Driving time from the Octagon to the Otago Peninsula takes about 45 minutes.

We departed the Octagon at 1.20pm. As we approached the famous Railway Station (built in 1903), the tour guide pointed out an old heritage building towards the right called Law Courts Hotel where Queen Elizabeth and her young husband Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh spent the night on their visit to Dunedin 65 years ago. It was built in 1863, originally called The Auld Scotland Hotel.

![Figure 1 The Law Courts Hotel](image)

Turning right on the traffic lights, we passed the Court house built in the 1900s, I found it startling that the building next to the court house was an old prison. Directly across the Court House and the old Prison sits the Museum and the Chinese Gardens. From what I’ve gathered Dunedin is known for its rich heritage culture. Due to the Christchurch earthquake experience, all heritage buildings in Dunedin are now earthquake proof.

![Figure 2 Court House](image)
About a few kilometres on, we stopped by to see the sculptures of six large wisdom teeth which were built in 2010 using concrete and Oamaru stone and paid for by the Dunedin City Council. We were told the idea came about because Dunedin had one of the best Dentistry Schools in the world.

We were then given a brief tour of Waverly, the last suburb of Dunedin before heading for the Peninsula. The suburb was described as a top end of town, it surely has some beautiful houses, is surrounded by beautiful farmland and overlooks the Otago harbour.
Taking the High Cliff hamlet route was the first for me, stunning view. According to the tour guide, the farms around the area are operated by farmers who just want to have a comforting life, so they are quite small.

Finally, we arrived at the planned destination.

Our first stop was the Penguin Place where endangered Yellow Eyed Penguins are natured. They are often referred to as the world's rarest penguin species and are only found in New Zealand. We were lucky to catch old Jim relaxing in his comfort zone. Jim is 25 years old. Normally they only live between 10 to 15 years, so Jim has done well. His first wife is Jess, he left her for Sarah while Jess was away. Amongst the two wives, they have 25 children.

The only other existence in the area at the time apart from old Jim was his 5-year-old son Tui – who is married to 3 years old Rio who was out and about. Our next stop was to visit the Blue-Eyed Penguin. They are known as the smallest Penguin in the world. We were asked not to take photos in this area. Apart from the Penguin - we saw couple of seals and several birds.
Finally, it was time to board the Monarch Wildlife Cruise. Apart from the England family of two who I was placed with. There were about 12 other tourists. Viewing the scenery of the Otago Peninsular from the boat was just breathtaking, it is something one must physically experience to explain. The beautiful landscape, passing boats and ships, varieties of birds flying over the light house including the Albatross species, the sea lions and the dolphins swimming around the boat was just a fascinating experience.

![Figure 6 Me, Myself and I on the Monarch Cruise](image)

From my previous tour, I learnt that Albatross are an endangered species and a native seabird, the largest in the world. They sleep while floating in the air and are rarely seen on land, gathering or breeding and live to 60. I did not get to see an Albatross then, but I was very fortunate on this tour; fifteen Albatross returned home and were hoping for a good mating season.

![Figure 7 The closets I got to an Albatross](image)

Below is the tour guide, a marine biologist from my previous trip explained how after 8 months of fetching, a chick leaves the nest, it may stay at sea for as long as five years, route; South American, Africa, Australia and back to New Zealand.
I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon and Marcela and the rest of the team at the Information Site for this volunteer opportunity.