



Business Events
Southland



**Southland/Fiordland
Regional Information For 2022
South Island Chess Championships**

Discover Southland

Southland is world famous. We're home to the spectacular natural area of Fiordland and some of New Zealand's most dramatic, awe-inspiring and iconic wilderness and rare wildlife.

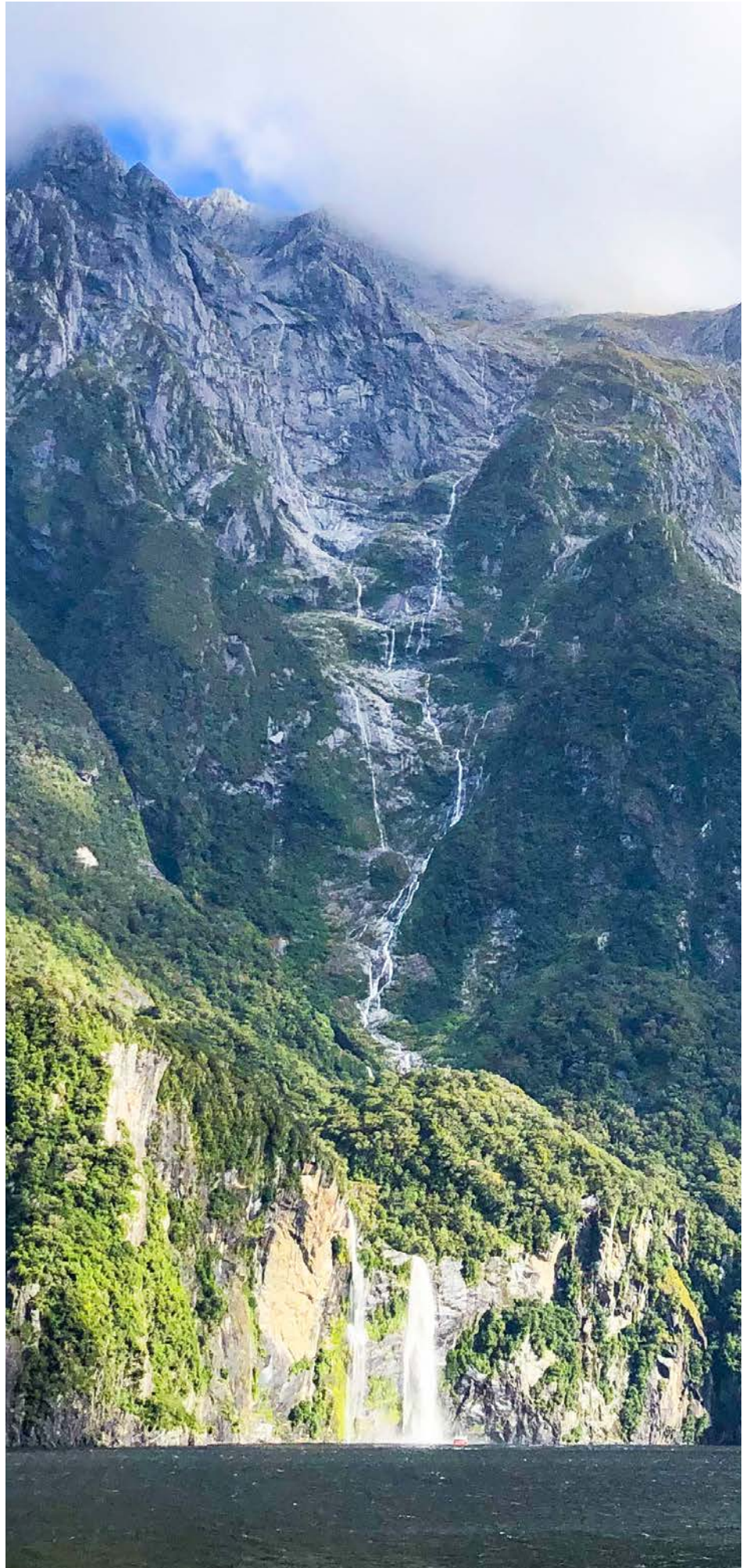
It's always been like this. Maori drew on several hundred years of local know-how and formed a unique bond with early Europeans, leading to the rapid growth of exports by both. We reckon there must be something in the water (and not just Bluff oysters).


Today, *Murihiku* Southland's economy is booming, bringing real opportunity and benefits to the entire region, from our smallest settlements to our largest city. But you don't have to be rich to enjoy our rich lifestyle. Anyone with the right attitude can create the future and freedom they've always wanted.

Our streets are safe, the quality of education high, and the cost of living low. Homes are more affordable, and the traffic won't drive you up the wall. Workdays have a before and after too, so you'll always find time to enjoy our wide-open spaces, eateries, thriving arts scene and world-class sports facilities.

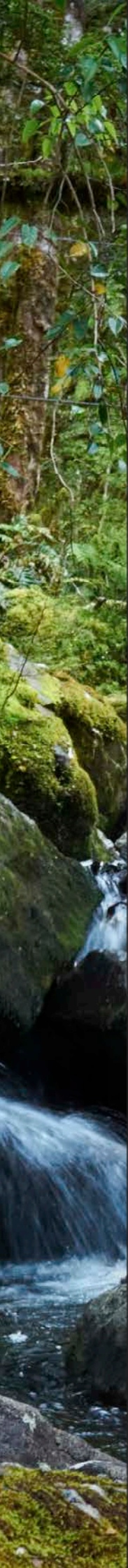
Southlanders are surrounded and sustained by lush farmland, rich waters, bountiful coastlines and abundant nature. We care deeply about the treasures in our backyard, and the Maori spirit of *kaitiaki* (guardianship) over them is something that anchors and unites us all.

We're a welcoming, generous lot. Down to earth, unapologetically proud, and focused on an exciting future. We could go on, but the long and short of it is the door's always open, the kettle's always on, and we can't wait to show you around.





Southland is a natural playground, no matter what your passion is!



As New Zealand's ultimate nature and wildlife destination, its dramatic scenery spans pristine rainforests, fertile farmlands, and rugged coastlines. With an abundance of hiking trails, cycling routes, fishing spots, classic motors, the world-famous Bluff oyster, and the region's iconic cheese roll. *Murihiku* Southland has something for you!

Waihōpai Invercargill is the gateway to explore Southland's picture-perfect destinations, and as New Zealand's southernmost city, it seamlessly blends old world charm with modern living. Invercargill has a laid-back atmosphere - except when it comes to celebrating *Murihiku* Southland's obsession with classic motoring!

With a reimagined, rebuilt central city; visiting and doing business in *Waihōpai* Invercargill is an extraordinary experience. Come south, feel and be part of the buzz and excitement, it's everything you want and need in a city, without the big city headaches.

On *Waihōpai* Invercargill's doorstep you'll discover the wild beauty and primeval nature of *Rakiura* Stewart Island where kiwi wander freely, and blue cod caught on the glistening water is transformed into a mouth-watering, gourmet treat. It is possible to visit *Rakiura* Stewart Island for just the day by ferry or helicopter from *Motupōhue* Bluff or a flight from *Waihōpai* Invercargill, but it's always recommended to stay a day or three at least!

Marvel at the wonder that is *Ata Whenua* Fiordland as awe-inspiring sights rise-up around you, then kick back with some fine-dining Te Anau style. Visitors from all over the world come to *Ata Whenua* Fiordland to see the natural icons of *Piopiota* Milford Sound and *Patea* Doubtful Sound or to hike one of the area's Great Walks. Stay a while and base yourself in the picturesque township of Te Anau to experience the area fully.

Explore and experience the region

Explore what Southland/ Fiordland has to offer during your event. With a vast array of experiences available in the South, there's something to suit every group's interests.

To make your meeting more memorable, why not showcase the region to your delegates.

Highlights

EXPERIENCE Paddock TO PLATE DINING

Surrounded by ocean and pasture, *Murihiku* Southland is the ultimate Surf'n'Turf destination - a produce paradise. Enjoy the freshest seafood, including world-famous Bluff oysters, Stewart Island salmon, mussels, pāua, and succulent blue cod. Take your pick of exceptional tasting, grass-fed lamb, prime pasture-fed beef, and the finest venison, alongside the crispness and crunch of farm-fresh veges. And let's not forget that Southland delicacy – the famous cheese roll - the perfect companion for a fabulous, locally-roasted coffee.

DISCOVER LOCAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Murihiku Southland has rich and varied natural and cultural heritage, with distinctive areas of the region embracing their unique stories. From tales of early Māori voyages to remote lighthouses and whalers' sites, moonshine distilleries, Victorian hotels, farming and mining history, and a 180-million-year-old petrified forest, *Murihiku* Southland

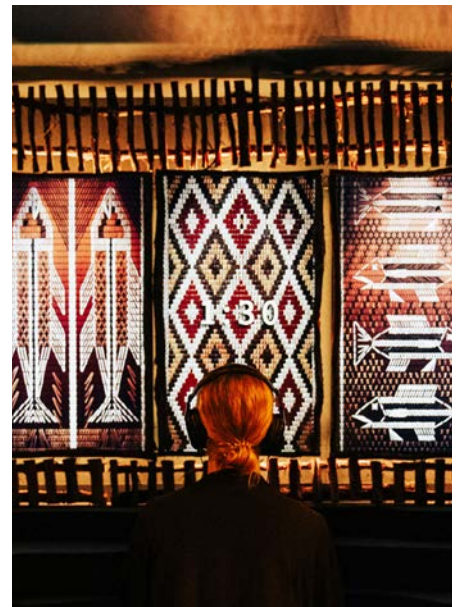
is a treasure trove of astonishing experiences. The region's living history is wonderfully showcased through interactive modern museums, and unforgettable outdoor experiences.

ENCOUNTER UNIQUE WILDLIFE AMONGST UNTAMED WILDERNESS

Listen to native birdsong, spot kiwis hiding in the dark or take a cruise to experience a range of wildlife. *Murihiku* Southland is the place to find everything from rare native birds to dolphins, seals and sharks. On Stewart Island, kiwi outnumber humans 50 to 1 and the southern sanctuary offers a unique kiwi spotting experience as the birds are practically on your doorstep. Discover the Catlins and observe hoiho yellow-eyed penguins as they come ashore on the 180-million-year-old petrified forest at Curio Bay. In *Murihiku* Southland there are many options for tours and cruises that will let you experience the wildlife without having to find where they hide yourself. Tours allow you to sit back, photograph and relax, and enjoy a true Southern experience without hassle.

ENJOY UNFORGETTABLE STARGAZING

An International Dark Sky Sanctuary, *Rakiura* Stewart Island combines stunning scenery with an almost primeval landscape, for an incredible night sky experience. The Island's remote location, free from light pollution, makes for exceptional stargazing. *Ata Whenua* Fiordland is equally amazing for stargazing, you can admire the Milky Way from the Marakura Wharf in Te Anau, or the epic, starry night vistas above Mitre Peak in *Piopiota* Milford Sound. Fiordland National Park is set to become the first National Park in New Zealand to be awarded International Dark Sky Park status.



Invercargill & Bluff

Waihōpai Invercargill is Southland's main commercial hub and New Zealand's southernmost city. Dubbed the "City of Water and Light" due to the city's position beside a river estuary and the long summer daylight hours, Invercargill has a laid-back atmosphere - except when it comes to celebrating Southland's obsession with classic motoring!

Motupōhue Bluff lies thirty kilometres south of *Waihōpai* Invercargill and is the southernmost settlement on mainland New Zealand. The most-photographed spot in Bluff is the famous signpost at Stirling Point, which is a highlight for any visitor to the South.



BILL RICHARDSON TRANSPORT WORLD

The largest private automotive museum of its type in the world. With more than 300 vehicle displays, a growing wearable arts collection and more - there's something to captivate everyone.

Visit www.transportworld.co.nz for more info!



QUEENS PARK

Explore this magnificent 80-hectare park in the heart of Invercargill - featuring wildlife habitats, gardens, a cafe, a golf course, disc golf and more!

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE MECCA

New Zealand's most diverse motorcycle display, home to more than 300 bikes and sidecars from over 60 manufacturers, ranging from 1902 - 2007.

Visit www.motorcyclemecca.nz for more info!



DIG THIS INVERCARGILL

New Zealand's first heavy equipment playground is an experience quite unlike any other. Get ready to rip, push and pull your way to a whole new level of excitement.

Visit www.digthisinvercargill.nz for more info!



STIRLING POINT

Located at the beginning (or end) of New Zealand's State Highway 1. Stirling Point is most famous for its signpost, which depicts directions and distances to major cities around the world.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



HE WAKA TUIA ART + MUSEUM

Southland's together space, the collaboration between the Invercargill Public Art Gallery and the Southland Museum and Art Gallery, is called He Waka Tuia Art + Museum.

Visit www.hewakatuia.nz for more info!



ORETI BEACH

Oreti Beach is a coastal playground just minutes from Invercargill that you're able to drive right onto! This beach is famous for being Burt Munro's testing ground.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



Fiordland

Encompassing New Zealand's biggest national park, the remote *Ata Whenua* Fiordland is awe-inspiringly beautiful, with high-sided valleys, fiords, and lakes carved by ancient glaciers. The only fiord accessible by road, the breathtaking *Piopiota* Milford Sound has been attracting international visitors for more than 100 years.

A boat cruise on a lake or sound is one of the best ways to take in this world-class sightseeing destination. However, tackling one of the three Great Walks, the Milford, Routeburn, or Kepler Track, is another fantastic way to discover this beautiful part of *Murihiku* Southland.



ATA WHENUA FILM

This locally produced film takes you on an extraordinary aerial journey across one of the most awe-inspiring places on the planet - Fiordland Ata Whenua.

Visit www.fiordlandcinema.co.nz for more info!



TE ANAU GLOWWORM CAVES

Experience a mysterious underground network of limestone passages filled with whirlpools and an underground waterfall before drifting in darkness beneath the luminous shimmer of glowworms.

Visit www.realnz.com for more info!



FIORDLAND HISTORIC CRUISES

Explore the Fiordland National Park while tasting incredible local cuisine and sipping fine New Zealand wines - all while sailing across Lake Te Anau on board a 1930's sailing ship!

Visit www.fiordlandhistoriccruises.co.nz for more info!



FIORDLAND FROM THE SKY

The glacier-carved cliffs flowing with waterfalls, towering peaks and dense rainforest of Fiordland are best seen by air. From plane or helicopter, the choice is yours.

Visit www.fiordland.org.nz for more info!



FIORDLAND JET

Take in the breath-taking landscape of Te Wahipounamu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as you jet boat down the crystal-clear waters of the Waiau River to the awe-inspiring Lake Manapouri.

Visit www.fjet.nz for more info!



PIOPIOTAHU MILFORD SOUND

Often described as the "eighth wonder of the world", the jewel in Fiordland's crown, and one of the New Zealand's top travel destinations. Extraordinary waterfalls and wildlife can be viewed from a cruise or kayak trip.

Visit www.fiordland.org.nz for more info!



PATEA DOUBTFUL SOUND

With towering peaks, rainforest, and twisting, hidden inlets, this fiord is ten times bigger than Milford Sound. Enjoy an overnight cruise to really immerse yourself in the serenity of the national park.

Visit www.fiordland.org.nz for more info!

Stewart Island

Rakiura Stewart Island is the southernmost and smallest island of the three main islands of New Zealand. The island's clear turquoise sea and white sand beaches make it look like a tropical paradise and it is a haven for many rare native birds, such as friendly kaka and weka, beautiful kakariki and South Island saddlebacks, and elusive brown kiwi.

Roughly 85% of *Rakiura* Stewart Island forms the wild and enchanting Rakiura National Park. One of the best ways to experience the park is by tramping the Rakiura Track, one of New Zealand's Great Walks, which explores a range of epic scenery from rainforests, wetlands and vast sand dunes.



RAKIURA MUSEUM TE PUKA O TE WAKA

Displays and information about early Māori settlements, mutton-birding, whaling, fishing, timber milling, mining, boat building, transport, early schools and churches are all featured, delving into Stewart Island's past.

Visit www.rakiuramuseum.co.nz for more info!



RAKIURA DARK SKY SANCTUARY

The remote location of Stewart Island means it is virtually free of light pollution, making the views of the night sky exceptional. Join Twinkle Dark Sky Tours to see some of the most beautiful sights in the universe!

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



GUIDED TOURS OF STEWART ISLAND

The best way to explore the island, guided tours of Oban and surrounds or Ulva Island provide insight into the history of New Zealand's southernmost community and the environment and wildlife of Stewart Island.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



WILD KIWI EXPERIENCE

Stewart Island is one of the few places where you can see a wild kiwi so close to civilisation. Travel through the native forest by torchlight to see the southern brown kiwi - often seen searching for food.

Visit www.realnz.com for more info!



TE WHARAWHARA ULVA ISLAND

An absolute must-do, Ulva Island is a predator-free sanctuary. Touring the island via the easy walking tracks gives an unspoiled glimpse into the lives of some of New Zealand's most endangered birds.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



BUNKHOUSE THEATRE

Home of 'A Local's Tail', a delightfully quirky film that introduces local characters, reveals into the struggles and triumphs of this pioneering community, and gives you a tour of the island - all guided by local dog Lola.

Visit www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz for more info!



STEWART ISLAND E-BIKES

Explore picturesque Stewart Island in style on eco-friendly electric bikes. Stop at your leisure and have the time to reach more remote destinations.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!

The Catlins

A spectacular coastal stretch between *Waihōpai* Invercargill and Balclutha in South Otago, the Catlins possesses a rugged beauty and untouched quality that is magnetic; with vast native forests fringed by high cliffs, deserted sandy beaches, and sparkling bays. This area is possibly the most stunning part of the Southern Scenic Route which is rated as one of the world's top 10 drives.

Like the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, tucked away at the end of various walks in the Catlins are several magnificent waterfalls, including the photograph-worthy McLean Falls and the popular triple-tiered Pūrākaunui Falls.



SLOPE POINT

The southernmost point on the South Island of New Zealand, accessible via a short walk. The views of the surrounding ocean off of the point's steep rugged cliffs are spectacular!

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



WAIPAPA POINT & LIGHTHOUSE

Home to a historic lighthouse, this often-photographed point is one of the best spots to see sea lions resting on land.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



CURIO BAY

This unique bay is of international significance for its fossilised forest which dates back to the Jurassic period 160 million years ago - the forest was alive when New Zealand was part of Gondwanaland!

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



TUMU TOKA CURIOSCAPE

A world class interpretive centre especially designed to share the stories and history of this amazing place on the edge of the world. Tailor your own experience with interactive touch screens and more!

Visit www.curioscape.co.nz for more info!



MCLEAN FALLS

Watch the water pour over the highest waterfall in the Catlins with the early morning light shining through the rainforest.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



CATHEDRAL CAVES

Feel dwarfed by the sheer size of these magnificent caves! The cavernous caves are only accessible around low tide after a short walk through native bush and along a beach.

Visit www.cathedralcaves.co.nz for more info!



THE LOST GYPSY

Explore all the quirky automata, wind-up and water-driven gadgets and gizmos cleverly made from found objects - shells, toys, coins, wood, watches, wire.

Visit www.thelostgypsy.com for more info!

Gore & More

Maruawai Gore is Southland's second largest town and lies on the banks of the Mataura River. With nearly 150km of easily accessible waters that are internationally renowned for brown trout fly-fishing, it's no wonder Gore is now known as the "Brown Trout Capital of the World"! Alongside fantastic fishing, culture and heritage draw a crowd to the rural town. *Maruawai* Gore is famous for its country music, illicit whisky making and is also a growing hub for the arts.

For those who want to get more off the beaten track, *Murihiku* Southland has a wide range of activities to try and history to explore - all set amongst some of the most stunning landscapes.



EASTERN SOUTHLAND GALLERY

Home of the internationally renowned John Money Collection and Ralph Hotere Gallery, this gallery also features a diverse program of temporary exhibitions.

Visit www.esgallery.co.nz for more info!



HOKONUI MOONSHINE MUSEUM

The Gore District's colourful history of whisky making and consumption is celebrated in this unique museum, located in Gore's heritage precinct.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



GORE STREET'S ART TRAIL

Eight bold and beautiful murals have been painted across town by various street artists including ex-Gore artist Sean Duffell. The colorful designs are part of the Streets Alive programme that form an art walking trail.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



FLY FISHING

The Mataura River is a trout fishing paradise, it has the highest population and catch rate of any river in New Zealand. There are many skilled and experienced guides in the region who offer customised fishing trips.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



CROYDON AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE

Here the golden age of flight can be relived! This museum is dedicated to preserving and celebrating New Zealand's civil aviation heritage, both the stories of pioneer aviators and their equally colourful machines.

Visit www.croydonaviation.co.nz for more info!



SWITZERS MUSEUM

This museum's displays include material relative to high country farming and the area's gold mining past and associated Chinese settlement - Waikaia owes much of its history to gold which was discovered there in 1862.

Visit www.southlandnz.com for more info!



AROUND THE MOUNTAINS CYCLE TRAIL

This 186km trail winds from the shores of Lake Wakatipu and alpine vista views, through rolling farmland and historic townships (such as Lumsden), to high country stations and the beautiful Mavora Lakes Conservation Park.

Visit www.aroundthemountains.co.nz for more info!

Pre and post touring options

The region of Southland/ Fiordland and the surrounding districts have many exciting options for delegates to discover before and after an event.

Waihōpai Invercargill is a gateway to some of New Zealand's most popular tourism destinations. From the ecological havens of the Catlins or *Rakiura* Stewart Island to the wilderness adventure wonderland of *Ata Whenua* Fiordland – *Murihiku* Southland is ready to be explored. Meanwhile, the tourist hot-spots of Queenstown and Central Otago are only a short drive away.

Southland

WIDER SOUTHLAND & THE CATLINS AREA

Waihōpai Invercargill is New Zealand's southernmost city and the gateway to *Murihiku* Southland. *Motupōhue* Bluff, famous for its oysters, is nestled along a rugged coast. Mighty rivers and streams are found inland perfect for trout fishing. The Catlins area is a section of extraordinary coastline and native bush which is home to unique wildlife species and remains largely untouched.

Visit www.southlandnz.com

STEWART ISLAND

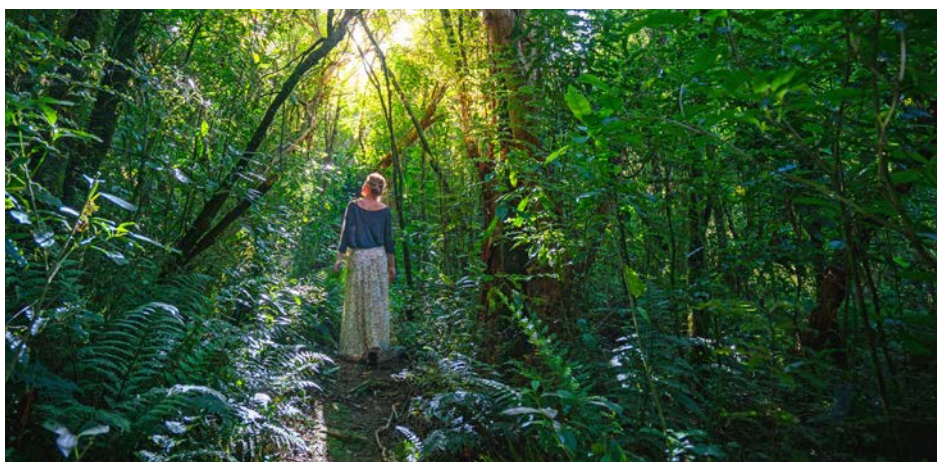
Rakiura Stewart Island is the ultimate ecotourism destination. Much conservation work has been done to protect this special island and its surrounds. There is plenty to do, with bird watching, star gazing, fishing, diving, hiking and visiting remote golden beaches just some of the options.

Visit www.southlandnz.com/stewart-island

FIORDLAND

Fiordland National Park is a world heritage site and is home to some of the most breath-taking scenery in New Zealand. It includes *Piopirotahi* Milford Sound and *Patea* Doubtful Sound. Described as the "Eighth Wonder of the World", this special place has famous walking tracks, unique wildlife and breath-taking views. Base camp for exploring the region, the township of Te Anau is located on the shores of New Zealand's second largest lake.

Visit www.fiordland.org.nz





Otago

QUEENSTOWN

Queenstown is the adventure capital of New Zealand. Located on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and nestled underneath the picturesque Remarkables mountain range, this is a sophisticated four-season holiday resort. The home of the world-famous bungy jump and Shotover Jet, there are plenty of amazing attractions and sightseeing options for all ages.

Visit www.queenstownnz.co.nz

CENTRAL OTAGO

Central Otago has a unique climate, being the hottest, driest and coldest place in New Zealand. Because of this, grapes and fruit grow exceptionally well there. The Otago Central Rail Trail, New Zealand's original great ride, winds through the region and offers some of the best cycling in the country.

Visit www.centralotagonz.com

DUNEDIN

Stretching around the picturesque harbour, sheltered by the Otago Peninsula, Dunedin is home to colonies of rare penguins, Royal Albatross, and Hooker's sea lions. A city rich in heritage – there are many notable historic buildings, museums, and art galleries which are made for exploration.

Visit www.dunedinnz.com