

# Four seasons in one day



## Stat attack

### Dunedin climate summary

Average temperature: 11°C  
 Average rainfall per year: 812mm  
 Average sunshine hours per year: 1585

**The best advice you can be given when going out in the Dunedin area is to always have a warm coat or jersey tucked away somewhere, because you can never be sure what the weather will do next.**

Dunedin officially has a 'temperate' climate – not particularly hot or cold. However, the weather is very changeable! We get warm weather from the northwest, cool coastal breezes from the northeast and downright cold weather from the south and southwest.

Every Dunedinite will be able to tell you what it is like to experience a northwest to southwest change. In a matter of minutes the temperature can drop by a whopping 15°C! You can go from feeling hot and overdressed to feeling decidedly underdressed in the blink of an eye.

But what drives our weather? Our predominant weather pattern is that of cool coastal breezes. Warm northwesterly conditions in summer can occasionally bring temperatures into the mid 30s. However, an absence of shelter from the unsettled weather that moves over the sea from the south and southwest exposes us to the cold blasts that typically originate from there.

Winters can get a bit bleak here at times with the short days and cold blasts delivered direct from Antarctica. It does have upsides too – this same weather brings snow to the many skifields in the mountains around Queenstown and Wanaka. Winter also comes with sunny days and frosty nights – Dunedin averages 58 ground frosts per year.

Summer here is superb. The days are long and lacking the oppressive humidity that those living in the North Island have to contend with. The average number of bright sunshine hours per year is 1585.



Cold frontal cloud closing in over St Clair Beach



A winter cold snap blankets Dunedin in snow

