

# Museum Review

## Classic Motorcycle Mecca, Invercargill, New Zealand

Classic Motorcycle Mecca, located at 25 Tay Street in the heart of Invercargill, New Zealand. It's regarded as the Southern Hemisphere's premier motorcycle museum. Housed in two sympathetically restored historic buildings, the museum spans three levels and encompasses over 1,600 square metres of very well lit exhibition space. The environment has a quite welcoming feel which encourages visitors to simply take their time and soak in the incredible displays on offer.



The collection boasts more than 325 motorcycles, making it the largest and most diverse display of classic motorcycles in New Zealand. Exhibits range from early 20th-century machines, such as a 1902 Peugeot Perfecta, to modern marvels with a notable highlight

being the largest public display of John Britten motorcycles, featuring the rare V1100 Cardinal. There's an extensive array of Brough Superiors, often dubbed the "Rolls-Royce of motorcycles", early Indian and Harley Davidson's. Ultimately any motorcycle enthusiast is going to find several machines to satiate their two wheeled hunger.

The museum also pays tribute to local legends like Burt Munro, celebrated in the film "The World's Fastest Indian," and speedway champion Ivan Mauger. Incidentally you can see a brilliant display of Burt Monroe's machines and motorcycle paraphernalia at the nearby E Hayes and Sons Hardware Store, yes that sounds odd but trust me, it's well worth the visit.



Visitors can explore themed galleries showcasing British, American, European, and Japanese bikes, as well as dedicated sections for motocross and speedway. The George Begg Bunker, located in the basement, honors the Southland engineer known for building competitive race cars between 1964 and 1976 .

The museum's design emphasises an intimate, up-close experience, with interactive displays and minimal barriers allowing guests to fully appreciate the craftsmanship of each motorcycle . Facilities include the Meccaspresso Café, offering refreshments without requiring museum admission, and The Handle Bar, a sophisticated events space. The venue is fully accessible, providing complimentary wheelchairs for visitors.

Classic Motorcycle Mecca is open daily from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, welcoming enthusiasts and casual visitors alike to immerse themselves in the rich history of motorcycling. I recommend you allow 3 or 4 hours for your visit including some relaxing coffee time in the Cafe

The museum is beautifully set out, with few barriers to block your view and you can get quite intimate with most of the machinery, of course don't try to sit on anything, though you will definitely be tempted to. Overall it is probably one of the best motorcycle museums you will ever come across. Make sure you allow plenty of time to soak it all in and enjoy some time in the cafe while you are.

