

KRUSE®

Your audio guide to New Zealand

Why are more and more travellers requesting a KRUSE® audio guide? Because the word is getting around that the KRUSE® audio guide adds so much value to a self-drive holiday of New Zealand.

With a KRUSE® audio guide you will discover many scenic treasures that are hidden off the beaten path. Treasures like the Pigroot, the old wagon trail to the Dunstan goldfield, an area steeped in history and legend.



Missed by virtually all travellers passing through this area is Danseys Pass Coach Inn, a hotel that has a colourful history traced back to the 1860's when it serviced a gold prospecting community of 2000. Teamsters with their wagon trains plying trade in the Central Otago gold fields used the Coach Inn as a stopover. The Danseys Pass Hotel was built in 1862 by Edwin George, its stonework paid for in beer....



Perhaps the most spectacular features in this bleak lunar-like landscape are the numerous large rock tors or outcrops, that have been formed by wind erosion. The very dry climate slows down the normal processes of rock erosion that occur in wetter climates; here on the Central Otago plateau, erosion occurs by the lighter soils being picked up by the gale force winds and literally sandblasting these exposed tors into their dramatic shapes.



Gold was discovered near St Bathans in 1862 and by 1864 the new township was flourishing. At its peak, St Bathans had some forty business houses, ten hotels and approximately 1,000 residents. St Bathans is reputed to have its own ghost; the spirit of a young woman who died in the tiny Central Otago township's Vulcan Hotel is said to haunt anyone who disturbs her occupation of the front-corner bedroom, Room 1, where she passed away.



The wagon trains laden with provisions for the miners working their claims in the Dunstan goldfield passed over this steep section of Highway 85 or "the Pigroot" as it was then known. Often the horses found the going just too tough and died at this point on the trail. There was no option but to bury them over the bank by the lookout and that's how the place got its name, the Dead Horse Pinch....



According to Maori legend, the Old Man Range of mountains is where Kopuwai, a giant lived with his 10 two headed dogs. This lonely rock is said to be Kopuwai who turned to stone after a great tohunga or priest cast a powerful incantation that robbed Kopuwai of his magical powers

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