

**FREE
FUN**



50 ways to find fun and explore inspired by David Attenborough ... in Timaru



Start with your senses

- **Pause outside for 100 seconds.** Name five things you see, hear, smell, feel and wonder about... observation starts with your senses.
- **Watch one bird. Follow its movement, call or feeding...** behaviour is science happening in front of you.
- **Visit a sandy shore. Look for tiny waterways in the sand...** small patterns can explain big river systems.
- **Trace a shell. Notice spirals, ridges, holes or broken edges...** shape tells a story of growth, waves and time.
- **Hold one stone. Feel its weight and texture...** geology becomes easier when it sits in your hand.

Notice nature as science

- **Ask why a rock is there. Look for colour, layers, bubbles or crystals...** every stone is evidence.
- **Choose one tree. Look from roots to canopy...** a tree is habitat, shade, carbon, memory and design.
- **Follow one leaf vein. Notice its branching pattern...** plants move water through living networks.
- **Look under a log carefully. Search for insects, fungi and damp soil...** decay is recycling.
- **Watch bees at flowers. Notice which flowers they choose...** pollination links gardens, food and seasons.

Follow the Scenic Route

- **Walk one stop on the Timaru Scenic Route. Choose one detail you have never noticed...** familiar places still have secrets.
- **Start at Heritage Place. Look for signs, sculpture, street art and old buildings...** towns are built in layers.
- **Say a place name slowly. Practise names like Pātītī and Ōtīpua...** our national language carries memory of our people today and from the past. www.kahurumanu.co.nz is a great resource.
- **Ask what a name means. Look up one Māori or historic place name...** names often hold older stories.
- **Stand at Pātītī Point. Face the sea...** coastlines hold geology, ecology, Māori history, whaling and settlement.

Look at water, tide and edges

- **Search for special stones. Compare size, colour and texture...** beaches are outdoor science labs.
- **Watch the tide. Notice what it covers and reveals...** the sea edits the landscape twice a day.
- **Look for erosion. Find exposed roots or shifting sand...** change is easiest to see at the edges.
- **Explore Ōtīpua Wetlands. Look at reeds, mud, water and birds...** wetlands are nurseries and filters.
- **Listen at Saltwater Creek. Separate birds, wind, water and traffic...** sound maps a place differently.

Observe wild places patiently

- **Spot birds at Waitarakao. Stay still and let them move first...** patience helps you notice habitat and behaviour.
- **Visit rock pools at low tide. Look before touching...** small creatures survive in tough little worlds.
- **Ask why rock pools matter. Notice water depth, weed and shelter...** each pool is a tiny habitat.
- **Stand at Dashing Rocks. Look at lava, cliffs and coast...** Timaru's story began long before people.
- **Imagine deep time. Think in millions of years...** geology stretches the mind.

Read built heritage

- **Look from Blakett Lighthouse. Scan the bay...** a view can hold navigation, wrecks, rescue and memory.
- **Read one plaque. Ask who is named and who is missing...** public history always has gaps.
- **Study one old building. Look at roofline, windows and materials...** architecture tells us what people valued.
- **Find one repair. Notice patched stone, new timber or fresh paint...** maintenance is heritage in action.
- **Notice a doorway. Ask who passed through it...** buildings are human stories too.



Look through children's eyes

- **Walk Caroline Bay slowly. Notice birds, sand, plants, play and sound...** busy places still reward quiet looking.
- **Watch the aviary. Notice posture, calls and social behaviour...** animals communicate before we understand them.
- **See the playground as a child. Crouch lower and look again...** viewpoint changes the story.
- **Ask a child what they notice. Listen without correcting...** children often see what adults miss.
- **Ask an older person what has changed. Record one memory...** lived experience is local history.

Let art teach you to look

- **Visit Aigantighe Art Gallery. Choose one artwork and stay with it...** slow looking builds better seeing.
- **Describe one sculpture. Name its shape, material and mood...** art turns looking into language.
- **Notice the historic house. Look at roof, windows, tiles and garden...** art places have built stories too.
- **Question one material. Ask what it is made from and where it came from...** objects connect to labour, land and technology.
- **Follow one artist's clue. Ask what they wanted you to notice...** art trains empathy and imagination.

Turn curiosity into knowledge

- **Visit South Canterbury Museum. Choose one object that stops you...** curiosity often begins with surprise.
- **Study one object like evidence. Ask who made, used, kept or lost it...** things carry human fingerprints.
- **Look for science inside the museum. Find birds, bees, fossils or rocks...** natural history is local history too.
- **Go to the library with one question. Ask where to start...** good guides turn wondering into research.
- **Search one local clue. Try a person, place, ship, plant, word or building...** one clue often opens a trail.

Share what you notice

Compare old and new images. Place a historic photo beside today's view... change becomes visible.

Photograph something ordinary. Frame it carefully, switch your phone to macro feature and see what is small... attention to the little things can make the everyday thing even more interesting.

Write three clear lines. Say what it shows, why it matters and what you wonder... short writing sharpens thinking, it doesn't have to be factual, it can lead to a fantasy.

Share one discovery. Tell someone or post a photo... wonder grows when it is passed on.

Keep asking "What's that?" Follow the question to a book, person, place, object or memory... every explorer begins by not knowing.

Every explorer starts somewhere

For David it was fossils, stones, newts and a pond in Leicester. For us, it might be a shell at Caroline Bay, a bee in the Botanic Gardens, a rock at Pātītī Point, a bird at Waitarakao, a tree full of butterflies at the Aigantighe Art Gallery, a lighthouse view, a South Canterbury Museum object, a book from the library, or a child saying... "Come and look at this."

Maybe the best imaginary gift we can give David is to use what he gave us. Look closer. Ask better questions. Care more deeply. Then share the wonder already here...

"No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced." - Sir David Attenborough

Who taught you to notice? Was it David Attenborough, Wild South, a teacher, a parent, a grandparent, a beach walk, a bird book, a garden, a museum, a library, a gallery, or someone who invited you to... "come and look at this"!??

WuHoo Timaru is a voluntary project to help you find free fun and to make it meaningful.

www.wuhootimaru.co.nz



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