

WAIMATE – A HIDDEN GEM !



Sculpture of a Bushman

Let us take you to our small country town, modern, yet steeped in history, just a 35 minutes drive from Timaru.

Waimate lies at the centre of the South Island, right between Timaru and Oamaru.

We offer a history and arts/bric-a-brac trail – you can have it all or take your pick. You will be returned in time to board the ship again.

Minimum/Maximum numbers: four/ six people
Cost: \$125 per person – including afternoon tea

HISTORY

Our tour starts with the drive-up to our iconic “White Horse “ monument, a testament to the Clydesdale horses which powered Waimate’s early logging, timber milling and agricultural industries. The monument tells stories about the start, has artful displays to admire and from there you will have a 360 degree view – weather permitting – of Canterbury and its neighbouring districts, from Alps to ocean.

We will show you monuments of the start of the relationship between Wai Taha – the local Māori tribe at the time – and the English migrants, called Pakeha, who came here. Queen Street, the main road, has many historic buildings from as far back as the mid-1800s. The image here on the right is one of the many street art examples in our town; from a hongi of peace, hanging out the washed rugby shirts to the Waimate 50 street car race, all and more beautifully depicted on the walls in our town.



A hongi of peace



Bob at his collectables shop © Adrian de Villiers

BRIC-À-BRAC

The saying about another man’s treasure is well served in Waimate. We have seven shops that deal in bric-a-brac and second-hand items. True treasures can be found and it may be worth your while to roam the streets and rummage around their collectables, trinkets and high quality pre-loved clothes.

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Quinn’s Arcade, built in 1906, has recently been saved from destruction. It has been lovingly and respectfully restored by one of our town’s business men. The iconic frontage has been revived and is a joy to behold.

AFTERNOON TEA

In true Kiwi fashion, we will end your tour in one of Waimate’s finely restored early colonial homes with a lovely Devonshire tea, served in a garden by Edwardian hosts. Let’s hope for beautiful weather!



Quinn’s Arcade at its opening celebration