

Travel Tips for Guests Driving to Pen-y-bryn Lodge

When we travel ourselves, we always like to know what we might be passing by as we go from one place to another so that we can make the most of our time away and avoid missing things that we might not have the time to backtrack for. To help our guests who feel the same, here are some of our pointers on things to see and do as you travel to Oamaru from various spots in the area that most of our guests seem to be coming to us from. If you are coming from a direction not included in this list, we invite you to write to us directly and we'll be happy to send you a tailored recommendation for your own drive.



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Queenstown/Wanaka Area

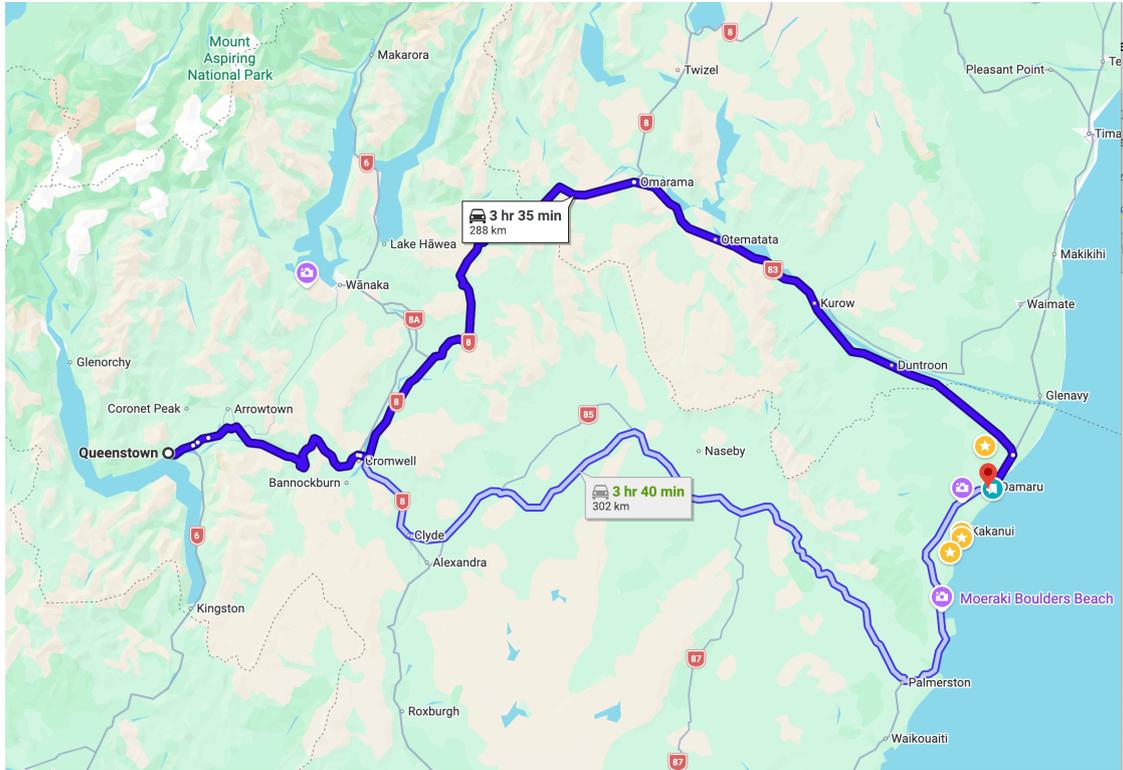
If you are coming to us from the Queenstown/Wanaka area, you have two routes to choose from. The first of these is the marginally shorter, but to our mind, more interesting route, which takes you north out of the Central Lakes area toward Omarama, and from there eastward along the Waitaki River on SH83 most of the way to Oamaru, with a 'dogleg' to take you into the countryside to some of the key sites of the UNESCO Waitaki Whitestone Global Geopark. Stops along this route include:

- Lindis Pass viewpoint
- Clay Cliffs
- Otematata Wetlands
- Kurow wineries
- Maori Rock Art
- Duntroon Vanished World Centre
- Elephant Rocks

The alternate route goes south on SH8 from Cromwell toward Clyde and then follows SH85 (known locally as the "Pig Root") through the Maniototo Ranges and the towns of Omakau and Ranfurly to Palmerston, where you connect to SH1 for the northward journey to Oamaru. Stops along this route include:

- Clyde Dam
- St Bathans
- Blue Lake
- Naseby (famed for curling)
- Ranfurly Art Deco village
- Shag Point (wildlife viewing)
- Trotters Gorge (two walking trails)
- Katiki Lighthouse (wildlife, including yellow-eyed penguins)
- Moeraki Boulders

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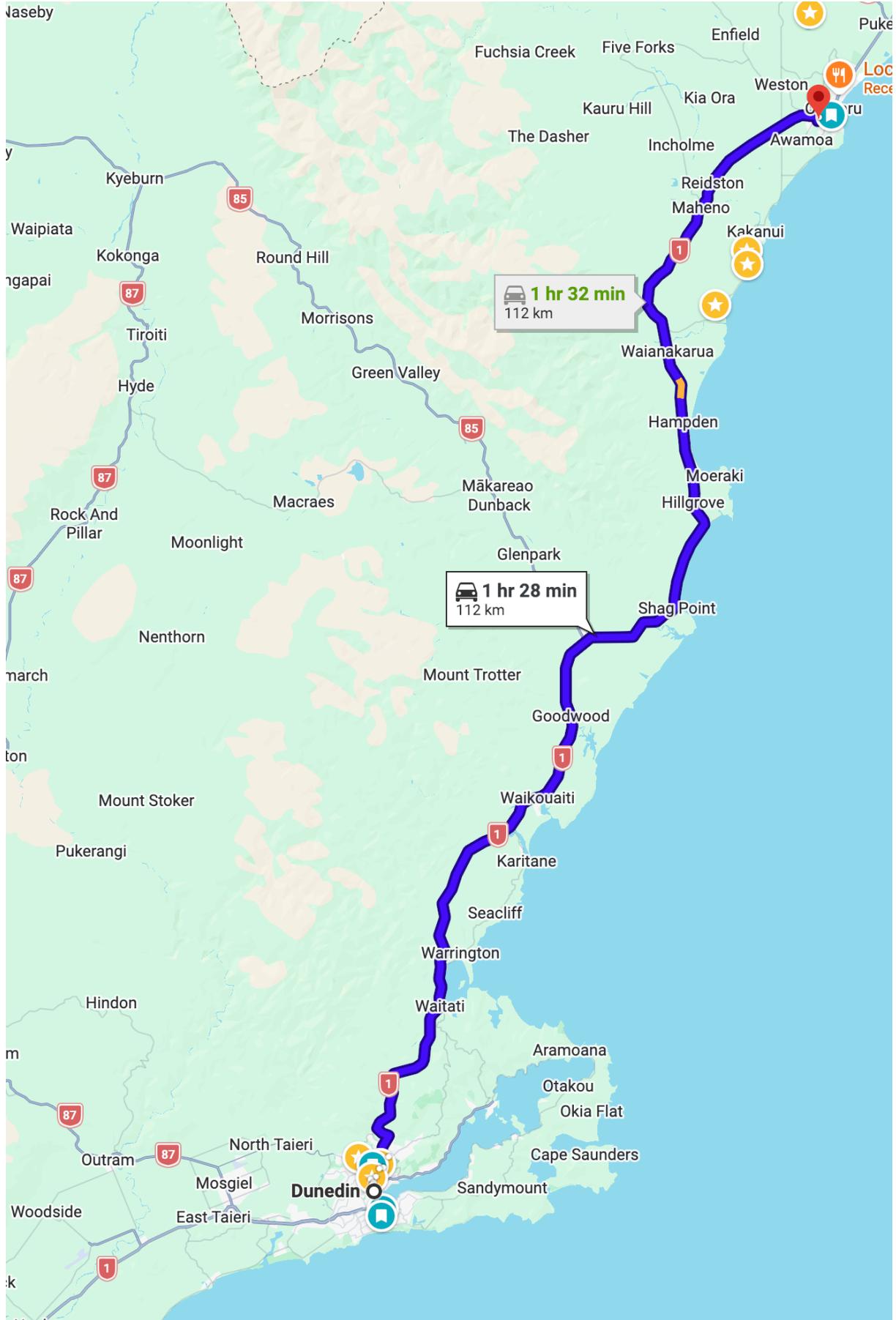


Dunedin

Dunedin is the next major town south of Oamaru and is a short drive (1 hour and a bit) away, yet there is a lot to see and do between here and there.

- Orokonui Ecosanctuary (open Thursday to Monday)
- Hawkesbury Lagoon in Waikouaiti (for bird watching)
- Trotters Gorge
- Katiki Lighthouse (wildlife viewing, including Yellow-Eyed Penguins)
- Moeraki Boulders
- Herbert Forest
- Kakanui (you can skip SH1 and follow the scenic coastal road from Waianakarua to Kakanui and then to Oamaru)

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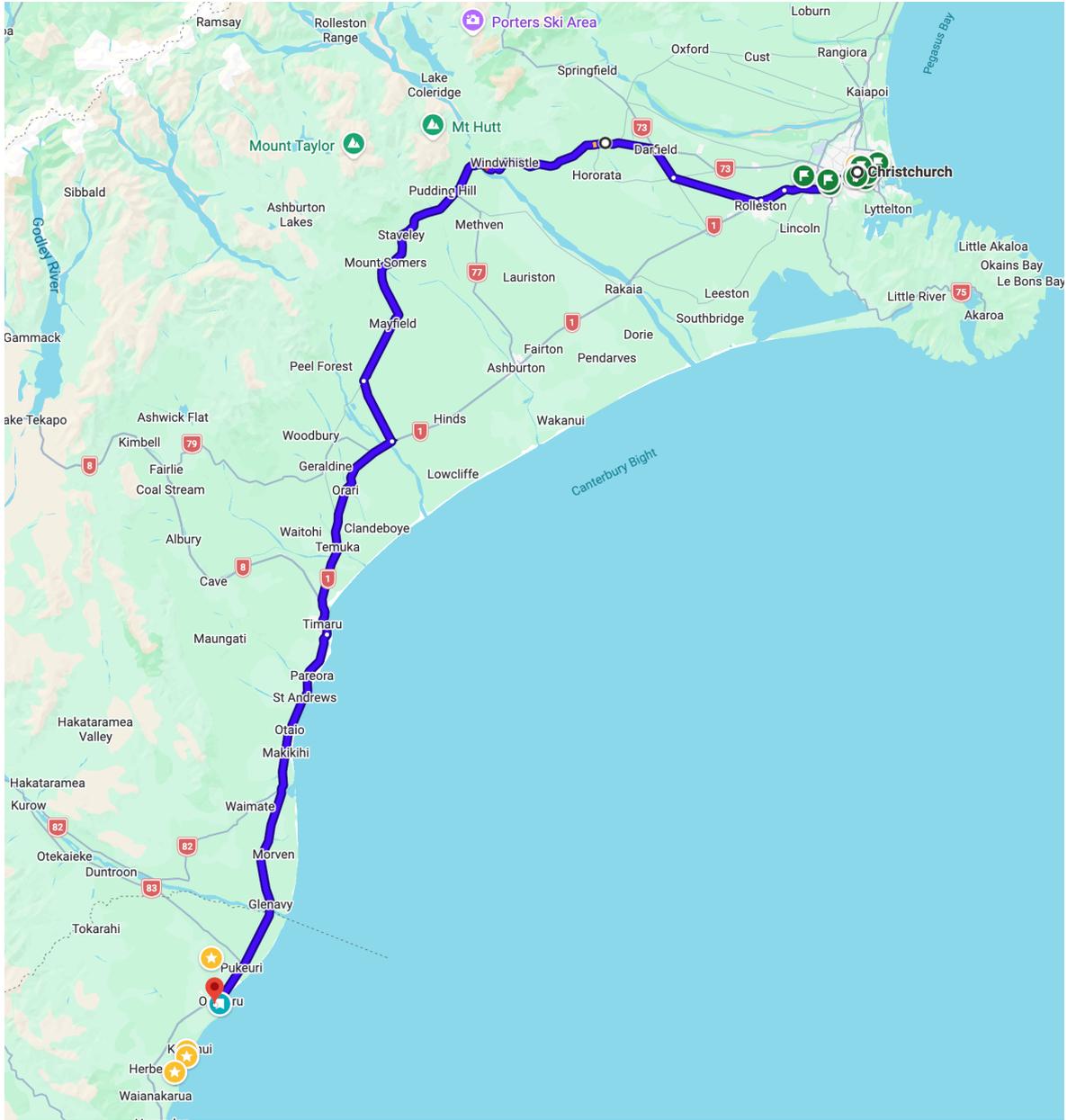


Christchurch

The mistake most people make when traveling between Christchurch and Oamaru is to take SH1 the whole way. While this is the most direct route, it has to be one of the most boring roads in all of New Zealand and is really best avoided unless time is of the essence (or weather is foul). A better route is to take the Inland Scenic Route, which doesn't add more than 20 minutes to the total drive time but takes you through the foothills of the Southern Alps through some small towns with several things to see and do.

- Rakaia Gorge
- Sharplin Falls (near Staveley, 35 minute walk)
- Geraldine (museum, artisan food shops, car museum)
- Waimate (wallaby sanctuary and old country town)

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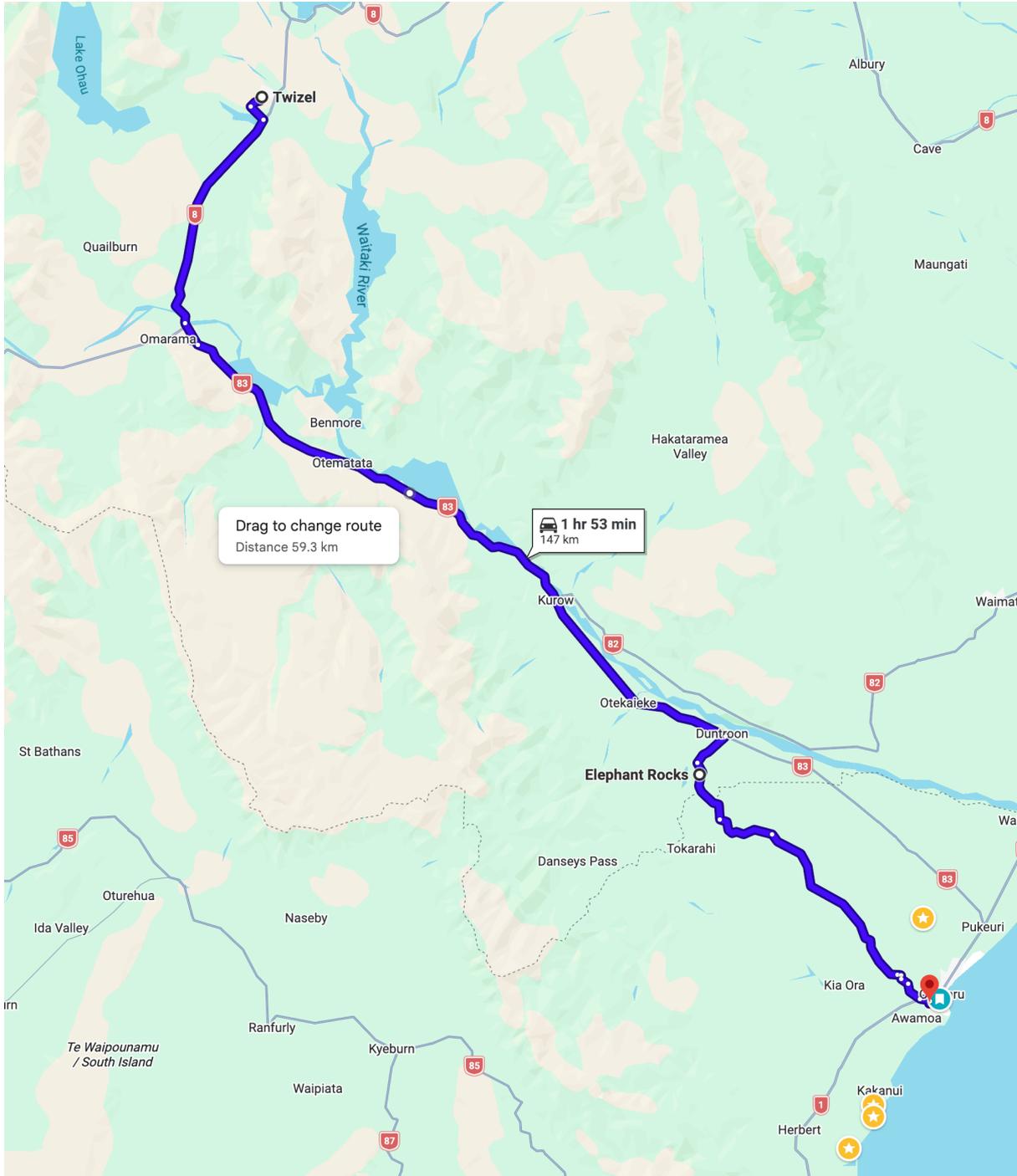


Mount Cook/Tekapo/Twizel

Coming to us from Mount Cook or Tekapo (or the surrounding areas) gives you a great opportunity to see some of the most beautiful scenery you'll find on the South Island, and the main artery of the Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark. The drive is only about 2 hours non-stop, but it can easily take much longer if you make pitstops along the way.

- Lake Ruataniwha/Wairepo Arm (very picturesque lakes along SH8)
- High Country Salmon Farm (good place for a bite if you are a salmon lover)
- Omarama Clay Cliffs
- Otematata Wetlands
- Lake Benmore View
- Kurow Wineries
- Duntroon Vanished World Centre
- Elephant Rocks

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