

CYCLING





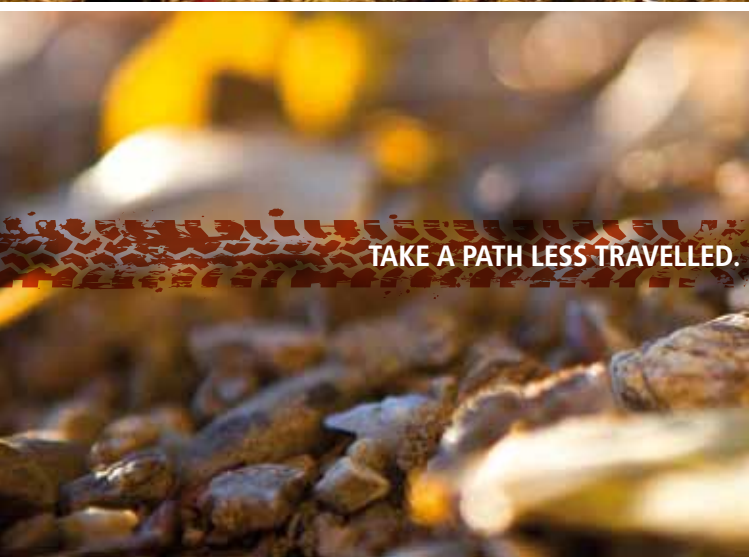


OUR PLACE YOUR PACE

BREATHTAKINGLY DIFFERENT
A WHOLE WORLD TO EXPLORE

VAST UNDULATING LANDSCAPES,
FAMED TRAILS, HERITAGE SITES,
FESTIVALS, VIBRANT PEOPLE,
SENSATIONAL FLAVOURS,
UNIQUE FLORA & FAUNA.





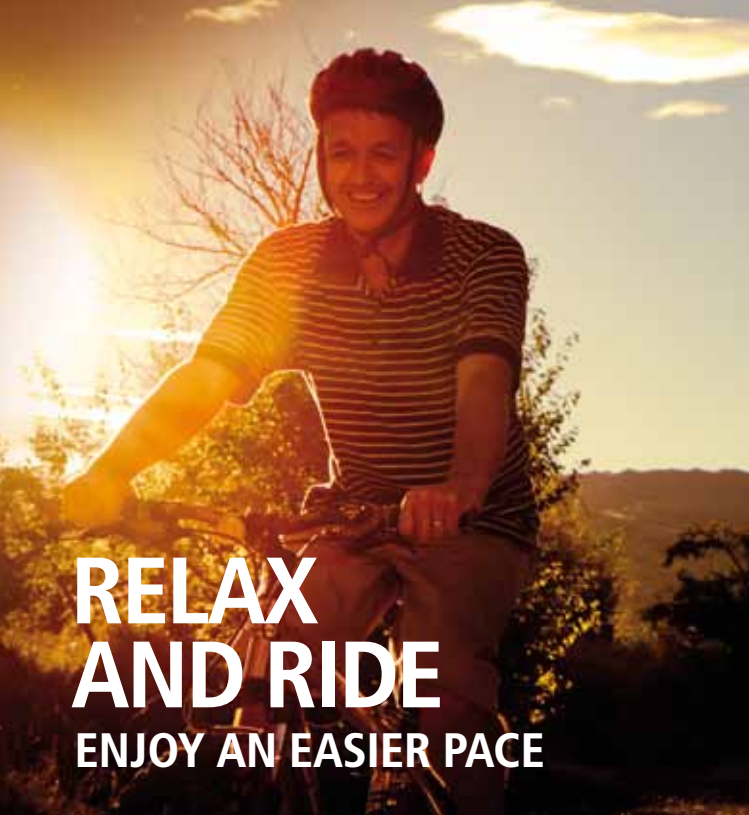
TAKE A PATH LESS TRAVELLED.



**CHOOSE
FREEDOM
AND ADVENTURE**



CYCLE CENTRAL OTAGO.



**RELAX
AND RIDE**
ENJOY AN EASIER PACE





RACE TO DINNER OR PACE YOURSELF TO BREAKFAST

There's no need to rush to get the most out of Central Otago. Take the time to enjoy everything that there is on offer in this spectacular region. A holiday in Central Otago is an opportunity to sample the finer things in life – not just incredible scenery to cycle through and explore, but heritage and history, wineries, great food and friendly locals.

As one of the historic gold mining locations of New Zealand, Central Otago has a wealth of colonial history. Explore and imagine the conditions some of the hardest and most determined New Zealand settlers had to deal with.

The Otago Central Rail Trail is one part of the incredible cycling options on offer. The region is criss-crossed with trails for the adventurous or the leisure cyclist and there are lengths to suit any time you might have available. Whether you're looking to take a holiday with the family, a weekend with friends or a romantic escape, cycling here offers something different and memorable.

Once it's time to hop off the saddle, Central Otago also has a lot to offer those who appreciate fine dining. Hidden away inside heritage buildings and in sometimes unlikely places are some fantastic dining options. Cooked, served (and sometimes hunted) by the typically friendly locals you'll be treated to some of the most delicious food New Zealand can offer.

In summer, coast alongside rivers between sunspeckled vineyards. Maybe even stop in for a glass. In the cooler months, up the pace to keep warm and enjoy the uniquely beautiful scenery that is the essence of Central Otago.

ALEXANDRA / CLYDE

Nestled in the expansive Manuherikia Valley surrounded by majestic block-mountains is the commercial hub of Alexandra. Experience the drama of its contrasting seasons – blossoms in spring, the fragrance of wild thyme in summer, the golden glows of autumn and the mystical beauty of winter.

CROMWELL / BANNOCKBURN

Surrounded by treeless mountain ranges and the powerful Clutha and Kawarau Rivers that converge to form Lake Dunstan, is Cromwell; the place to experience its abundance of sun-ripened fruits, award winning wines and rich mining past.

RANFURLY / NASEBY

This land of vast open space with tor-studded mountain ranges is timeless. Discover remnants of its gold mining past, the heartland of the high country drover, empty roads and sleepy little townships, and Ranfurly - New Zealand's rural art deco oasis.

ROXBURGH

Set in the Teviot Valley amongst farmland and a patchwork of orchards, roadside stalls laden with the best of summer fruits is Roxburgh – home to the famous Jimmy's Pies and the mighty Clutha River at its best.

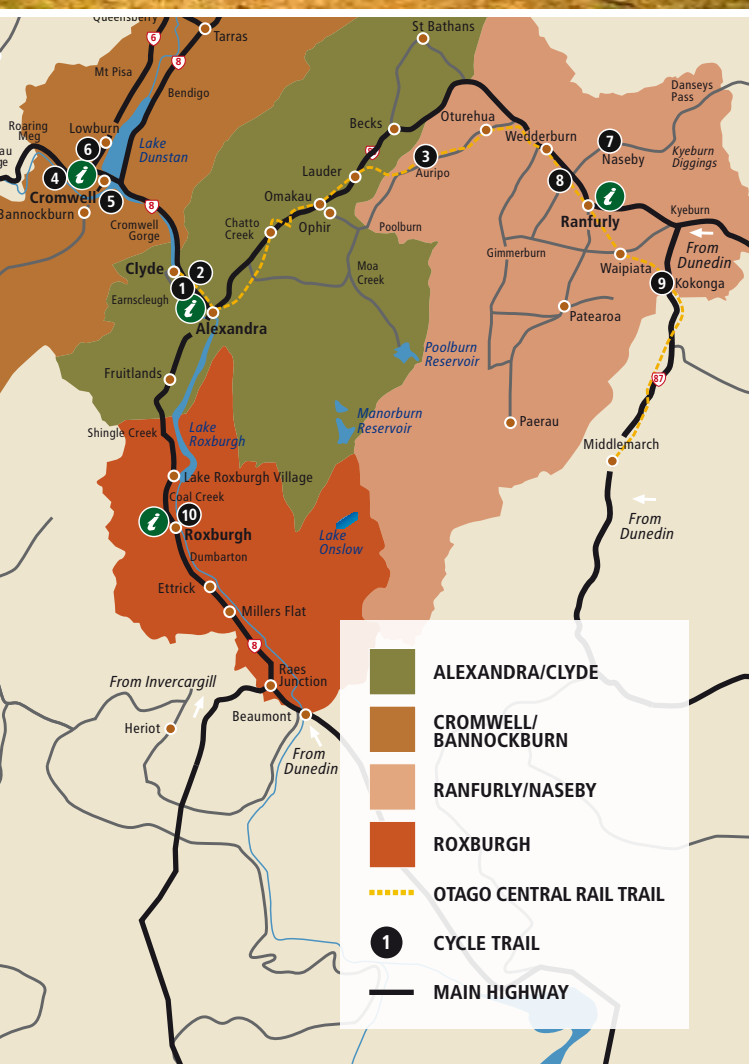
OTAGO CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL

New Zealand's first Rail Trail experience. This 150km gentle gradient trail follows the former railway line from Clyde to Middlemarch. Leisurely complete the trail in 4-5 days or discover its hidden treasures on one of the short day sections.





OUR REGION AT A GLANCE





OUR BEST KEPT SECRETS





ALEXANDRA TRAILS

1 150TH ANNIVERSARY – RIVER TRACK

This track runs between Clyde to Alexandra. This easy bike ride for the family takes you along the banks of the powerful Clutha Mata-au River.

From Alexandra, start at the car park signposted 300 metres along Earnsclough Road, follow the river through the historic Earnsclough Tailings and finish at Clyde.

Stop for a quiet picnic or just enjoy biking along this willow-lined track and take in their soft green colours in spring or their vibrant golds in autumn.

Linger awhile in the delightful historic township at Clyde – it is well worth a visit!

DISTANCE: 12KM FITNESS: BEGINNER

2 CLYDE TO CHATTO CREEK

The first section of the Otago Central Rail Trail. Starting at the Clyde Station this fairly flat ride takes you past an abundance of nature's best – orchards, vineyards and farmland where merino sheep graze.

Stop for a leisurely break, at Orchard Gardens or sample fine wines at Hintons Cellar Door in the commercial hub of Alexandra or just take the time to admire the stunning views of the Old Man Range from here.

DISTANCE: 25KM FITNESS: BEGINNER

3 OTUREHUA TO OMAKAU

The middle section of the Otago Central Rail Trail beginning at Oturehua. This section of the Trail is visually stunning and fascinating and best of all, it's mostly downhill – enjoy the easy ride! Passing through tunnels, over impressive bridges, the highlight being the Poolburn Viaduct a 108 metres long and 37 metres high – expect to be impressed.

Before you start, take a step back in time and explore Gilchrist's General Store or at Hayes Engineering Works on the town's outskirts. Indulge yourself along the journey with some good coffees at Oturehua, Lauder or Omakau or reward yourself with one of Muddy Creek's famous meat pies.

DISTANCE: 29.5KM FITNESS: BEGINNER

CROMWELL TRAILS

4 BANNOCKBURN SLUICINGS

This loop trail is a chance to explore the former goldfield and remains of Stewart Town. Starting at the car park about 1.5km along Felton Road, bike through the gold sluicings up to the ridgeline, then slowly follow the DoC markers back to the car park.

Marvel at the barren wasteland that the miners left, the seasonal colours, especially in autumn – a photographers dream. Then on your return spoil yourself by sampling some of the finest of Central Otago food and wines at one of the local vineyards.

DISTANCE: 3.5KM **FITNESS:** INTERMEDIATE STEEP AND UNDULATING

5 CROMWELL / BANNOCKBURN LAKESIDE

This easy ride takes you along the shoreline of Lake Dunstan from Old Cromwell Town to the Bannockburn Bridge. Starting from the Melmore Marina car park, follow this lakeside trail to Bannockburn Bridge and then return.

Pack a picnic and take in the wonderful 360 degree views of the surrounding mountains and picturesque lakeside scenes where the best of Central's fruit and award winning wines are produced. Or take time to relax over a coffee in Old Cromwell Town.

Expect it to be very cold in winter, very hot in summer, and wonderful scenery all year around.

DISTANCE: 11KM **FITNESS:** BEGINNER

6 DUNSTAN LAKESIDE – CROMWELL TO LOWBURN

Take an easy ride along the Lake Dunstan shoreline from Old Cromwell Town to Lowburn and return. This track starts from Old Cromwell Town and heads north beside Lake Dunstan passing under the Cromwell Bridge before meandering along the shoreline past McNulty Inlet to the Lowburn Collie Club.

Dappled shade from the extensive plantings will be a welcome relief on a hot summer's day. But don't be surprised by the strong north-westerly winds that blow down the lake – which is all the more reason to take a moment to marvel at the treeless vistas mixed in with the ordered symmetry of the nearby vineyards and orchards along the way.

Reward yourself on your return with a leisurely stroll around Old Cromwell Town.

DISTANCE: 19KM **FITNESS:** BEGINNER

RANFURLY TRAILS

7 NASEBY FOREST

Starts at the Naseby Swimming Dam. This privately owned exotic forest is a biker's paradise no matter your ability, from the easy tracks to advanced leg-burning climbs. Endless tracks for hours of exploration no matter the weather.

The tracks may close from time to time due to fire restrictions or logging operations, so check first. On your return discover the historic town of Naseby, home to New Zealand's only international year-round curling rink, or relax over a coffee.

Pick up a trail map from an information centre or one of the Naseby hotels.

DISTANCE: MULTI TRAILS **FITNESS:** OPTIONS FOR ALL LEVELS

8 WEDDERBURN TO RANFURLY

On the middle section of the Otago Central Rail Trail beginning at Wedderburn. Starting at Wedderburn station near the highest point of the Trail, enjoy an easy downhill ride to Ranfurly, Maniototo's commercial centre famous for its art deco architecture. On this section of the Trail expect to discover a world of vast open landscapes like no other the Hawkdun and Ida Ranges – a photographer's delight.

Before you start, why not linger over a hearty meal at the Wedderburn Pub or capture a photo opportunity by posing in front of the Wedderburn Goods Shed made famous by Central Otago artist Grahame Sydney.

DISTANCE: 13.5KM **FITNESS:** BEGINNER

9 DAISYBANK TO HYDE

Start at the Daisybank car park on the Otago Central Rail Trail. This section of the Rail Trail captures unforgettable views of the Kakanui Mountains, Ida Range and the beautiful Taieri Gorge.

Stop and admire the workmanship of the carefully preserved Cap Burn stone bridge or the 91-metre long, 32-metre high Price's Creek Viaduct. Pull out a torch and negotiate your way down the 152 metre long Price's Creek tunnel.

Make sure you reward yourself with a well deserved coffee in Hyde.

DISTANCE: 14.5KM **FITNESS:** BEGINNER

COMING SOON

Central Otago has two trails that will become part of *Nga Haerenga*, The New Zealand Cycle Trail. This national project is about building a network of world class cycle trails designed to showcase the very best of our country.

10 ROXBURGH GORGE TRAIL

Described as New Zealand's own "Grand Canyon". A spectacular one-day ride through truly iconic country, between Alexandra and Roxburgh Dam along the Clutha Mata-au River is a trail worth exploring.

Opportunities to discover well preserved mining relics set within an imposing and inspiring landscape will appeal to a wide range of people looking for a great one day ride year round.

DISTANCE: 34KM FITNESS: BEGINNER

10 CLUTHA GOLD TRAIL

A unique heritage experience along the mighty Clutha Mata-au River. Starting from Roxburgh, this trail travels through the Beaumont Gorge branching off into the rich green valley's towards the historic gold mining town of Lawrence.

Stories showcasing the rich heritage from – early Maori moa hunters, Chinese gold miners, to European pastoral farming, mining and rail histories will be told.

Open year round this 1-2 day trail will appeal in spring for fresh green pastures and frolicking lambs, in summer for local fruit harvesting to savour and in autumn for the vibrant colours.

DISTANCE: 75KM FITNESS: BEGINNER

FOR MORE INFORMATION MAKE TRACKS TO:
WWW.cyclecentralotago.com







**CENTRAL
OTAGO**

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

www.cyclecentralotago.com

P: Central Otago Visitor Centre: +64 (0)3 448 9515

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