

From Grasmere Lodge to Dunedin

To reach Dunedin, turn right out the Grasmere driveway, and stay on State Highway 73 through Springfield (check your gas tank as you pass the petrol station) and Sheffield. Just beyond Sheffield turn right onto State Highway 72/77, marked as the Scenic Inland Route.

Continue south on SH 72 through Coalgate, Glentunnel, past Mt Hutt Station, through Staveley (you may like a slight detour into Mt Somers village for a coffee in a character general store), and Mayfield, until you reach Geraldine. Most of these former names are tiny villages.

Geraldine is a small town, the hub of the local farming community. If you feel like lunch about here, we recommend Barker's Bakery or the café in front of that.

Actually, the pub meals at the Geraldine Licensing Trust hotel in the main street are quite good too, and nice surroundings.

Follow the signs for Winchester and Timaru. At Winchester, turn right onto SH 1 and travel south through Temuka, Timaru and Oamaru.

Oamaru is well-known for its impressive architecture made of local limestone, down near the harbour, and it's a pleasant drive through rolling countryside.

From here on you'll catch glimpses of the sea, and there's a nice diversion down to the Moeraki Boulders – like giant rock marbles on the beach.

Watch your speed from about Palmerston onwards, the last hour or so into Dunedin – the road twists over several hills, and there are often police speed traps.