

Bluff, Southland, New Zealand

At the very bottom of New Zealand's South Island, Bluff punches well above its size — world-famous oysters, the iconic Stirling Point signpost, and ferry rides to pristine Stewart Island all start here.

Docked (commercial port)

Typical call: 8-10 hrs

NZD (New Zealand Dollar)

English

Oyster season: March–August

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Commercial port berths in Bluff Harbour; shuttle buses run to town centre (~2 km)

Best For: Food lovers, nature seekers, end-of-the-earth bragging rights

Walk to centre: Town centre ~20 min walk or short shuttle from port gates

Don't Miss: Stirling Point signpost and Bluff oysters (if in season)

Getting around: Taxi NZD \$120–\$150 · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Stirling Point & Bluff Hill** — Walk or drive to the famous directional signpost at Stirling Point — the official end of SH1 — then continue up Bluff Hill (Motupōhue) for 360° views...
 - Stewart Island Ferry Day Trip** — A 1-hour ferry from Bluff crosses Foveaux Strait to Rakiura National Park on Stewart Island — New Zealand's third-largest island.
- Bluff Oyster Tasting** — Bluff oysters (*Ostrea chilensis*) are prized worldwide for their deep, briny flavour.
 - Invercargill City & Transport World** — Head 30 minutes north to Invercargill for Bill Richardson Transport World (300+ vehicles) and E Hayes Motorworks, home to Burt Munro's original 1920...
 - The Catlins Wildlife & Coastal Drive** — The rugged Catlins coast east of Bluff offers petrified forests at Curio Bay, Hector's dolphins, fur seals, and Slope Point — New Zealand's true...

BEST WALKS

- Stirling Point to Bluff Hill Lookout** 4 km return · 1.5 hrs · Easy–Moderate — From the town centre walk south along Foreshore Road to the iconic Stirling Point signpost, then follow the Bluff Hill Walkway up through native bush to the summit...
- Bluff Heritage Trail Loop** ~5 km · 1.5-2 hrs · Easy (flat) — Self-guided walk linking 17 heritage markers around Bluff's compact streets, covering the town's whaling era, early European settlement, and oyster fishing history.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		58°	48°	16d
Jun		50°	41°	14d
Aug		51°	41°	16d
Sep		54°	43°	15d
Oct		56°	45°	18d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 7:23AM–6:08PM · Jun 8:29AM–5:04PM · Aug 7:47AM–5:55PM · Sep 6:50AM–6:34PM · Oct 6:51AM–8:14PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Layer up always. Bluff sits at the edge of the Roaring Forties — wind and rain can arrive without warning even in summer. A windproof jacket is essential.
- Oyster season is March–August. If your cruise calls outside that window, you can still get excellent local seafood — but don't expect the famous Bluff oysters fresh.
- Stewart Island ferry books fast. The Stewart Island Experience ferry (Bluff–Oban) is popular; book ahead online if this is your priority excursion.
- Carry NZD cash for small vendors. Card is accepted in most Invercargill shops but Bluff's few cafes and stalls appreciate cash.
- Invercargill needs a car or tour. There's no reliable public bus between Bluff and Invercargill timed for cruise calls. Pre-book a shuttle or join a ship excursion.
- Slope Point ≠ Stirling Point. Slope Point (mainland NZ's southernmost tip) is in the Catlins — a 1.5-hr drive east. Stirling Point is the end of SH1, about 2 km (a 25-min walk or short drive) from Bluff town.

Bluff, Southland, New Zealand — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Bluff Maritime Museum | Explore Bluff's rich maritime history and fishing heritage. | 2 Stirling Point | Iconic signpost marks State Highway 1's start, offering scenic views. |
| 3 Greenpoint Ship Graveyard | View decaying, historic shipwrecks in a unique coastal setting. | P Cruise port / terminal | |