



ALEXANDRA to ROXBURGH DAM

1 day | 34km

Gold-mining history plays a big part in the attraction of this trail, with many remnants to be seen.

Starting from Alexandra, the trail enters the Roxburgh Gorge, with bluffs rising almost 350m on either side of the river at its most dramatic point. The middle section of this trail is not accessible by bike, so there is a 12km boat trip down the river before riders continue on their bikes. Note that the boat trip needs to be booked in advance. The trail ends at the Lake Roxburgh Dam, but on the other side of the river the Clutha Gold Trail begins. The Roxburgh Gorge Trail also connects with the Otago Central Rail Trail at Alexandra. Together these three trails provide almost 250km of non-stop Great Riding!

TRAIL INFO



TRAIL GRADES:

Most of the trail is Grade 2 (Easy) with a few Grade 3 (Intermediate) sections.

NOTE: An annual maintenance contribution of \$25 per person or \$50 per family covers the cost of maintenance for use of the Roxburgh Gorge Trail and the adjoining Clutha Gold Trail. A 1-day pass is available for \$10 per person, or a life pass for \$500. It can be paid at local bike tour companies and i-SITES.

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE: Mobile phone coverage is not available in most sections of the trail. However, there is coverage between Alexandra and the Narrows.

DRINKING WATER: It is recommended that riders take their own water and food. Once in the gorge there are no food/water outlets.

Immerse yourself in splendid isolation on the Roxburgh Gorge Trail, a spectacular one-day ride from Alexandra to Lake Roxburgh Dam.

This remote wilderness ride is like another world, and the landscape transforms from one season to the next. The mighty Clutha Mata-au River is the star of the show – the trail hugs the edge of this stunning river and incorporates a thrilling jet boat journey.

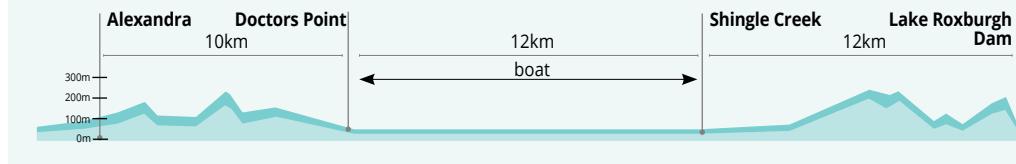
look out for...

Gold-mining relics

Discover previously inaccessible, fascinating reminders of the area's pioneering past. Take a moment to appreciate the resilience of early Chinese miners as you admire the schist huts built into the rocky riverbanks, as well as the remains of small mining settlements. The chance to explore these well-preserved mining relics within this imposing landscape is definitely a trail highlight.

Schist hut in the gorge © Barrie J Willis





riding the trail

The Roxburgh Gorge Trail can be enjoyed as a day trip, or as part of a multi-day journey that includes the Otago Central Rail Trail and the Clutha Gold Trail. Most of the trail is Grade 2 (Easy) with a few Grade 3 (Intermediate) sections.

From the centre of Alexandra, head south across the main bridge and immediately turn right, down a short track to the river. Turn right again and pass under the road bridge you just crossed and head down the valley on a wide smooth trail that weaves through willows. After a few minutes the landscape changes, becoming more and more desert-like with towering rocks and large drops.

Around 10km from Alexandra you will reach the end of this section of the trail at Doctors Point, where there is a toilet and a jetty. From here a boat will take you down river. The boat trip includes an introduction to the history and geology, costs \$95 and must be pre-booked. For boat options contact Clutha River Cruises on +64 3 449 3173 or Beaumont Jet on +64 3 485 9455.

The boat trip is 12km and ends at a second jetty at Shingle Creek. From there the trail takes you down the valley to a car park high above the Lake Roxburgh Dam. If you intend to continue on to the Clutha Gold Trail, cross the dam and follow signs to about 500m below the dam to the car park where the Clutha Gold Trail begins.

Central Otago Breathtakingly Different



Central Otago's landscape is mesmerising; from its rust-coloured hills, rugged snow-capped peaks and vast plains to its bright blue rivers, shimmering lakes and vivid seasonal flowers.

The sun's rays light up Roxburgh's patchwork of fruit orchards as they occupy land next to farms that extend to tussock-clad hills.

This pretty town lies alongside the Clutha Mata-au River, its lake created by the Roxburgh Dam that was commissioned in 1956. Beautiful historic mudbrick and stone buildings are still in use and the gorge has many preserved Chinese rock shelters.

Alexandra is a town of contrast; beautiful to visit in every season.

The winters are crisp and cold, the town bursts into life with flowering blossom trees in spring, the summers are sizzling hot and shades of gold and red abound with the autumn leaves. The town's modern facilities and range of eateries, wineries and artists' studios fulfil its role as Central Otago's commercial and cultural centre. Learn about

FRUIT-GROWING HUB

Taste the exquisite fruits of summer and autumn - cherries, apricots, plums, nectarines, peaches, pears, berries and apples are available at roadside orchard stalls, along with fresh vegetables, preserves and juices. In summer, trying a fresh-fruit ice cream is a must! Checking out the region's Farmers' Markets is another way to get your hands on these delectable goodies.

LEFT: Clyde Heritage Precinct
BELOW: Apricot orchard, Alexandra
OPPOSITE: Roxburgh Bridge
ALL © Tourism Central Otago

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