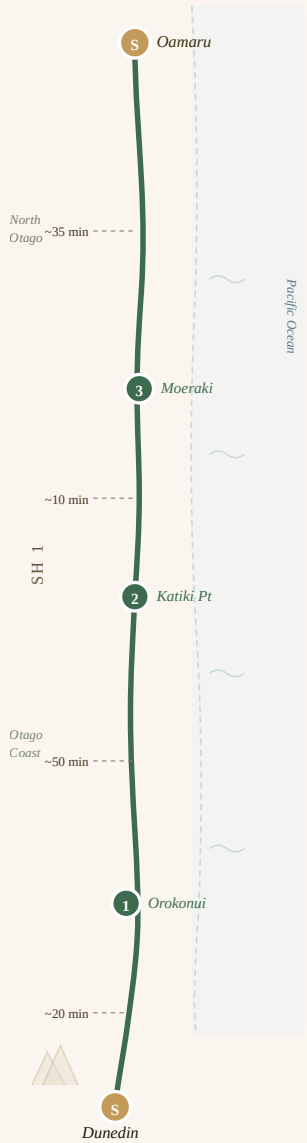


Dunedin to Oamaru

Along the Wildlife of the Catlins Gateway & the North Otago Coast

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| TOTAL DISTANCE ≈ 115 km | DRIVING TIME 1.5 – 2 hrs | FULL DAY INCL. STOPS 5 – 6 hrs | MAIN ROAD SH1 south |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|



START

Dunedin

The Edinburgh of the South

Depart Dunedin heading **north on SH1** via the Northern Motorway. All three stops on this route are easy signed turnoffs from SH1.

Dunedin SH1 north

▼ Head **north on SH1**. Turn left onto **Blueskin Road** — Orokouui is signed from the highway.

~18 km
≈ 20 min

STOP 1

Orokouui Ecosanctuary

600 Blueskin Road, Dunedin

A remarkable predator-free native forest sanctuary behind a 9 km pest-exclusion fence. Home to takahē, kākā, South Island robins, kererū and more — many approachable at close range. Self-guided and guided walks available. The visitor centre and café are excellent. Allow at least 2 hours.

▲ Thu–Mon only 9:30am–4:30pm Allow 2+ hrs

▼ Return to **SH1** and continue north through Waitati and Palmerston. Turn right into **Moeraki village** and follow the road out to **Katiki Point**.

~55 km
≈ 50 min

STOP 2

Katiki Point

Moeraki Village, near Hampden

A short walk from the car park leads to a spectacular headland where fur seals haul out year-round and — if you time it right — rare yellow-eyed penguins (hoiho) come ashore. Visit in the **late afternoon** for the best penguin sightings. Please stay behind fencing near nesting areas.

Open 7:30am–5:30pm Free entry Allow 30–60 min

▼ Return to **SH1**, continue north ~3 km, then turn right onto **Moeraki Boulders Road** — well signed from the highway.

~6 km
≈ 10 min

STOP 3

Moeraki Boulders

Moeraki Boulders Road, Hampden

Among New Zealand's most striking natural curiosities — enormous spherical boulders scattered along the beach, formed over 60 million years from calcite-rich sediment. Walk down to the beach and explore freely. A café with parking sits just above the beach. Best visited at low tide when more boulders are exposed.

Open 24 hrs Free entry Allow 30–45 min

▼ Return to **SH1** and continue **north** into Oamaru.

~38 km
≈ 35 min

DESTINATION

Oamaru

North Otago, New Zealand

Arrive into Oamaru via **SH1**. New Zealand's Victorian heritage town offers whitestone architecture, the historic precinct, a blue penguin colony, and warm North Otago hospitality.

via SH1 north Oamaru

PRACTICAL NOTES

- Orokouui is closed **Tuesdays & Wednesdays** — plan accordingly
- Katiki Point closes at 5:30pm — visit late afternoon for penguins
- Moeraki Boulders best at low tide — check tide tables in advance
- The entire route follows sealed SH1 — no gravel roads
- Fuel available in Oamaru, Palmerston, and Dunedin

WHAT TO EXPECT

- North Otago coast: dramatic Pacific cliffs and farmland
- Moeraki: ancient spherical boulders on a wild beach
- Katiki Point: fur seals year-round, penguins at dusk
- Orokouui: rare native birds in predator-free forest
- Dunedin: heritage architecture and Otago Peninsula wildlife

Distances and times are approximate · Always check road conditions before departure · NZ road conditions: nzta.govt.nz