

# the best day-walks in **SUPER SOUTHLAND (with STEWART ISLAND)**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The legendary Hokonui Hills, reputed to inspire moonshine and meandering.
- The “country music capital” of New Zealand (Gore)
- An ancient fossilised forest exposed at low tide (Curio Bay)
- The most southerly point of the South Island mainland (Slope Point)
- Thoroughly impressive waterfalls in the Catlins
- Spectacular coastal scenery at Nugget Point
- The unspoilt beauty of NZ’s third-largest island (Stewart Island) (3 days)

DATES		16-22 March 2025 / March 2029	
DATE REGISTRATIONS CLOSE		16 January 2025 / January 2028	
STARTING POINT		Invercargill	8.00 a.m.
FINISHING POINT		Invercargill	8.00 p.m.
COST		6pax\$1400pp, 5pax\$1500pp, 4pax\$1600pp	
DAY	POSSIBLE WALKS	OVERNIGHT	
<p>Walks that are highly recommended are printed in <b>red</b>.</p> <p>All times given are for a return (out and back) walk, a loop walk, or a linear walk with transport to/from each end.</p>			
<b>Day 1</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meet and greet. Initial briefing.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Travel from Invercargill to Gore via Hedgehope (65km, 1h).</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Hokonui Hills</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Walks selected from:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Forest Hill Reserve</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Derek Turnbull Track from Tussock Creek picnic area to Forest Hill picnic area (2h one way), Lookout Loop Walk to Weta Cave from Forest Hill picnic area (1h)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Croydon Bush Scenic Reserve</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grant’s Knob Track (1h20m), Middle Track/Richardson Track Loop to East Peak (1h30m), <b>Dolamore Track</b> (1h), Fantail Ridge (45m), <b>Whiskey Creek Loop</b> (2h), Sequoia Track (30m), Hidden Valley (1h30m), Poppelwell’s Lookout (1h30m), Hokonui Water Race Trail (1h30m).</p>	Gore	
<b>Day 2</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Travel from Gore to Owaka (via Balclutha) (105km,1h15m))</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Catlins Conservation Park</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Walks selected from:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tunnel Hill (20m), Nugget Point to Roaring Bay (10m), <b>Nugget Point Lighthouse</b> (30m), Pounawea Scenic Reserve (15-40m), <b>Cannibal Bay to Surat Bay</b> (1h30m), <b>Jack’s Blowhole</b> (1h), <b>Purakaunui Falls</b> (20m).</p>	Owaka or Pounawea	
<b>Day 3</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Catlins Conservation Park</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Walks selected from:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Papatowai-Picnic Point-Kings Rock (2h), Lake Wilkie Loop (30m), Tautuku Nature Walk (20m), Tautoko Estuary</p>	Owaka or Pounawea	

	Boardwalk (20m), <b>Cathedral Caves (1h), McLean Falls (40m).</b>	
<b>Day 4</b>	<p><b>Catlins Conservation Park</b>  <i>Walks selected from:</i>  Niagara Falls, <b>Curio Bay Petrified Forest (30m), Slope Point (20m), Waipapa Pt Cemetery (15m) &amp; Beach Walk (15m), Slope Point (20m), Waipapa Beach &amp; Slope Point (2h).</b></p> <p><b>Bluff Area</b>  Greenpoint Domain (30m)</p>	Bluff
<b>STEWART ISLAND</b>		
<b>Days 5 and 6</b>	<p><b>Stewart Island: Rakiura National Park</b>  <i>Catamaran ferry (1h) departs Bluff 9.45 a.m.</i>  <i>Longer Options:</i>  <b>Maori Beach (6h),</b> Garden Mound-Little River-Big Bay (4-5h), Horseshoe Point (3-4h), Kaipipi Bay (3h), Ryans Creek (3h30m).  <i>Shorter Options:</i>  Golden Bay – Deep Bay (2h), Bathing Beach (30m), Observation Rock (30m), Fuchsia and Raroa Walks (1h), Moturau Moana (30m), Lonneker’s Beach-Ringaranga Beach-Evening Cove (1h30m), Fern Gully (2h), <b>Golden Bay-Deep Bay-Ringaranga-Wohler’s Monument-Peterson Hill (2h),</b> Oban Cemetery (45m).  *<b>Ulva Island:</b> Water taxis, guides and charter boats are available to take you to this wildlife sanctuary, famous for native birds. Allow at least half a day. Own expense.</p>	Oban
<b>Day 7</b>	<p><b>Stewart Island: Light At the End</b>  <b>Harrold Bay and Ackers Point Lighthouse (2-3h)</b>  Ferry (1h) departs Oban 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Bluff Area</b>  <i>Walks selected from:</i>  Bluff Hill Lookout (5m), Topuni Track from summit to Stirling Point (1h), Summit-Millennium Track-Foveaux Walkway to Stirling Point (2h).</p> <p><b>Farewell Dinner in Bluff or Invercargill. Trip concludes.</b></p>	



Purakaunui Falls

***Footsteps Walking and Travel Club of Aotearoa/New Zealand***  
***Booking Conditions for excursions within New Zealand***

1. Participants agree to all terms and conditions by signing the Registration Form.
2. Phillip Donnell and *Footsteps Walking and Travel Club* are not responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may arise from weather, defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, or through the acts or default of any person or company engaged in carrying out any of the arrangements of the trip. Everyone participates entirely at their own risk. The separate waiver form must be completed.
3. We reserve the right to cancel the trip if minimum numbers don't eventuate. In such an event, all monies paid will be refunded. The minimum number for any given trip is four participants.
4. *Footsteps* reserves the right to make any modifications to the trip that may be necessary. The walks undertaken each day are determined by group consensus, but as far as possible we endeavour to meet your personal preferences.
5. Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first comer's basis on receipt of the Registration Form. A deposit of \$250 per person is paid at the time of registration. The balance is paid *one month* prior to the trip's commencement date.
6. Our preferred method of payment is internet banking to Footsteps, Kiwibank 38-9002-0435674-03. Please write your surname and the name of the trip (=geographical area) in the reference box.
7. The final decision on whether a trip will proceed is made *two months* prior to its projected commencement date, or *earlier if the minimum number is met*. If booking transport/flights to and from the trip, it is recommended that you wait until after the trip is confirmed to proceed, or have travel insurance cover, or are able to change flight bookings to another timeframe. All participants will be informed *immediately* if a trip becomes viable *ahead of time*.
8. Cancellations. If you need to cancel your registration for any reason, you must advise *Footsteps* in writing as soon as possible. An email is acceptable, a phone call alone is not. It will be appreciated that any trip requires bookings to be made on behalf of each participant, and the closer we get to a trip's commencement, the more difficult it becomes to alter these and thereby recover costs, usually because the availability of alternatives shrinks, or because of the policies imposed by our suppliers. That is why we need a buffer, but we endeavour to keep cancellation fees to a bare minimum. Under "normal" conditions, cancellations up to 60 days prior incur a \$50 cancellation fee. For 59-30 days prior, \$100 is deducted. For 29-15 days prior, \$150 is deducted. After 14 days prior, you lose your deposit of \$250. However, every case is determined on its merits and these fees may be modified or waived. If you find a suitable replacement person, the cancellation fees will be waived.
9. Personal travel insurance is recommended, including Covid cover.
10. If you contract Covid, you will immediately let the group leader know in order to discuss options. If you are very sick you may need to withdraw from the tour. If you have mild symptoms, the entire group will be consulted as to what should happen. Normally you would continue but everyone would wear masks.

***Registration and waiver forms are below...***

***Footsteps Walking and Travel Club of Aotearoa/New Zealand***  
***Trip Registration Form (for excursions within New Zealand)***

Complete and send this (and the Waiver form) to our postal address (see base of page) or scan and email. The deposit required is \$250 per person. Our preferred payment method is internet banking into Kiwibank 38-9002-0435674-03 (with covering email please, or your surname/name of trip in reference column).

Trip(s) for which you are registering:

Trip Dates:

Your full name(s) and please underline or highlight your preferred first name(s)

Postal address

Day phone

Night phone

Mobile

Email

Date(s) of birth

Are you comfortable in close contact with like-minded travellers with all the give and take needed for harmony? Please extend your answers overleaf or on separate paper, or by email.

Specify any dietary requirements, allergies or medical conditions

Contact person in NZ for any emergencies : name, address, contact phone numbers, email and the relationship to you. In the event of any emergency, this is the sole person you are authorizing us to liaise with

I/We have read the trip information and booking conditions. I / We enclose the deposit of \$250pp. I / We agree to pay the remainder of trip costs by the due date (one month before the trip commences).

Signed and dated by each person registering:

Send to : Footsteps Walking and Travel Club, 3/B Te Arawa Place, Welcome Bay, Tauranga 3112.  
Email: [footstepsanz@gmail.com](mailto:footstepsanz@gmail.com)

**FOOTSTEPS WALKING and TRAVEL CLUB OF AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

**RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY FORM**

**PROVIDER:** Footsteps Walking and Travel Club (Phillip John Donnell)(“Footsteps”)

**PARTICIPANT:**

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(“the Participant”)

I, the Participant, release and forever discharge and hold harmless Footsteps from all and any liability, claims, demands and damages, of whatsoever kind or nature, whether foreseeable or otherwise, either at law or in equity, which arise or may arise from the services and activities provided and arranged by Footsteps.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Waiver discharges Footsteps from any liability or claim that I may have against Footsteps in respect of personal injury, illness, medical treatment, death, property loss or damage, and otherwise howsoever, resulting from the services and activities provided and arranged by Footsteps. I hereby waive all such rights and remedies.

I accept that I participate in the services and activities entirely at my own risk.

I acknowledge and accept that this Release and Waiver:

- (a) Extends to and covers all contractors, agents, volunteers and employees of Footsteps; and
- (b) Binds the executors, administrators, successors, attorneys and assigns of both parties.

Signed by the Participant:

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Date:

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