

MOVE TO EXPLORE

CHRISTCHURCH - TIMARU

● CHRISTCHURCH (Start)

A region of contrasts, Canterbury is where you can spot whales in the Pacific Ocean, scale the Southern Alps, relax in a volcanic hot pool and enjoy stylish bars and restaurants all in one day. Amble through the North Canterbury wine region, then change the pace with a trip through the lakes, glaciers and mountains of Aoraki Mount Cook National Park.

● LINDIS PASS (347km)

One of New Zealand's must-do drives, Lindis Pass is a dramatic mountain pass that links Canterbury's Mackenzie Basin with Central Otago. With towering peaks, grassland and wildlife stretching as far as the eye can see, this area is a nature lover's dream – and the dusting of snow in the colder months makes this mountainous drive even more enchanting.

● WANAKA (81.5km)

It's best known as the gateway to the Southern Alps' Mount Aspiring National Park, but Wanaka has much more than skiing to offer adventurous travellers. Visit any time of year to explore the wilderness and go hiking, fishing, climbing, skydiving and much more. Once you've had your adrenaline fix, settle in and enjoy the warmth and tranquillity of Lake Wanaka.

● QUEENSTOWN (67km)

The ultimate destination for adventure seekers, Queenstown is home to the kind of scenery that really needs to be seen to be believed. As much as it's famed for being a winter wonderland, there are exhilarating experiences for every season here. Go river rafting and try a bungee jump or escape altogether with a luxury spa treatment and a local food and wine tour.

● INVERCARGILL (187km)

Packed full of old-world character, Invercargill is an ideal base for exploring the great outdoors of Southland. Check out the coastal playground of Oreti Beach or taste your way around the region's local producers, from cheese tasting at Blue River Dairy to chocolate making at the Seriously Good Chocolate Company.



DUNEDIN (205km)

Known for its Scottish roots, Dunedin is one of the best-preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities in the Southern Hemisphere – but New Zealand’s city of the south is anything but stuffy. A young population keeps the city buzzing, while the beautiful Otago Peninsula puts rugged beaches and rare penguin colonies on its doorstep. Be sure to visit the Royal Albatross Centre to see Northern Royal Albatross in their natural habitat.



TIMARU (197km)

Before you start your return trip to Christchurch, stop off at Timaru to enjoy the beachside attractions of Caroline Bay. This is the place to wind down at the end of your trip, with beaches, walks and relaxed restaurants aplenty. If you’re still feeling energetic, explore the Timaru Botanic Gardens and check out the huge collection of indoor and outdoor art at the Aigantighe Art Gallery.

