

Rugby World Cup 2011
5 day itinerary for Southland including the Southern Scenic Route

Day One	Dunedin - Invercargill
	Depart Dunedin and drive south along the Southern Scenic Route
Places of interest	<p>Nugget Point Nugget Point is great for wildlife viewing (take binoculars on your walk if you have them) including seals, sea lions and penguins. The walk to the lighthouse has stunning views of the roaring ocean, rugged surrounding landscape, and vast skies. The historic lighthouse was built in 1869 and is still working today, although it is now automated.</p> <p>Roaring Bay on the way to Nugget Point is a great place to spot Yellow Eyed Penguins at dusk and dawn.</p> <p>Cannibal Bay This is a wonderful place to look out for New Zealand sea lions! The Bay is named after the numerous bones which were found in the sand dunes after the early Maori battles in the 1830's. There is a 5 hour coast and dune walk which will take you through to Surat Bay. If you do see sea lions or seals along the way, please remember to keep your distance.</p> <p>Purakaunui Falls The Purakaunui Falls are situated amongst lush podocarp and beech forest and these magnificent falls which cascade 20 metres over three distinct tiers are amongst the most photographed in New Zealand.</p> <p>Florence Hill lookout Take the opportunity to look out over the beautiful Tautuku Bay and the South Pacific Ocean. To the east of this stunning coastline is where surfers from all over New Zealand come to surf the big waves.</p> <p>Cathedral Caves The Cathedral Caves Walk is managed by a group of landowners of Kāi Tahu descent. The caves are very impressive, as the sea has cut deeply into weaker sections of the cliffs and created caverns as much as 30 metres high. They can only be reached for an hour, either side of low tide. Tide tables are available at the Catlins Information Centre in Owaka, the Caves turnoff on SH92, and in the carpark by the start of the track.</p> <p>The walk passes through the podocarp and kamahi forest of the Waipati Beach Scenic Reserve. After reaching the beach it's another 10 minutes to the caves. When the tide's right you can walk from one cave to another, though you should be prepared for wet feet!</p> <p>From May to October access is limited to weekends and school holidays. www.cathedralcaves.co.nz</p> <p>Curio Bay Fossilised Forest The fossilised remains of an ancient forest is exposed at Curio Bay during low tide. This is one of the most extensive and least disturbed examples of a Jurassic fossil forest in the world and stretches about 20 kms from Curio Bay south west to Slope Point.</p> <p>Waipapa Point This is the site of New Zealand's worst civilian shipping disaster in 1881. The historic lighthouse was built soon after this and is still working today. You may even see sea lions frolicking on the beach!</p>

	Arrive at Invercargill
Day Two	Invercargill
	<p>E Hayes & Sons Home of the original Indian owned by Burt Munro. On his first trip to Bonneville with the Indian on 20th August 1962 Burt achieved a speed of 179mph, a speed that people attending "Speed Week" found absolutely unbelievable considering the age of both the bike and the rider. On the 26th August 1967 Burt claimed the World Record Class S-A 1000cc - with an average speed of 183.586mph (one way 190.07mph). This record still stands to this very day. www.ehayes.co.nz</p>
	<p>Invercargill Water Tower Invercargill's Water Tower, probably the City's best-known landmark, is situated on Reserve land on the south-west corner of Queens Drive and Gala Street - the highest point on the Town Belt of the original town of Invercargill. This 42.5m high city landmark in red brick was completed in 1889 to the design of William Sharp, a former civil engineer for the Public Works Department. On top is a water tank which has a capacity of 297,000 litres. The Tower is considered a unique example of Victorian architecture and has been classified by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Make the trek up the 112 steps inside the Tower to get a fantastic view over the city.</p>
	<p>ILT Velodrome The ILT Velodrome is the only indoor Velodrome in New Zealand. It is New Zealand's fastest track and every current New Zealand cycling record has been broken on the track since its completion in 2006. The track is made from 150 tonnes of timber sourced from the Siberian region. Ten German specialist track builders including track designer, Ralph Schurman worked with local builders to build the track. The entire project cost \$8 million and took only 57 weeks to complete. www.stadiumsouth.co.nz</p>
	<p>Bill Richardson Truck Museum The Bill Richardson Truck Museum is the largest private collection of its type in the world. It features more than 170 trucks representing some 50 manufacturers. By appointment only. www.hwr.co.nz</p>
Lunch	<p>Speights Ale House The Speights Ale House offers quality, hearty Southern food, all matched to the great Speights beers they have on offer. Watch sport on the big screens, enjoy a beer with a few mates, or dine upstairs with family and friends. www.ilt.co.nz/xm_speights_ale_house_bar.php</p>
	<p>Invercargill Brewery New Zealand's beers are not only diverse in their varieties but also in their geographical locations, and there is no further brewery south than this little blue shed named Invercargill Brewery. Tour the brewery and try the unique flavour which is Invercargill's own beer and cider. What started as a hobby is fast becoming the all-consuming business that is Invercargill Brewery. www.invercargillbrewery.co.nz</p>



	<p>Oreti Beach Ten kilometres west of Invercargill, is the 26km stretch of sand and surf called Oreti Beach. One of the few beaches in New Zealand where you can drive your car right out onto the sand, it is also famous as the site for testing and racing by Burt Munro and his legendary modified Indian motorbikes. He set a New Zealand Open Beach record (131.38 mph) there in 1957, and again in 1975 (136 mph). The beach was also a key location for the film about Burt and his bikes – “The World’s Fastest Indian”.</p>
	<p>Visit the proposed Rugby World Cup Fan Zone The official fan zone will be happening in the Taste of Southland Mall which is located between Esk and Don Streets in Invercargill city. www.southlandnz.co.nz</p>
	<p>Watch your team at Rugby Park, Invercargill Rugby Park Stadium, Invercargill can hold 20,000 attendees, of which there are 5000 stand seats with 2000 of these being covered. The grounds will have for satellite bars from which alcohol can be purchased, and there will be large screen for the replays. The seats at the venue are standard stadium bucket seats.</p> <p>Rugby Park Stadium is within 2 km from Invercargill’s central business district, and all within very close proximity to accommodation providers, campervan parks, and airport. www.rugbysouthland.co.nz</p>
Day Three	Invercargill – Stewart Island
	<p>Fly from Invercargill, helicopter or take a ferry from Bluff to Stewart Island, New Zealand’s third largest island.</p> <p>Stewart Island Flights Stewart Island Flights operate scheduled daily flights between Invercargill Airport and Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island. The flight is quick – only 20 minutes, and its comfortable and very scenic. You will see panoramic views of Oreti Beach, the Port of Bluff and Stewart Island’s many bays, clear waters and offshore islands. Courtesy transport is provided from the airfield to Halfmoon Bay. www.stewartislandflights.com</p> <p>Stewart Island Helicopters The friendly staff will have you on Stewart Island in just minutes with our on-demand ‘Island Hopping’ service. Perfect if time is short on time. Enjoy the 1,746 square kilometres of breath taking scenery and tranquillity that Stewart Island has to offer. Explore the remote beaches, forests and birdlife with one of our scenic flight options. www.stewartislandhelicopters.co.nz</p> <p>Stewart Island Experience Ferry Services Experience Foveaux Strait in comfort and style on board the Stewart Island Experience express catamarans. During the one-hour crossing between Bluff and Stewart Island keep a lookout for wildlife, especially seabirds. Look for mollymawks (albatross) soaring behind the ferry which is a fantastic sight.</p> <p>Watch out for landmarks commonly seen, including Dog Island Lighthouse, Ruapuke Island, the Titi Islands and Mt Anglem - Stewart Island’s highest point. www.stewartislandexperience.co.nz</p>
Activities	<p>Stewart Island Experience – Village and Bays Tours Explore Oban and the surrounding bays and gain an entertaining insight into the community, history and environment of Stewart Island. Stewart Island Experience guides enjoy sharing their local knowledge and there is plenty of time available for photo stops</p>

	<p>and short walks. Highlights include the Rakiura National Park entrance at Lee Bay, beautiful Horseshoe Bay and stunning views of Paterson Inlet from Observation Rock. www.stewartislandexperience.co.nz</p> <p>Stewart Island Experience – Paterson Inlet Cruises On board the Stewart Island Experience luxury catamaran you will enjoy a leisurely cruise of beautiful Paterson Inlet and a visit to Ulva Island - a renowned wildlife sanctuary. See rare plants and abundant bird life during a fascinating one-hour walk with an experienced nature guide. Then discover hidden coves and unspoilt beaches as you cruise further into Paterson Inlet to view the historic Whalers Base at Prices Inlet. www.stewartislandexperience.co.nz</p> <p>Lo Loma Fishing Welcome aboard the Lo Loma. This licensed charter boat will take you on a fishing experience you won't forget. Fish for Blue Cod in the crystal clear waters around Stewart Island using traditional fishing methods, while blackbacked gulls and the graceful mollymawks skim the waves around you. The experienced crew will make sure your trip will be one you will not forget. Get ready for a 'real' fishing experience. Email: LoLoma_charters@hotmail.com</p>
Dinner	<p>South Sea Hotel The South Sea Hotel is a Stewart Island icon, with a strong footing in Island life, both past and present. The hotel has a fully licensed bar, restaurant, hotel and motel accommodation. They provide a panoramic view over Halfmoon Bay – a perfect spot to relax and watch the island world go by at its unhurried pace. www.stewart-island.co.nz</p>
Evening activities	<p>Stewart Island Experience – Guided Walks Explore Stewart Island's bush and coastline and view rare plants and birdlife. Our small group guided walks provide an insight into the diversity and beauty of Stewart Island. Throughout your walk, a local nature guide will tell you about the island's unique cultural and natural heritage. You will also gain knowledge of the work local residents are doing to preserve wildlife species. www.stewartislandexperience.co.nz</p> <p>Bravo Adventure Cruises - Kiwi Spotting The evening kiwi spotting excursion includes a twilight boat cruise to a remote area of Stewart Island. Take a short bush walk through native bush and spot the kiwi on a sandy beach as they feed amongst the kelp. This tour takes approx 5 hours and is suitable for most levels of fitness.</p> <p>Please Note: This excursion is entirely weather permitting. You will need to call the operators to check to see if the kiwi spotting is on and also about the times as they vary. Please wear sturdy footwear, warm clothes and a torch if you have one. Email: phildismith@xtra.co.nz</p>
Day Four	Stewart Island – Bluff – Invercargill
Morning activity	<p>Ringaringa Heights Golf course Stewart Island's Ringaringa Heights Golf course, (Australasia's most southerly) is a six hole course enjoying commanding views over Ringaringa Bay and Paterson Inlet. The course was first opened 16 January 1988.</p> <p>The course offers a challenge to all levels of player, with some steep terrain to test even the best. Good play is rewarded, and players can enjoy magnificent views throughout their game.</p>
	Fly, ferry or helicopter to Invercargill or Bluff



	<p>Bluff Thirty kilometres south of Invercargill, nestled above Foveaux Strait, lies the port town of Bluff, home to the iconic Bluff Oyster and the gateway to Stewart Island. Bluff has a rich history and many interesting attractions. It is the oldest European settled town in New Zealand, and has many wonderful short coastal and bush walks that offer amazing scenery and views. Take some photos at the famous Stirling Point signpost, or hike up Bluff Hill and be rewarded with amazing views all the way to Stewart Island. www.bluff.co.nz</p> <p>Stirling Point Located at the beginning (and end) of State Highway 1, Stirling Point is famous for its signpost, which has featured in thousands of photographs with tourists from all around the world! The signpost gives the distances to some of the world's most famous cities. The Point is named after Captain William Stirling who established a Whaling Station nearby in 1836.</p> <p>Bluff Hill From the summit of Bluff Hill at 824 feet above sea level are inspiring views of Foveaux Strait, Stewart Island, Ruapuke Island, Dog Island, Tiwai Point Aluminium Smelter and Invercargill.</p> <p>Oysters Grown slowly in the cool, clean waters of Foveaux Strait the Bluff Oyster is a true New Zealand delicacy. Usually found unattached on the sea bottom, they are dredged by a small fleet of commercial boats from waters with a depth of approximately 60 metres. A strict quota system operates, and the oysters are often taken straight from the boats by helicopter and whisked away all over the country. Once you try one you'll be hooked!</p>
Day Five	Invercargill – Te Anau
	Depart along the Southern Scenic Route for Te Anau
Places of interest	<p>Riverton Riverton is a popular seaside destination, filled with heritage, culture and excellent cafes. Drive round to the 'rocks', and you'll see great views of Stewart Island and beautiful swimming beaches. Riverton is one of the oldest towns in New Zealand and is a seaside haven with safe swimming beaches and peaceful walks, superb cafes to while away the hours and a rich local history.</p> <p>Te Hikoi, Heritage and Cultural Centre The South's ultimate heritage attraction is just 25 minutes from Invercargill on the Southern Scenic Route. Begin your voyage of history with a big-screen movie experience aboard our sailing ship theatre. Relive memorable moments from our rich bicultural past, set amongst the rugged splendour of Foveaux Strait.</p> <p>Take an interactive journey through Te Hikoi, featuring stunning displays, adventurous characters and engaging stories. These will reveal how our Maori and European ancestors adapted to survive on nature's edge. www.tehikoi.co.nz</p> <p>Colac Bay Colac Bay is a small township, which is 10 minutes from Riverton. The town hugs the bay with sandy beaches and also has a popular surfing spot known as 'Trees'. The town has a beautiful beachfront cafe and restaurant, plenty of accommodation and a Marae. The town also has a statue of a surfer riding a wave; very popular with tourists. Colac Bay is part of the Riverton Heritage Trail.</p> <p>Colac Bay Hill, Lake George, Howell's Hill's and the Longwood Range make up the geographic landmarks. In places you can see Centre Island and Stewart Island looking</p>



	<p>across Foveaux Strait.</p> <p>Gemstone Beach Situated ½ km north of Orepuki, this beach has a wild fascination. Known as Gemstone because the beach is in a constant state of change with the surface changing from sand to stones with the storms and tides</p> <p>Gems have often been found on the beach, and in the least your fossicking is guaranteed to uncover some very interesting stone! The Wild Southern ocean feeds magnificent surf on to Orepuki Beach where you can ride some of the best surf NZ has to offer. Winter wetsuit recommended!</p> <p>Cosy Nook Cosy Nook is a picturesque craggy cove sheltering several fishing boats and holiday cribs. Steeped in Maori history, early settlers reported Pahi's village as a Ngai Tahu settlement with some forty houses. The small island Matariki was once a defended pa site.</p> <p>Long Hilly Track Southland's newest loop track explores little-known gold-mining relics at the southern tip of the Longwood Range. Much of that gold-mining history is Chinese.</p> <p>The Long Hilly (Round Hill) Track begins on Round Hill Road, 15 km west of Riverton, and goes past tailings and old sluicing pipes, then through a tramway cutting to the old earth dams. 19th century alluvial mining needed high pressure water, and the dams, poised 60 metres above the sluicing nozzles, provided that high pressure water - at a price.</p> <p>This 3-km loop section is day visitor standard, but the high-quality track is also the entry onto a more demanding Te Araroa route which follows the even course of a water-race 14 kilometres north to Cascade Road. That race, financed by Charles Port, was built by Chinese, who tunnelled through spurs and built trestles to keep the water flowing from far-off sources, and the dams full.</p> <p>The Chinese settlement at Round Hill was nicknamed Canton and was a busy small town throughout most of the Round Hill mining operations.</p> <p>Te Waewae Bay This huge sweeping bay has nothing between it and Antarctica. Depending on the day the sea can be clear and inviting, or it can churn like a bubbling cauldron spraying sea mist high onto the cliffs. Te Waewae Lagoon can be seen from the hills outside Orepuki.</p>
	<p>Jet boating the Wairaurahiri River Exploring the Fiordland National Park doesn't have to be all about hiking. For less hardy souls, one can experience an ultimate all day jet boating adventure. Starting with jet boat ride across New Zealand's deepest lake, Lake Hauroko, to the Wairaurahiri River mouth. www.wjet.co.nz www.humpridgejet.com</p>
	<p>The drive from Tuatapere to Te Anau takes approx 1 ½ hours</p>