



## Roxburgh gorge – New Zealand's Grand Canyon

This historic trail follows an old bridle path that brought coal to the gold mining dredges on the Clutha River/Mata-Au from the 1890s until the 1930s.

### LAKE ROXBURGH WALKWAY

7–10 hr, 20 km return

#### Graveyard Gully to Butchers Point – 4 km

Walking and mountain biking track



From Graveyard Gully the trail follows an old bridle path through a rugged and remote gorge to **Butchers Point**, a mining settlement that lasted for over 30 years. Today, historic tailings and miners' shelters remain.

#### Butchers Point to Doctors Point – 6 km

Tramping track (not recommended for biking)



Beyond Butchers Point the track becomes narrow and rough, with exposed bluff sections. The route continues to the bluffs where sheer rock faces drop vertically to the lake below. Past the bluffs you will enter the Doctors Point workings, first dug in 1877 and continuing fitfully until the 1930s. Here you will find a maze of stacked stone tailings, dams, water races, tunnels and huts.

Gold miners were active throughout this remote gorge. Across Lake Roxburgh you will see further evidence of mining dotted along the (non-DOC) Roxburgh Gorge Trail.

*This entire track is on private land. Please show respect by following the Leave No Trace code.*

*Historic areas like this are easily destroyed. Remember that historic artefacts, including earth and stone-works, are protected by law. Tread carefully and take only photographs.*



- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others

### YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

#### TRACK GRADES

**Walking track:** - - - -  
Well formed, easy walks from a few minutes to a day.

**Tramping track:** - - - -  
Mostly unformed but with track directional markers, poles or cairns.

**Mountain bike:**  
*Intermediate Grade 3*  
Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles, possibly on narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at the track's outside edge.

#### Check, Clean, Dry.



Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Remember to Check,

Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**

Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies  
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

#### Mineshafts and tunnels:

There are old and very deep mining shafts throughout this area. Stay on the track.

**Weather extremes:** The conditions here are harsh and very changeable. The track can be covered in ice in winter and extremely hot and dry in summer, and the climate can swing to either extreme in the course of a day. Bring suitable clothing and sturdy footwear.



You may see skinks basking on the rocks.  
Photo: Barrie Wills



Doctors Point workings. Photo: Barrie Wills



Clutha River dredge, Christmas 1937. Photo: Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery