

Central Otago Touring Route

South Island 5-Days itinerary



Day 1: Queenstown → Arrowtown → Lake Wakatipu Cruise

- **Travel time:** ~20 mins (Queenstown to Arrowtown)
- **Mode:** Car
- **Day Overview:** Start your adventure in Queenstown, known for its stunning alpine backdrop. Drive to the charming historic town of Arrowtown, where you'll explore its goldrush history. Afterward, embark on a scenic cruise aboard the TSS Earnslaw across Lake Wakatipu, offering mesmerizing views of the surrounding mountains.
- **Highlight:** Arrowtown's quaint streets and the vintage steamship experience on Lake Wakatipu

Day 2: Queenstown → Cromwell via Kawarau Gorge

- **Travel time:** ~45 mins (Queenstown to Cromwell)
- **Mode:** Car
- **Day Overview:** After breakfast, drive through the picturesque Kawarau Gorge towards Cromwell. Explore the region's renowned vineyards, where you can indulge in local winetasting. You may also stop by the iconic Bungy Bridge to witness thrill-seekers leap off into the gorge.

- **Highlight:** Kawarau Bungy Bridge and world-class wine tasting in Cromwell.

Day 3: Cromwell → Maniototo (via Alexandra & Rail Trail)

- **Travel time:** ~1 hour (Cromwell to Alexandra)
- **Mode:** Car or bike (optional)
- **Day Overview:** Today, delve into the heart of Central Otago. Stop at Alexandra to visit its historical sites and then continue to Maniototo. If you're feeling adventurous, cycle along the Otago Central Rail Trail, where you'll pass by rugged landscapes, old mining settlements, and unique stone viaducts.
- **Highlight:** Cycling or hiking the famous Otago Rail Trail and exploring old railway viaducts.

Day 4: Maniototo → Dunedin

- **Travel time:** ~2 hours (Maniototo to Dunedin)
- **Mode:** Car
- **Day Overview:** Start your journey towards Dunedin, a city rich in Scottish heritage. Visit the iconic Dunedin Railway Station, then explore its heritage

buildings and quaint cafes. If time permits, head to the Otago Peninsula for breathtaking views and wildlife encounters.

- **Highlight:** Historic Dunedin Railway Station and the Otago Peninsula's wildlife

Day 5: Dunedin

- **Mode:** Car or walking
- **Day Overview:** Spend your day in Dunedin, visiting its iconic Larnach Castle or the unique Olveston Mansion. Don't miss the opportunity to spot the rare, yellow-eyed penguins along the coastline or enjoy a tour of the nearby wildlife sanctuary.
- **Highlight:** Larnach Castle and rare wildlife sightings on the Otago Peninsula.