



Venture Timaru
DISTRICT - ECONOMIC & TOURISM AGENCY

Timaru

Business Events



Welcome to the Timaru District

From rugged alps across the tapestry of Waitaha/Canterbury Plains to the ocean, South Canterbury is the perfect location for a business event or incentive. Its diverse natural landscape offers sensational opportunities to create memories from fly fishing to white water rafting, scenic flights to Māori rock art.



Timaru, at the heart of the District, was founded in the late 1870s and is renowned for its Edwardian history and architecture, sports and leisure. As a coastal town, it enjoys a sweeping beach at Caroline Bay, home to the blue penguins/kororā and scenic boardwalks that meander the coastline.

Friendly and welcoming, Geraldine is a charming boutique village at the foot of the magnificent Four Peaks Range. It offers a great base to enjoy the thrills and adventure in Peel Forest as well as indulge in some fantastic walks, hikes and gin drinking at its doorstep.

The District has agriculture as its core, and it has become the 'food bowl' of New Zealand. It is home to several large national and international food companies and many fantastic artisan producers. Local cuisine is in abundance, and the economy is thriving.

It is enriched with dynamic businesses, creative, innovative talent and supportive business networks within small towns with big-hearted communities.

Location

Flying to Timaru

Home to a national airport, once they're here, everything is on their doorstep, and they're rarely more than a 30-minute drive from all of our venues and activities. Air New Zealand offers daily domestic flights to Timaru from Wellington, with connecting flights from most other regional centres. The scheduled flight time for Wellington to Timaru flights is 80 minutes.

Pick up a car rental to self-drive or sit back and take in the views as a taxi or tour bus collects you.

Transportation from the airport:

- Timaru Taxis (03) 688 8899
- Discover Tours 027 291 0356
- Coaches- Ritchies (03) 688 7300
- Avis Car Rentals (03) 688 6240

Drive times: TIMARU 10 minutes | TEMUKA 10 minutes | PLEASANT POINT 10 minutes | GERALDINE 20 minutes | PEEL FOREST 30 mins | *MESOPOTAMIA 1 hour 30 minutes.

*You can fly into Mesopotamia, all planes and helicopters are welcome. The airstrip is a flat grass strip 1km in length with tie-down spots. Gas is available if pre-arranged. The co-ordinates for the airstrip are S 43° 38' 44", E 170° 54' 02"



Driving to Timaru

If your delegates live in the South Island, Timaru sits centrally located on State Highway 1 on the East Coast of the South Island.

Driving from the north is beautiful, and the scenery is breathtaking as you hug the Southern Alps and Canterbury Plains. With a focus on home-made and hearty, Salmon Tales Café at Rakaia is the perfect place to stop for a coffee and a bite to eat, just look out for the Big Salmon!

Driving times from Christchurch to Timaru:

- Nonstop drive: 102 miles or 164 km
- Driving time: 2 hours, 11 minutes

The journey from the south offers seascapes that are breathtaking and picture worthy, as well as winding you

through our diverse agricultural landscape - driving nonstop would be a challenge!

Stopping off at Riverstone Kitchen is a MUST, an award-winning restaurant nestled in the spectacular North Otago countryside. Riverstone has gained a reputation for delicious food, simply prepared from local, seasonal ingredients.

Driving times from Dunedin to Timaru:

- Nonstop drive: 122 miles or 196 km
- Driving time: 2 hours, 27 minutes

Whatever direction you're heading, you'll be blown away by the stunning scenery of the South Island.

Facts & Figures

We are proud of the abundance of museums, galleries, fantastic walking and cycling trails, and our diverse group of food and beverage businesses, entrepreneurs, and artisans. We couple this with magnificent scenery, connectivity to the rest of the South Island and our rich heritage of Māori art.



Accommodation

Timaru District offers a broad choice of accommodations, from boutique B&Bs and intimate lodge-style accommodations to seaside hotels, and motels. Delivering a personalised experience for your delegates.



Cycling / Walking

This is core to our lifestyle in the District, so much so, we developed [The Timaru Trails App](#) so that locals and visitors could easily get involved – no excuses! Our network of great tracks and trails is perfect for walking or cycling. There is a level for every kind of fitness and, one thing's for sure, delegates will stay relaxed and healthy.



Food and Beverages

Our richly productive agricultural sector has grown to become New Zealand's 'food bowl'. We grow it, produce it, and catch it off our coast. We then turn our primary produce into national brands, and innovative artisan products that locals love and visitors discover. We now want to share it with your delegates.

In situ are nationally renowned manufacturers such as Barker's of Geraldine, Heartland Potato Chips, DB Breweries, Denheath Custard Squares and 100% Pure New Zealand Honey (to name a few). Artisan manufacturers such as Geraldine Cheese, Addmores Elderflower, Viberi Blackcurrants, Humdinger Gin and The New Zealand Biltong Company.



Population

Timaru District covers 2,732.41 square kilometers and had an estimated population of 48,500 as of June 2022.

Timaru District Business Events

The Timaru District's entrepreneurial spirit and diversity are inspirational and inclusive. It draws you into the District's heart, where stunning scenery meets innovators and creators striving to make this a place your delegates will never forget!

We offer endless ideas when looking for new and innovative approaches to running your next incentive programme, business event, executive retreat, product launch or conference. Our exceptional hosts are local experts ensuring that every event delivers innovative content, value for delegates, and positive impact.



Venture Tourism Support

We work together with our business event partners to help and offer comprehensive advice. This covers meeting and social function venues, accommodation, transport, team-building activities, support services and all other business event details. The information and assistance we provide is focussed on meeting your requirements and is free.

Familiarisation Tours

If the Timaru District is a potential destination for your next business event, we are happy to offer a familiarisation tour of potential suppliers. Please liaise with our Venture Tourism Team to coordinate dates and chosen providers.

Please contact: sharnae@venturetimaru.nz

Bid Document

We have a library of photographs of the Timaru District to support any bids for national small business events or incentives.



Pre & Post Opportunities

Whether your event or incentive is in or near the Timaru District, we can offer suggested itineraries for delegates. Examples are available on pages 8 - 13 or contact us to tailor specifically for your business needs.

Business Event Newsletter

For district and product updates, sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter at www.vttourism.co.nz



Venues

Centrally located within an easy drive of all of the South Island's largest cities, the beautiful Timaru District has conference venues that offer a personalised, boutique-style experience.

Our venues cater for everything from a small group of 6 to larger groups of 200-300. There is a great selection, from intimate meeting spaces to state-of-the-art conference venues. Complimented by an extensive selection of professional support services ranging from AV specialists and lighting experts to event managers, coaches, or simply a bunch of flowers.

The Timaru District is truly the ideal place to welcome your delegates, clients or colleagues for a successful and memorable event, your next incentive program, executive retreat, product launch or conference.








	 Capacity	 Free WiFi	 Restaurant/ Catering	 Business facilities	 Wheelchair access	 Off Street Parking
The Grosvenor Hotel	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Landing Service Conference Centre	200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southern Trust Events Centre	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Movie Max	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
209 Hilton Meeting Room	24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sopheze on the Bay	300	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
StoneBridge	250	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barkers Food Store & Eatery	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hilton View	250	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comfort Hotel - Benvenue	60	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Life Church	250	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Accommodation

There's a wide range of accommodation options for delegates in the Timaru District, and it's easy to find that special place to stay. From intimate boutique-style rooms in breathtaking surroundings to larger motels and hotels with sea views. They range from budget to four-star, with friendly hosts well-informed about the region.

We guarantee in the Timaru District a warm welcome, a comfy bed and a safe experience that you won't forget!

	 Rooms / units available	 Free WIFI	 Breakfast	 Restaurant/Self Catering/Kitchen	 Wheelchair Access	 Off Street Parking	 Location
The Grosvenor Hotel	44	✓	FULL	✓	✓	✓	Timaru
Harbour View Motel	14	✓	Continental	✓	✓	✓	Timaru
Bay Viaduct Motor Lodge	20	✓	Continental	✓	✓	✓	Timaru
Coastal Ridge Apartments	20	✓	Continental	✓	✓	✓	Timaru
Panorama Motel	10	✓	Continental	✓	✓	✓	Timaru
Comfort Hotel Benvenue	30	✓	Continental	✓	✓	✓	Timaru
The Vicarage	6	✓	On request	✓	Limited	✓	Geraldine
Andorra Motel	14	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	Geraldine
Asure Scenic Route Motor Lodge Motel	14	✓	On request	✓	✓	✓	Geraldine
Four Peaks Motel	6	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	Geraldine
Ngā Whare Mānatu	4	✓	Continental	✓	✓	✓	Geraldine

Inspiration

Conference Options

3- day Timaru Base.

Delegates fly into Timaru Airport on the evening flight and meet at [The Grosvenor Hotel](#) for pre-dinner drinks, a casual meal and a welcome to their three-day conference.

The events team will ensure that all facilities and specialists are on hand to ensure day one goes smoothly for those attending virtually or in person.



Day 1

Early risers can hit the coastal walking trails to get some exercise before the conference starts, and a delicious breakfast will be served on their return.

As the day ends, the delegates can head off to [The Oxford restaurant](#) for a fun local wine tasting followed by dinner and dessert.

Seasonal Option - A walk back from the restaurant can take in the blue penguins/kororā – a real treat in the



Day 2

An early start with [Alps to Ocean](#) will take delegates on an epic journey to explore pristine lakes, mountains and fords, glaciers, and rainforests, and even cycle or 4WD through High Country Sheep Stations. Delegates get to choose.

With a delicious picnic lunch on board, delegates will feel satisfied before the gala dinner in the evening hosted at [The Grosvenor](#).



Day 3

A busy conference morning is concluded with a one-hour guided tour of [Te Ana Māori Rock](#) by local Māori guides providing personalised, authentic Māori cultural experiences based around the rock art sites created by their ancestors.

A light lunch at [Harlau House Café](#) before being taken back to the airport for the delegates' flight home.

Business Retreats

2 Day Executive Retreat

Stay – 6 Delegates

[The Vicarage](#) luxury accommodation is centrally located in the heart of Geraldine, surrounded by excellent shops, galleries, cafes, boutique food producers and walkways. Geraldine has a country village vibe with an active arts scene. Conveniently located between Christchurch and Lake Tekapo, Geraldine is a destination town with quintessential New Zealand character.



Day 1

Enjoy an executive breakfast at the [Barker's Food Store & Eatery](#), followed by indulging in their tasting table before conducting business in their 10- seater boardroom. A late lunch can be taken at the newly owned [House of Hop](#), tasting local cuisine and award-winning beers and followed by a late afternoon tour of [Humdinger Gin](#) in the heart of Geraldine, just a stroll back to [The Vicarage](#). A dinner platter will be waiting as you wind down the night filled with local business treats such as [Geraldine Cheese Co](#), Barker's of Geraldine Pickles and locally cured meats.



Day 2

Start the day with a stroll on Geraldine's new Sculpture Trail (guides on request), unique in New Zealand and a refreshing brunch at [Verde Café](#).

[Big Rock Adventures](#) will then collect executives for team-building, choose from hiking, swimming, rappelling, cliff jumps, water slides and zip lines. It's fun, exhilarating and challenging!

Incentives & Itineraries

Reward and retain your best people with the best Incentive. There's nowhere better to reward and inspire high-performing employees, than the charm of the Timaru District.



1 Day Incentive

Option 1: Aoraki/Mt Cook Day Tour

Delegates would be picked up by a luxury coach at Timaru Airport or central Timaru and experience some of New Zealand's most iconic scenery.

You'll take in breathtaking views, including ancient glaciers, towering mountains, high country mountain lakes and braided rivers. You will indulge in a wonderful buffet lunch at the [Hermitage Hotel](#), Mount Cook, followed by activities at [The Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre](#). There will be a refreshing walk to the Tasman Glacier and scenic stops at Lake Tekapo -The Church of the Good Shepherd, the [Dark Sky Project](#) lakeside facility and Lake Pukaki.

Option 2: Hidden Valley Tours NZ

Not for the faint-hearted, but exhilarating and fun! [Hidden Valley Tours](#) provides Incentive day trips in the Timaru District of New Zealand tailored to delegates' extreme wish lists!

A personal package with options to suit everyone, and they arrange all the transport. Choose from river rafting tours, white water heli-rafting, alpine hiking tours, or a combination of both!

They can end the day at [Humdinger Gin](#) which crafts several international award-winning gins in the heart of Geraldine. They combine traditional methods and equipment with modern thinking, so their gins have quickly gained a cult following. A nice gift is a bottle to take home!

2 Day Incentive

The ultimate 2-day Incentive allows for an overnight indulgence in [Ngā Whare Mānatu](#) a unique retreat offering luxury accommodation above the beautiful boutique village of Geraldine. Nestled among native plants, stunning birdsong, views to the east coast sunrise and the amazing night sky, their vision is to provide a magical, relaxing experience that showcases the natural environment and everything that connects you to the whenua (land).



Day 1

Arrive at Timaru Airport and use [Southern Wide Helicopters](#) to fly into Mesopotamia Station. The station has been in the Prouting family since 1945, and they love to share their piece of paradise with others. You can hunt, fish, or simply go tramping to take in the stunning vistas. This will be accompanied by a tour of their working station and a delicious lunch.

[Alps to Ocean Tours](#) can collect you for a 4x4 drive back into Geraldine, taking in the delights of Peel Forest before delivering you at [Ngā Whare Mānatu](#) for the night.



Day 2

Geraldine has two magnificent golf courses, so starting the day with a round of golf accompanied by a golf pro is a relaxing way to take in the majestic Four Peaks ranges and breathe in the fresh southern air.

A late lunch and tasting table at the [Barker's Food Store and Eatery](#), indulging in local fare, award-winning pickles and chutneys, plus a hamper basket to take home to share with the family rounds the trip off.

1 Day Pre / Post Itinerary

Delegates can choose between these two unique activities or do both!

Arrange a guided tour of the Te Ana Māori Rock Art Centre by local Ngāi Tahu guides or take the opportunity to take a visit a protected rock art site a short drive from Timaru, where you will learn the history of those specific drawings and the movement of ancient Māori through the region. These tours offer personalised, authentic Māori cultural experiences. At the rock art centre, delegates can relish the incredible interactive display and involve themselves in the petrifying attack of Pouākai, the world's largest eagle, which wandered the skies more than 500 years ago or take refuge in the 'Cave of the Taniwha' where the rock art is fashioned right before your eyes.

The site visit gives the opportunity to step back in time and explore New Zealand's first art galleries in the limestone caves with expert local Ngāi Tahu guides.

The Timaru District has the highest number of rock art sites in the country with over 400 known sites spread across the district.



The afternoon sees a visit to [The Raptor Experience](#), an educational and hands-on encounter with two of New Zealand's Raptors.

Delegates will learn about the lives of native raptors, how they hunt, what they feed on, the dangers to their safety and their cultural significance.

For 60 minutes, delegates will be able to enter their world and handle the birds under the guidance of an experienced handler. This is a fantastic opportunity to get up close and personal with these magnificent birds.



1 Day Pre / Post Itinerary

This is unique to the Timaru District and can be optional for delegates



Day 1 : Option one

Choose a vintage trail of the most magnificent museums in New Zealand all around Geraldine. Visit the [Roger Mahan Heritage Centre](#), the [Geraldine Vintage Car and Machinery Museum](#) and [Route 79 Museum](#). See an incredible collection of vehicles, which is an absolute credit to all those involved currently and in the past. Knowledgeable volunteers curated a fantastic vintage selection of cars, tractors, artillery pieces, motorbikes and wall displays.

Day 1 : Option two

Delegates can walk, run, or bike the new [Central South Trail](#) a new track from Washdyke to Pleasant Point! It is an easy Grade 1 trail and is about 12.5km long, starting at Sir Arthur Basil Park in Washdyke or in Pleasant Point.

A great way to take in some exercise on either E-bikes or regular bikes, then enjoy refreshments from [Arthurs Street Kitchen](#).



Day 2

Day 2 : Option one

Experience New Zealand's Hunting and Fly-fishing at it's very best with [Glendeer Guides](#). Hunt unbelievable heavy antlered Red Stags, beautiful wild Brown and Rainbow trout on the fly, magnificent Bull Tahr of the alpine pastures, all encompassed with New Zealand's distinguished picturesque topography.



Day 2 : Option two

A more tranquil destination for delegates is visiting Timaru's [Aigantighe Art Gallery](#). The gallery occupies the Edwardian mansion of James and Helen Grant, who not only gave the building and surrounding gardens to the people of South Canterbury but also bequeathed their private art collection.

It is home to an extensive permanent collection of New Zealand and international art. Delegates can wander through the sculpture garden and head into the gallery to view featured works from its permanent collection or one of the feature exhibitions.

On to lunch at [Street Food Kitchen](#), a relaxed restaurant in the heart of Timaru. They have an ever-changing seasonal menu offering you the best experience of local produce, with outstanding service.

The afternoon sees delegates visit The [South Canterbury Museum](#), which focuses on the natural heritage and history of the South Canterbury region of New Zealand - land, life and people.

They collect specimens, artefacts, images, documents and information that are used to explore the region's heritage.

Extensive collections are housed in a purpose-built wing, catalogued and stored. These collections provide the raw materials for exhibitions, education programmes, research and other activities.

Delegates get a real insight into the Timaru district and can finish the day at [Hector Black's Lounge Bar](#) a stylish, quirky lounge bar created in a beautiful old heritage building in Timaru. Fabulous interiors featuring leather sofas to chill out on, taxidermied animals and antiques, the best cocktails and a mouth-watering snack menu.





Contact

Timaru District Business Events

We would be delighted to connect and meet with you in person to share information on the Timaru District and to aid you with your decision-making.

Venture Timaru Tourism

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