.

## Multi-Sport Events

*Take it to the limit!*

Central Otago is an exciting multi-sport destination.

Registrations for the popular autumn Goldrush event fill up within hours of opening.

Competitors thrash it out across 375 kilometres of old

pioneering trails of the gold rush era; kayaking, mountain biking, road biking and running through the back-country.

Other events on the multi-sport calendar include the 'Ghost to Ghost' triathlon at St Bathans, the Cromwell Half Marathon, the Pub to Pub Bannockburn Gutbuster Mountain Bike Race, Bannockburn MTB Classic, Lake Dunstan Triathlon, Lake Dunstan Cycle Challenge, Otago Central Rail Trail Duathlon, Carricktown Crusher MTB Race, Roxburgh Triathlon, and Naseby Triathlon.

## *"Flavours to Fashion...making the difference*

*Noble natured people, strength, bravery, ingenuity, high spirited, evoking freedom and pride."*

## Wine and Food ... Taste the difference

*From the harshest of climates comes the finest of produce*

Set amongst stunning alpine scenery 200-450 metres above sea level at 45 degrees south, Central Otago vineyards thrive on short, hot growing seasons, cold nights, and soils ranging from windblown sands to heavy silts.

Nurturing a fledgling yet rapidly growing wine industry, Central Otago is already recognised for producing some of the world's best Pinot Noir and other fine wines of unique vibrancy, purity, flavour and colour.

Take the Cromwell and Bannockburn Wine Trail along the spectacular Kawarau Gorge and Lake Dunstan to where most of the region's vineyards grow. Follow the Clyde and Alexandra Wine Trail to vineyards nestled among rugged schist rock and historic gold landmarks.

Central tastes are stronger, cleaner, reflecting the most extreme environment in New Zealand; acting as a crucible that ensures that the quality is exceptional.

Central Otago's specialist food industry is small in scale, but makes up for it by producing the highest quality product. The best olive oil, saffron, wine, preserves or honey - you will find it right here.

Unique combinations of tastes heighten and highlight the products of Central found nowhere else. Thyme, cherries, walnuts and other distinctive Central flavours!

Take the time to visit the local farmers markets and festivals in the region that celebrate the diversity of Central Otago's boutique wine and food producers.

The combination of cold winters and hot dry summers mean that Central Otago is the best place in New Zealand to grow organics - great taste without all the good things washed out.

Taste the difference - select fresh seasonal produce from roadside stalls near Roxburgh, Alexandra and Cromwell, or try locally produced preserves, sauces and chutneys, olive oils, honey and more – you won't be able to resist taking some home for later.

## Art and Craft ... see the difference

Unexpected treasures can be found in Central Otago, created by the true identities of the region, the locals. Central is a land of riches - a special place, where nature's most powerful elements combine to create a unique and enchanting environment and the perfect natural canvas from which the many local artists and craftspeople draw their inspirations.

Oils to watercolours, pottery to photography, food to fashion – creativity is a natural phenomenon in this colourful world of difference that is Central Otago. Even the old stone cottages and contemporary buildings are designs borne of the landscape and schist rock.

Art galleries and craft shops can be found in the small towns, revealing the talents of local artists and the opportunity to take home a true piece of Central Otago. The Art Deco town of Ranfurly renews architecture of old and near the tiny township of Naseby you'll find the Museum of Fashion, a collection of couture from the 1960s and 1970s. But keep exploring and you'll find an endless supply of creativity, made in New Zealand... made with pride in Central Otago



# MEETINGS AND CORPORATE BREAKS

**It's a world of difference:** This peaceful, powerful place is a golden heartland of dramatic landscapes, breathtaking colour, abundant flavours and pioneer-spirited people who live at a different pace and love to share it! It's a different pace in a different place, offering the perfect change of environment your clients need for a successful meeting. Accommodation can be found in inspiring locations, ensuring the perfect break.

- **Access:** Central Otago is easily accessed via Queenstown International Airport, just 40 minutes from Cromwell and less than an hour from Alexandra. For those based in the lower half of the South Island, driving is also an easy option and makes transporting conference and meeting material a breeze.
- **Reliability:** Central Otago has four distinct seasons and is cooler in winter, however the climate is mostly dry and sunny all year, so offers an almost guaranteed pleasant environment for a breakaway.
- **Great distractions:** Experience true solitude and get close to nature in an inspiring and timeless land. Set your own tempo of activity in Central Otago. Hit the hills in search of historic sites, bike the Otago Central Rail Trail, taste award winning wines in amazing locations, play a round of golf at any one of the 11 golf courses, 4WD, kayak down rivers, try curling year round or just kick back and relax – occasionally out of cell phone coverage. Central Otago is a place where you relax, indulge and rejuvenate.

## Planning your Meeting or Corporate Break

Central Otago is ideally suited to host small to medium conferences, meetings or corporate breaks. There are superb venues for small meetings and excellent options for great incentive weekends as well.

Meeting venues range from the largest with attached accommodation in Golden Gate Lodge in Cromwell, and Lake Roxburgh Lodge, to smaller more intimate venues within wineries and museums. Accommodation can be found in close proximity to your meeting venue, ranging from motels to luxurious country lodges. The many local cafés and wineries serve local wines and excellent cuisine created with local produce.

Tourism Central Otago will be happy to discuss your needs and assist your team:

- Put together packages and itineraries.
- Co-ordinate familiarisation visits and site inspections to help you research the destination, along with advice and contacts for venues and accommodation.
- Develop ideas for activities, entertainment, partners' programmes and Central Otago inspired conference gifts.
- Provide free use of images to promote your meeting, incentive or corporate break in Central Otago.
- Free delegate information packs are available for each person attending, featuring maps, useful information and activity brochures.





# ANNUAL EVENTS

Central Otago is a natural arena for events, offering something for everyone, from motorcycle rally to multi-sport, horses to history, and festivals for wine, food, blossoms and thyme. Whether participating or just watching, our events have that unique Central difference - it's a world of difference, where even an event can seem like a holiday!

The following are some of the events held in Central Otago which attract national and international support. There are also a number of small local events throughout the year.

For current event listings, visit  
[www.centralotagonz.com/Central-Otago/Events](http://www.centralotagonz.com/Central-Otago/Events)

## **CROMWELL CHERRY FESTIVAL** – January

Held in Cromwell, the fruit bowl of the south, the event celebrates the first stonefruit of the season. The festival is a celebration of all things about cherries including cherry pie baking competition, cherry pie eating competition and hosting the New Zealand Cherry Spitting Championships. Who can spit a cherry stone the farthest and represent New Zealand at the Australian Championships held in Manjimup, Western Australia?

## **VINO AND VICTUALS WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL** – January

This celebration of the 30+ wines produced in the Cromwell Basin is held on the first weekend of January at the Old Cromwell Town Precinct. Smell the bouquet and sample fine wine and food fare.

## **RURAL ART DECO WEEKEND** – February

The last weekend in February each year is the Ranfurly Art Deco Festival. The Festival celebrates Ranfurly's unique Art Deco heritage.

## **OTAGO CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL DUATHLON** – February

Have you Railed it! Trailed it! Nailed it!  
150kms Clyde Railhead to Middlemarch over two days.

## **GOLD RUSH MULTI-SPORT EVENT** – March

Three days of multi-sport in the fabulous Central Otago back country. Kayaking, road biking, mountain biking and running make up the disciplines.

## **OTAGO GOLDFIELDS HERITAGE TRUST CAVALCADE** – March

This event has three walking, four riding, and two wagon trails and can take up to 600 participants. All nine trails of the Cavalcade will reach the host town having spent the previous week approaching this town from 9 points of Otago.

## **CROMWELL RACES** – March / November

Be part of New Zealand's biggest Sunday race meeting. Experience food, wine, jazz and racing at the picturesque Cromwell Racecourse. Entertainment and hospitality packages to suit everybody.

## **CARRICKTOWN CRUSHER MTB** – April

The race takes riders up to Duffers Saddle (1300m) on the Nevis Road, then down the Carricktown track for a total ride of 31km.

## **CLYDE WINE AND FOOD HARVEST FESTIVAL** – Easter

Iconic event celebrating Alexandra region wineries. Held within Clyde's historic precinct, featuring over a dozen wineries, plus restaurants and food outlets, market stalls, and children's entertainment.

## **THE GREAT ALEXANDRA EASTER BUNNY HUNT** – Easter

Teams of a maximum of 12 shooters are balloted blocks throughout the region and following a briefing early on Good Friday commence on a 24 hour shoot.



## OTAGO MOTORCYCLE CLUB BRASS MONKEY RALLY – June

The Brass Monkey Rally is New Zealand's best known motorcycle rally. Around 2,000 motorcyclists gather to socialise, watch the bike show, party and celebrate winter motorcycling. At night the biggest bonfire keeps the cold at bay.

## ALEXANDRA BLOSSOM FESTIVAL – September

Held each September, when the town's fruit trees are in bloom, the Alexandra Blossom Festival features a large number of events ranging from a mardi gras, the Grand Procession, Party in the Park to Garden Tours, a fashion show and more. The Festival's signature event, the Grand Procession, is held on the fourth Saturday every September.

## OLD CROMWELL TOWN - FAIR AND NZ GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS – October

Market Day Fair and New Zealand National Gold Panning Championships – Labour Day Monday

## BANNOCKBURN GUTBUSTER MOUNTAIN BIKE – November

The Garston to Bannockburn mountain bike ride is 75km and comprises two gut-busting climbs (up to 1300m) through the brilliant Nevis Valley.

## THYME FESTIVAL – November

Against the backdrop of wild thyme and schist rock, Alexandra will play host in November to one of the most diverse festivals in Central Otago. With more than fifty thyme-related events and activities, the Alexandra Thyme Festival is designed to entertain the soul, enlighten the mind and energise the spirit.

## MILLERS FLAT RODEO – December

First event on the southern circuit. Fun family day out.



# SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

## 3 – 5 Days Otago Central Rail Trail



Ride it, walk it, experience it! This is New Zealand's first Rail Trail, let it take you across old wooden trestle bridges and viaducts; past schist rock, parched hills, tussock grasses, awesome gorge scenery and spectacular mountains; through farmlands and tunnels to historic landmarks, goldfields and pioneer settlements.



### Approximate Rail Trail Kilometres

- Clyde to Omakau 35 km
- Omakau to Wedderburn 43 km
- Omakau to Ranfurly 57km
- Ranfurly to Middlemarch 59 km

The Otago Central Rail Trail (Rail Trail) is 150km gravel path following the former Otago Central Branch railway line from Middlemarch to Clyde. Its gentle gradient has no steep hills and cycling takes 3-5 days to complete. Discover its treasures on any of its short sections.

### Day One: Clyde to Omakau

The Otago Central Rail Trail (Rail Trail) starts (or ends) at the former Clyde railhead and this section runs through flat semi-rural landscape of orchards, vineyards and lifestyle blocks, schist rock and wild thyme landscapes, crosses the Manuherikia River and has views of the Dunstan Mountains and Raggedy Range.

Key points of interest include the old Tucker Hill gold diggings, Chatto Creek Tavern with New Zealand's smallest post office and just off the Trail, near Omakau, is the historic goldfield town of Ophir.

### Day Two: Omakau to Wedderburn or Ranfurly

From Lauder to Oturohema would perhaps be the most spectacular section of the Trail. This section of the Trail has several claims to fame in its historical railways engineering and spectacular gorge scenery as you pass from one valley to the next. The gorge is also home to the rare New Zealand falcon.

Key points of interest include the tunnels, the spectacular Poolburn Gorge, crossing the Poolburn Viaduct and the Wedderburn Goods Shed made famous by the artist Grahame Sydney.

Visit Hayes Engineering Works and the authentic 1930s style Gilchrist's Store in Oturohema.

### Day Three/Four: Rest days in Naseby area

Enjoy 1-2 days of rest in the Naseby area taking in activities such as curling at Maniototo Curling International, 4WD trips into the high country or visiting picturesque historic gold mining towns. Visit the Maniototo Visitor Information Centre in the old Railway Station in Ranfurly, a Rural Art Deco town.

### Day Five: Ranfurly/Naseby to Middlemarch

The Rail Trail ends (or starts) 400m north of the Middlemarch Railway Station. The Trail crosses numerous small bridges and culverts over the Taieri River, through the upper Taieri Gorge to the wide spaces of the Strath Taieri plain and gently rolling landscape until you reach Middlemarch.

Key points of interest include the historic stone bridge over the Cap Burn at Tiroiti, Price's Creek Viaduct, Price's Creek tunnel with spectacular views of the Taieri Ridge and Rock and Pillar Range.

[www.centralotagoz.com/otago-central-rail-trail](http://www.centralotagoz.com/otago-central-rail-trail)

# ONE OR MULTI-DAY SUGGESTIONS

## Cycling



Central Otago boasts a diversity of cycling trails that suit all levels of cyclist



### Otago Central Rail Trail – 1 day

Why not take a day to see the heart of Central Otago. You can cycle or walk one of the spectacular sections of the Otago Central Rail Trail on a guided or non-guided day trip. You will travel the Poolburn Gorge, through tunnels and over viaducts, this part of the trail is gentle and suitable for all ages and abilities. A perfect option for those with little time and the need for some pure New Zealand fresh air!

A 150km wide gravel (stony) pathway for walkers and cyclists, the Otago Central Rail Trail follows the former railway line that ran between Clyde and Middlemarch. It's a 3-5 day experience if you cycle its entirety.

### Mountain Bike Trails

Experience the freedom and the joy of getting off the beaten track.

Central Otago boasts a huge variety of mountain bike trails throughout its stunning landscapes, from trails adjacent to waterways to suit the family to easy and challenging downhill trails for the experienced mountain biker.

The Alexandra to Clyde Anniversary River Track is 12km of mostly flat surface following the Clutha River with boardwalks, bridges and in the shade of large willow trees. A great day out, when combined with the Otago Central Rail Trail, Clyde to Alexandra section.

The Naseby Forest Recreation Area is a 500 ha privately owned playground that provides wonderful opportunities for walkers and bikers. The Lindis Heritage Trail takes you to the historic Lindis Pass Hotel ruins via a quiet gravel road amongst stunning mountain views and through farmland.

There are local companies who offer an unforgettable experience on guided mountain bike tours. Whether you want a fully guided experience or just to hire your bike and equipment to explore, there are options available.

[www.centralotagonz.com/cycle\\_trails](http://www.centralotagonz.com/cycle_trails)

## A World Class Wine Experience



Central Otago Pinot Noir, the Rolls Royce of wine, is at its best when enjoyed with good company and in stunning Central Otago scenery



### Cromwell

Spend at least a day in the area's largest wine-growing sub-region, the Cromwell Basin, where you can enjoy wineries at Bannockburn in the south, and Lowburn, Wanaka Road and Bendigo to the north. The area's distinctive wine-growing sub-regions each bear their own matchless wine characteristics brought forth by the rugged, mountain landscape.

There is magic in drinking a wine where it is made.

[Wineries you might like to visit](#) (there are many more):

#### *Mt Difficulty Wines & Restaurant*

Situated high on Templar's Hill in Bannockburn overlooking the Cromwell Basin, Mt Difficulty offers stunning views of the surrounding vineyards and mountain ranges as you enjoy a wine tasting or light lunch. The vineyard is one of the leading wineries in Central Otago. Recommend you book for lunch before you visit.

#### *Carrick Vineyard & Restaurant*

Situated in Bannockburn overlooking the spectacular Bannockburn Inlet of Lake Dunstan, the winery incorporates a tasting facility, an underground barrel room and a restaurant serving innovative regional cuisine. Recommend you book for lunch before you visit.

#### *Woioing Tree Vineyard*

Opposite the 'big fruit' sculpture, Woioing Tree Vineyards offers a relaxed child friendly environment with sand pit and slide. Enjoy a platter lunch as you overlook a local landmark that sits prominently in the middle of the vineyard and hence gives the vineyard its name.

#### *Northburn Station*

Just a 5 minute drive from Cromwell on SH8, Northburn Station's cellar door operation 'The Shed' sits in a stunning, tranquil setting alongside a small pond overlooking Lake Dunstan and towards the Sugar Loaf and Pisa Mountain Ranges. Northburn offers a unique food and wine match or enjoy a picnic platter as you soak up the atmosphere.

**You may also like to visit:**

#### *Old Cromwell Town*

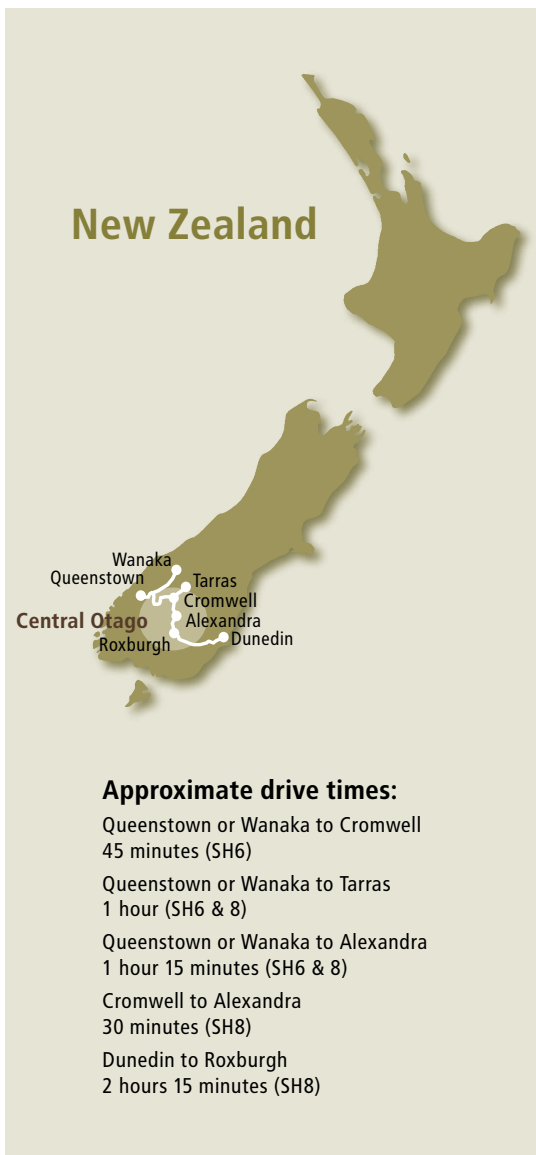
Situated on the shores of Lake Dunstan, this unique heritage attraction has original and reconstructed buildings from the old main street of the 1860s gold town of Cromwell. The precinct is open free to the public seven days. The buildings are home to local artisans and small cottage industries where you can find that special memento of your holiday.

[Why not stay in Cromwell?](#) There is a diverse range of accommodation available

## Golf



A great day out from Queenstown or Wanaka or why not base yourself in Central Otago, there are 11 golf courses available!



### Approximate drive times:

Queenstown or Wanaka to Cromwell  
45 minutes (SH6)

Queenstown or Wanaka to Tarras  
1 hour (SH6 & 8)

Queenstown or Wanaka to Alexandra  
1 hour 15 minutes (SH6 & 8)

Cromwell to Alexandra  
30 minutes (SH8)

Dunedin to Roxburgh  
2 hours 15 minutes (SH8)

Central Otago's golf courses are as varied as they are challenging, offering some of New Zealand's most unique golfing experiences. For a start, they're about as inland as you can get in this country. They have stunning mountain views and are set amid arid and often rural landscapes – best of all, they're uncrowded!

### Golf courses worth a visit:

#### *SBS Bank Cromwell Golf Club, Cromwell*

There are seven championship courses within a 45 minute drive of Cromwell, making it the centre of golf in the Central Otago/Southern Lakes area and an ideal base for a golfing tour! The Cromwell Golf Course has a unique terrain that is sand based like the famous sand belt of Australia, means here links style golf is available 250km's from the ocean! Recent course redevelopment in 2010 through world renowned consultant Greg Turner, have further enhanced the course. Golf carts and clubs are available for hire.

#### *Tarras Golf Club, near Cromwell*

Just 15 minutes drive from Cromwell on SH8, Tarras Golf Club is a 9 hole country club in every sense. The course transverses three farms, golfers have to contend with water races, irrigated greens are protected by low fences and the rugged landscape and crossing SH8! The challenges make this country course popular and hosts many from the busy lakes district golf courses, particularly in summer.

#### *Alexandra Golf Club, Alexandra*

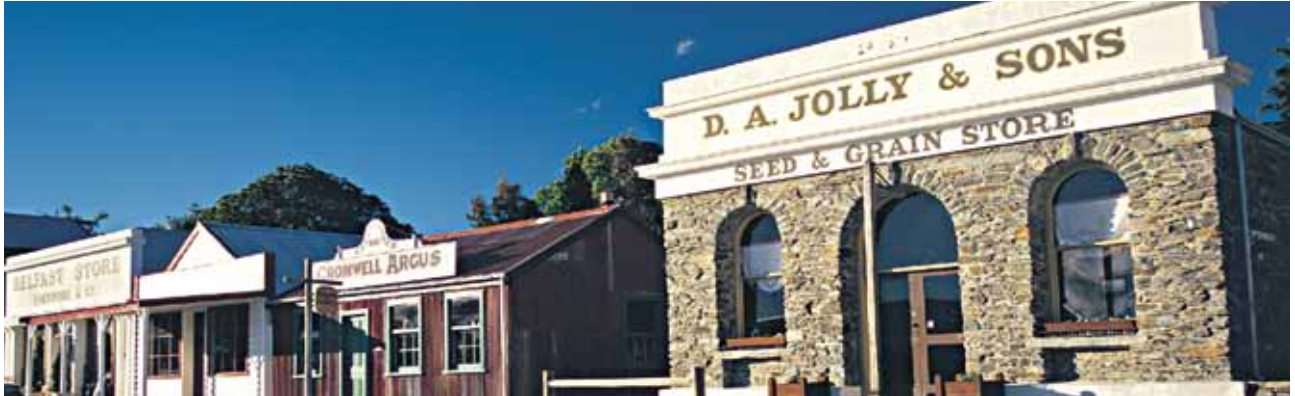
Located 1 hour and 15 minutes drive from Queenstown or Wanaka, the Alexandra Golf Club embraces Central Otago's special character. The natural environment of sun, sand and thyme clad hills with beautiful trees make this course a challenge and pleasing to golfers of all abilities. The well groomed 18 hole Championship course has practice facilities, golf carts and clubs for hire and watch out for cyclists as the Otago Central Rail Trail runs alongside the course!

#### *Roxburgh Golf Course, Roxburgh*

Located in Roxburgh and just a 25 minute drive south from Alexandra the Roxburgh Golf Course offers a short but challenging course. An 18 hole, unique golf course with rocky outcrops and scenic views along the banks of the Clutha River is particularly picturesque in spring and autumn.

[Why not stay in Roxburgh?](#) Then we would suggest staying at Lake Roxburgh Lodge, nestled in Lake Roxburgh Village just moments from lake waters and the mighty Clutha River. The Lodge's 11 studio and 2-bedroom accommodation enjoy outstanding views over the expansive grounds and towards Lake Roxburgh.

## Cultural Heritage



The early pioneers shaped the Central Otago landscape and left a social and cultural legacy that is part of what makes the region unique

Central Otago was rich in mostly alluvial (river) gold, mined from early 1860s until the 1930s. Towering sluiced cliffs, herringbone, tailings, water races, mining equipment, impressive stone masonry and assorted relics have been preserved.

### Cromwell

You can discover and explore the regions gold mining history in Bannockburn and Cromwell, either self-guided or on a guided tour.

**Activities you might like to consider:**

#### *Goldfields Mining Centre*

Situated in the Kawarau Gorge between Queenstown and Cromwell on SH6, Goldfields Mining Centre covers 35 hectares of historic sites and mining artefacts including an operational sluice gun and opportunities to pan for gold. Guided tours of the site take about an hour or take your time on a self-guided tour of discovery.

#### *Bannockburn Historic Goldfields Tours*

Once a burgeoning goldfield, Bannockburn is now known for its wine. Learn of its colourful past with Bannockburn Historic Goldfields guided walking tours. They will take you on a journey of discovery, learn about the prospectors quest for gold, the local anecdotes and stories that are plentiful in this unique place.

#### *Old Cromwell Town*

Situated on the shores of Lake Dunstan, this unique heritage attraction has original and reconstructed buildings from the old main street of the 1860s gold town of Cromwell. The precinct is open free to the public seven days. The buildings are home to local artisans and small cottage industries where you can find that special memento of your holiday.

**Why not stay in Cromwell?** There is a diverse range of accommodation available.

### Alexandra/Clyde

You can discover and explore the regions gold mining history in Alexandra and Clyde, either self-guided or on a guided tour.

**Activities you might like to consider:**

#### *Clyde*

Just 10 minutes northwest of Alexandra, this gorgeous town was born of gold, fruit trees and the Otago Central Railway (now the Otago Central Rail Trail). Now a delightful and intact historic precinct, Sunderland Street in Clyde is a gem to explore – pick up a self-guided walk brochure.

#### *Explore the mighty Clutha/Mata-Au*

Clutha River Cruises will take you through some of the most stunning scenery that only Central Otago can provide. On a 3 hour guided heritage cruise, journey the isolated reaches of the historic and picturesque thyme studded Roxburgh Gorge. Learn about the extraordinary human endurance and tenacity of the early miners and prospectors and explore some of New Zealand's best examples of European and Chinese Mining.

#### *Speargrass Inn*

Speargrass Inn is situated in the Fruitlands district, 10 minutes drive south from Alexandra on SH8. Established in 1869 as the Speargrass Hotel, this beautiful stone building served the hungry and thirsty gold miners who flocked to the region in search of gold. Today you'll find a modern restaurant offering a scrumptious seasonal lunch and dinner. There is also accommodation available – 3 elegant and comfortable rooms with awesome mountain and rural views.

#### *Alexandra*

Central Stories (Alexandra's Museum) has a significant gold heritage collection, amble across the Shaky Bridge, an early suspension bridge and the grand Alexandra Courthouse (1879-1972) is one of the oldest and now operates as a café. To find out where the best preserved gold heritage sites are, suggest you call in to a Central Otago Visitor Centre and pick up a Goldfields heritage trail brochure.

**Why not stay in Alexandra?** There is a diverse range of accommodation available, heritage properties such as Speargrass Inn near Alexandra, Dunstan House and Olivers in Clyde are recommended.



## The Maniototo

You can discover and explore the regions gold mining and agricultural history in the Maniototo.

**Activities you might like to consider:**

### *Picturesque old gold mining towns*

Discover and explore the picturesque old gold mining townships of Naseby, St Bathans and Patearoa. Explore a wealth of Victorian architecture and ancient winter sports in Naseby, take a trip to St Bathans with its reputedly 'Haunted Hotel' and amazing blue lake or enjoy some fine Central Otago hospitality at the Danseys Pass Historic Coach Inn.

### *Hayes Engineering Works in Oturohua*

Discover a piece of New Zealand's agricultural history where Kiwi ingenuity has been brought back to life! Ernest Hayes' small workshop was established in 1895 and by the 1930s had grown into a business with worldwide reputation, providing farmers with innovative agricultural tools, hardware and equipment still used today. Located right on the Otago Central Rail Trail.

### *Curling at the Maniototo Curling International Indoor Rink in Naseby*

An integral part of Central Otago's folklore, the tradition of curling was introduced during the 1880s, probably by miners passing the time when frozen winters made work impossible. Now in Naseby you can give this ancient sport a go, all year round! Families, couples, groups (big or small) and all ages can give this fun sport a go – it's addictive!

### *Glenshee Park in Naseby*

For something unique in this part of the country, stop at Glenshee Park and view the 1970s Gallery containing a history of New Zealand's fashion design of that era. This private Gallery was originally collected by the late Eden Hore, a farmer in the area, during the 1970s and features many of New Zealand's well known designers of the time.

Many of the colourful old pubs located in towns across Central Otago date back to the miners' days – great places to stop in for a cool drink with the locals on a hot Central Otago day! Suggest visiting the Chatto Creek Tavern, Wedderburn Tavern, the Vulcan Hotel in St Bathans and more.

[Why not stay in the Maniototo?](#) There is a diverse range of accommodation available.

# QUICK REFERENCE INFORMATION

## Location

Central Otago is New Zealand's most inland region, located in the southern half of the **South Island** of **New Zealand**. It is a stunningly beautiful region with rugged, snow capped mountains, clear blue rivers, deep gorges and tussock clad hills. The nearest major towns are Queenstown, Wanaka and Dunedin.

## Population

New Zealand's multicultural population of approximately 4.0 million is predominantly New Zealand European. Sixteen per cent of the people are indigenous Maori, while Pacific Island and Asian ethnic groups make up 4 per cent each.

The population of Central Otago is approximately 18,000. This represents 0.4 percent of New Zealand's usually resident population. The main areas are:

Alexandra / Clyde / Omakau	7539
Cromwell / Bannockburn	4896
Roxburgh Valley	1683
Maniototo	2529

Central Otago's population density of 1.5 people per square kilometre is the lowest in the country (the New Zealand average is 13.1 people per square kilometre). This, together with the landscape, gives Central Otago its particular character. The roads are long and straight and are seldom crowded. The wide-open spaces and vistas are a particular source of pride and pleasure to the locals. But the population is not so thinly spread that the main centres do not offer the same retail and entertainment infrastructure as found in other New Zealand centres of the same size. Even if it is necessary to go to Dunedin or Invercargill, they are only two to three hours drive away.

## Weather and Climate

Central Otago's climate is the closest we have in New Zealand to a continental climate. Climatic variations based on low rainfall, hot summers and cold winters make for clearly defined seasons. In spring, fruit blossoms provide the dominant visual feature. During winter, hoarfrost in the valleys and snow on the ranges, combined with the clear light,

are especially spectacular. Autumn (fall) is characterised by the brilliance of the autumn foliage and settled sunny weather. Summer is typified by long days (daylight lasts until 10pm), low rainfall and low humidity.

## Climate information

Summer (December to February)	10 to 30+ degrees Celsius
Autumn (March to May)	-3 to 24 degrees Celsius
Winter (June to August)	-6 to 15 degrees Celsius
Spring (September to November)	-3 to 20 degrees Celsius
Rainfall (annual average)	360mm (14 inches)
Sunshine hours (annual average)	2,025
Humidity (annual average)	78.1% at 9am

## Trading and Banks

Banking hours are generally 9am until 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Automatic teller machines (ATMs) are widely available in international terminals, main shopping streets, and suburban malls 24 hours every day. All major credit cards may be used in New Zealand and travellers cheques are accepted at banks, hotels, resorts and most city stores. Central Otago has many small towns, with branches of all major national banks located in Alexandra, Cromwell and Ranfurly.

## Retail and Services

Central Otago offers a full range of retail and services:

- Travellex - Foreign Exchange
- Police station; legal services
- After hours medical service, pharmacy and dentist
- Public hospital
- Postal and courier services

## Health

Central Otago has an excellent public hospital - upgraded in 2005, based at Clyde, close to Alexandra. Dunstan Hospital handles maternity, geriatric, minor surgery and emergency cases, but serious cases are usually transferred to Dunedin.



## Health and Safety

Visitors to New Zealand are strongly recommended to take out comprehensive travel insurance cover for the duration of their trip, as medical services in New Zealand are not free. No vaccinations are required to enter New Zealand. Given Central Otago's clear skies, hats and sun-blocks are necessary precautions to prevent sunburn when outdoors during the summer months. Burn time can be extremely low (10-12 minutes) between 11am-3pm.

## Education

Central Otago is well served with state schools at both primary and secondary levels. Schools offer education programmes for international students.

Otago Polytechnic has a campus at Cromwell which specialises in courses associated with horticulture, catering and tourism. Otago Polytechnic also hosts the Centre for Sustainable Otago, which works with Otago communities and businesses to improve sustainable practice in Otago. Of particular significance to Central Otago is its new crop centre which provides advisory services to horticulturists on commercially viable new crops.

## Time Zone

New Zealand standard time is GMT plus 12 hours. There are no time differences within New Zealand. During daylight saving, from the beginning of October until the beginning of April, clocks are put forward 1 hour.

## Entry Requirements

### Passports

Passports are required for all visitors to New Zealand and must be valid for at least three months beyond the date you intend to leave the country.

### Length of Stay

Visitors may be granted entry to New Zealand for up to three months, although this period may be extended for up to a year for genuine visitors.

### Other Requirements

Visitors must hold a full-paid onward, or return ticket to a country which they have permission to enter, and sufficient funds to maintain themselves during their stay in New Zealand.

## Visas

Please check with your closest New Zealand Embassy or Consulate, or your travel professional, regarding possible visa requirements for entry into New Zealand depending upon the passport you hold.

## Language

English is the common language of New Zealand. Maori, an official language of growing importance, is spoken mainly in the Maori community. Signposting is often bi-lingual.

## Electricity

The standard voltage of supply in New Zealand is 230/240 volts, 50 hertz. Most hotels and motels provide 110 volt AC sockets (rated at 20 watts) for electric razors only. For all other equipment an adaptor/converter is necessary.

## Telephone/Internet

Communications in New Zealand are highly efficient and reliable, with international direct-dialing and high speed internet available nationwide. Most major hotels offer high speed internet, with internet cafes plentiful for those with no access at their accommodation. There are some more remote areas of New Zealand where cell phone coverage is limited, a consideration for those travelling independently.

## Measures

New Zealand is metric with measuring distances in Kilometres, weight in Kilograms, temperature in Celsius. Local currency is New Zealand dollars and cents.

## Public Holidays

New Year	1-2 January
Waitangi Day	6 February
Good Friday & Easter Monday	variable dates March/April
ANZAC Day	25 April
Queen's Birthday	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday in June
Labour Day	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday in October
Christmas Day	25 December
Boxing Day	26 December

# TOURING INFORMATION

## Getting to and around Central Otago

The region is readily accessible by main highways from Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill, Queenstown and the West Coast via Wanaka.

Major rental car companies and campervan providers are represented in Christchurch, Dunedin and Queenstown. In New Zealand there are some restrictions on use of rental vehicles on gravel roads so be sure to check limitations with your chosen rental company.

We're away from it all but within easy distance of the main southern cities. Travel times between Central Otago towns and other major population centres are estimated below. These travel times are calculated for driving at 80 to 100 kilometres per hour(kph) on open stretches, with an allowance for traffic delays, petrol stops and refreshments.

## Driving

In New Zealand, cars are right-hand drive and travel on the left hand side of the road. The open road speed limit is 100kph, reducing to 50kph in built up areas. Speed, hazard and directional signs are prominent. Many small towns in

Central Otago do not have petrol stations, so fill your vehicle before visiting more remote areas.

Road conditions are excellent with good quality, uncongested roads. Winter weather is rarely extreme but road conditions can change with frosts, so extra care is advised. A few gravel roads exist in rural areas.

Central Otago is not just about the towns, its about the countryside, so whether by bus, rental car or tour, the true Central Otago experience is about taking the smaller roads and getting off the beaten track. It's a different pace, so take your time - the roads aren't crowded and it's easy to stop for a photo or to explore.

Rent a vehicle or a cycle, catch a bus from one town to another, book a tour or be guided through the area. The choice is yours for getting around, but just be sure to allow time to fit in the wine tasting, great food and all the many walking and cycling trails.

## Coach Services

The following companies provide regular services to Central Otago. For bookings and timetables contact one of our Visitor Information Centres.

- Ex Invercargill** Connexions via Queenstown, Intercity via Milton
- Ex Dunedin** Atomic Shuttles, Catch a Bus, Intercity, The Taieri Gorge train connects to Middlemarch, Connexions
- Ex Queenstown** Atomic Shuttles, Intercity, Southern Link, Track and Trail, Connexions
- Ex Christchurch** Atomic Shuttles, Intercity, Southern Link
- Ex West Coast** Intercity

	ALEX Alexandra	CLY Clyde	CROM Cromwell	ROX Roxburgh	RAN Ranfurly	WKA Wanaka	QTN Queenstown	INGILL Invercargill	DUN Dunedin	CHC Christchurch
ALEX Alexandra	■	7 km	31 km	41 km	88 km	86 km	93 km	202 km	190 km	455 km
CLY Clyde	4 min	■	24 km	48 km	90 km	79 km	100 km	209 km	197 km	448 km
CROM Cromwell	30 min	25 min	■	72 km	119 km	55 km	62 km	233 km	221 km	410 km
ROX Roxburgh	30 min	35 min	1 hr	■	129 km	127 km	134 km	161 km	155 km	496 km
RAN Ranfurly	1 hr	1.10 hr	2 hr	1.30 hr	■	125 km	181 km	287 km	130 km	394 km
WKA Wanaka	1.15 hr	1.10 hr	45 min	1.30 hr	1 hr	■	117 km	285 km	355 km	424 km
QTN Queenstown	1.15 hr	1.10 hr	50 min	1.30 hr	2.10 hr	1.40 hr	■	187 km	283 km	486 km
INGILL Invercargill	2.55 hr	3 hr	3.10 hr	2 hr	3.30 hr	4.50 hr	2.40 hr	■	217 km	579 km
DUN Dunedin	2.45 hr	2.50 hr	3.10 hr	2.15 hr	1.30 hr	3.55 hr	4.30 hr	3.30 hr	■	362 km
CHC Christchurch	6.30 hr	6.25 hr	5.45 hr	6 hr	4 hr	6.50 hr	6.55 hr	8.15 hr	5.10 hr	■



# ACCOMMODATION DEFINITIONS

## Hotels

Hotels in New Zealand come in all shapes, sizes and personalities. You'll discover smaller hotels that are memorable for their individuality and in convenient locations on all the main travelling routes.

### Character and boutique hotels

Character and boutique hotels, which range from heritage buildings to purpose built facilities in stunning regional locations, vary in price according to their level of luxury. Hosts are welcoming and provide insight into the local culture and attractions.

## Self-Contained

### Holiday Homes

Experience the Kiwi 'bach' (or 'crib' as they're called in the South Island) tradition. Many New Zealanders have family holiday homes or cottages that they themselves use and also rent out to friends and others. These holiday homes vary from tiny cottages on remote beaches to large homes with all mod-cons and stunning views. Holiday homes are almost always in idyllic locations beside beaches, rivers, lakes and forests. Renting a holiday home for a short or long stay is a very Kiwi kind of holiday.

### Motels

Motels, motor inns and motor lodges congregate on main driving routes so they are easy to find with usually a choice of studio, one or two bedroom units. Tea, coffee and sometimes cooking facilities are provided and most units have a television. Larger motels are more similar to hotels often with swimming pool, spa, sauna, in-house video, laundry and restaurant.

### Serviced Apartments

Serviced apartments are a great option when you're staying in a major city or resort town. You can cook your own meals, do your own laundry and enjoy the feeling of having your own space while on holiday. Many are similar in price to a high quality hotel suite with daily or regular servicing.

## Guest and Host

### Lodges

Always set in beautiful surroundings, lodges are small, intimate, welcoming establishments with between 4 and 20 rooms offering bed, breakfast and dinner.

### Bed & Breakfast

Bed & Breakfast accommodation is a wonderfully eclectic mix of all types of hosts and houses, and this is part of its attraction. By opening their homes and their hearts to travellers who need a comfortable bed for a night or two, B&B hosts are like instant friends you meet along the way. You have your own room in the host's house and you're served breakfast in the morning.

### Boutique Accommodation

A treat for the night or for your entire holiday, boutique accommodation represents a high standard of amenities and comfort combined with individuality and flair. 'Boutique' establishments are almost always historic or heritage buildings or landmarks with great character and probably also a story behind them. The food is wonderful and breakfast is often included in the tariff. The locations are as diverse as the style of boutique property and yet always small, intimate and quintessentially New Zealand.

### Farmstays

Wake to the smell of a hearty farmstead breakfast. Maybe help on the farm if you feel like it; feeding the calves, mending a fence, rounding up the sheep. This kind of accommodation lets you feel like part of the farming family.

### Homestays

Become one of the family in a New Zealand home. Homestay accommodation is always comfortable and your hosts friendly and happy to introduce you to friends and other locals. You share all domestic facilities with the family, including the bathroom/s, and you eat meals together too, often including dinner. Homestay hosts are naturally genial characters and your stay with them will be enjoyably social.

## Holiday Parks

Holiday parks are equipped to please a wide range of people for a minimal cost. Within an attractive landscaped setting (often beside a beach or lake) they provide sites for tents, caravans and campervans. Many parks also have simple cabins, self-contained motel units and backpackers' lodges. The casual living style helps to create a friendly atmosphere. If you're setting up camp or parking a motorhome, you can choose a powered or non-powered site. Easy access to a shared kitchen and bathroom facilities is always part of the deal. Often you'll also have the use of a dining area and a comfortable TV lounge. Motel units and backpackers' lodges generally have self-contained kitchen and bathroom facilities.

Families are attracted to holiday parks that have play areas, heated swimming pools, trampolines and barbecues. Bicycles, canoes and boats can sometimes be hired.

# ACCOMMODATION

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## Backpackers

Room types vary from lodge to lodge. Some only offer dormitory rooms (single sex on request), others provide a choice of dormitory, double, twin and single rooms. In most cases, bathroom and kitchen facilities are shared. Communal dining and living areas are great for meeting people and finding out about where to go next. If you're not travelling with a sleeping bag, you can hire bed linen. Laundry facilities are available so you can catch up on washing.

From luxury lodges in inspiring locations to historic backpackers, country pubs, motels and camping grounds, there is something to suit your budget and style.

## Accommodation:

[Cromwell / Bannockburn](#)

[Alexandra / Clyde](#)

[Maniototo](#)

[Roxburgh](#)

# ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

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You can set the tempo of your activity in Central Otago. Hit the hills in search of historic sites, bike the Otago Central Rail Trail, taste award winning wines in amazing locations, play a round of golf at any one of the 11 golf courses, 4WD, kayak down rivers, try curling or just kick back and relax out of cell phone coverage. Central Otago is a place where you relax, indulge and rejuvenate on holiday.

## Activities and Attractions:

[Cromwell / Bannockburn](#)

[Alexandra / Clyde](#)

[Maniototo](#)

[Roxburgh](#)

# WINING AND DINING

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Central Otago is a place of sheer indulgence. You will be spoilt for choice with the fresh produce available at roadside stalls throughout the area. Cherries, apricots, apples, nectarines, plums and pears just to name a few, all available in season.

Leave some space to enjoy local fare and award winning wines at the great selection of cafés, restaurants and country pubs. If the mood takes you fill your backpack with a selection of gourmet foods, wine and fresh fruit and take to the hills to find a rock with a view to have lunch upon.

## Wining and Dining:

[Cromwell / Bannockburn](#)

[Alexandra / Clyde](#)

[Maniototo](#)

[Roxburgh](#)

# CROMWELL/BANNOCKBURN



## Bannockburn

## Bendigo

## Cromwell

## Lowburn

## Queensberry

## Ripponvale

## Tarras

*Hot, dry climes cultivate golden fruits and award winning wines below tawny hills, where fine-wool Merino sheep graze. Wildflowers line roadsides, and powerful rivers cut awesome gorges to a lake, and its expanding town.*

Cromwell was originally located at a junction of the Clutha and Kawarau Rivers. Lake Dunstan was formed in 1993 when the Clyde Dam was completed, flooding part of the original town centre. Many pioneer buildings were rescued and relocated to an historic precinct in Cromwell's current location, on the lake shore.

Jackson's Lookout views the waters over the original town. The reconstructed buildings (including stables) of Old Cromwell Town are today alive with artists at work.

Glimpse past gold mining at Carrick and Bendigo goldfields, and in nearby Bannockburn, an historic town, where sluicing has left its mark. Goldfields Mining Centre has an operational sluice gun, and opportunities to pan for gold.

Tour the orchards and vineyards. Abundant sun-ripened apricots, nectarines, cherries, apples and peaches have earned Cromwell its reputation as the 'fruit bowl of the south', while 60 percent of Central Otago's famed vineyards lie across this region.

Experience nature at the Bendigo Wetlands, and Chafer Beetle Reserve. Walk Cromwell's unique greenway of tracks. Trout fish (Lowburn Inlet), picnic or jet boat on Lake Dunstan.

[Cromwell / Bannockburn trade ready product](#)



# ALEXANDRA/CLYDE



## Alexandra

## Clyde

## Earnsclough

## Fruitlands

## Omakau

## Ophir

## Lauder

*Autumn glows red and amber along the banks of rivers that flow to a heart founded on gold, and shaped by enterprise.*

The thriving town metropolis of Alexandra is Central Otago's business and political capital. It is situated at the conjunction of two rivers, the Manuherikia and the mighty Clutha. A little further up the Clutha is the historic gold mining township of Clyde and the immense Clyde hydro dam.

Enjoy the eateries, parks, artists' studios, craft markets and modern facilities of Alexandra, but remember, its gold mining past is never far from the surface.

Wonder at the hardship and innovation of early pioneers in Alexandra Museum's astonishing collections.

Tour old gold diggings and dredge sites like the spectacular Earnsclough Flat tailings, and the town's aged stone buildings. The grand Alexandra Courthouse (1879-1972), is one of the oldest and now operates as a Café.

Amble across Shaky Bridge, an early suspension bridge. Magnificent stone piers are all that are left of Alexandra's first bridge.

Visit Clyde, a quaint, well preserved town of the gold rush era. Its nearby hydro dam has a capacity of 432 megawatts of power from its four turbines.

Admire the many historic buildings in Ophir, once the area's most populous centre. It also has a spectacular suspension bridge with stone piers.

Get active on the Chatto Creek to Lauder section of the Otago Centra Rail Trail. Fish in the Manuherikia River or wallow in its many swimming holes.

[Alexandra / Clyde trade ready product](#)





# MANIOTOTO



**Kokonga**

**Naseby**

**Oturehua**

**Patearoa**

**Ranfurly**

**St Bathans**

**Wedderburn**

**Waipiatā**

*Natural light reflects off the velvet folds of magnificent mountain ranges onto pastoral valleys, rocky tors and the awesome sprawling Maniototo Plain. Throughout this vast landscape remnants of a prosperous gold mining past lie in the scarred hillsides, occasional mud-brick buildings, old stone fences and lonely cemeteries. It is a timeless land where the Taieri River meanders lazily, and empty roads stretch by irrigated farmlands to historic, sleepy townships.*

Discover the picturesque old gold mining townships of Naseby, St Bathans and Patearoa. Evidence of gold diggings also exists at Kyeburn, Golden Progress Mine, and in Hamiltons district. Marvel at the restored 1930s simple modernist art deco architecture of Ranfurly. This is Maniototo's main town and New Zealand's Rural Art Deco oasis.

In St Bathans both the post office and the reputedly haunted Vulcan Hotel, are still in business. Nearby Blue Lake resulted from the flooding of an enormous pit left by the world's deepest hydraulic mining lift of gravel.

Visit Hayes Engineering Works at Oturehua, the home of impressive farming inventions (1895-1933). The plant features equipment still used and exported today. Nearby the Gilchrist's general store, trading since 1902 is crammed with memorabilia of its life as a general store.

Imagine the *Lord of the Rings* movie set at Poolburn Reservoir, instantly recognisable as the *Village of Rohan*.

Experience the ancient Scottish ice sport of curling at Naseby. Fish on the Taieri River. Take the Maniototo section of the Otago Central Rail Trail, the Sowburn Walkway, or established tracks through the forests.

[Maniototo trade ready product](#)



# ROXBURGH



## Coal Creek

## Ettrick

## Millers Flat

## Lake Roxburgh Village

## Roxburgh

## Shingle Creek

*Scorched morning rays herald a patchwork of fruit orchards alongside farms that creep toward tussock-clad hills. Magnificent mountain ranges hold vigil over the mighty river and its offshoots, safeguarding secrets of times long since past.*

Roxburgh town lies alongside the Clutha River in the beautiful Teviot Valley. Its lake was created by the Roxburgh Dam, commissioned in 1956.

Pre-European Maori hunted the now extinct, giant flightless Moa here. Settlers began farming in the late 1850s and gold miners quickly followed. They left behind historic relics and streets named after Scottish borders.

Learn the story of the miners' Lonely Graves at Millers Flat, where there is also an old bakehouse, suspension bridge, and the stone ruins of a Teviot woolshed. In Roxburgh, some beautiful mud-brick and stone buildings are still in use, and the gorge has many preserved Chinese rock shelters.

Taste exquisite summer fruits of cherries, apricots, plums, nectarines, peaches, pears, berries and apples at roadside orchard stalls, also laden with preserves, juices, and fresh vegetables.

Fish for salmon on the Clutha, trout in the lakes or indulge in water sports.

[Roxburgh trade ready product](#)



# LOOKING FOR QUALITY?

**Qualmark®** is New Zealand tourism's official mark of quality. All accommodation and tourism businesses that carry the **Qualmark®**, means they've been independently assessed as professional and trustworthy, so you can book and buy with confidence.

The **Qualmark®** quality assured system has a star grading system for accommodation and a quality endorsement system for other tourism businesses, such as adventure activities, attractions, cultural and nature experiences, coaches, rental cars and more.

## Star Grading For Accommodation

The accommodation categories group together properties with common characteristics to define the type of accommodation. The star grades indicate the level of service and facilities available, so you can identify accommodation that will meet your needs.

## Quality Endorsement For Other Tourism Businesses

The quality endorsement system identifies tourism businesses that have met quality standards developed with the tourism industry and based on what you, the traveller, want. Choose a **Qualmark®** endorsed visitor activity or visitor transport provider or service for peace of mind.

*Look out for the distinctive yellow and black logos in this publication so you can book and buy with confidence.*



## Umbrella Accommodation Categories

Type	Description
Backpacker	Budget Hotels & Hostels
Guest & Hosted	B & B's, Farm & Home Stays, Inns & Heritage Homes
Holiday Homes	'Homes away from homes' in an authentic Kiwi setting
Holiday Park	Camping Grounds & Holiday Camps
Hotel	Including all Suites & Resorts
Self-Contained & Serviced	Motels, Serviced Apartments & Holiday Cottages
Exclusive	Intimate & Highly Individual Establishments

## Full Star Grade Definitions

Stars	Description
★	Acceptable. Meets customers' minimum requirements. Basic, clean, and comfortable accommodation
★plus	
★★	Good. Exceeds customers' minimum requirements with some additional facilities and services
★★plus	
★★★	Very good. Provides a range of facilities and services and achieves good to very good quality standards
★★★plus	
★★★★	Excellent. Consistently achieves high quality levels with a wide range of facilities and services
★★★★plus	
★★★★★	Exceptional. Among the best available in New Zealand
Applied	This indicates the property is undergoing assessment for grading

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C01



C02



C03



C04



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# SALES MATERIAL


Tourism Central Otago is the Regional Tourism Organisation for Central Otago. We can assist accredited industry and media personnel with familiarisation visits to the region. We can provide generic marketing resources and promotional material, suggested itineraries, general editorial information, or any other advice related to the region.

Be sure to visit our website for detailed information – [www.centralotagonz.com](http://www.centralotagonz.com)




- Central Otago Image Library**  
High resolution images can be ordered by contacting Tourism Central Otago. A sample pictorial reference of images can be seen on Central Otago Image page. 



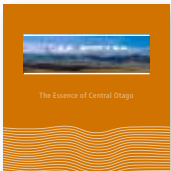
- Central Otago Visitor Guide**  
A comprehensive consumer publication covering the region of Central Otago including Cromwell and Bannockburn, Alexandra and Clyde, Roxburgh, Manuherikia and Maniototo. Contains details on accommodation, activities, cuisine and editorial commentary. DLE size, approximately 80 pages. 




- Central Otago Product Directory**  
A key reference tool for trade. The directory is a comprehensive guide to the region detailing key products and services around the region, including accommodation, activities and attractions, dining, retail and services. 



- Central Otago Poster**  
A1 size pictorial poster of Central Otago. 



- Essence of Central Otago Book**  
A high quality pictorial overview of the Central Otago region, its themes and highlights. Discover the Essence of Central Otago. 

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Company \_\_\_\_\_

Company Postal address \_\_\_\_\_

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Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact (tick one)  Phone  Email  Post

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# VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

For accommodation and bookings contact our  
Visitor Information Centres:



**Regional email for all visitor centres:**

visitorcentre@codc.govt.nz

**Alexandra Visitor Information Centre**

Centennial Avenue, PO Box 56, Alexandra, 9320

Tel: +64 3 448 9515, Fax: +64 3 448 9511

**Cromwell and Districts Information  
Centre / Museum**

47 The Mall, PO Box 2, Cromwell, 9342

Tel: +64 3 445 0212, Fax: +64 3 445 1319

**Ranfury Visitor Information Centre**

East Charlemont Street, PO Box 73, Ranfurly, 9353

Tel: +64 3 444 1005, Fax: +64 3 444 1008

LOCAL VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE:

**Roxburgh Valley Visitor Information Centre**

120 Scotland Street, Roxburgh, 9500

Tel: +64 3 446 8920, Fax: +64 3 446 8922

# CREATE YOUR OWN PRODUCT DIRECTORY

When viewed on screen, the Product Directory is interactive and you have the opportunity to build your own tailor-made directory of Central Otago products.

The introductory section includes; a regional map, frequently asked questions page, what makes Central Otago unique, meeting and corporate break information, annual events, suggested itineraries and touring information. This section is a high quality printable pdf file.

The accommodation, attractions and activities, wining and dining sections have hyperlinks to the trade ready tourism products and services found on our website under Cromwell/Bannockburn, Alexandra/Clyde, Maniototo and Roxburgh. Each tourism product has a detailed informative fact sheet in pdf format available to view online or you can 'add to favourites' to print or save at a later date.

To create your own Central Otago Product Directory, select individual products which are of interest and 'add to favourites'. When you have finished selecting products, you can either print the introductory section and selected product fact sheets or save as a pdf document.

Congratulations! You have created your own Central Otago Product Directory.

For a full and comprehensive Central Otago Product Directory, select ALL trade ready tourism products and services then print or save.



## Cromwell/Bannockburn

You can enjoy a world class wine experience at one of the picturesque cellar doors, sample seasonal fruits or shop in the Old Cromwell Town Historic Precinct. Play a round of golf on an uncrowded course, explore intact historic gold mining treasures or jet boat the Kawarau River. Choose a cycle trail from wine, lake or in the Lindis Pass. Relax and unwind at variety of accommodation to suit everyone.

## Alexandra/Clyde

Explore beautifully preserved historic Clyde, a special place to be on Easter Sunday when the annual Clyde Wine and Food Harvest Festival is held. Spend a day or more on the Otago Central Rail Trail (starts or ends in Clyde). Cruise the mighty Clutha River, explore vineyards, remnants of early gold mining and sample the spoils or orchards in the area. Historic and boutique accommodation are plentiful.

## Maniototo

Discover picturesque quaint historic gold mining towns, marvel at the kiwi ingenuity of impressive farming inventions at Hayes Engineering Works and try your hand at the ancient Scottish ice sport of curling all year round. Cycle spectacular sections of the Otago Central Rail Trail, fish the Taieri or Manuherikia Rivers or simply escape, relax and indulge in any one of the boutique or heritage accommodation available.

## Roxburgh

Taste exquisite summer fruits of cherries, apricots, plums, nectarines, peaches, pears, berries and apples at roadside orchard stalls. Fish for salmon on the Clutha River and trout in high country lakes, cycle or walk established scenic walkways along the river – a must is the Commissioners Walk. Nestled in the valley you will find good quality accommodation from which to base yourself.

[Return to introduction page](#)

# TOURISM CENTRAL OTAGO

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For additional industry information and trade resources  
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