



Sea Lions/Whakahao at Pūrākaunui Bay Credit: Great South

Sea Lions/Whakahao Credit: Fergus Sutherland

Pūrākaunui Bay Credit: Lemmon Bright

Haldane, Southland Credit: Jeremy Pierce

Pūrākaunui Falls Credit: Clutha NZ Visual Library

Waipapa Point Credit: Great South

Tautuku Bay Credit: Great South

Wildlife

Hector's Dolphins
Hector's Dolphins / Tutumairekurai / Tūpoupu are one of our shy local species. These little black and white dolphins can be seen in the summer surf at Porpoise Bay. They are one of the rarest and smallest dolphins in the world. Swimming with the dolphins is discouraged; it is best to watch them from the shore. If you are in the water, please do not approach the dolphins.

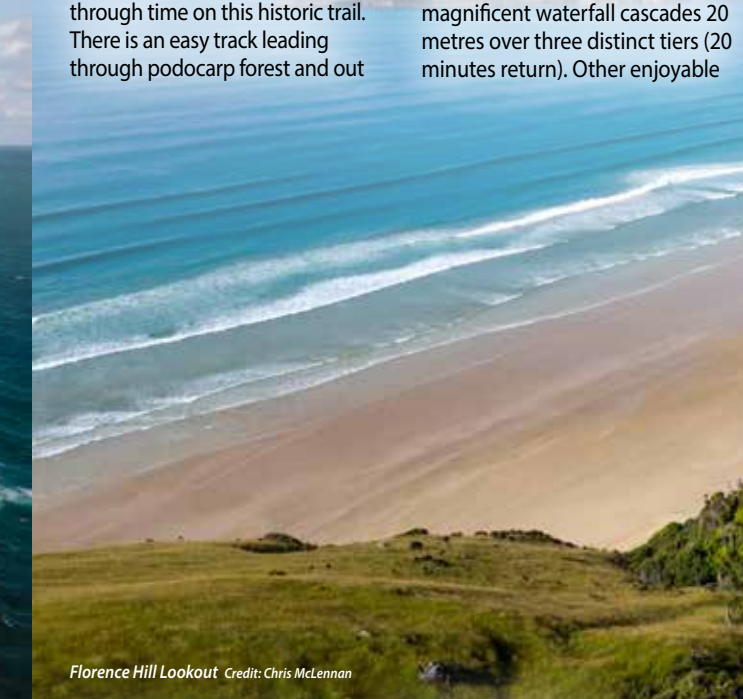
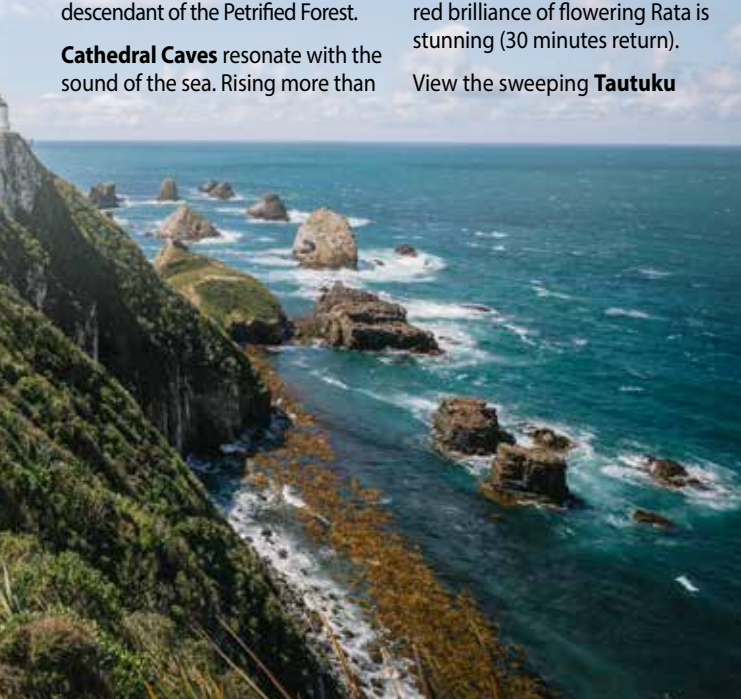
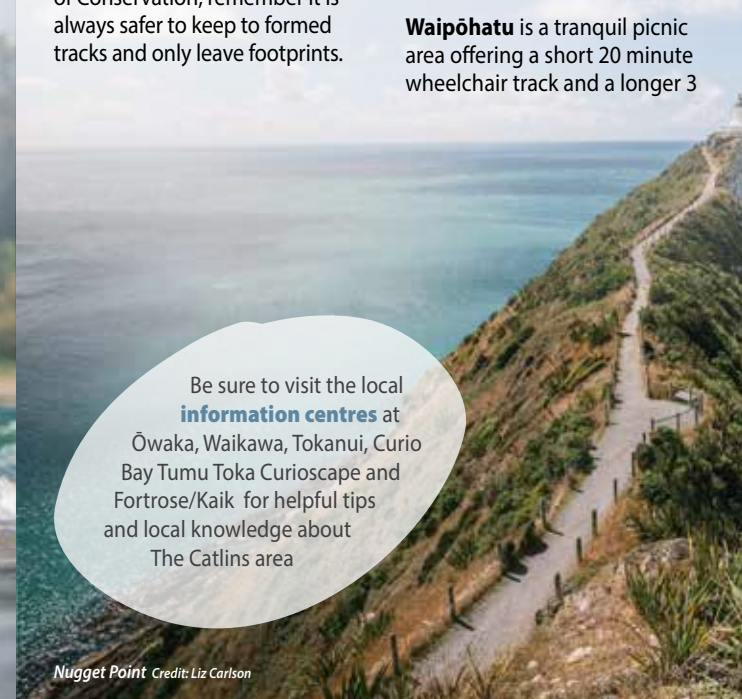
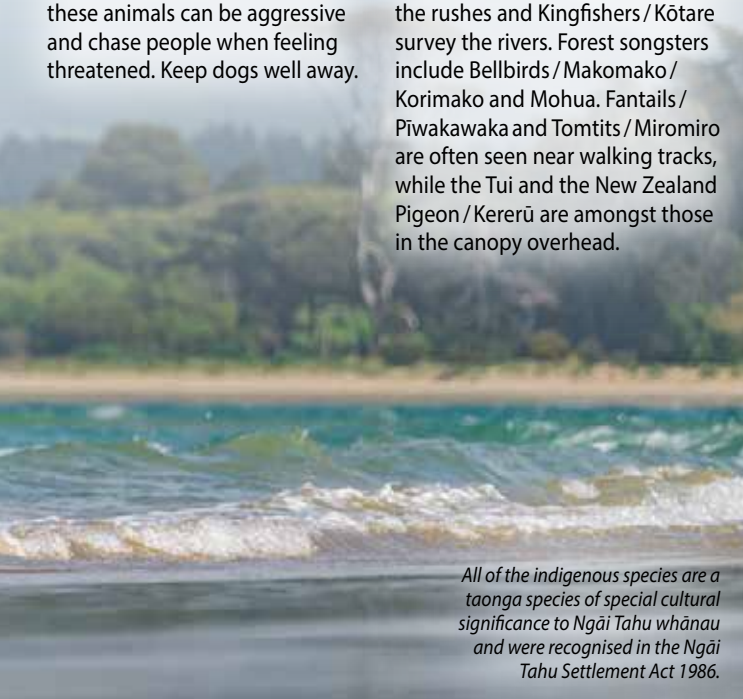
Yellow-eyed Penguins
The Yellow-eyed Penguin / Hoiho is an endangered and unique species. Distinguished by its distinct yellow eyes and headband, the Yellow-eyed Penguin is native to New Zealand / Aotearoa. Hoiho, its Māori name, imitates its shrill call and translates to 'the noise shouter'. Penguins are best viewed at dawn or dusk and observed at a minimum of 50 metres. A special hide at Roaring Bay / Hakaparāoa provides discreet viewing. Never approach a penguin as they are shy and easily frightened. Please keep your distance and stay concealed if possible. Dogs are strictly prohibited from penguin colonies.

Seals & Sea Lions
New Zealand Fur Seals / Kekenō, New Zealand Sea Lions / Whakahao and the odd formidable Elephant Seal can be found sunning themselves on various Catlins beaches (especially Waipapa Point / Otara and Surat Bay). The only place on mainland New Zealand / Aotearoa where all three co-exist is at Nugget Point / Tokatā. Please keep your distance (at least 20 metres) at all times as these animals can be aggressive and chase people when feeling threatened. Keep dogs well away.

Birdlife
The Catlins boasts a variety of sea and forest birds. Shags roost in trees on the coast and river edges while Gulls and Terns are seen close to shore. Further out, the likes of Muttonbirds / Titi, Gannets / Takapu and Mollmawks dive for fish. Herons / Kotuku, Pied Stilts, Bar Tailed Godwits / Kuaka and Oystercatchers / Toreapango wade in the estuaries. Fernbirds / Mātātā and Bitterns / Kaoriki hide amongst the rushes and Kingfishers / Kōtare survey the rivers. Forest songsters include Bellbirds / Makomako / Korimako and Mohua. Fantails / Piwakawaka and Tomtits / Miromiro are often seen near walking tracks, while the Tui and the New Zealand Pigeon / Kererū are amongst those in the canopy overhead.

Beach and Bay from Florence Hill. To the east is the rugged Papatowai coastline where surfers from New Zealand and elsewhere come to surf the big waves of the southern ocean. At Papatowai is the Shanks Bush Nature Trail with a 20 minute return walk to enjoy many different natural habitats with activities for young people, and the Old Coach Road.

waterfalls are McLean Falls (40 minutes return) and Matai Falls (30 minutes return). Also at Matai Falls, the Matai Rail Trail (1 hour return).
The Catlins River Walk and Wisp Loop Track provide one or two days walking through native beech and planted forest. The routes feature swing bridges, high altitude views and opportunities to see the rare bird the Mohua.
Walk to a spectacular blowhole with exploding waves and roaring sound effects when at high tide. Jacks Blowhole is 100 metres inland from the sea. It has been known historically for its ability to dramatically spout water. Tunnel damage means that ideal sea conditions are required for this effect to occur (1 hour return).
Getting to the lighthouse at Nugget Point / Tokatā is an exhilarating experience. The roar of the sea rushes to fill your ears, and the visual drama of vast skies, endless ocean and sheer cliffs to the left and right is gripping. Its name is derived from the sea-worn rocks that resemble gold nuggets (20 minutes return).



Surat Bay Credit: Lemmon Bright

All of the indigenous species are a taonga species of special cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu whānau and were recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act 1986.

Be sure to visit the local information centres at Ōwaka, Waikawa, Tokanui, Curio Bay Tumu Toka Curioscape and Fortrose/Kaik for helpful tips and local knowledge about The Catlins area

Nugget Point Credit: Liz Carlson

Florence Hill Lookout Credit: Chris McLennan

Toitū te whenua
... leave the land undisturbed



Welcome... Nau mai Haere mai...

Origins and Our Past

Tēnā Koutou katoa and welcome to The Catlins, a major highlight of the Southern Scenic Route. Situated off the beaten track, The Catlins encompasses the area between Fortrose / Kaik and Kākā Point / Rakitāmau and inland to Mokoreta. You will journey through rural heartland and podocarp and beech forest, past rugged coastlines, hidden lakes and stunning waterfalls. The natural landscapes are enthralling and the wildlife is extraordinary.

The Catlins southern location bestows upon us long summer days perfect for exploring. Vivid sunsets and long twilight evenings lead on to ideal star gazing opportunities. Rainy days bring fresh growth to pastures and forest while strong winds shape the forests and raise impressive waves along the coast. Come prepared to enjoy dynamic weather conditions.

Remember The Catlins is another special part of New Zealand / Aotearoa that has steep topography and quite large distances from main cities; this means cell phone coverage is not always accessible. Plan your days, keep water on hand for long drives and always take note of fuel stops as they are sometimes few and far between.

The Catlins has many wonderful experiences to share. Accept our invitation and stay a few days. Meet the local people and relax on 'Catlins time'.

Early Māori of Kai Tahu, Kati Mamoe, Waitaha descent were the first to inhabit these lands. Many stories and encounters are etched into the fabric of this once forgotten coastline. Descendants are still part of this special area keeping their ancestors' memories alive for the next generations.

Early Māori made use of the available stone and tool resources on this coast. With many birds including moa and an abundance of seafood / kai moana, this coastline was perfect for settlements and pa that were established along the coastline.

Māori legend reverberate with colourful escapades of great chiefs and large hairy monsters of the forest known as Maeroero. The region's namesake was a ship's captain who regularly carried exports to Australia. Edward Cattlin purchased a huge tract of land from local Māori in 1840. However, authorities later reduced his claim and did not formally transfer title until 1873. This was a bit late for Captain Cattlin who had died in Sydney, 17 years earlier. Still, his name has stayed with us, albeit with a slight modification to the spelling. The boundary of The Catlins today is not all of his holdings.

The first European communities centred around short-lived whaling stations during the 1830s.

The Catlins Care Code

PLEASE HELP US TO PROTECT THE NATURE AND WILDLIFE OF THE CATLINS

Only leave your footprints; only take photographs and memories...

For fire or accident emergency - PHONE 111

For conservation/wildlife emergency - PHONE 0800 362 468

Southland District Council (SDC) 0800 732 732

Clutha District Council (CDC) 0800 801 350

NOTE: There is minimal cell phone coverage in much of The Catlins. Public phones are located at Ōwaka, Papatowai, Kākā Point and Tokanui.

Or head to www.checkitsalright.nz

WILDLIFE & NATURE

For more information visit www.doc.govt.nz

- Talk quietly and move slowly when near sea lions / whakahao or fur seals / kekeno - do not disturb them, give them space, stay at least 20m away.
- Yellow-eyed Penguins / Hoiho are shy and easily stressed - do not disturb them, give them space, stay at least 50m away.
- Do not remove plants, animals or fossils from the environment - treat New Zealand / Aotearoa forest and birds with respect, they are unique and often rare.
- Respect our cultural heritage, treat these places with consideration and care.
- Dogs can disturb and even kill wildlife, please look out for and respect signage regarding dogs.

CAMPING

For more information visit www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/dog-access

Use of drones is restricted - for further information on use of drones in public places, private land, around livestock, wildlife and wildlife habitats visit www.airshare.co.nz

FIRES

Scan here for tips on how to reduce your own risk of wildfire and a three-step tool to let you know whether it's safe to light a fire, and if you'll need a fire permit.

Or head to www.checkitsalright.nz

FIRES CAN DESTROY THE FOREST

Check out the Tiaki Promise www.tiakineewzealand.com

DRIVING
Visit www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/visiting-new-zealand

- Keep left, observe all road signs. Pass school bus at less than 20km/hr.
- Reduce speed when driving on 'unsealed' roads.
- Limit vehicle use on beaches, respect other beach users, the road rules apply. For latest beach access information refer to CDC and SDC websites.
- Indicate and pull over to the left-hand side of the road to take photographs, read road signs and to allow vehicles behind you to pass safely.
- If you see sheep and cattle on the roads, drive slowly and stay in your vehicle.

WASTE DISPOSAL

- Please take all rubbish away with you, carry out what you carry in. Rubbish disposal points are at Kākā Point / Rakitāmau, Ōwaka, Papatowai and Tokanui. Recycling is also available at Ōwaka and Tokanui
- Use public toilets provided, please do not pollute the environment
- Use Campervan waste disposals which are located in Ōwaka (Inn Street) and Tokanui.

THE CATLINS OFFICIAL WEBSITE

catlins.org.nz

THE Catlins Te Akau Tai Toka NEW ZEALAND - AOTEAROA

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Clutha

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'Our aim is to promote The Catlins as a place to live, work and visit, and to help retain The Catlins heritage and natural history'

Enquiries to info@catlins.org.nz
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SOUTHLAND / SOUTH OTAGO

THE CATLINS OFFICIAL WEBSITE catlins.org.nz

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BE PREPARED **DRIVE CAREFULLY** **KEEP NZ CLEAN** **PROTECT NATURE** **SHOW RESPECT**

Front Cover Images: Pūrākaunui Bay Credit: Chris McLennan
Royal Spoonbill / Kōtuku Ngutupapa Credit: Tony Somerville
Sea Lion / Whakahao Credit: Fergus Sutherland

