



## PORT CHALMERS (DUNEDIN), NEW ZEALAND

Gaelic for Edinburgh, Dunedin lives up to its nickname as the 'Edinburgh of the South', with plenty of old-world Scottish charm. Home to the oldest university in the country. Port Chalmers, the small port village where cruise ships dock is also a charming place to spend a relaxing day

### KEY INFO

**Currency:** NZ Dollar (1 USD = 1.6 NZD)

**Population:** 127,000 (5.12 million NZ)

**Emergency #:** 111


**Drinking water:** Tap water is drinkable

**Time Zone:** GMT+13 (Sep-Apr) / GMT+12

**ID Requirements:** Photo ID


**Languages:** English, Māori

**Drive on the:** Left

**Pharmacy:** Sizemores Pharmacy, 24 George St 

**Protection:** Bug Spray & SPF 30+


**Wi-Fi:** Port Terminal, Public Library


**Post Office:** 19 George St 

### PORT LOCATION

Ships dock at the Port of Otago cruise terminal in Port Chalmers, which is a 20-minute drive to Dunedin

**Getting Around:** Port Chalmers is within a couple of roads' walk of the terminal. To get to Dunedin, the port arranges a paid-for shuttle (\$35 round-trip) which terminates at The Octagon in the center of town. Alternatively, the public bus departs from George Street and is significantly cheaper (circa \$2). If planning to travel extensively by bus, it is cost effective to load a Go Card with pay-as-you-go credit.

 [www.orc.govt.nz](http://www.orc.govt.nz) for timetables, maps and journey planner

For taxis, dial 03 477 7777 ( Dunedin Taxis)

 [Official Tourism Guide to Dunedin](#)

**Tourist Bus:** There is no Hop-On Hop-Off bus in Dunedin

**Port Facilities (White Bay):** Wi-Fi, Tourist Information, Toilets, Taxis

**Port Address:** 15 Beach Street, Port Chalmers 9023 

### PORT CHALMERS HIGHLIGHTS

**Port Chalmers Maritime Museum:** Closed for a significant refurbishment in 2023, this local museum was scheduled to reopen in November 2023 with exhibitions on the port, the ships and the people.

 <http://portmuseum.org.nz/>

**Orokonui Ecosanctuary:** Wonderful 307-hectare sanctuary just out of town, home to some of the world's rarest forest birds, reptiles and plants. 9:30a-4:30p (Thu-Mon) | \$22 | 6km from Port Chalmers

 <https://orokonui.nz/>

**Port Chalmers'** main street, set on a slight hill heading away from the port, has a small selection of local [shops, cafes and restaurants](#). A walk around the quiet backstreets takes you to a couple of Victorian churches and historic hotels.

## DUNEDIN HIGHLIGHTS

**Toitu Otago Settlers Museum:** Two centuries of colonial social history, presented across three buildings; the original neo-Georgian redbrick, a 1939 art deco addition, and a glassy, modern atrium that houses New Zealand's oldest locomotive. 10a-5p | Free

[www.toituosm.com](http://www.toituosm.com)

**Dunedin Railway Station:** Spectacular turreted railway station, with a noteworthy porcelain tiled floor, made by Royal Doulton. Completed in 1906, no longer in use as a regular station, but still active for tourist train rides along the Taieri Gorge Railway. 24 hours | Free

**Speight's Brewery:** Visit this 1876 brewery and learn about the historic and modern practices that go into crafting Speight's Gold Medal Ale... and then try some.

10a-5p (Mon-Thu), 10a-6p (Fri-Sat), 10a-5p (Sun) | Free (Tours \$)

<https://www.speights.co.nz/brewery-tour>

**New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame:** Located in Dunedin's famed station, this physical hall of fame celebrates New Zealand's finest sporting achievements. 10a-3p (Wed-Sun) | \$6

<https://www.nzhalloffame.co.nz/Visit-the-New-Zealand-Sport-Hall-of-Fame-Museum>

**Otago Museum:** Offering free tours at 10a and 11a daily. Diverse collection of natural history and humanities exhibits. 10a-5p | Free

<https://otagomuseum.nz/>

**Dunedin Botanic Garden:** New Zealand's first botanic garden, awarded six star Garden of Significance award. 33-hectares, ranging from 25-85m above sea level. Displaying over 6,800 plant species.

[Garden Map](#) | 10a-4p (Sat-Sun) | Free

<https://dunedinbotanicgarden.co.nz/>

**Baldwin Street:** Officially the steepest residential street in the world, with a 19 degree gradient.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Larnach Castle:** The only castle in New Zealand. Built by a renowned Scottish architect and reportedly haunted.

## BEACHES

New Zealand's coastline is frequently smashed by strong surf, and even experienced swimmers can find this a challenge. It's advisable to swim a life-guarded beaches, **always swim between the flags.**

**Ocean Beach:** Head to nearby suburbs St Clair or St Kilda for vast stretches of sandy beach between two volcanic headlands. St Clair is best for surfing, while St Kilda offers better swimming. 5km from Dunedin

**St Clair Hot Salt Water Pool:** The largest pool of its kind in the country. This 25m salt water pool is kept at a balmy 28°C. Open Oct-Mar | \$ | 5km from Dunedin