

FOUR STOP TOUR

The tour takes visitors on a loop from the Information Centre to the Timaru Botanical Gardens, Sacred Heart Basilica, South Canterbury Museum/St Mary's Church and Aigantighe Art Gallery, returning to the Information Centre.

\$10pp

Departure Timetable

10.00am Information Centre
10.05am Botanic Gardens
10.10am Sacred Heart Basilica
10.15am Aigantighe Art Gallery
10.20am South Canterbury Museum/ St Mary's Church
(returning to Information Centre)

10.30am Information Centre
10.35am Botanic Gardens
10.40am Sacred Heart Basilica
10.45am Aigantighe Art Gallery
10.50am South Canterbury Museum/ St Mary's Church
(returning to Information Centre)

11.00am Information Centre
11.05am Botanic Gardens
11.10am Sacred Heart Basilica
11.15am Aigantighe Art Gallery
11.20am South Canterbury Museum/ St Mary's Church
(returning to Information Centre)

11.30am Information Centre
11.35am Botanic Gardens
11.40am Sacred Heart Basilica
11.45am Aigantighe Art Gallery
11.50am South Canterbury Museum/ St Mary's Church
(returning to Information Centre)

12noon Information Centre
12.05pm Botanic Gardens
12.10pm Sacred Heart Basilica
12.15pm Aigantighe Art Gallery
12.20pm South Canterbury Museum/ St Mary's Church
(returning to Information Centre)

12.30pm Information Centre
12.35pm Botanic Gardens
12.40pm Sacred Heart Basilica
12.45pm Aigantighe Art Gallery
12.50pm South Canterbury Museum/ St Mary's Church
(returning to Information Centre)

1.00pm Information Centre
1.05pm Botanic Gardens
1.10pm Sacred Heart Basilica
1.15pm Aigantighe Art Gallery
1.20pm South Canterbury Museum/ St Mary's Church
(returning to Information Centre)

NOTE: Final pickup only shuttle will leave the Timaru Information Centre at 2pm.



Timaru Botanic Gardens

The gardens are located on 19 hectares of land in south Timaru. This land has been used for gardens and recreation since 1864. In 2014 the Timaru Botanic Gardens was recognised as a Garden of National Significance by the New Zealand Gardens Trust. The main entrance is in Queen Street near the corner of King Street. To enter you pass through the ornate Gloucester Gates which were opened by the Duke of Gloucester in 1935.

Key features:

- Graeme Paterson Conservatory & Fernery
- Ornamental ponds
- Cenotaph and War Memorial Wall
- Anderson Rose Garden
- Band rotunda
- Species Rose Garden
- Native plant collections

Sacred Heart Basilica

Built in 1909 by generous local benefactors and the pennies of humble parishioners, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart has been the centre of worship for generations of Roman Catholics in the area. For many non Catholics the building is an inspiration and a joy.

The strong design features of columns, arches and domes are complimented by stained glass and painted highlights.

St Mary's Anglican Church

St Mary's Anglican Church since 1880 played a prominent role in the Timaru community. Situated on a hilltop in central Timaru, St Mary's is rich in tradition and history. Designed by Christchurch architect W B Armson, St Mary's Church is one of the few English Gothic Revival buildings in the Southern Hemisphere. It is built from local basalt rock, Oamaru stone and roofed with Welsh slate.

South Canterbury Museum

Explore our region's heritage at the South Canterbury Museum in downtown Timaru. From fossils to fashions, visitors can explore the nature history and culture of this part of New Zealand.

Permanent displays focus on local geology, wildlife, early Maori history, European history and social life up to recent times. Short films in a theatre feature local heroes such as aviator Richard Pearse, a local farmer and inventor who may have flown before the Wright Brothers in 1903. With two floors of exhibits and hundreds of heritage items on display. The South Canterbury Museum is a great place to explore, enjoy and learn more.

Aigantighe Art Gallery

The Aigantighe holds an extensive permanent collection of New Zealand and international art from the 16th century to the present day. Its collection of British Victorian paintings is particularly strong, while national favourites Charles Goldie, Frances Hodgkins and Colin McCahon are also well represented.

Aigantighe Art Gallery's park like grounds feature a wide variety of permanent sculptures set amongst established trees and gardens.

Current exhibitions running:

[Windows & Forgetting](#)
An Exhibition by Esther Deans

9 Dec 2022 – 29 Jan 2023

Nostalgic and poetic, Esther Deans' paintings convey questions about the fragility of memory along with uncertainty and loss. Her artworks also seek to reveal the constructed and glazed views that we perceive the natural world through.

[Rita Angus New Zealand Modernist He Ringatoi Hou o Aotearoa](#)

17 Dec 2022 – 12 Feb 2023

Selected works from Te Papa's summer exhibition – Rita Angus: New Zealand Modernist | He Ringatoi Hou o Aotearoa – brings together 20 works by one of New Zealand's most iconic 20th-century artists, Rita Angus (1908–1970). The paintings span Angus's life and career as an artist, drawing out the themes of pacifism, feminism and nature that shaped so much of her work.

