



# Welcome to the Lenz Reserve & Tautuku Forest Cabins





# Welcome to the Lenz Reserve

The Reserve is owned by the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society (Forest & Bird) and is managed jointly by the Dunedin, South Otago and Southland Branches of the Society.

## Contact details

Bookings and enquiries: tautuku cabins@gmail.com  
Warden: phone 022 46595195  
Manager: phone 0273764120  
Lenz Committee Secretary: Forest and Bird Society  
P O Box 5793  
Dunedin

## Location and access

The Lenz Reserve is located in the Catlins on the Southern Scenic Route, 72 km south of Balclutha and 32 km south of Owaka. The reserve is about 1 km from the coastline, at an elevation of 40–180 m. There is vehicle access from Highway 92 to the parking area at the entrance, or, for authorised vehicles, to the track which leads up to the accommodation area. Guests are given a key to the gate at the bottom of this track, which is normally kept locked.

**GPS ref for the Main Cabin:** 1325559 mE, 4835181 mN

**NB Cell phone coverage cannot be guaranteed.** The nearest public phone is located at the Papatowai shop. There is a landline at Tautuku Education Centre off the main highway to the north of the Reserve, which may be available in emergencies provided that there is someone in residence. (Vodafone and 2Degrees only available nearby)



# Accommodation at the Lenz

**Tautuku Forest Cabins** has three accommodation options. These are child-friendly but are unsuitable for wheelchairs. There are flush toilets and hot showers.

## The Main Cabin

Sleeps 10. Two four-bunk bedrooms with two additional sofa-beds in the lounge. Well-equipped kitchen. Heat pump. Toilets and showers are reached across a covered way.



## Coutts Cabin

Sleeps four. Two two-bed bedrooms off kitchen/living area. Basic cooking facilities. Electric heater. Toilet and ablution facilities in a separate building close at hand.



## The A-frame

Sleeps two. One bedroom with two single beds. Electric heater. Kitchen/living area with basic cooking facilities. Toilet and ablution facilities in a separate building close at hand.

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

Accommodation is available from mid-day on the day of arrival. Please vacate by mid-day on the day of departure unless you've made prior arrangements with the caretaker.

## FACILITIES

### Electricity supply

Each cabin has electrical heating and cooking facilities.

### Cleaning

We are able to keep our rates at very reasonable levels because we don't employ a full-time cleaner. Please make sure that you leave your accommodation clean and tidy, and remove all rubbish, when you depart. Leave fridge doors open. If you encounter any problems in this regard please contact the caretaker. We appreciate your feedback.

### Water supply

We store rainwater in tanks. Please restrict your water usage, especially during dry periods (yes, we do have them in the Catlins!). The water is not filtered and we recommend that you boil it before drinking.

### You will need to provide:

Sleeping bag or bedding, pillow case, personal towels, dish towels, rubbish bags, torch (recommended)

# Local businesses

More information can be found in the free map **Haere Mai – Welcome to The Catlins**, available at information centres, and on the Catlins website: <https://www.catlins.org.nz>.

## Health providers

### Catlins Medical Centre

29 Main Road, Owaka 03 415 8006  
Opening hours: 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday  
Appointment required

### Bates Pharmacy – Catlins Health and Gift

17 Waikawa Road, Owaka 03 415 8109  
Opening hours: 9.30am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday  
Stock a large range of medicines, also wooden toys and gifts. Pharmaceuticals not in stock, or prescription medicines, are delivered at 4.30pm each day from Balclutha.

## Dental practices

Graham York Dental 131 Clyde St, Balclutha 03 418 1294 [gyorkdental@gmail.com](mailto:gyorkdental@gmail.com)  
John Street Dental Centre 8 John Street, Balclutha 03 418 1374

## Activities

### Owaka Museum and Catlins Information Centre

Campbell St, Owaka  
03 415 8323 (Museum)  
03 415 8371 (Information Centre)  
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9.30–4.30pm  
Sat & Sun 10–4pm  
[www.owakamuseum.org.nz](http://www.owakamuseum.org.nz)

### Waikawa District Museum and Information Centre

604 Niagara–Waikawa Highway, RD1  
Tokanui 03 246 8464  
Opening hours: 10am–5pm Every day  
[waikawamuseum@hyper.net.nz](mailto:waikawamuseum@hyper.net.nz)

### The Lost Gypsy Gallery

Papatowai Highway, Papatowai  
021 122 8102 [www.thelostgypsy.com](http://www.thelostgypsy.com)

### Earthlore Wildlife Gardens

129 Hinahina Road, Owaka  
03 415 8455 027 385 3182  
[earthlore3@gmail.com](mailto:earthlore3@gmail.com)  
[www.earthlore.co.nz](http://www.earthlore.co.nz)



Owaka Museum & Catlins Information Centre



KCC outing at Earthlore Wildlife Gardens

## **Eating and drinking**

### **The Whistling Frog Café**

9 Rewcastle Road, Chaslands Hwy 03 415 8338  
www.whistlingfrogcafe.com

### **Niagara Falls Cafe**

256 Niagara-Waikawa Road, Niagara 03 246 8577  
niagarafallscafe@xtra.co.nz www.niagarafallscafe.co.nz

### **Catlins Café**

3 Main Road, Owaka 03 415 8040  
info@catlinscafe.co.nz www.catlinscafe.co.nz

### **The Lumberjack Bar and Café**

3 Saunders Street, Owaka 03 415 8747  
info@lumberjackbarandcafe.co.nz www.lumberjackbarandcafe.co.nz

### **The Catlins Inn**

21 Ryley Street, Owaka 03 415 8350  
catlinsinnowaka@xtra.co.nz

## **Retail**

### **Papatowai Country Store**

2501 Papatowai Highway, Papatowai 03 415 8147  
Hours: 9:30 am – 6.00 pm. Winter hours variable.  
Petrol & diesel available. Public telephone.

### **Owaka Four Square – Supermarket**

4 Overden Street, Owaka 03 415 8201  
Hours: 7 days 7.30am–7.00pm  
Postal agency. In-store bakery.

### **Owaka Motors**

1 Campbell St, Owaka 03 415 8179 after-hours 03 415 8944  
Card operated pumps



# Experiencing The Catlins

## The Lenz Reserve

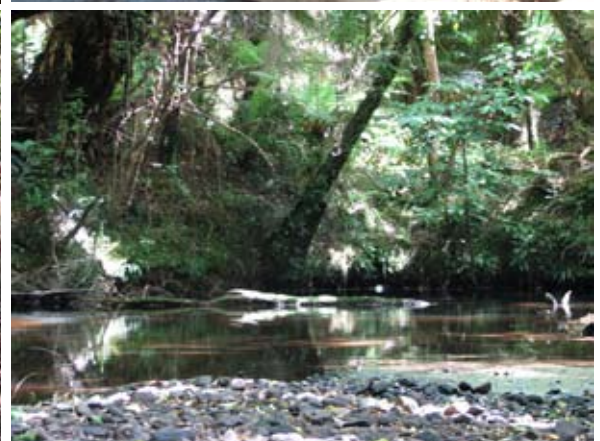
**Trail tractor site** is an easy walk to the site of a Trill tractor and relics of the sawmilling era at the Lenz Reserve. Interpretation panels illustrate the history of the area from long before human settlement.

**Link Track** allows public access from the Trill Tractor site to the walks, via a board walk and old logging tramway.

**Lenz Reserve Nature Walk** follows a roughly circular route and takes about an hour of easy walking. There are plant identification plaques along the track. The Boardwalk Track branches off the Nature Walk and finishes at a 30 m boardwalk into the wetland.

**Lenz Reserve Long Track** is mainly of walking track standard but is in places a route standard. Conditions can be muddy along parts of the track by the river. Follows the old tram line up the ridge behind the cabins, crosses the Fleming River over a tree bridge, traverses the bank and passes through an area of old growth podocarp forest, recrosses the river on a second bridge, and returns to the cabins via the Nature Walk. At a high point of the track, a raised platform provides views over the reserve.

**Tautuku estuary boardwalk** isn't part of the Reserve but is close at hand. Access is across the road, on the northern end of the bridge. Gives an ideal opportunity to view the birdlife of the estuary, including the fernbird. Excellent views of the forest on the south side of the river.



## The surrounding area

For more information about opportunities to explore the wonderful natural environments that make up The Catlins, visit local information centres or see:

**[www.catlins.org.nz](http://www.catlins.org.nz)**

[www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/otago/coastal-otago/catlins-waterfalls-walks](http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/otago/coastal-otago/catlins-waterfalls-walks)

Also recommended: Neville Peat *The Catlins and the Southern Scenic Route* University of Otago Press 1998

### Cathedral Caves

North end of Waipati beach, south of Tautuku. Accessible only for an hour at either side of low tide. Access to the beach is across Maori and Department of Conservation land. The caves may be closed for periods of time during the year – check with local information centres.

### Catlins River estuary (lake)

Paradise for bird watchers: dotterels, godwits, gulls, herons, oyster catchers, shags, spoonbills, stilts and swans.

### Catlins River – Wisp Loop Track

The 5–6 hour **Catlins River Walk** is a well-formed tramping track following the Catlins River between The Wisp and the Tawanui camping ground. It can be combined with the 4–5 hour higher-altitude **Wisp-Loop track** via forestry roads and the Rocky Knoll lookout.

### Curio Bay

Jurassic (160 myo) fossil conifers litter the beach, which is also a highway for yellow-eyed penguins.

### Florence Hill Lookout

About 2 km south of Papatowai. Panoramic view of Tautuku Bay and the Rainbow Isles.

### Jack's Bay & the Blowhole

The blowhole doesn't always blow, but it's a great walk along the cliff tops from Jack's Bay to this spectacular chasm.

### Lake Wilkie

Magical place about 2 km north of Lenz where wetland is slowly being transformed into forest. Biological succession in action.

### Long Point/Irahuka reserve

A winding unsealed road leads to a reserve owned by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, whose goal is to restore the vegetation and to 'bring back the sea birds'. Stunning scenery and the chance to see penguins, sea lions and seals

### McLean Falls

Spectacular waterfalls in the middle reaches of the Tautuku river. Access off Rewcastle Road about 1 km south of the Cathedral caves turn-off.

### Matai Falls

Easily accessible waterfall, 18 km south of Owaka, located on the Matai stream in the Catlins Forest Park.



*Spoonbills in the Catlins Estuary*



*Rata Range – Rocky Knoll*



*White-faced heron at Curio Bay*



*Lake Wilkie*



### **Nugget Point**

Wave-eroded rock stacks and rocky beaches where seals and (very occasionally) elephant seals can be seen, along with a multitude of sea birds. Short walk with interesting information panels. Penguin-viewing hide at **Roaring Bay** on the way up to the carpark.

### **Old Coach Road track**

Coastal track beginning on the north side of the Tahakopa river bridge. Passes through forest with the most southerly silver beech trees in NZ. There is an important Maori archaeological site near the mouth of the river. You can either walk back through the forest or take a more demanding route and climb the hill at the far end of the beach.

### **Papatowai Picnic Point Track and Kings Rock**

The **Picnic Point track** is a 40-minute circuit through forest and along a beach with views of one of the Catlins' least-modified sections of coast. The steeper track to **Kings Rock** branches off this track and leads down to a rocky shoreline full of inter-tidal life.

### **Papatowai and Tahakopa river estuary**

Great spot for kayaking and bird viewing

### **Porpoise Bay**

Beautiful sandy bay 2km south of the Waikawa information centre and just over the headland from Curio Bay. A chance to see the rare Hector's dolphin.

### **Pounaweia walking track**

One of the few surviving examples of podocarp (native pine) to salt marsh zonation. Beautiful walk, best done at mid-low tide so you can get across the salt marsh. Access at the far end of the camping ground.

### **Purukaunui falls**

Scenic trademark of the Catlins. Easy access by a graded walk to the head of the falls through podocarp/beech forest, then a steeper section down to the lower viewing platform.

### **Shanks's Bush Nature Trail**

An easy 20 min self-guided walk at Papatowai with quirky viewing opportunities. Chance to see fern birds by the estuary.

### **Slope Point**

The southernmost point of the South Island has near-horizontal windswept trees and a magnificent view over the southern ocean. Track closed Sep–Oct during lambing.

### **Surat Bay**

Long sandy beach where there is a good chance of seeing sea lions, although at times many seem to decamp to nearby **Cannibal Bay**.

### **Tautuku Bay**

The spectacular one that you can see from **Florence Lookout**. The beach can be accessed via an easy walk through the Tautuku dune forest. Track entrance is opposite the Outdoor Education Centre.





