

Waitaki District 5 Day Itinerary

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Time	Activity
Day 1	Palmerston – Oamaru (via Macraes – inland from Palmerston)
Approx one hour from Dunedin	<p>Oceana Gold Mine Tour (two hour tour)</p> <p>A mix of old and new. View a modern working mine, then step back in time and see how it used to be done. Tour includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gigantic Fraser’s open cast pit • Heritage mining site • Rainbow Trout breeding ponds • Gold processing plant • Outdoor art park <p>www.oceanagoldtours.com</p>
	Macraes – Katiki Point (45mins)
	<p>Historic Lighthouse</p> <p>Moeraki was a busy port during the 1840s with the transportation of oil from nearby whaling stations. In 1876 the Marine Department decided to build a light at Katiki Point, to make it safer for ships that sailed past en route to Port Chalmers near Dunedin.</p> <p>Construction of the lighthouse began in 1876, but was delayed because of bad weather. Just before the light was first lit the lighthouse was struck by a storm which shook the tower so violently the lamp glass broke. The light then had to be replaced and the tower strengthened before the light could finally be lit in 1878.</p> <p>The station was automated, and the last keeper was withdrawn in 1975.</p> <p>Yellow Eyed Penguin Viewing (<i>Possible viewing here, not guaranteed</i>)</p> <p>View one of the world’s rarest penguins; native to New Zealand.</p> <p>New Zealand Fur Seal Colony</p> <p>Excellent viewing of New Zealand Fur Seals – park near the lighthouse and walk out over the peninsula.</p>
	<p>Moeraki Boulders</p> <p>Moeraki is renowned for its intriguing Moeraki Boulders strewn along the Moeraki Beach. The boulders are the most perfect examples of their kind that have been found anywhere in the world. The boulders formed over millions of years.</p>
Eateries Options	<p>Fleurs Place</p> <p>Situated right on the waterfront in the Moeraki Village, Fleurs Place serves naturally good food and great coffee. The fish is fresh from the Moeraki fishing boats each day.</p> <p>www.fleursplace.com</p>
	<p>Moeraki Tavern</p> <p>Relax in the friendly local atmosphere and a drink. Try one of the excellent meals that Moeraki Tavern has to offer. Enjoy the awesome views over the Moeraki Wharf and watch the fishing boats</p>

	coming in and out of the harbour. Great for Alfresco dining in the summertime.
	<p>Moeraki Boulders Cafe, Bar & Gift Shop</p> <p>Located just above the Moeraki Boulders is this lovely cafe, bar and gift shop. The cafe has wonderful food and great views of the boulders. Well worth a visit if you are in the area.</p> <p>www.moerakiboulders.co.nz</p>
	<p>Hampden Fish & Chip Shop</p> <p>Lockies Fish and Chippie in Hampden, main road, right hand side heading north. One of the best fish & chippies in Waitaki!</p>
	Travel to Oamaru - 30 mins from Moeraki Boulders
Accommodation	Oamaru
	<p>Oamaru hosts a variety of Motel, B&B, Backpacker and Short term rental accommodation options.</p> <p>www.visitoamaru.co.nz/?accommodation</p> <p>Kingsgate Hotel Brydone Oamaru and Penybryn Lodge.</p> <p>http://www.millenniumhotels.co.nz/kingsgateoamaru/index.html</p> <p>http://www.penybryn.co.nz/</p>
	Dining Options – Oamaru
	<p>Oamaru hosts fabulous dining options, from relaxed dining at Filidelfios for Pizza or dine with a view at Portside, right on the harbour.</p> <p>Star & Garter Restaurant, one of the oldest establishments in NZ!</p> <p>For a unique dining experience try Riverstone Kitchen!</p> <p>Also a variety of cafes, ethnic dining, including, Japanese, Indian, Asian and Turkish.</p> <p>www.visitoamaru.co.nz/?dining</p>
Day 2	Oamaru
	<p>Totara Estate</p> <p>8 kms south of Oamaru. The first shipment of frozen meat was prepared and sent to the other side of the world back in 1882.</p> <p>www.totaraestate.co.nz</p>
	<p>Whitestone Cheese</p> <p>Established in 1987 Whitestone is a leading New Zealand specialist cheese producer. The factory has been designed to enable visitors to view traditional cheese making.</p> <p>www.whitestonecheese.co.nz</p>
	<p>Oamaru Gardens</p> <p>For over a century Oamaru's Public Gardens have entertained and inspired visitors and local people alike. These well tended gardens are set out in a series of Victorian inspired "rooms" linked by a series of user friendly walkways. The Gardens have a special place the heart of the community and have been named a garden of regional significance.</p> <p>Renowned for their beauty, the Gardens were established in 1876 and encompass 13 hectares of magnificent trees, shrubberies, and flower beds. Unique features include the display (glass) house, Mirror Lake, Chinese Gardens, Craig Fountain and the famous Wonderland Statue.</p> <p>The Gardens also have a popular children's playground, several picnicking areas and a bird aviary and are ideal for walking and jogging.</p>

	www.waitaki.govt.nz/WaitakiDistrict/Public+Gardens
	<p>Historic Precinct</p> <p>A magnificent collection of limestone buildings adjacent to the Oamaru harbour, built in the 1870's as grain and wools stores and offices for the commercial district of early Oamaru.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone Carver at work • Galleries • Bakery • Option to Ride a Penny Farthing – Ordinary Cycle Works
Day & Evening Tours	<p>Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony</p> <p>The Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony is New Zealand's largest scientifically monitored blue penguin colony. An ecotourism venture sitting on the Waitaki Coast beach front, two minutes from the centre of Oamaru.</p> <p>Day tours; walk in the breeding area, either guided or self guided.</p> <p>Evening View; just after dusk, sit next to the Pacific Ocean and watch penguins return from their day at sea.</p> <p>Qualmark endorsed and Greenglobe benchmarked, and are a registered member of Birding New Zealand.</p> <p>Waterfront Road Oamaru Harbour</p> <p>www.penguins.co.nz</p>
Day 3	Oamaru
	<p>The Great Estates Tour</p> <p>Experience 'history alive' as you step 'back in time' through North Otago's stunning limestone landscapes to the grand homesteads and great estates of early New Zealand.</p> <p>Season: Year round with minimum numbers</p> <p>Visit the famous Totara Estate where you'll drink billy tea and share stories with historic swaggers. Then to Burnside Homestead whose décor, fabrics, and furnishings are little changed from yesteryear, as the butler will point out. A lunch of traditional Victorian fare will be served from recipes handed down through the decades.</p> <p>The adjoining Elderslie Estate, whose grounds were designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, is next. Here you will be met by the gardener and taken on a walk around the grounds before enjoying home-made lemonade on the lawn.</p> <p>Finally to Parkside where we visit the home of Oamaru Stone - the purest limestone in the world and a mere forty million years in the making!</p> <p>Your costumed guide and hosts will make this an experience to remember.</p> <p>Full Day Tour. Pick-up Oamaru accommodation at 9am. Return 4.30pm.</p> <p>www.livinghistorynz.com</p>
	<p>Twilight Tales</p> <p>Shadowy, strange and slightly scary stories of Colonial Oamaru.</p> <p>The stories are based on anecdotes and history of the Whitestone buildings that are a feature of the historic part of this North Otago town.</p> <p>The story stroll is an early evening adventure - start time....when night begins to fall!</p> <p>Annette Knowler is a Master Storyteller - Be prepared to be intrigued</p> <p>www.homepages.ihug.co.nz/~annettek/</p>
Day 3	Waitaki Valley – inland on State Highway 83

	<p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braided Waitaki River • Waitaki/Aviemore & Benmore Dams
Approx 40 minutes from Oamaru	<p>Elephant Rocks</p> <p>The Elephant Rocks locality features strangely sculptured remnants of Otekaike Limestone. The limestone started out as limey sand on the sea floor perhaps 24 million years ago, during the Oligocene Epoch. Later, the limey sand was buried and gradually turned into rock. In recent geological times, probably within the last million years, the limestone was uplifted. Water and wind weathered the limestone into shapes.</p>
	<p>Maori Rock Art</p> <p>The Waitaki District is blessed with some of the country's best preserved Maori Rock Art.</p> <p>The art panels are mostly positioned on the lower ground level areas of the cliff and feature drawings of pigmented art, black or red or a combination of these two pigments. The motifs vary in size and design and represent a vast range of subjects - from abstract forms to birdlife, fish, lizards, people on horseback and sailing ships.</p>
	<p>Duntroon Vanished World Centre</p> <p>The Vanished World Centre at Duntroon offers fascinating insights into the fossil heritage of the Waitaki District through interpretive displays and exhibits that include world-class fossils of giant penguins, unique small dolphins, huge sharks, the first baleen whales and many shellfish mainly from Oligocene times. Visit it to round off your trail wanderings or to gain introductory knowledge for the trail.</p> <p>www.vanishedworld.co.nz</p>
	<p>Duntroon Flying Pig Café</p>
	<p>Kurow Winery</p> <p>Kurow, gateway to the South Island's High Country, has been known for more than a hundred years for its abundant natural beauty and the soil's unique ability to produce magnificent fruit.</p> <p>At the Kurow Winery, we have tapped the vein of the Waitaki Valley to offer you an extraordinary variety of wine produced in one of the cleanest and most beautiful areas of New Zealand.</p> <p>Kurow Winery's cellar door is the first in the valley. Stop by any day of the week to enjoy our superb selection of wines.</p> <p>4 km South of Kurow Open 7 Days: 11am - 5pm</p> <p>www.kurowwinery.co.nz</p>
Accommodation	<p>Sublime Lodge</p> <p>Discover New Zealand's hottest new premium wine region. Sublime Lodge and Vineyard offers a unique romantic getaway, where you can relax in the beautiful surrounds of the mountains, river and vineyards. We have a double and twin room with ensuite bathroom in its own wing with stunning views, private dining room and open log fire for your relaxation. All rooms open onto the balcony where you can sit and sample our premium wines and enjoy the stunning scenery. We like to offer a very private experience for one couple, or family groups only.</p> <p>We have a tennis court and Hunting, Fishing, Hiking, Swimming, Lakes and Rivers are all around us. There is a Health Spa and Golf course 10 minutes away in Kurow. Fenella produces her renown "Taste of Waitaki" dinners of all delicious and fresh local ingredients.</p> <p>Children are welcome and we have a playground for them to play on and enough space to exhaust themselves! We are a farm and have animals all around so dogs are welcome - if they don't chase</p>

	<p>chicken or sheep (we have a lock up kennel). Enjoy the "Taste of Waitaki" dinner menu. Office facilities and wireless internet also available. www.sublimewine.co.nz</p>
	<p>Day Five</p>
	<p>Glide Omarama</p> <p>This unique environment is created by the Southern Alps of New Zealand with crystal clear air, extraordinary wave systems and fiesty thermals. Come visit, Omarama - the place of light - and enjoy it all with us!</p> <p>Mountain Soaring is a school that offers personalised mountain soaring adventures and gliding courses in the New Zealand Southern Alps and in the high mountain deserts of Nevada and Utah. Operated by GlideOmarama.com, the school is internationally recognised for its innovative teaching and spectacular soaring opportunities.</p> <p>Based on the Omarama airfield in beautiful surroundings and with modern, comfortable facilities the school offers all aspects of coaching for glider pilots. www.GlideOmarama.com</p>
	<p>Clay Cliffs</p> <p>Visit the Clay Cliffs or Paritea (Maori for white or light coloured cliff), a natural rock formation 10 km west of Omarama. The Clay Cliffs are huge sharp pinnacles and ridges with deep, narrow ravines separating them. This sort of formation only develops with certain types of rock in arid or semi arid areas that are also subjected to infrequent heavy rainstorms. The rocks must be compact enough to stand in deep faces, but soft enough to be eroded easily by running water.</p> <p>The Clay Cliffs are made of layers of gravel and silt, deposited by rivers flowing from glaciers existing 1-2 million years ago. Compared to the nearby mountains, which are 250 million years old, the Clay Cliffs are relatively new. Today the gravel and silt layers can be seen as sloping bands as the strata have been tilted since their deposition 1-2 million years ago. The Clay Cliffs are protected forever by a Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Open Space Covenant.</p>
	<p>Wrinkly Rams</p> <p>Come and enjoy the Big Screen Experience and watch a High Country Sheep Muster where the sheep are brought down from the local mountains for shearing. See how some of the best fine wool in the world finds its way to the Fashion Houses. See a live sheep shearing demonstration using traditional Blade and Machine Shearing methods.</p> <p>A working dog will be in action along with the chance to meet our friendly pet sheep for feeding and that special photo opportunity.</p> <p>Shows run throughout the day and are 30 minutes long, or just come along and enjoy our free wool exhibits and art gallery. Visit our cafe for great food, great views, grass outdoor dining area, and a playground for kids to enjoy.</p> <p>Our retail shop stocks great merino wool products, gifts, jewellery, arts & crafts, and much more. Visit our art gallery for the best of local Artwork. www.wrinklyrams.co.nz</p>
	<p>Hot Tubs Omarama</p> <p>Take some time out for a fantastic soak!</p> <p>Hot Tubs Omarama is a real oasis set on the edge of the Mackenzie Basin under the big Mackenzie sky. Landscaped mounds with plantings of native flora separate the tubs which are self-contained, including a changing room and shower. Enjoy watching the birds on the pond and the gliders surfing the wind currents. The kiwi version of Onsen is the perfect way to unwind.</p> <p>Soak in fresh mountain water. Our tubs are cleaned & refilled after each use. Used water is irrigated on the land supporting a sustainable environment . Unwind in pure water, free of chemicals</p>

such as chlorine or bromine. Adjust the temperature for your comfort

Relax in private and peaceful surroundings

www.omaramahottubs.co.nz