

# Waterfalls

## X *X marks the spot*

All these waterfalls are well signposted from the Southern Scenic Route through the Catlins. The tracks to the Purakaunui Falls and McLean Falls are reached from gravel sideroads.

Many regard McLean Falls as the finest waterfall in the whole Catlins area. The track to the falls starts at the end of Rewcastle Road and is a worthwhile 40 minute round trip. McLean Falls are 22m tall and the river continues to fall steeply downstream of the falls.

The Catlins has a rugged, scenic coastline rising sharply from the coast in many areas. This land feature gives rise to many superb waterfalls. The Purakaunui Falls, Matai Falls, Horseshoe Falls and McLean Falls are the most spectacular of these and are all just a short stroll into the bush.

The Purakaunui Falls are very much a trademark of the Catlins. This three-tier waterfall is on the Purakaunui River and regularly features on New Zealand calendars. The track to the falls winds through the Purakaunui Falls scenic reserve – be sure to stop and admire the rainforest with its many different trees, including mature rimu and tōtara. Ferns, mosses, lichens and other greenery dangle from every available tree branch.

The Matai Falls are the easiest of the waterfalls to find as the carpark is on the main highway from Owaka to Papatowai. A short walk through regenerating bush takes you to a small viewing platform near the base of the falls. Don't forget to continue up the track as a minute or two further up are the equally impressive Horseshoe Falls.



McLean Falls in the Catlins



The easily accessible Matai Falls

