

Introduction

Clutha Country has some of the most spectacular scenery and wildlife, across a myriad of landscapes from coastal rocky shores and sandy beaches, wetlands to rolling hills and Blue Mountains.

A wide selection of walking and bike tracks are available within our diverse countryside, from a short 15-minute trek to something more challenging for the more discerning trapper or cyclist.

Clutha Country has a fabulous natural environment abound with easily accessible outdoor pursuits in wide open spaces and an ever-changing landscape. All this provides a challenging playground for even the most adventurous of us!

Leave the rest of the world behind, come and experience the welcome and wonders of Clutha Country.



There are so many more walking and bike tracks situated in Clutha Country; we have only picked a small selection to feature. For more information about other available walking and biking tracks, commercial guided walks or to find out if walks are open due to weather conditions or tides, please visit one of the following information centres:

Clutha i-SITE Visitor Centre

Address: 4 Clyde Street, Balclutha
Ph: 03 418 0388
Fax: 418 1877
Email: clutha.vin@cluthadc.govt.nz

Catlins Information Centre & Owaka Museum

Address: 10 Campbell Street, Owaka
Ph/Fax: 03 415 8371
Email: catlinsinfo@cluthadc.govt.nz

Milton Information Centre

Address: 53 Union Street, Milton
Ph/Fax: 03 417 7480
Email: miltoninfo@xtra.co.nz

Lawrence Information Centre & Museum

Address: 17 Ross Place, Lawrence
Ph/Fax: 03 485 9222
Email: lawrence.infocentre@xtra.co.nz

Tapanui Service Centre, Information Centre & Library

Address: 1 Suffolk Street, Tapanui
Ph: 03 204 8306
Fax: 03 204 8302
Email: tapanui.info@cluthadc.govt.nz



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WALKING AND BIKE TRACKS IN CLUTHA



KEY



Easy



Moderate



Hard going



Mountain bikes



Parking



Toilets



Disabled Access Toilets



Lookout



Wheelchair accessible



Interpretation Panel



Dogs on leash



No Dogs



Picnic Area



Play Area



Camping



Cabins

Catlins Walks

Catlins Information Centre & Owaka Museum

10 Campbell Street, Owaka, Phone/Fax: 03 415 8371
catlinsinfo@cluthadc.govt.nz

1. Purakaunui Falls



The road to the falls is well signposted from the southern end of the Catlins River Bridge. This easy going track will take you on a 45-minute return. Purakaunui Falls is a picture of beauty, the falls cascade over stony platforms towards a pool below. There are a number of viewing levels at the falls and the top level is accessible to wheelchair users. The surface is made up of hard earth and packed gravel. Toilets at the beginning of the walk do have wheelchair access.



2. Catlins River Walk

We suggest that you get dropped off at the beginning and picked up at the end of this medium to hard going track, as a one way walk will take you approximately six hours to complete. The well formed track begins at the Camping Ground to follow the true left of the river. It can be walked in sections via connecting tracks from the forestry road. However, the road can be very rough and not always suitable for the family car. From the Tawanui end, the first part of the track is through exotic forest which soon gives way to silver beech. Features to look out for include the threatened mohua/yellowhead, especially at the northern end of the track.



3. Old Coach Rd and Tahakopa Loop Track

The carpark is near the northern end of the bridge over the Tahakopa River on SH92, Southern Scenic Route. This medium to hard going 40-minute return walk follows the original route that horse-drawn coaches took after coming in off the beach in Tahakopa Bay. After the track's start, when it forks, go right. It is flat going, alongside the tidal river and a very pleasant walk for all ages and abilities. The track ends when it reaches the beach, which can be walked along for some distance to link with a more arduous and often muddy route known as Tahakopa Loop Track. This is a three hour loop. The start/finish is the left fork of Old Coach Road.



4. Jacks Blow Hole

Follow the signs from Owaka to Jacks Bay. This easy going walk will take you on a one hour return. The route to the blowhole is fenced off, so please stay within the fenced area. Please respect the access provided by the landowner. The blow hole is in Tunnel Rocks Scenic Reserve and was formed when the roof of a large subterranean cave was eroded by the sea and fell in. This is an exposed coastline and heavy swells from the southern ocean can create an impressive display which can be seen at high tide.



5. Nugget Point

Carry along the coast road from Kaka Point to the Nugget Point Lighthouse carpark. This walk is an easy to medium going 40-minute return. It is accessible for wheelchair users with a helper. The well maintained pathway suits all ages and leads to a viewing platform beside the lighthouse. Keep a look out for New Zealand fur seal/kekeno, New Zealand sea lion/pakeke and elephant seals, which can be spotted on the rocks below the walking track and viewing platform. It is possible to cycle the 8.5km from Kaka Point to the beginning of this walk, taking in the amazing coastal scenery. Please note there are a number of steep inclines on the road to Nugget Point, bikes are not allowed on the walking track and there are no toilets suitable for wheelchair users.



Balclutha, Kaitangata & Surrounds

Clutha I-Site Visitor Centre

4 Clyde Street, Balclutha, Ph: 03 418 0388, Fax: 03 418 1877
clutha.vin@cluthadc.govt.nz

6. Lake Tuakitoto

A 10-minute drive out of Kaitangata on Lakeside Road will take you to the beginning of this lakeside walk. You will see a selection of native birds - Pukeko, NZ Shoveler, South Island Fernbird, Black Swans, Shelduck and Marsh Cranes to name a few. This easy going loop track will take you on a 15km return walk of three hours and bikes are allowed to use the track. Please note this track goes through farmland, so please remember to close all gates securely.



7. Blair Athol Walkway

Access to this walk can be found at the back of Naish Park on Charlotte Street in Balclutha. This easy going walk will take you one and a half hours to complete. You will follow the mighty Clutha River/Mata-Au and be able to take in the fabulous array of flora and fauna including an amazing display of rhododendrons. You are able to bike this track.



8. Awakiki Bush Scenic Reserve

This easy going 30-minute loop track can be reached by turning off State Highway 1 onto the Southern Scenic Route at Balclutha. Carry on for 10km and turn right onto Awakiki Road. About 1km down the road is a stile to cross through a farm. Follow the markers leading to the walk where you will be able to see 300 year old Totaras and view an old homestead.



9. Sesquicentennial Track, Inch Clutha

Follow the signs to Kaitangata out of Balclutha. Just before you enter Kaitangata you will see a bridge on your right hand side, follow the road over the bridge and drive until you come to a crossroads. Turn left at the crossroads onto Telegraph Road then turn left onto Centre Road. Carry on down Centre Road until you come to a one lane bridge, you will then see a carpark on the left which you can use. This track is an easy 90 minute return track which takes you down to the wonderful turquoise blue of the Pacific Ocean. You are able to bike this track.



Tapanui and West Otago

Tapanui Service Centre, Info Centre & Library

1 Suffolk Street, Tapanui, Ph: 03 204 8306, Fax: 03 204 8302
tapanui.info@cluthadc.govt.nz

10. Whisky Gully

At the southern end of The Blue Mountain Walk and a short driving distance from Tapanui is the beginning of this walk, an easy going 15 minute loop track. You will walk through native bush and be able to see and hear bellbirds, fantails and the endangered mohua/yellowhead. For the more enthusiastic walker there is access to a hard going five hour return walk up to the summit of the Blue Mountains.



11. Black Gully Track

The beginning of this track is 13km from Tapanui, at the northern end of the Blue Mountains. Turn right onto Black Gully Road East and here you will find a carpark and a picnic spot. Easy going short walks are readily available and children will love the historic play park. For the more discerning trumper there is access to a four hour return loop track to the top of the Blue Mountains. Huts and campsites are available for trampers and hunters.



12. Blue Mountain Walk



This hard going, six to eight hour walk will take you right along the ridge tops of The Blue Mountains. The walk can be started at either Whisky Gully or Black Gully, just follow the signs which are there to guide you. This walk will take you through native bush. On the top of the Blue Mountains you will walk past and admire tarns and experience a few rocky outcrops. Many native birds including bell birds and fantails can be seen and heard. It may be wise to arrange drop off and pickups to complete this walk in one day.



Milton, Taieri & Surrounds

Milton Information Centre

53 Union Street, Milton Phone/Fax: 03 417 7480
miltoninfo@xtra.co.nz

13. Bull Creek Bush Walk



Follow the signs from Milton to Bull Creek. This easy to moderate 40 minute return walk will take you along Bull Creek where you are able to swim and picnic. Here you will be able to view some of Clutha Country's outstanding natural beauty and ocean views.

14. Chrystalls Beach to Bull Creek



Follow the signs from Milton to Bull Creek, before you get to Bull Creek, turn off onto Chrystalls Beach Road. Once at Chrystalls Beach access onto the beach is available. This easy to moderate walk will take you on a return of two hours. After walking for approximately one hour you will reach Bull Creek. Take in the amazing coastal scenery and keep a lookout for New Zealand fur seal/kekeno, New Zealand sea lion/pakeke and elephant seals.



15. McNally Track



The start of this track begins 2kms out of Milton at the end of Cemetery Road. This hard going 7km return walk will take approximately three hours to complete. It will take you on a climb up to a hilltop lookout 317m above sea level giving you magnificent views over Clutha Country. It is possible to bike from Milton town centre turning right onto Cemetery Road and follow the signs to the lookout.

16. Mount Stuart Reserve



Just south of Milton on State Highway 1 you will turn onto State Highway 8. Follow this road until you see the signs for Mount Stuart Reserve on your right hand side. Follow this easy going 40 minute return track into native bush.

17. Mt Stuart Tunnel Track



Carry on down State Highway 8 until you see the sign for the Mount Stuart Tunnel on the left hand side. This easy going 40 minute return walk will take you to Mount Stuart Tunnel and you will see glow worms. A fun adventure for all the family. Remember to take a torch with you.

18. Taieri Millennium Track



Turn right into Taieri Ferry Road 4km north of Waihola. Just before the one lane bridge turn right and carry on to the end of the riverside road where you will be able to park. This moderate 4–5 hour return walk follows the Taieri River through native bush to a picturesque area known as John Bull Gully. You can turn around and return to the start or carry on to Taieri Mouth.

19. John Bull Gully



Drive to Taieri Mouth and turn south at the bridge to get to the track. This moderate walk will take you on a return walk of approximately 3 hours. You will venture through native bush and see beautiful views and scenery. This track is part of the Taieri Millennium Track, but can be completed as a separate 6km walk. You are able to bike this track.

20. Sinclair Wetlands



Follow the signs from State Highway 1. Sinclair Wetlands is situated between lakes Waihola and Waipori. This easy walk, which will last approximately 2 hours, will take you through the Wetlands and give you an opportunity to hear and see native birds and fish species. A wonderful tranquil place.



21. Government Track



From State Highway 1 turn onto Henley-Berwick Road and then turn onto Waipori Falls Road. When the seal road ends carry on for a further 1km and there you will see the beginning of the walk and carpark. This moderate going walk will take you approximately 4 to 5 hours to complete. This walk is also one of the most highly regarded mountain bike tracks in New Zealand, so remember to take your bike.

Lawrence

Lawrence Information Centre & Museum

17 Ross Place, Lawrence, Phone/Fax: 03 485 9222
lawrence.infocentre@xtra.co.nz

22. Gabriel's Gully/Weatherstons Track



Travel along Irvine Street and past the golf course and follow the signs for Weatherstons. Follow the clay road over the hill, eventually descending to a ford which is a popular place for gold panning established by DoC. Approximately 1 hour, one way. The Gabriel's Gully walk is an easy to moderate hour 20 minute loop walk. A number of interpretation panels explain the history of the site and how gold was extracted. There are swimming holes around this track, remember to take your togs.

23. Munroe's Gully Track



Drive to Victoria Dam at Milburn Pond just off Victoria Road. This moderate going walk will take you on a return walk of approximately 2 hours. Follow the track through broom, native bush and you will cross the stream in several places. The track will take you to an old water race which you follow for a short time until you come out in the open. Follow the track up through the pines to a road. Cross the road and turn right down the track past Cornishman's Dam. Follow the track up to Victoria Road and follow the road 2kms back to the Victoria Dam carpark. Vehicles do use the road so please ensure you are clearly visible to vehicle users.

24. Interpretative Track



Follow Gabriel's Gully Road to Gabriel's Gully where you will be able to park your car. This easy to medium going track will take about 80 minutes to complete. It circumnavigates this historical area and it will take you past a number of interpretation panels, which explain the history of the site and how the gold was extracted.

25. Otago Dam Track



Drive to Greys Dam to begin this moderate going 3 hour return walk following a stream through silver beech forest. There are a number of stream crossings before the track finally reaches open country which provides you with stunning views back down the valley. You will reach Otago Dam after approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. Follow the track back to where you began.



26. Beaumont Millennium Track



Drive from Lawrence on State Highway 8 and stop on the south side of the Beaumont Bridge. This easy to moderate walk will take you on a 3 hour return walk leading to the swingbridge, the lonely graves and the old railway line, which is also used by vehicles—please take care. You are able to bike this track.

Environmental Care Code

- Cyclists give way to walkers
- Walkers, be aware of cyclists
- Keep back from barriers and keep children under supervision and stay on tracks due to fall hazards
- Stay within fence boundaries
- Respect private property
- Respect the conditions of use, as access is a privilege not a right
- Be aware of rapid changes in weather
- Please take all rubbish away with you
- Protect nature, do not remove plants, animals or fossils
- Control dogs; they can harm penguins and threaten seals

Safety

- Take clothing suitable for all weather conditions
- Wear suitable footwear, something with good support
- Remember to remove valuables from your car and lock it
- If you see any hazards, report these to DOC Safety Watch by calling 0800 999 005
- For emergencies, call 111

Wildlife guidelines

On many of the walks mentioned in this brochure you will see a variety of wildlife including seals, native birds and penguins. We ask that you follow these guidelines:

SEALS: Don't come between seals and the water.

SEA LIONS: Keep well back! Sea lions can chase people very quickly. They are on the shore to rest, please leave them in peace.

PENGUINS: Don't let penguins see you. Talk quietly and move away slowly. Keep away from nest sites. These birds are endangered and every nest and chick needs protecting.

NATIVE BIRDS: Don't go near nesting areas, stay quiet.

