

Peninsula beaches

X marks the spot

Pacific facing shores on the Peninsula can be accessed from Highcliff Road, the high road that travels along the top of the Peninsula. Most have a section of walking track that links vehicle carparks and the beaches. Harbour facing beaches can all be accessed from the long and winding harbourside road.

Top of the class

Dunedin's famous wildlife brings millions of dollars into the local economy through tourism. Just some of the unique animal attractions include the Northern royal albatross, Yellow-eyed penguin, New Zealand fur seals, New Zealand sea lions, and Little blue penguins. Conservation is a very important part of retaining these attractions.

Those were the days...

Shortly after Europeans first arrived in New Zealand, Fur seals and Sea lions came close to being wiped out because of hunting. Now, numbers are slowly building up due to their protected status, and sea lions have re-established breeding on the Peninsula.

From sandy and windswept with wildlife galore to rocky harbour shores and tidal flats, the Otago Peninsula is characterised by two contrasting types of beaches.

The seaward side faces the Pacific Ocean in the middle of the 'Roaring Forties', exposing them to powerful ocean forces. Deep water is close to these shores, making them the perfect habitat for many marine animals as food sources are plentiful. The land of the Peninsula protects the Harbour from the battering winds, and the difference between the two sides is striking.

Sandfly Bay is known for its spectacular steep sand dune. Nearby, the lookouts for Lover's Leap and The Chasm were both formed from collapsed sea caves, and are spectacular on stormy days. Allans Beach is at the mouth of Hoopers Inlet, where very occasionally a Southern right whale is visible. Victory Beach, named for the steamer that was wrecked on its shore in 1862, is popular with locals because of the abundance of wildlife; and the impressive volcanic formations known as 'The Pyramids'.

Pilots Beach is the first beach to be sheltered inside the mouth of the harbour. It is home to a bustling group of Fur seals, and is the best place to go seal spotting whilst visiting Taiaroa Head. A rock wall reinforces the road from the heads to the inland end of the Peninsula. Sand flats are exposed at low tide on the Peninsula side of the harbour, allowing the occasional cricket match. At Portobello, a small bay allows wading near the Marine Studies Centre. Broad Bay and Macandrew Bay are popular spots close to town with small sand beaches surrounded by grassed picnic areas. They are both sheltered little bays with their own unique and vibrant communities.



Sandfly Bay



Pilots Beach

