Three great cycle rides

When it comes to new Zealand’s best cycle tracks, Central Otago is home to New Zealand’s most famous cycle trail: The Central Otago Rail Trail. It’s also home to the Makoura Otago Trail, a mountain bike trail within the scenic landscape of the Otago Central Highlands.

Take a hike and take in the views

Shirley believes that the best way to experience the area is on foot. The Native Plant Reserve is a stunning place to stop and take in the surrounding scenery.

Small towns – big history

Many of the small towns in Central Otago still have their original buildings and heritage sites. Some of the most popular include Walter Peak, Arrowtown, and Cardrona.

Water sports – fresh or frozen

The Central Otago area offers a range of experiences for people of all ages and abilities. From kayaking on Lake Hayes to skiing on Mount Hutt, there’s something for everyone.

World-class wines

Central Otago is home to some of New Zealand’s most renowned wineries. From the crisp whites of Mornington Estate to the rich reds of Felton Road, there’s a wine to suit every palate.

Seaside fare

In the summer months, the beaches of Central Otago are a great place to relax and unwind. Whether you’re looking for a peaceful walk along the coastline or a fun day in the sun, there’s something for everyone.

About this map

We’ve designed this map to help you find the best places to eat and drink in Central Otago. Whether you’re a car or a bike enthusiast, there’s something for everyone. From the scenic viewpoints of the Cardrona Valley to the bustling streets of Arrowtown, this map is designed to help you find the best places to eat and drink.

Experience the real Central Otago

Every place has ‘must visit’ experiences, sometimes quirky, sometimes surprising. But the key to a memorable trip is about meeting new people, learning about their way of life, and absorbing the local culture.

Find Yourself (but not too many others)

In Central Otago, the landscape is vast and the scenery is breathtaking. Whether you’re walking through the vineyards of Mornington Estate or sitting on the beach at Wanaka, you’ll feel like you’re the only one there.

Seasonal fare

The change of season brings a change of pace. From the crisp autumn leaves to the snow-covered mountains, Central Otago has something for everyone.

Take a ride through Central Otago

Central Otago has an extensive network of cycle trails. From the scenic views of the Cardrona Valley to the bustling streets of Arrowtown, there’s a trail for everyone.

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Flyin in or out

We are spoilt for choice in Central Otago with three international airports all within plusieurs. The closest one is Queenstown which is a scenic 1-hour drive from Cromwell. Dunedin is a 2.5-hour drive and Christchurch is 3.5 hours.

On arrival, rent a vehicle to give yourself the freedom to explore or catch a bus or shuttle. Use from local and tourist information centres, tourist offices and local businesses to discover the Scenic spots and roads drives to share a few tips and tales.

Driving to or from

We've compiled a map of Central Otago for you to check out. You can download this map in PDF format from our website.

Accommodation - be our guest

Central Otago offers a broad choice of accommodation, from posh, 5-star and intimate, lodge-style properties, to vineyards and farm cottages, country pubs and hotels, bed and breakfast and campers. As a rule of thumb, the larger the town, the more types of accommodation you will find.

Summer is a busy time in Central Otago and it pays to book well in advance. Please check about the major accommodation options on our website and any of our I-SITES.

Camping - be responsible

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

For the latest up-to-date information on responsible camping guidelines and Central Otago’s camping facilities, please visit our website.

Our Values

There are three key values at the heart of Central Otago’s tourism industry, and they are embedded in the region’s A World of Difference brand.

1. The Tiaki Promise: We are proudly the world’s first tourism region to have a commitment to care for people and place.

2. The Tiaki Promise: We are committed to care for our environment and future generations.

3. The Tiaki Promise: We are committed to preserving and protecting our home.

Our Services

In Cromwell and Alexandra, you will find the full range of retail and essential services that you would expect to find outside the big city. These include supermarkets, fuel stations, public libraries, bakeries and delicatessens, medical centres, pharmacies, post offices and banks.

Te Anau is well served by a range of facilities, including supermarkets, fuel stations, public libraries, bakeries and delicatessens, medical centres, pharmacies, post offices and banks.

Services and conveniences

In Queenstown and Wanaka, you will find the full range of retail and essential services.

Turoa Wherokia

The Turoa Wherokia programme promotes New Zealand’s unique culture and connects visitors to our stories and places. It includes an array of culturally recognised sites to discover and experience, and places that have shaped our nation and created our stories.

Invercargill Engineering at Omahau, the Otago Central Rail Trail and the Southern Alps, these sites have all been recognised for their cultural and historical significance.

There are many stories that each other together, from high country history to street food, festivals and wine.

For more information, please visit our website.