Dunedin is the main city within the Otago region which is on the southeast coast of the South Island of New Zealand.

Hiking and cycling trails crisscross the dramatic landscape of the adjoining Otago Peninsula, home to colonies of albatrosses, sea lions and rare yellow-eyed penguins.

The tangata whenua, indigenous people, in Dunedin are called Kai Tahu who have three Marae within the Dunedin, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and Kai Tahu ki Otago.

Dunedin is known for its Scottish and Māori heritage, Victorian and Edwardian architecture and a large student population.

About 120,000 people live in Dunedin City and it is the fourth biggest city in New Zealand.

Average daily temperatures in degrees Celsius are:

- **February** (summer): 18 high, 10 low;
- **July** (winter): 8 high, 2 low.

People
About 16 per cent of people from the Otago Region were born outside of New Zealand. Most Dunedin people are of European descent. Nearly 8 per cent are Māori.

Dunedin is a new refugee settlement location. Refugees from Syria will be settled in this region. There are services to help refugees in Dunedin. You will be supported through your initial settlement by Red Cross Refugee Services who will be responsible for settling you into your housing and linking you to service in the community.

For more information see https://www.redcross.org.nz/what-we-do/in-new-zealand/refugee-programmes/

For more information on services for newcomers to Dunedin see http://www.dmec.org.nz/

Recreation and leisure
Dunedin has about 200 tracks (walking and biking), 110 play grounds, 47 sports grounds plus is home to New Zealand’s only permanently grassed fully roofed stadium.

Edgar Centre it is one of the largest indoor recreation facilities in the southern hemisphere, with provision for 21 courts. Sports include futsal, netball, basketball, tennis, touch rugby and ripper (kids) rugby.

For more information see: http://www.edgarcentre.co.nz/

Public facilities
Council provided facilities include libraries, parks, sportsgrounds, playgrounds, museums, art galleries and walking and cycle tracks. Otago has three public swimming pools and a thriving shopping precinct.

For more information see: http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/facilities

Libraries
Dunedin has four public libraries, a national library plus a digital library. Membership is free and there is free internet.

Public transport
There are buses throughout the Otago region. For more information see: http://www.orc.govt.nz/Information-and-Services/Buses/

Hospitals and health
Dunedin is home to the Mercy Hospital which has a 24 hour emergency department. Interpreting support can be arranged.

Industry and employment
The main industries in the Otago region include education and research, agriculture, forestry, commercial fishing and tourism. The University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic are both based in Dunedin. There are jobs in education, engineering and tourism. Jobs can depend on skills and ability to speak English. Government funded English lessons are available. People still learning English may work in jobs such as cleaning, recycling, supermarkets and catering for elderly people.

For more information see: https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/newcomer-information/employment
Schools

There are 81 schools in Dunedin and more in other towns nearby. Most children start school when they turn five. There are many types of schools but most are state run. The school year goes from February till December and is divided into four terms. Most children go to the school that is nearest to their house. You can apply for them to go to other schools. For government reports on schools see: www.ero.govt.nz

The ministry of Education has refugee education co-ordinators to help refugee families with the New Zealand education system.

Universities and polytechics

Dunedin is home to the prestigious University of Otago, the oldest University in New Zealand http://www.otago.ac.nz/. There is also the Otago Polytechnic which offers foundation certificates to post graduate degrees. http://www.op.ac.nz

Dunedin has many places that teach English as a second language (ESOL).

Places of worship

There are many Churches in the region. There is an Islamic and Buddhist Centre in Dunedin. Dunedin hosts a Muslim community of approximately 1000 members. For more information see: https://otagomuslimassociation.wordpress.com/ and http://dhargyey.org.nz/.

Shopping

There are many supermarkets in Dunedin. The Otago Farmers Market is held in Dunedin every Saturday morning which offers food from around the world including Asia and the Middle East.
For information on Dunedin see:
https://www.dunedinnz.com/
https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/regions-nz/otago