

# PLACES TO VISIT

A visitor guide to New Zealand's rich historic buildings and sites in the South Island cared for by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.



## 1 Rai Valley Cottage

Colonial life forced settlers to acquire new skills. At Rai Valley London-trained architect and surveyor Charles Turner felled bush, worked on new roads and pit-sawed totara timber to build this humble cottage for his family in the 1880s. They were the only family in the valley for a decade, so self-sufficiency was their sole option. Tilly Turner kept their four children and passing travellers fed with home-grown vegetables.

*Photo: Grant Sheehan*



## 2 Fyffe House & Pou

Kaikoura's connection with whales goes back to 14th-century Māori. Fyffe House, the oldest surviving local building, honours the connection. Built in 1842 by whaler Robert Fyffe, the original two-room cottage rests on whalebone foundations. The house was extended by his cousin George Fyffe by 1860 and remains largely unchanged today. The site, with its charming cottage garden, is en route to the seal colony and enjoys a spectacular outlook over the ocean and the Kaikoura Ranges. A carved pou (pole) depicts Tangaroa, God of the Sea.



## 3 Brunner Industrial Site

The West Coast and coal mining are inextricably linked, with a history of both highs and lows. After pioneering explorer Thomas Brunner's discovery in 1840, New Zealand's first, highly productive commercial mine opened in 1864. Sadly, 65 lives were lost in the country's worst mining tragedy in 1869. Walkways, interpretive panels and a restored 1876 suspension bridge over the Grey River make exploring ruins of coal mining structures and rare internationally significant beehive coke ovens easy and lively.

*Photo: Grant Sheehan*



## 4 Seddon House Site

Colourful 'King Dick' Seddon never forgot the foundations of his political career were strongly tied to the West Coast; the remaining foundations of his house are a tangible link. New Zealand's longest serving Prime Minister (1893-1906), the popular Liberal politician was influential in establishing New Zealand's family farm economy, the early welfare state and votes for New Zealand women. Read Seddon stories on the interpretive panel at the house.



## 5 Coton's Cottage

Significant as a typical farm dwelling on a Canterbury small holding, Coton's Cottage was built in 1864. Bentley and Sarah Coton built a cob cottage - a mixture of local clay and tussock - with five rooms and an attic bedroom. After many years of disrepair, the property became a historic reserve in 1974. The Hororata Historical Society re-used some of the original materials in renovating the cottage, and furnished it with typical 19th-century household effects.

*Damaged in the September 2010 earthquake, the building is closed for repairs. Visit the museum on site by arrangement.*



## 6 Te Manunui / Frenchman's Gully Rock Art

Early Māori travelled the South Canterbury limestone landscape during the last 700 years, leaving New Zealand's largest collection of rock drawings on impressionable smooth walls of overhangs and caves. Dated at over 200 years old, 'birdman' figures are clearly visible. One figure with a human torso and bird-like upper body displays birds on outstretched arms. Other drawings suggest fish and dog figures, and mythical taniwha.



## 7 Craigmore Rock Shelter

The importance of moa to Māori food hunters is shown in these ancient images of three giant moa, in the Valley of the Moa (O Wahi Moa). Drawn with charcoal and ochre on a limestone rock shelter by the Waitaha people who camped in the shelters up to 1000 years ago, the images are inexorably fading through environmental effects. Revel in the beauty and grandeur of the surrounding landscape on your walk to the site.



## 8 The Cuddy

Still in their teens, the three Studholme brothers arrived from Cumberland in 1854 and set about building a simple, sturdy cottage on the family's Te Waimate sheep station, which is still owned by the Studholme family. With no sawn timber available, the ingenious brothers used vertical totara slabs, plugged with cob. A tribute to its sound construction with a beaten clay floor and thatched roof with maire rafters, the cottage is remarkably intact.



## 9 The Levels

This unassuming totara and cob cottage has a cameo role in New Zealand farming heritage. Built by George Rhodes in 1851, the earthen-floored cottage provided temporary housing on South Canterbury's first sheep station. The Levels station was also the site from which the legendary James Mackenzie rustled sheep only to be caught heading for the high country. The region became a significant sheep farming area, contributing substantially to New Zealand's agriculture.



## 10 Hayes Engineering Works

The inventive mind of Ernest Hayes is evident in his well-preserved workshop, established in 1895, and restored 1920s homestead. An early exponent of 'Kiwi ingenuity', Hayes developed and marketed products to improve farming life, including wire fence strainers, cattle stops and pulley blocks. His mud brick family home was fitted with modern inventions like electricity, piped radio, and quirky laundry and bathroom facilities. The site also includes a small museum. Campervan friendly, this is a great Otago Rail Trail refreshment stop.



## 11 Ophir Post Office

Prized by collectors, letters posted from the stylish Ophir Post Office carry the original VR (Victoria Regina) rubber stamp postmark. Featuring local schist masonry and striking arched plaster quoins, this optimistic 1886 construction missed the town's gold mining heyday. Check out extreme weather observations in a local diary, and peek into the tiny jailhouse at the far end of the pretty garden.



## 12 Totara Estate

New Zealand is said to be founded on the sheep's back, and Totara Estate is central to this history. An innovative large sheep and grain station, Totara's own slaughterhouse provided the first shipment of mutton frozen aboard the sailing ship *Dunedin* sent to England in 1882. Restored Oamaru stone farm buildings, vintage agricultural artefacts and interpretive displays offer insights into the estate's working history and place in New Zealand's economic development.

*Photo: John Lamb*



## 13 Clark's Mill

Originally built as a water-powered mill for nearby Totara Estate in 1866, this impressive Oamaru stone mill is the only surviving mill of its type in New Zealand. Oats and wheat are important crops in this region, and the mill remained in production until 1976. During summer, on the last Sunday of the month (check website for details) the 19th-century machinery grinds back into life amid the noise and drama early millers experienced.

*Photo: Grant Sheehan*



## 14 Matanaka Farm Buildings

Johnny Jones was a true pioneering entrepreneur, establishing Matanaka Farm in 1843 as well as a whaling station and shipping company. He promoted the Waikouaiti area for settlement in his native Sydney. His farm buildings are New Zealand's oldest, despite their windy, isolated cliff-top site which tells of the tough life resilient early migrants faced. The stables retain their original 'Patented Galvanised Tinned Iron Roof'. Visitors can only wonder at the unique three-seat privy. Enjoy the scenic walk through farmland (please keep to the track).

*Photo: Grant Sheehan*



## 15 Southland Provincial Council Building

Invercargill's most historic building, this well-proportioned building has seen many uses and been part of the development of Southland as a separate province. In 1866 the newly formed Southland Provincial Council bought it from the original Masonic Lodge owners, and it subsequently has been home to the Otago government and the Invercargill Borough Council. The classical façade with its plaster quoins and arched windows has remained intact and the building currently houses an upmarket fashion boutique.



## 16 Clifden Bridge

At 111.5 metres long, with 27 steel cables on 7.5 metre towers and concrete pillars resembling stone, the elegant Clifden Suspension Bridge is New Zealand's longest. Built in 1899 to provide safe passage over the swift Waiau River, the bridge was a transport lifeline for early settlers. A new bridge built nearby in 1978 saw this bridge closed to traffic. The bridge is easily viewed from the riverbank and attractive picnic spots are nearby. Fundraising to strengthen and re-open the historic bridge for pedestrians is underway.

*Hayes Engineering Works and Ophir township are conveniently located near to each other for car travellers to create their own mini heritage trail.*

*Totara Estate and Clark's Mill share much of their history, and together create their own mini heritage trail for travellers by car. Make Oamaru a stopping point on your journey, where the historic precinct encourages you to learn more about Victorian New Zealand.*

## Hayes Engineering Open Days

Experience Hayes Engineering Works in fully operational mode - the machinery at the Works is demonstrated periodically throughout the day. Walk through the factory to learn more about entrepreneurial Ernest Hayes and his intrepid wife, Hannah.

Then tour through the homestead with its own fascinating quirks and stories.

Refreshments are available in our café, or bring a picnic to enjoy in the grounds. Plenty of parking for cars and cyclists.



Once a month  
January - April  
9am-5pm

Small surcharge applies on Open Days  
Check website for dates  
[www.historicplaces.org.nz](http://www.historicplaces.org.nz)

## Clark's Mill - live!

Machinery operates approx 2pm.

Take in the noises and drama of flour production at one of the country's oldest flour mills. Admire and marvel at the hard work completed by a devoted band of volunteers in restoring the Mill to much of its former glory. Unforgettable!

*Photos: Merv Thomas*



Last Sunday of month  
November - April  
1pm-3pm

Small surcharge applies on Operating Days



## Totara Estate tour

Living history at its best...

Join our guided tour as history comes alive at one of New Zealand's most important heritage sites.

Hear about the big idea that launched New Zealand onto the world stage and changed its fortune forever! Come face to face with a swagger from the past - the likes of Ned 'The Shiner' Slattery or Barney 'Whiterats' Winters. See heritage New Zealand sheep breeds. Take 'billy tea' and scones around the swaggers' campfire.



Booking essential

Booking essential (minimum numbers apply)  
contact: Totara Estate, tel (03) 433 1269  
email [totaraestate@historic.org.nz](mailto:totaraestate@historic.org.nz)

# A visitor location map to New Zealand's rich historic buildings and sites in the South Island.

## 1 Rai Valley Cottage

Opouri Rd, Rai Valley, near Nelson  
Located at Carluke, about 1.5 km from Rai Valley township.  
Outside viewing through glass panels during daylight hours.

## 2 Fyffe House & Pou Tangaroa

62 Avoca St, Kaikoura 7300  
t (03) 319 5835  
f (03) 319 5837  
e fyffe@historic.co.nz  
**Open:**  
1 Oct - 30 Apr, daily 10am - last entry 5.30pm  
1 May - 31 Sept, Thur - Mon 10am - 4pm.  
Closed Christmas Day, Good Friday.

## 3 Brunner Industrial Site

Grey Valley, near Dobson  
From State Highway 7 or Taylorville Blackball Road, approx 11 km east from Greymouth.  
Open during daylight hours.

## 4 Seddon House Site

Seddon St, Kumara  
Open during daylight hours

## 5 Coton's Cottage

Cotons Rd, off Bealey Rd, Hororata  
t (03) 318 6876  
**Open:**  
Sept - May, fine Sundays 1.30 - 4pm. Other times by appointment.  
Closed for repairs due to damage sustained during the September 2010 earthquake. Visit the museum on site by arrangement, call Rosemary Dennis on (03) 318 6876.

## 6 Te Manunui / Frenchman's Gully Rock Art

Te Manunui / Frenchman's Gully Rock Art  
Frenchman's Gully Rd, south of Pareora  
Turn off State Highway 1 south of Pareora onto Pareora River Rd, left onto Craigmere Valley Rd, then left onto Frenchman's Gully Rd (limited parking at roadside).  
**Open:** during daylight hours.

## 7 Craigmere Rock Shelter Rock Art Site

Valley of the Moa, Moa Road, south of Pareora  
Turn off State Highway 1 south of Pareora onto Pareora River Rd, onto Limestone Road, then Moa Road (limited parking at roadside, walk along the track to the shelter)  
**Open:** during daylight hours.

## 8 The Cuddy

Te Waimate Station, State Highway 82, Waimate  
t (03) 689 7199  
Viewing by appointment only.

## 9 The Levels

411 Pleasant Point Highway, State Highway 8, Levels (between Pleasant Point and Washdyke)  
t (03) 688 2410  
Viewing by appointment only.

## 10 Hayes Engineering Works

Hayes Rd, off Ida Valley-Omakau Rd, Oturehua 9387  
t (03) 444 5801 or (03) 444 5817  
e hayes@historic.org.nz  
**Open:**  
Oct - May; daily, 9am - 5.30pm  
June & July; closed  
August & September; Sat and Sun  
Open by arrangement at other times. Operating days once a month January - April (check website) when machinery is demonstrated. Small surcharge for admission.  
Closed Christmas Day, Good Friday.

## 11 Ophir Post Office

Swindon St, Ophir  
t (03) 447 3738  
**Open:** Mon - Fri, 9am - 12pm.  
Closed on public holidays.

## 12 Totara Estate

State Highway 1, approx 8 kms south of Oamaru 9492  
t/f (03) 433 1269  
e totaraestate@historic.org.nz  
www.totaraestate.co.nz  
**Open:**  
Nov - Apr, 10am - 5pm daily;  
May, Sept - Oct, 10am - 4pm, daily; June - August, closed except by prior arrangement.  
Closed Christmas Day, Good Friday.  
Book a guided tour (charges apply, includes morning tea)

## 13 Clark's Mill

State Highway 1, Maheno  
Watch for sign between Reidston and Maheno  
t/f (03) 433 1269  
e clarksmill@historic.org.nz  
**Open:**  
1 Nov - 30 April; Sunday only 1 - 3pm  
Operating day on last Sunday of opening months when machinery is demonstrated (small surcharge on admission)  
At other times by arrangement.  
Closed Christmas Day.

## 14 Matanaka Farm Buildings

Private road off Edinburgh Street, Waikouaiti. Turn off State Highway 1 just north of Waikouaiti (signposted) onto Edinburgh St, then follow private road to carpark. Short walk through private farmland to reach the site.  
t/f (03) 433 1269  
e totaraestate@historic.org.nz  
**Open:** during daylight hours.  
Closed during the lambing season (mid August to end September)

## 15 Southland Provincial Council Building

32 Kelvin St, Invercargill  
Exterior can be viewed at any time, interior during normal business hours.

## 16 Clifden Bridge

State Highway 99, Tuatapere  
Viewing at any time during daylight hours from the riverbank only. The bridge is closed to all traffic and pedestrians for safety reasons.



## South Island.

### What makes New Zealand the place it is?

*A dynamic young country, New Zealand has a unique heritage and culture. The South Island, Te Wai Pounamu, was once the country's economic development powerhouse, and its historic places and buildings reflect this history.*

*Farms at the heart of New Zealand's colourful meat industry, industrial sites of innovation and tragedy, whaling and other maritime sites as well as ancient Māori rock art, all tell our stories. Individually and collectively, they offer visitors insights into the struggles and achievements of early days in a new country, and tales to spark the imagination.*

*Cared for by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, each featured heritage place adds colour to New Zealand's history. Presented in an increasingly interactive way, these treasures will enrich your understanding of New Zealand's diverse culture, both yesterday and today. Make them a highlight of your travelling plans!*

The properties featured here are just a small selection of the many fascinating heritage places located throughout the South Island of New Zealand. To obtain further details of where to go and how to get there, visit our website, contact the properties listed, the New Zealand Historic Places Trust or call into any visitor information centre.

### National Office

Antrim House  
63 Boulcott Street  
Wellington 6011  
P O Box 2629  
Wellington 6140  
p (04) 472 4341  
f (04) 499 0669  
e information@historic.org.nz

Visit the Register Online to find out more about New Zealand's unique and diverse heritage places.

### Group Tours

Groups are welcome at many of the properties featured in this brochure and can be arranged in advance by contacting the property directly.

### Admission

Modest admission fees apply to several of these properties. Admission is free if you are a member of the NZHPT or affiliated organisations. Surcharges may apply for special events and exhibitions.

### Join the NZHPT

Become a member of the NZHPT and help us keep our heritage places alive. Members receive a range of attractive benefits and privileges including a free subscription to Heritage New Zealand, discounts on heritage merchandise, accommodation and travel, and free admission to hundreds of heritage sites in New Zealand and overseas.

To join, contact Membership Services tollfree on 0800 802 010, or enrol online at [www.historic.org.nz](http://www.historic.org.nz)

The NZHPT welcomes bequests and donations.

Cover Photo of Totara Estate: John Lamb



[www.historic.org.nz](http://www.historic.org.nz)  
[www.historicplaces.org.nz](http://www.historicplaces.org.nz)

The opening times published in this brochure were correct as of June 2011.

## NEW ZEALAND

# South ISLAND

Ngā wāhi taonga o Te Wai Pounamu



## Visitor Guide

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[www.historic.org.nz](http://www.historic.org.nz)