



OTAGO CENTRAL
RAIL TRAIL
 New Zealand's **original** Great Ride®

Rail Trail Map
 Trail information & self-guide



While all care has been taken to ensure accuracy, no responsibility is accepted by the Otago Central Rail Trail Trust or its contractors for accuracy of information contained in the text or photographs. Published by the Otago Central Rail Trail Trust. PO Box 399, Alexandra 9340, Central Otago, NZ. No part of this leaflet may be published (incl. electronically) without the prior written permission of the publisher.

B DESIGN

152kms of Spectacular Cycling!
www.otagocentrailtrail.co.nz

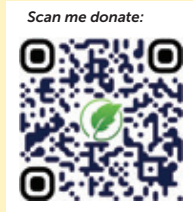


Opened in 2000 by the Department of Conservation in partnership with the **Otago Central Rail Trail Trust**. Join the **thousands of visitors** that have completed the Trail uncovering our **rich local history** and **exploring the unique landscapes** along the way.

Cycle, walk or ride a horse along the **152 km of trail** from either end, or complete shorter sections as day trips. **Grade 1** - Originally a train track, so mostly flat.

Riding the Trail itself is **FREE**, however **your donations** enable improvements to the trail and are appreciated.

Before you start your Trip - **Purchase a Rail Trail Passport** - Proceeds from your purchase helps maintain the Trail. The passport is unique to our Trail, records your Journey and provides a memento of your experience. Passports can be purchased from **DOC in Alexandra**, and **bike hire / tour operators**, or from our website.



Enjoy an Interplanetary Ride - Explore the one hundred million to one accurate scale model of our Solar System as you ride the Trail. For more info <https://www.otagocentrailtrail.co.nz/ride/an-interplanetary-ride/>

Trail Etiquette

- Please don't bring your own food into Cafés, Restaurants & Pubs and consume it on their premises.
- Cars, motorbikes, quad bikes or firearms do not belong on our trail.
- Don't light open fires, leave rubbish, or disturb farm animals.
- Gates – leave them as you find them
- Horses – ride at walking pace in single file at side of the Trail, lead horses over bridges and through tunnels – remove dung!
- If you are walking or cycling, please give horses space to avoid frightening them.

Tips for a Great Trip

- Take time to explore and enjoy; allow for a 6 day walk, a 3-4 day cycle - but plenty to see and do over 4-5 days
- Accommodation – best to book in advance
- Water – start with plenty and purchase more along the way
- Toilet Paper – bring your own for use in eco-toilets along the Trail
- Extra Gear – torch for tunnels, sunscreen, first aid kit, bike-repair kit and clothes for all seasons
- Stop and rest - the red Ganger Sheds provide shelter and interesting information relating to the Trail
- Mobility scooters, electric wheelchairs, electric bikes are allowed – be aware that minimum width openings on the Trail are 90cm
- Car parking is available at the numerous Station sites along the Trail
- Our Website is the best tool for the detailed planning of your trip..... www.otagocentrailtrail.co.nz



See and Do!

Close to the Trail:

Alexandra Clock Walk - A short walk across the historic Shaky Bridge up to the Alexandra Clock, a timepiece that has served Alexandra since 1968.

Golden Progress Mine - Just out of Oturehua, 100m down Reef Road and a short walk takes you to Otago's last remaining wooden poppet head straddling a deep shaft.

Hayes Engineering – Hayes Engineering Works and Homestead today is a Category 1 historic place, operated by Heritage New Zealand and is the former home and engineering works of the gifted inventor Earnest Hayes and his family.

Sutton Salt Lake - Just south of Middlemarch nestled in the schist rock landscape lies Sutton Salt Lake, New Zealand's only inland salt lake.

If you have more Time...

Explore the Historic Township of Clyde
The perfect start or finish to your cycle trip. Clyde, like many towns in Otago's gold rush days, popped up almost overnight in the 1860s, and the town centre has retained many heritage buildings.

Cross the suspension bridge to Ophir
You can get very hot in Ophir, and very, very cold in winter (one of New Zealand's coldest temperature here was -21°C) – but nobody minds too much, because this tiny authentic gold mining town is very, very charming.

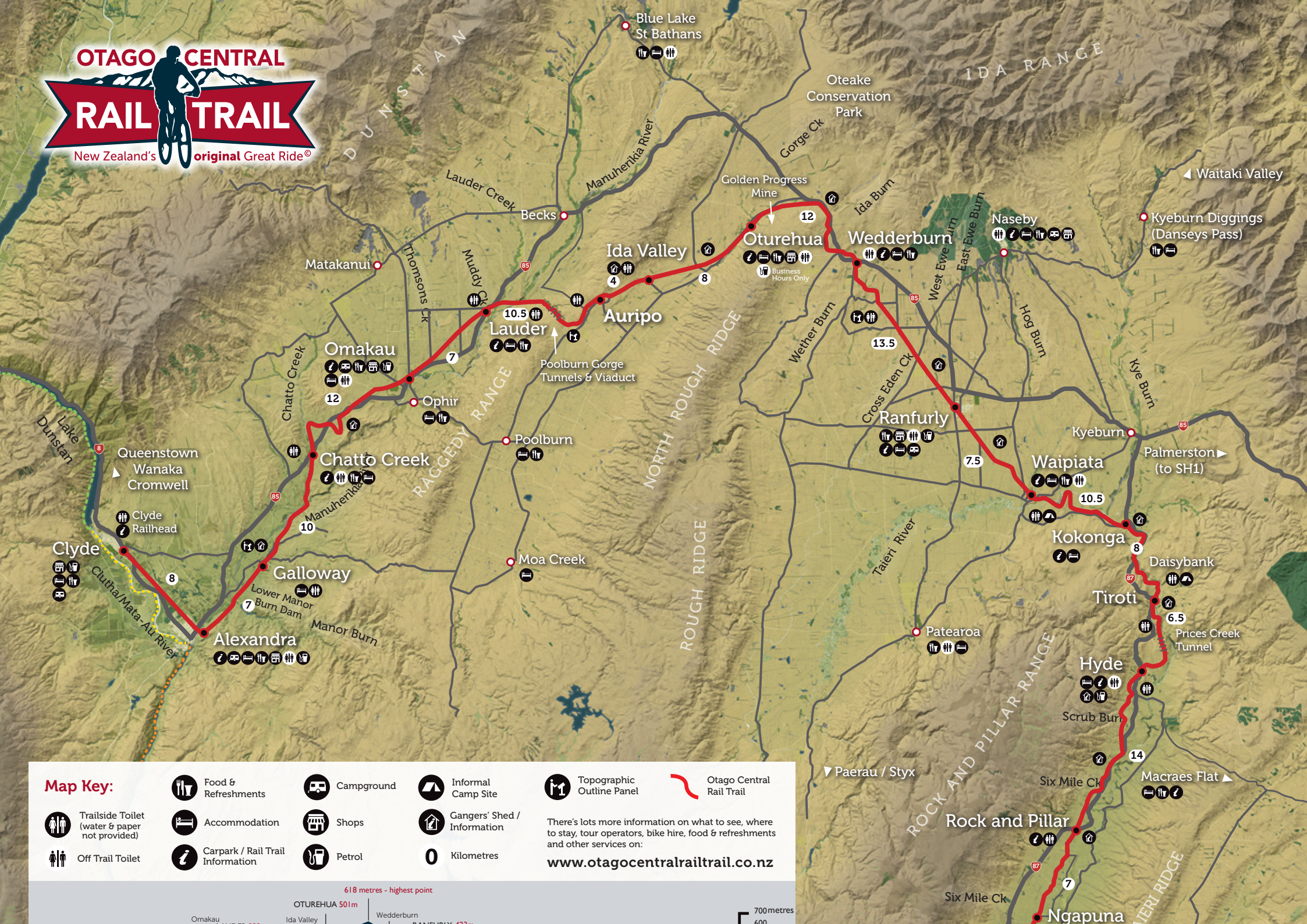
Visit Naseby
"Jewel of the Maniototo" and a popular holiday destination. An easy detour off State Highway 85, historic Naseby is known for its International Curling Rink, heritage hotels, forest bike trails and hiking around the old goldfields.

See the Blue Lake of St Bathans
The picturesque Blue Lake is famous so take your camera when you visit this historic one-street gold mining village in the northern reaches of the Manuherikia Valley.



OTAGO CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL

New Zealand's original Great Ride®



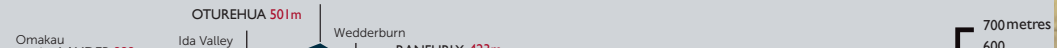
Map Key:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Food & Refreshments | | Campground | | Informal Camp Site | | Topographic Outline Panel | | Otago Central Rail Trail |
| | Trailside Toilet (water & paper not provided) | | Accommodation | | Shops | | Gangers' Shed / Information | | |
| | Off Trail Toilet | | Carpark / Rail Trail Information | | Petrol | | Kilometres | | |

There's lots more information on what to see, where to stay, tour operators, bike hire, food & refreshments and other services on:

www.otagocentralrailtrail.co.nz

618 metres - highest point





- Other Cycling / Walking Trails:
- Lake Dunstan Trail
 - Clyde Alexandra River Track
 - Roxburgh Gorge Trail

Clyde (215*) - Alexandra (8 km)

Begin your journey with a visit to the historic township of Clyde. The picturesque town is a great introduction to historic Central Otago. An underpass takes you beneath SH8 to the Clyde Railhead, the start of the Otago Central Rail Trail. This section is flat and a good way to get settled in the saddle. The main feature is the wooden Muttontown Viaduct. *(*nearest kilometre marker, measured from Wingatui, the point at which the Otago Central Branch line left the Main Trunk Line. Middlemarch km marker '64' being 64 kilometres from Wingatui.)*

Alexandra (207) to Galloway (7 km)

Alexandra is the largest town along the Trail with shops and cafes – ride into town via Tarbert Street and take time to explore. Leaving Alexandra, the Trail passes through the dry, rocky scenery of Tucker Hill and follows the Manuherikia River upstream.

Galloway (200) to Chatto Creek (10 km)

The Trail continues north, then crosses the Manuherikia River before heading to Chatto Creek where you will encounter NZ's smallest Post Office (if you look closely).

Chatto Creek (190) to Omakau (12 km)

It's a sweeping rise up Tiger Hill crossing the state highway again, enjoy the views and the Ganger shed information boards along the way. From the summit you have a straight descent into Omakau, a town where most services are available. The 2km round trip to historic Ophir and the 1880 Daniel O'Connell suspension bridge is a must do.

Omakau (178) to Lauder (7 km)

It's a short ride to Lauder to view the Lauder Railway Station. The original station was returned to the site and renovated by the local community. Step inside the building and discover the history of the area and the railway that travelled through it. Try to make time, the historic townships of St Bathans, Cambrians and Matakau are interesting side trips in this vicinity.

Lauder (171) to Auripo station site (10.5 km)

A popular and dramatic part of the Trail. Cross the Manuherikia river over the curved bridge and gradually climb into the Poolburn Gorge that will take you into the Ida Valley through two long tunnels and over the very impressive Poolburn Viaduct – check out the amazing workmanship achieved by the railway stonemasons in the tunnels and viaducts.

Auripo (161) to Oturehua (12 km)

Down the Ida Valley, and past the Ida Burn Dam, famous for winter ice skaters and curling. Stop at Hayes Engineering and the 1920s Homestead, a unique collection of historic engineering and café/shop. Visit the famous historically authentic Gilchrist's store, and the Golden Progress Mine in Reefs Rd.

Oturehua (149) to Wedderburn (12 km)

The trail climbs to the highest point here (618m) and crosses the 45° south latitude twice before dropping down to the Maniototo Valley and into Wedderburn. View the iconic green Goods Shed (subject of Grahame Sydney's painting) as well as the original Wedderburn Station.

Wedderburn (137) to Ranfurly (13.5 km)

Easy riding east across the open Maniototo Plain to Ranfurly, the second biggest service town on the Trail. Take a side trip to Naseby, the "jewel of the Maniototo", to enjoy forest trails or to visit the International Indoor Curling Rink and night sky viewing.

Ranfurly (124) to Waipiata (7.5 km)

After enjoying "Art Deco Ranfurly" with its Railway Station, i-site and museum, enjoy an easy downhill ride across farm country to the small rural township of Waipiata.

Waipiata (116) to Kokonga (10.5 km)

Waipiata (meaning 'shining water') refers to the Taieri River and is a popular place to fly fish. Take a side trip up to the Hamiltons Diggings and cemetery from here, or to Patearoa or Paerau / the Styx.

Kokonga (105) to Hyde (14.5 km)

Another popular section for shorter trips. The Trail crosses the road at Daisybank then follows the Taieri River into the dramatic Upper Taieri Gorge. Enjoy rugged cliffs and peaceful picnic spots by the river. At Tiroiti, cross the historic stone Cap Burn Bridge, then follow the Trail over the 32m high Prices Creek Viaduct and through Prices Creek Tunnel.

Hyde (91) to Rock and Pillar (14 km)

A short ride takes you to the Hyde Railway Station. The Station Building and Rolling stock, once in private ownership was purchased by the Otago Central Rail Trail Trust in 2016. The station, an important part of the rail heritage, is open for viewing and houses some of the original railway equipment. The stories told inside the building are a must read. A stone cairn 4 km south of Hyde Station is a memorial to a tragic train crash in 1943. Then an easy downhill ride into the Strath Taieri Valley.

Rock and Pillar (77) to Middlemarch (13.5 km) The Strath

Strath Taieri valley sits below the long flat-topped Rock and Pillar mountain range, known in Maori as Patearoa, meaning 'the long fortification', with rock outcrops seen from the eastern perspective. The Trail passes the Ngapuna Siding site to the township of Middlemarch. Be sure to record your journey by taking a photo beside the Middlemarch gate and don't forget to change the date! Take a walk around Sutton Salt Lake - NZ's only Salt Lake, approx. 7km south of Middlemarch.

