

welovetimaru.nz



TIMARU

Official Visitor Guide



welovetimaru.nz

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Nau mai haere mai

Welcome to the Timaru District

the heart of the South Island.

The Timaru District is the ideal coastal location for a holiday, and the perfect base to take in the jaw-dropping landscapes of New Zealand's central South Island. Made up of rural farmland, rugged coast and sandy beaches, the seaside city of Timaru, and our towns Geraldine, Pleasant Point and Temuka.

Discover something different filling your days with beautiful native forest and coastal walks, stunning cycle trails, museums and art galleries, indulgent food and drink and interactive animal encounters.

Location

The Timaru District is located in the Central South Island, 2 hours drive south of Christchurch, 2.5 hours north of Dunedin and 1.5 hours from Lake Tekapo/Takapō.

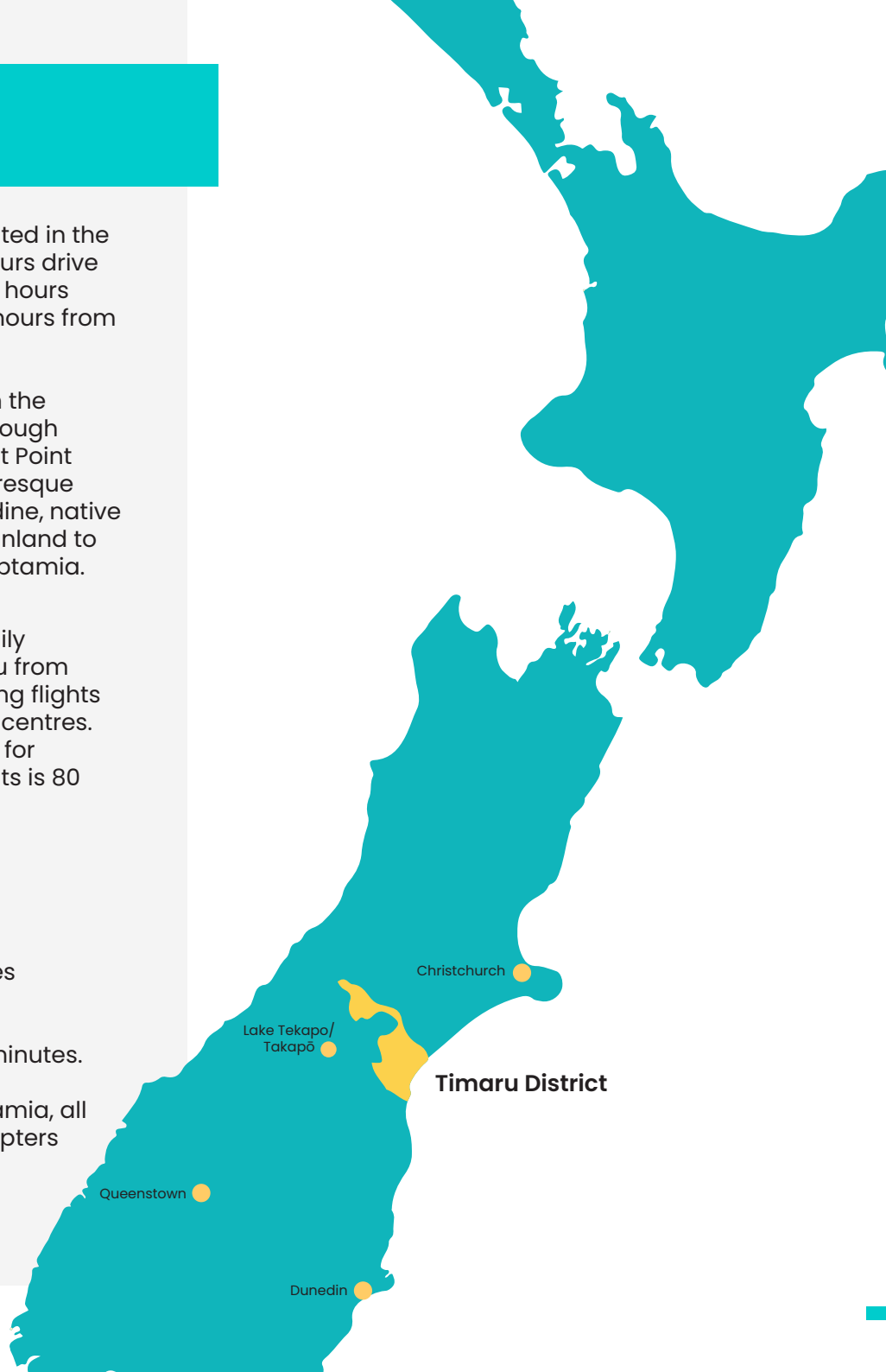
The region stretches from the coastal city of Timaru, through rural farmland to Pleasant Point and Temuka, to the picturesque boutique village of Geraldine, native forest at Peel Forest, and inland to the snowy peaks of Mesopotamia.

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.

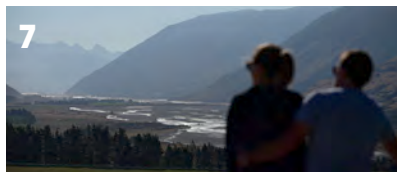
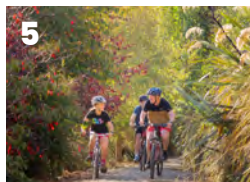
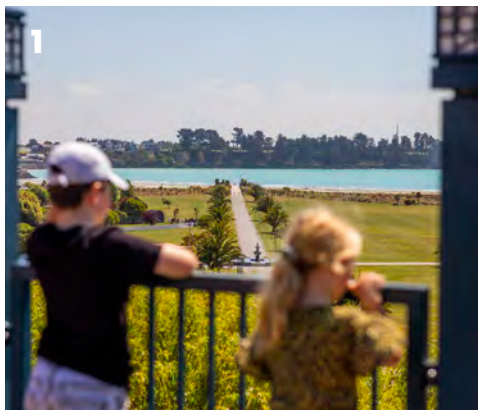
Drive times from airport:

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 private planes and helicopters are welcome.



10 must-do's



The Timaru District is full of fun things for the whole family! Here are our Top 10 Must Do's...

1 Caroline Bay
Located alongside the Timaru CBD, Caroline Bay is an AA Traveller Top 10 Family Favourite Beach

2 Heritage & art
Explore Timaru's history through heritage buildings and our many museums or discover the local art scene.

3 Te Ana Māori Rock Art
Step back in time and discover the original art galleries of New Zealand.

4 The Raptor Experience
Get up close with New Zealand's raptor birds in this educational and awe-inspiring experience.

5 Walk & bike
There are over 30 walking and cycling trails across the Timaru District catering to all ages and fitness levels.

7 Stunning Mesopotamia
Take in the spectacle of the Southern Alps with a trip to Mesopotamia.

9 Shopping
Indulge in some retail therapy across the district. From boutique locally owned stores to larger chains and vintage shops, there's treasures to be discovered everywhere!

6 CPlay
Experience the award-winning CPlay Playground at Caroline Bay, the largest playground in the Southern Hemisphere!

8 Little Penguins
Meet some of the cute locals at dusk at Caroline Bay. Please adhere to all signage and instructions from the volunteers.

10 Day trips on the ROAM loop
The gateway to the Mackenzie District, the Timaru District is a great place to base yourself for a day trip.

What's on



A seasonal guide to all the key events happening in the Timaru District. For a more comprehensive list of the local events, check out the events calendar on our website.

January



Caroline Bay Carnival

Starting on Boxing Day, the iconic Caroline Bay Carnival is held over two weeks, packed full of family entertainment, Carnival rides, concerts, and competitions. It's one of the longest standing events of its kind in the country.

February



Seaside Festival

A celebration of all things summer, the Seaside Festival takes place at Caroline Bay showcasing sand sculpture, rides, inflatables, movies, and huge fabulous kites.

March



Caroline Bay Rock & Hop

A 50s & 60s themed car show, the Caroline Bay Rock & Hop is a Timaru institution. It's four days of shows, car cruises, music, food and more!

May



Illuminate Light & Sound Experience

Timaru's newest event, Illuminate showcases a range of spectacular light and sound displays. An out-of-this-world walk through light experience.

June



South Canterbury Rally

Part of the NZ Rally Championship, this event attracts some of the country's best drivers.

July



Timaru CBD Matariki Night Market

See Timaru's main street transformed into a celebration for this special time in the Māori calendar.

September



SCOFF

Celebrate South Canterbury's outstanding food; the growers, producers, and artisan creators, from the Pacific Ocean to Aoraki/Mount Cook.

November



Brews on the Bay

Caroline Bay comes alive with New Zealand's newest beer and cider festival. Sample a range from producers while enjoying tasty food and great music.



Geraldine Festival

Experience unique, boutique shopping in our wide range of independent local stores and market stalls, art, and photography exhibitions, along with an array of beautiful local gardens.



4 & Rotary

New Zealand's premier automotive and lifestyle event, 4 & Rotary is a car lover's dream!

December



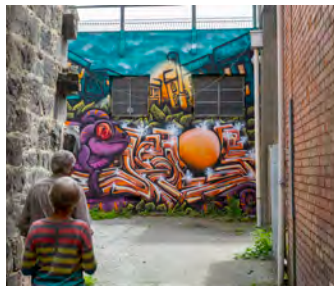
Festival of Roses

An annual festival held to celebrate the arrival of summer and Timaru's close affinity with the rose.



Itineraries

24 hours in seaside Timaru



Morning

- Grab a coffee from one of the many Timaru CBD cafes and head to Caroline Bay.
- Discover New Zealand's original art galleries on a tour with Te Ana Māori
- Rock Art
- Grab a delicious lunch at one of the our top restaurants or cafes.

Afternoon

- Uncover the CBD street art sites on the Timaru Trails app.
- Explore the Edwardian architecture of the main street and enjoy some retail therapy.

Evening

- Watch the Little Penguins come in at dusk at Caroline Bay.

24 hours in Geraldine



Morning

- Explore the lush native bush in Talbot Forest.
- Grab a great coffee and lunch at a local cafe or restaurant.

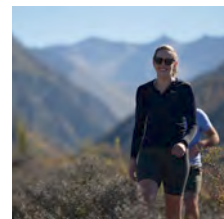
Afternoon

- Find a treasure at one of the boutique, independently owned stores.
- Take a step back in time at the Geraldine Vintage Museum.
- Discover merino and merino possum knitwear and homewear, and the tranquil farmyard setting at The Tin Shed in Rangitata.

Evening

- See a movie at the historic Geraldine Cinema.

48 hours in the Timaru District



Day 1

Morning

- Bike or walk the stunning coastal track to Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point.

Afternoon

- Hold a raptor at The Raptor Experience.

Evening

- Grab a pre-dinner cocktail at the quirky Hector Black's Lounge Bar.

Day 2

Morning

- Head to Peel Forest and explore the ancient podocarp forest.
- Grab a relaxed lunch at The Parasol, at Peel Forest.

Afternoon

- Taste some your way around Geraldine at Humdinger Gin, Geraldine Cheese Co and Barker's Foodstore and Eatery.

Staying for a third day?

Why not head out to Mesopotamia or explore our beautiful scenery by horseback with Real Kiwi Horsetrekking.

48-hour couple's getaway



Day 1

Morning

- Take a hike in the Peel Forest Scenic Reserve.
- Grab lunch at The Parasol.

Afternoon

- Sample some delicious artisan products in Geraldine.

Evening

- See a movie at the historic Geraldine Cinema.
- Spend the night under the stars at Ngā Whare Mānatu.

Day 2

Morning

- Head to the Timaru seaside for a stroll on Caroline Bay
- Wander the main street for a spot of shopping in the fantastic range of independent stores.

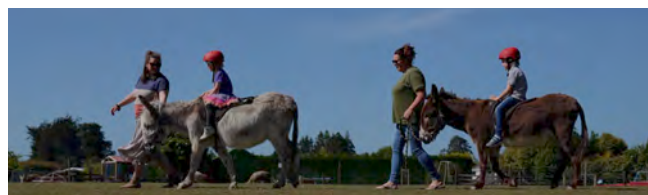
Afternoon

- Indulge in a post lunch cupcake from Millie Rose Boutique.
- Meet some New Zealand raptors in a hands-on experience.

Evening

- Have a romantic dinner at The Oxford.
- End the night with a funky cocktail from Hector Black's, or Street Food Kitchen right next door.
- Enjoy a comfy night's sleep and wake to ocean views.

48-hour family holiday



Day 1

Morning

- Walk or bike the stunning Dashing Rocks trail, enjoying panoramic views over Caroline Bay, wandering over ancient lava flows.
- Explore one of our memorable museums

Afternoon

- Play a round of mini golf or frisbee golf in Timaru, Temuka or Orari.

Day 2

Morning

- Check the tide times and head to the Washdyke Lagoon in search of rock pool creatures.
- Check out the amazing CPlay Playground at Caroline Bay.

Afternoon

- Head to one of the local farmyards and meet some cute local fur friends.

Walk and Bike

Download the Timaru Trails app to get guided trails on these and many more



With over 30 walking and cycling trails dotted across the Timaru District, you are sure to find a trail to suit your needs. Whether you are looking for a leisurely stroll with the family, a hike, bike ride or even somewhere to walk the dog, we have a trail for you! Discover the crystal coastlines of Timaru city, the lush native bush of Geraldine and Peel Forest or the river banks of Temuka and Pleasant Point.

1 Dashing Rocks, Timaru

A favourite walk for locals given its coastal views and proximity to the CBD, you can also start with brunch in the main street, or finish with drinks on the Bay Hill overlooking beautiful Caroline Bay. The track begins from the bay and heads along the Benvenue Cliffs, past Blackett's Lighthouse and the site of historic shipwrecks.

2 Huatakerekere/Little Mount Peel, Peel Forest

Regarded as one of the best day walks in Canterbury, Little Mount Peel is a bit of an uphill slog, but the views make it all worthwhile. The track is approximately 10kms and takes approximately 7-9 hours depending on the route you take and your fitness. It's compulsory to get a photo at the top. Make sure you tag @welovetimaru in your posts.

3 Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point, Timaru

The walk follows the coast to the historic Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point lighthouse, and offers spectacular views. You can walk, run or bike and the track is also dog friendly. Keep an eye out along the way as you may be lucky enough to see a seal or even a penguin on the rocky beach below.

4 Big Tree Walk, Peel Forest

A great option for families, the Big Tree Walk at Peel Forest takes around 30 minutes under the shelter of beautiful native forest. Enjoy the birdsong and impressive flora along the way, before reaching the Big Tree itself, a lowland Totara over 1000 years old, measuring 3 metres wide!

5 Centennial Park, Timaru

On the outskirts of the Timaru city area, you'll find Centennial Park, a 65 hectare reserve offering a variety of walking and biking trails for all levels. Within the park you'll also find playgrounds for the kids, sheltered BBQ areas, a large duck pond as well as a BMX freestyle park. From the south entrance you can carry on along the Otupua Creek to Saltwater Creek walkway and out to the coast.

Things to do

Whether you're looking for an adrenaline rush, a cultural experience, or an animal encounter, the Timaru District has something to keep the whole family entertained.



Things to do



Aigantighe Art Gallery

Timaru

Located just a short stroll from Timaru's heart, Aigantighe Art Gallery is the historic home of the arts in South Canterbury. It features an impressive collection of New Zealand and international art, with diverse exhibitions, events, and programs for all ages.

 www.aigantighe.co.nz

 03 688 4424




Alps 2 Ocean Tours

Geraldine

Discover NZ's original Alps 2 Ocean tour company! This tour company specializes in small group travel, offering multi-day tours across the South Island, high-country day tours, and cruise ship excursions from Lyttelton and Timaru. Check our website to see the range of tours on offer.

 www.alps2ocean.co.nz

 0800 425 772



Geraldine Vintage Museum

Geraldine

The finest of it's type in the Southern Hemisphere, The Geraldine Vintage Museum features exhibits to be found nowhere else in the world. On display are vintage show pieces from a bygone era sure to make you feel nostalgic.

 www.geraldinevintagemuseum.com

 03 693 8756




Mundell's Multi Hub

Geraldine

We offer cutting-edge car racing, golf, and flight simulators, plus a vibrant karaoke room and top-notch conference facilities. Whether you're planning some friendly family competition, a memorable social gathering, team-building activities, or corporate events, there's something for everyone.

 www.mundells.nz

 03 693 1101




Pleasant Point Museum & Railway

Pleasant Point

Running from the historic Pleasant Point Railway Station, operating on 2km of the former Fairlie Branch Line running locomotives, carriages and a Ford Model T Rail Car. At the end of the line, explore the museum featuring a model railway and cinema. Check their website for steaming days.

 www.pleasantpointrail.org.nz

 03 614 8323



Real Kiwi Horse Trekking

Fairlie

Take a ride through some of New Zealand's most pristine landscapes taking in breathtaking views of the mountains, lakes, glacier fed rivers and Canterbury plains on a bespoke trekking adventure.

 www.realkiwihorsetrekking.com

 0800 022 536

Things to do




Roger Mahan Heritage Centre

Geraldine

The largest museum in the district. Featuring rare veteran cars, motorcycles, agricultural equipment, Caterpillar equipment and trucks. National Carriage Museum featuring mostly original historic carriages in a climate controlled building. The NZ Rural Fire Museum telling the story of fire.

 www.rmheritagecentre.org.nz

 027 473 3137




South Canterbury Museum

Timaru

Explore our region's heritage at the South Canterbury Museum. From fossils to fashions, there are hundreds of fascinating things to see. Great for all ages to explore, special programmes for children. On Perth Street, downtown Timaru.

 museum.timaru.govt.nz

 03 687 7212



Te Ana Māori Rock Art Experiences

Timaru

Explore the original art galleries of Aotearoa: the ancient Māori rock art sites of the Aoraki region. Begin your journey at Te Ana Māori Rock Art Centre, then follow in the footsteps of our ancestors on a guided tour to the iconic rock art sites at Ōpīhi.

 www.teana.co.nz

 03 684 9141




The Cyclery Bike Hire

Timaru

We have our very own E-bike rental fleet available for 1/2 day, full day, weekly and monthly rental, plus we also have normal pedal bikes available as well. E-bike rental from \$125 per day. Non E-bike Rental from \$35

 www.thecyclery.co.nz

 03 688 8892




Big Rock Canyoning

Geraldine

An action-packed full day adventure tour navigating numerous jumps, slides, abseils and ziplines. If you love water sports and you are comfortable with heights, this is a must do!

 www.bigrockadventures.co.nz

 0800 244 762



Central South Trail

Timaru

An easy grade 1 multi-purpose trail for cycling, running, walking and wheelchair accessible. Four sections are complete - Washdyke to Pleasant Point, Pleasant Point to Cave, Fairlie to Kimbell and Dog Kennel Corner to Lake Tekapo.

 www.centralsouthtrail.co.nz

 Central South Trail




Kyle Park Transport Museum

Our goal is to preserve the history of farming South Canterbury and we have built up an amazing display of machinery, classic trucks, tractors and emergency service vehicles.

Timaru

 www.kylepark.nz

 027 437 2448

Things to do



Point E-Bikes

Pleasant Point

Half day, full day or multi-day E-bike hire available from Pleasant Point or delivery to your accommodation can be provided with prior arrangement. Explore the beautiful landscapes and charming attractions of our region, the choice is yours.



www.pointebikes.co.nz



022 333 2606



Silverstream Clydesdales

Kimbell

Meet our big, gentle Clydesdale horses. Learn about this rare breed, take photos, brush and have a go leading them. An all weather activity suitable for all ages and abilities.



www.silverstreamclydesdales.com



0800 201 945



The Raptor Experience

Timaru

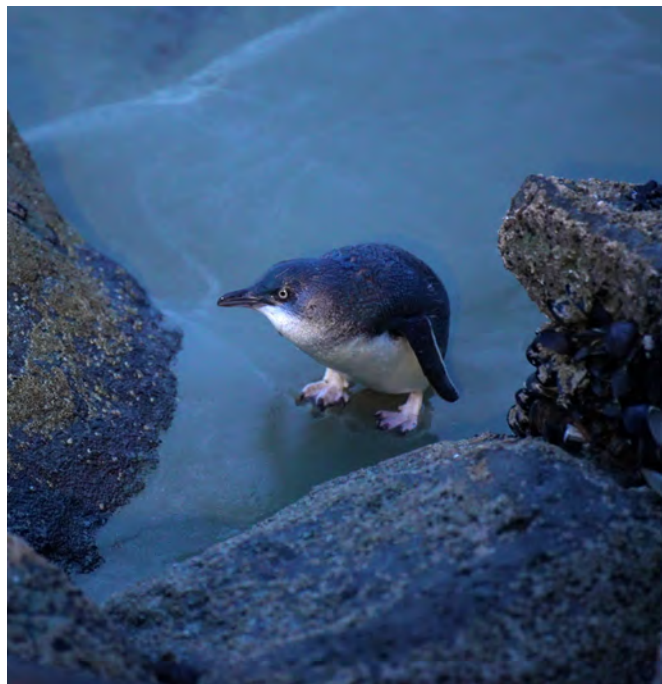
Get up close with New Zealand's raptors in a unique, hands-on experience. Learn about New Zealand's meat-eating birds, and have the opportunity to handle them.



www.nzraptor.org



0274 533 484



Where to shop

Discover something special, and indulge in some retail therapy. The Timaru District features beautiful, independantly owned boutique stores as well as many favourite national chain stores. Also check out our vintage shopping.



Where to shop




AOK Clothing

Geraldine

Welcome to AOK Clothing, located in the heart of 4 Peaks Plaza, Geraldine. Explore our selection of high-quality NZ-made knitwear, featuring luxurious Merino Possum and NZ Merino products for women and men. Stylish quality garments designed for enduring wear.

 www.aokclothing.co.nz


 0800 586 737



Fox & Thread

Geraldine

Fox & thread is an exciting and unique boutique full of natural fiber clothing and knitwear. Made in New Zealand.

 Fox & Thread

 027 481 2616



Humdinger Gin

Geraldine

Discover Humdinger Gin, an award-winning distillery in the heart of Geraldine. Visit the cellar door to sample signature and seasonal gins while watching the distillation in action. Experience vibrant flavours, crafted by nature, and take home a true taste of New Zealand.

 www.humdinger.nz


 027 463 4790




Maree Hynes Interiors @ Harlau

Timaru

Maree Hynes Interiors is set amongst the stunning garden of Maree's Historic homestead, alongside her delicious café/restaurant. Showcasing everything from fabrics, wallpapers, furniture, homewares, and giftware. This shop and its surroundings are Timaru's best destination for shopping and dining.

 www.mareehynesinteriors.co.nz


 03 686 6784




McAtamney Gallery and Design Store

Geraldine

Contemporary paintings, vibrant watercolours, historical landscapes, quirky ceramics, gorgeous jewellery, amazing photography and fabulous design wares.

 www.mcatamneygallery.co.nz

 027 305 3000



Millie Rose Boutique

Timaru

Millie Rose Boutique – A unique shopping experience in the heart of Timaru. Whether you are after a new outfit, a gift for a friend, a designer cupcake or a delicious hot drink – you can get it all in one place.

 www.millierose.co.nz

 021 0865 5486

Where to shop



Red Bird Gallery of Fine Arts

Timaru

Red Bird Gallery – Discover the vibrant world of local art, nestled in the heart of Timaru's main street. With three display rooms and a cosy studio, the gallery offers a unique, intimate experience.

 www.redbirdgallery.co.nz

 027 589 0148




Temuka Pottery Retail shop

Temuka

Temuka Pottery is a household New Zealand brand. The Temuka Pottery Retail Shop showcase a large range of the Temuka designs and hand-paint a number of their own ranges. They stock "pre-loved" Temuka Pottery designs and display historical pieces dating back to the 1930's.

 www.temukapotteryretailshop.com


 03 615 5651




The Frontrunner Timaru

Timaru

Frontrunner Timaru are your locally owned sports footwear specialists. Ben and the team have over 20 years experience to provide a personalised shoe fitting service. Our goal is to provide you with the right gear so you can achieve yours.

 www.frontrunnertimaru.co.nz

 03 684 7772




The Page and Prose Booksellers

Geraldine

In the heart of Geraldine, our independent bookshop is the destination for literary adventures and creative discoveries. Our carefully curated collection of rare books and fine stationery will excite you. We offer book clubs, literary and bookbinding workshops. A Geraldine treasure.

 www.thepageandprose.co.nz

 03 693 8647




The Ringmakers

Timaru

Specialists in custom jewellery design and manufacture, our jewellers work with you at every step of the process to create jewellery tailored to you. We also stock Pandora, Karen Walker Jewellery and a great range of other stylish jewellery and watch brands.

 www.theringmakers.co.nz

 03 688 1362




The Tin Shed

Rangitata, Geraldine

We're a friendly country store located in beautiful South Canterbury. Our extensive range of quality New Zealand made Merino and Merino-Possum knitwear is second to none – as is our selection of sheepskin products, possum fur items, blankets and throws.

 www.thetinshed.co.nz

 03 693 9416

Where to shop



Collective Dreams

Timaru

Timaru's home to ever changing locally made products, arts, crafts and beautiful creations. You can find everything you need here and everything you didn't know you need.

 Collective Dreams

 021 107 9950



Gallery 329 Creative Arts Collective

Located at the northern end of Stafford St, Gallery 329 showcases the work of South Canterbury artists. Original paintings, pottery, photography, batik, jewellery, giftware, cards and more. Open Wednesday to Saturday.

Timaru

 Gallery 329 Creative Arts Collective




Latitude South Gallery

Timaru

Showcasing South Island at it's best with framed local artwork of destinations / towns with gps coordinates, unique, vibrant colours, with a original style! Gifts including tshirts, postcards, mugs and more!

 tmelobarreto.wixsite.com/cemelodesign

 022 050 3142



Where to eat

The Timaru District punches above it's weight in the food department! Check out on our loved restaurants, bars, cafes, bakeries and ice cream shops.



Where to eat




Barker's Foodstore & Eatery

Geraldine

Barker's Foodstore & Eatery is situated in the heart of picturesque Geraldine on route to the Southern lakes. The perfect place to stop and experience hospitality the Barker's way and view our delicious product range along with tastings in store.

 www.barkersfoodstore.nz

 03 693 9727



Canjoy Cantonese Restaurant

Timaru

Canjoy Cantonese Cuisine presents exquisite MSG-free Chinese cuisine, crafted with premium ingredients and abundant fresh vegetables. Our skilled chefs create a diverse array of healthy and delectable dishes, offering exceptional value for your dining experience.

 www.canjoy.co.nz

 03 929 2122




Harlau House Café

Timaru

Harlau House café serves delicious food in a beautiful country setting, all 5 minutes from town. Set amongst a stunning garden, alongside the gorgeous Interior design showroom/shop of Maree Hynes Interiors. Harlau is known as Timaru's best destination for shopping and dining.

 www.harlauhousecafe.co.nz

 03 683 1887




House of Hop Restaurant & Brewery

Geraldine

House Of Hop brew some of the region's best Craft Beer, offering 14 craft beers on tap. Chef Dion will wow you with a seriously sumptuous menu, matched with exceptional service from Lisa and The Brew Crew.

 House of Hop

 03 697 4959



Mundell's Café

Geraldine

Mundell's is a fully licensed café, where we use fresh, local ingredients to create vibrant flavours in every dish. Enjoy handcrafted meals and drinks in a cozy atmosphere, celebrating the best of our region's produce with every bite and sip.

 www.mundells.nz

 03 693 1101




Pier 64 Restaurant & Bar

Timaru

Experience the best of Timaru at Pier 64 Restaurant and Bar. Enjoy fresh, local flavours, delicious cocktails, and expertly brewed coffee, cold beer all with outstanding service and an unforgettable seaside atmosphere with views to the alps. The perfect place for any occasion.

 www.pier64.co.nz

 03 688 8550

Where to eat




Rasa Asia

Timaru

Experience real Asian taste from hundreds of amazing foods among Asian countries, we bring you some of the most all-time favorite menus. Enjoy the journey of simply having your meals with the delicious, unbeatable taste of Asia.

 Rasa Asia NZ

 021 0277 4788



Saikou Restaurant & Bar

Timaru

Saikou is a vibrant Japanese fusion restaurant and bar specialising in both delicious fusion cuisine and a diverse beverage menu with craft cocktails, sake, and whisky on offer. Located in Timaru's CBD overlooking beautiful Caroline Bay.

 www.saikoutwb.co.nz

 03 686 6830




Speights Ale House

Timaru

Here at The Speight's Ale House we offer an extensive a la carte menu for both lunch and dinner with children's meals also available. Enjoy great food and good old fashioned southern hospitality. ** Booking highly recommended**

 www.speightsalehousetimaru.co.nz


 03 686 6030



ice ice Baby

Timaru

Authentic NZ made, award winning Gelato! Each scoop a mouthwatering experience. Over 25 flavours to choose from including plenty of vegan and dairy free options. One for everyone!

 ice ice Baby


 021 202 2329



Mrs M's Cafe

Timaru

Coffee, Breakfast and Lunch. Mrs M's have you sorted with their freshly made meals and cabinet food. For the best coffee in town, come and see Mitch and the team!

 www.mrsmscafe.nz

 027 677 3667




Phinz Vietnamese Eatery

Timaru

Phinz Vietnamese Eatery offers an authentic Vietnamese and Asian cuisines in the heart of a warm & inviting atmosphere for work and social gathering with plenty of delicious dishes.

 www.phinz.co.nz

 027 688 9424



Strawberry Divine

Pleasant Point

Real fruit ice-cream shop with a huge variety of fruit – all the berries, lemon, peach, rhubarb, black doris plum and more! Relaxing atmosphere with quaint seating and great music.

 Strawberry Divine

 027 287 8555



The Bunker Pub

Timaru

The Bunker is a beautifully refurbished, quirky hotel bar that serves the coldest beer around ... from one of the oldest pubs! Small country pub vibes, and a must visit.

 www.thebunkerpub.com

 03 684 3552

Where to eat



Street Food Kitchen

Timaru

Street Food Kitchen is a relaxed restaurant taking you around the world on plate with world class cocktails and crafty beer to keep you on your toes!
bookings highly recommended

 www.streetfoodkitchen.co.nz  03 686 6036



The Oxford

Timaru

The Oxford is all about keeping it simple. It's the kind of food that's makes you want to wipe the plate with a chunk of crusty bread to savour every drop. A bistro style menu with a European influence, rustic bold flavours that marry perfectly together. With a great wine list and beer selection to compliment any occasion

 www.theoxford.co.nz  03 688 3297



Verde Geraldine

Geraldine

A charming eatery offering a seasonal, produce driven menu, curated craft-beers and wines which can be enjoyed in our well-tended garden. Sample the best of the region's offerings while enjoying the local art work or greenery in our garden.

 www.verdegeraldine.co.nz  03 693 9616



Where to stay

From stunning boutique options surrounded by native bush and birdlife, to top motel lodges overlooking Caroline Bay and holiday parks perfect for the whole family, you will find something to make you feel right at home.



Where to stay



Aspen on King

Timaru

Timaru accommodation that boasts 30 quiet units all air conditioned. Free Wi-Fi internet. Continental breakfasts available. All our Timaru motel units have cooking facilities. Complimentary guest laundry. Close to Hospital, Botanic Gardens. Quiet, away from the main Highway.

 www.aspenonking.co.nz

 03 688 3054



ASURE Ashley Motor Lodge Timaru

Timaru

The perfect Timaru Accommodation for sales reps, families and tourists looking to stay somewhere comfortable, clean and quiet. Our well-appointed 4.5-star motel offers spotlessly clean rooms, superior bedding, aircon, office workstations, unlimited free fast Wi-Fi, SKY TV, comfortable seating and Google Chromecast.

 www.ashleymotorlodge.co.nz

 03 688 9939



Bay City Motor Lodge

Timaru

Modern and comfortable with a great selection of accommodation options. Luxury studios and suites (some with spa baths) and balconies to enjoy the coastal views. Located just minutes from the main street and Caroline Bay.

 www.baycitymotorlodge.co.nz

 03 688 8800




Bay Viaduct Motor Lodge

Timaru

Bay Viaduct Motor Lodge offer's exceptional service to all of our motel guests. You will experience the ultimate in Timaru's accommodation with spectacular views, superior luxury and great location. All units are double-glazed with air-conditioning/heatpumps.

 www.bayviaduct.co.nz

 03 686 6338




Baywatch Motor Lodge

Timaru

Make unforgettable memories at Baywatch Motor Lodge in Timaru. Ray & Debbie warmly welcome families to our spacious motel complex. With a convenient location near the beach, city center, restaurants, and attractions, our units are perfect for your family. Enjoy stunning views and explore nearby attractions.

 www.baywatchtimaru.co.nz

 03 688 1886




Coastal Ridge Apartments

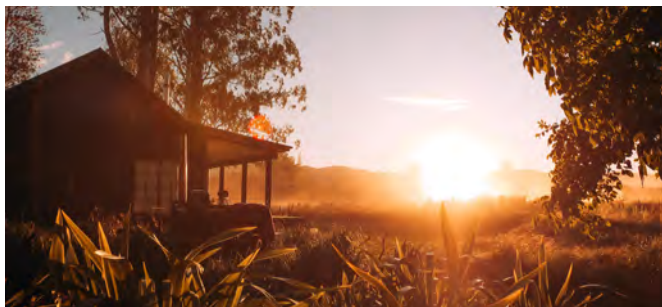
Timaru

Coastal Ridge offers modern, apartment style accommodation for all travelers. Set in a quiet, relaxed part of town close to the Timaru Botanic Gardens, Coastal Ridge offers modern, well-appointed apartments with everything to be comfortable and connected.

 www.coastalridgetimaru.nz

 03 684 4084

Where to stay



Fiery Peak Eco-Retreat

Geraldine

Experience a different world: Couple's romantic getaway 66sqm cabin on the edge of a forest with stunning rural & mountain views. Exclusive use wood-fired hot tub, plunge pool, king bed, log burner, BBQ, birdsong, BBQ, noon checkout. Relax & reconnect with your partner soon.

www.staygeraldine.nz

027 358 3022



Fiery Peak Glampsite

Geraldine

Your own private campsite with renovated bus! Get away with your partner or friend to enjoy an exclusive use hot tub, plunge pool, firepit, BBQ, birdsong, rural & mountain views. Free-standing queen-bed, inside bathroom, kitchenette & log burner. Off-grid & eco-friendly. It's a winner.

www.staygeraldine.nz

027 358 3022



Fitzgerald on King

Timaru

A spacious renovated motel situated near the hospital and the Botanical Gardens. The size of the apartments is ideal for families and groups.

www.fitzgeraldonking.co.nz

03 688 4455



Cedar Lodge Motel

Timaru

Cedar Lodge Motel in Timaru offers clean, comfortable and quiet accommodation that's great value for money. Their range of rooms offers something for everyone from the business traveler, families, sports groups and holiday makers.

www.cedarlodgetimaru.nz

03 684 4084



Farmyard Holiday Park

Geraldine

Come and visit the Farmyard Animals, open daily from 10am, Family \$15. We have donkeys, water buffalo, highland cattle, cows, deer, horses, pigs, peacocks, guinea pigs and horses.

www.farmyardholidaypark.co.nz

027 688 2302



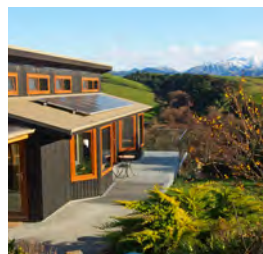
Geraldine Motels

Geraldine

Geraldine Motels offers Studio, 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom units. They are clean, comfortable, self-contained within 200m of Restaurants, cafes, a movie theatre and shops. Offers free Wifi and Sky TV. Pets are welcome by arrangement.

www.geraldinemotels.co.nz

03 693 8501



Kōtare B & B

Geraldine

Boutique homestay. Wake to birdsong. Four Peaks views, large garden to explore, bush nearby. Breakfast from a wide choice, home-made including our orchard produce. Comfortable king size bed. Disabled accessible.

www.kotarebandb.nz

021 137 2107



Northpark Motel

Timaru

Located on the northern edge of Timaru, Northpark Motel offer a 28 room complex with a range of standard and superior studios as well as family rooms, family studios and 2 bedroom apartments

www.northparkmotel.co.nz

0800 688 207

Where to stay




Geraldine TOP 10 Holiday Park

Geraldine

The only Holiday Park accommodation situated in the heart of Geraldine. We are a tranquil park, set among protected tress. Wake up to beautiful bird song every morning. We have accommodation options for every budget.

 www.geraldinetop10.co.nz

 0800 393 693




Glenmark Holiday Park

Timaru

Our family-owned holiday park offers a warm welcoming retreat for travellers. Enjoy spacious campsites and cosy units, all just moments away from Caroline Bay's sandy shores and local attractions. Your home away from home.

 www.glenmarkholidaypark.co.nz

 03 684 3682




Harbour View Motel

Timaru

A modern complex situated near the iconic Caroline Bay for a stroll along the beach. We are within close proximity to good quality restaurants and the main street offering samples of beautiful architecture.

 www.harbourviewmoteltimaru.co.nz


 03 686 6811



Ngā Whare Mānau

Geraldine

Nestled amongst native plants, views to the east coast sunrise and the amazing night sky, our vision is to provide you with a relaxing getaway to showcase everything thing that connects us to our whenua.

 www.ngawharemanatu.nz

 027 201 1920




Parklands Motor Lodge

Timaru

Parklands Motor Lodge Timaru offers clean, comfortable and quiet accommodation for all travellers. Motel is situated adjacent to the picturesque Ashbury Park, which borders the sea and Caroline Bay centre.

 www.parklandstimaru.co.nz

 03 688 4108



Temuka Holiday Park

Temuka

In the heart of Temuka set among a 75 hectare recreation reserve featuring a playground, heated pool and walking track, Temuka Holiday Park offers options from sites to lodge rooms and studio units.

 www.temukaholidaypark.co.nz

 027 615 8095




The Vicarage

Geraldine

Six luxury ensuite super king rooms in the centre of pretty Geraldine, in a beautifully renovated, historic building. Boutique accommodation presented with every attention to detail and timeless elegance.

 www.thevicaragegeraldine.co.nz

 027 693 9027


Where to stay




Panorama Motor Lodge

Timaru

Situated on The Bay Hill overlooking beautiful Caroline Bay. A large, modern motel complex with a great choice of accommodation. Enjoy a superb location close to the beach, with coastal and mountain views, yet next door to all city facilities

 www.panorama.net.nz

 03 688 0097



The Fort

Timaru

The Fort is a beautifully refurbished hotel in the quiet end of town - off the main highway. Perfect for individuals or groups, beautiful decor, amazing Sleepyhead beds, secure parking, contact-less check in/out, and even e-bike charging and a drying room.

 www.theforttimaru.com




Timaru Top 10 Holiday Park

Timaru

TOP 10 Timaru Holiday Park is a city central holiday park with the seclusion, spaciousness and quiet of a country setting. Caroline Bay and the town centre are within walking distance and a supermarket is only two minutes away. View our range of accommodation options on-line.

 www.timaruholidaypark.co.nz

 0800 242 121

S.C.O.F.F

SOUTH CANTERBURY
OUTSTANDING
FOOD FESTIVAL



Celebrating South Canterbury's
outstanding food; the growers,
producers and artisan creators,
from the Pacific Ocean to Aoraki/
Mount Cook.

5 - 21 September 2025

Explore the wider region

Exploring the wider Timaru District is a great way to experience the best of what the Central South Island has to offer. Find treasures at independently owned boutique stores, sample some of the region's best food and drink, explore ancient native forest and discover the local history.



Timaru

The South Island's best little seaside city (in our humble opinion). In Timaru city, you can enjoy easy scenic walks, through picturesque Caroline Bay and along nearby coastal tracks, or wander through our CBD to take in the Edwardian architecture and discover the locally owned speciality boutiques. We're home to the most significant collection of ancient Māori rock art in New Zealand, and at dusk can catch a glimpse of the world's smallest penguin.



Top 5 things to do in Timaru city

1 Te Ana Māori Rock Art

A must do when visiting the Timaru District, Te Ana Māori Rock Art is the only guided tour to see Māori rock art in New Zealand! The guided tour takes you to a protected rock art site where you will learn the history of those specific drawings and movement of ancient Māori through the region. Pair a visit to the site with a walk through their state of the art, interactive centre in the Timaru CBD where you will learn more the history of the region for early Māori settlers as well as the rock art and the work that Ngai Tahu does in the protection and preservation of these sites.

2 Caroline Bay and CPlay

Just minutes from the CBD, Caroline Bay is a NZ Top 10 family favourite beach. Safe for swimming and watersports, you can also see Little Penguins/Kororā in the evenings from October to March. Within the Caroline Bay reserve you'll find the world-famous Trevor Griffith's Rose Garden, award-winning CPlay playground, as well as a bike agility and skate park. During late December and early January, the Caroline Bay Carnival operates attracting visitors from all over the country.

Experience CPlay, the largest playground in the Southern Hemisphere! Climb aboard a shipwreck, conquer a towering lighthouse slide, explore the mahika kai-inspired play zone, and soar through the air on a 50-meter tandem flying fox.

3 Shop the main street

Stroll along Stafford Street, in the heart of Timaru's CBD and you'll be treated to a fantastic range of shopping options from locally owned specialty boutiques, to some of the nation's most famous chain-stores. Look for department stores Ballantynes and Farmers, fashion retailers Preen, Millie Rose Boutique, Soul Surf and Skate and Mac Shaw Menswear, outdoor gear by MacPac and Kathmandu, antique and gift stores and so much more! If vintage is your style, you'll find a collection of stores featuring treasures of vintage clothing, furniture and brick n brack.

4 The Raptor Experience

Get up close with New Zealand's raptors in a unique, hands-on experience. Learn about the lives of our native raptor birds, their ways of hunting, what they feed on, dangers to their safety and their cultural significance. For 60 minutes you will enter their world and handle the birds under the guidance of an experienced handler.

5 Take a coastal walk

Two of the regions most popular walks start from the Timaru CBD. Head to Caroline Bay to start the popular Dashing Rocks Coastal Walk or head south past the port to join the Hector's Coastal Walk heading out to Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point.



Geraldine

Foodie favourite, Geraldine is popular with visitors. The village of Geraldine is located on the inland scenic route from Christchurch through to Lake Tekapo/ Takapō, Mt Cook/ Aoraki and Queenstown.

Located just 40 minutes from Timaru City, Geraldine's boutique village charm will delight you. The artisan food producing hub of the district, you will find Barker's Foodstore and Eatery, Humdinger Gin and Geraldine Cheese Company to name a few, located in the town centre. Up behind town, Talbot Forest is a stunning native forest reserve with a range of popular easy walking tracks. If you're into vintage machinery and vehicles, you are in the right place! Spend an afternoon exploring one of the fabulous vintage machinery museums.



Top 5 things to do in Geraldine

1 Cheese and chutney + plenty more

Visit the Geraldine Cheese Company and Barker's Foodstore and Eatery to sample and purchase a delicious array of locally produced fare. During the summer season, the Farmers Market is also a great place to stock up for a picnic. If gin is your thing, a visit to Humdinger Gin Distillery is a must to try their latest handcrafted botanical infused tippie!

2 Art for art's sake

Geraldine has long been a haven for artists and craftspeople. Stroll through the village streets to visit galleries displaying works from local and nationally acclaimed artists or take a drive to visit the artists in their studios.

3 Vintage adventures

Geraldine boasts 3 vintage car and machinery museums, a specialised military museum with one of a kind memorabilia and a fabulous historical museum, telling the history of New Zealand and the area. Even if you're not a motorhead, the yesteryear displays will keep you interested for an hour or two.

4 Paradise on your doorstep

Explore the many walks in Geraldine, from the riverside Sculpture Trail to the meanderings of Talbot Forest. You'll be surprised how peaceful and secluded these walks feel, even when you are metres from the centre of town.

5 Boutique Shopping

Geraldine is the home of beautiful independently owned boutique stores from fashion, to kitchenware and pantry items, to giftware, flowers and more!



Temuka

Vintage haven, Temuka is located just 15 minutes from Timaru City. Our town of Temuka was once known by local Māori as “The Place of the Hot Ovens”, or Te-umu-kaha, as they used huge earthen ovens to bake the roots of the native cabbage tree/ Tī Kōuka.

Temuka is also known world-wide for our iconic Temuka Pottery, as well as Richard Pearse who raced the Wright Brothers to be the first to fly. Shopping, eating and recreation, this small, friendly township has plenty to offer.

Top 5 things to do in Temuka

1 Fossick for a treasure

Whether you are after the latest fashion item, a new pair of shoes or if vintage is more your style, you will find something in Temuka. Head to Kings Shoe Store for the latest style from top brands, or His & Hers Fashion for a new outfit. Green Hayes Emporium and Temuka Treasures will have you exploring rooms full of vintage items waiting for a new home.

2 Hit the golf, mini golf or frisbee golf courses

Located at the domain, are golf, mini golf and frisbee golf courses. Feed your competitive side with a game with the family or friends.

3 Find the Little Kiwi at the Temuka Domain

Winding its way through the Temuka Domain you'll find the Little Kiwi Trail. Based on the book by Temuka based author and illustrator, Bob Darroch, the trail follows the book “Time for Bed Little Kiwi” with clues along the way to find where Little Kiwi may be hiding.

4 Discover the history of Temuka

Explore Temuka's rich heritage at the Temuka Museum in the historic courthouse. Make sure you also check out the memorial to local aviation legend, Richard Pearse who arguably bet the Wright Brother's to the first airplane flight. The monument is located at Waitohi, approximately 10 minutes from Temuka.

5 Visit the Temuka Pottery retail store

A favourite in New Zealand households since 1931, Temuka Pottery is a reliable hardworking national icon that has stood the test of time. The retail shop is located in Mendelson Barn - which was built in 1882 - and also houses 100% Homemade Cafe.



Pleasant Point

Enroute from Timaru City to the Mackenzie Region, from the 1800s through to today, Pleasant Point has always been a favourite place to stop and refresh for travellers.

Locals head to Pleasant Point for riverside walks, swimming, bike rides and delicious real fruit ice creams. The Pleasant Point Museum and Railway has attractions that draw visitors from all over the world.



Top 5 things to do in Pleasant Point

1 Pleasant Point Museum and Railway

This is a must visit if you're in Timaru District. It's been rated as one of New Zealand's best preservation railways, but there's loads more to this attraction than that. They run fully operational steam locomotives – including the 1922 locomotive Ab699 – and a rare replica of a Model T Ford Railcar. There are museum exhibits at each end of the 2.4km long railway line that was part of the original Timaru to Fairlie railway line which was decommissioned in 1968. Rides on the steam train or the railcar are a favourite with kids and adults alike, as are the classic cartoon movies and museum exhibits.

2 Grab lunch at the historic Pleasant Point Hotel

Originally opened in 1864 as an accommodation house for waggons travelling from Timaru to Fairlie, The Pleasant Point Hotel is the hub of the small rural community. Today the hotel runs as a restaurant and bar providing your favourite pub classics. A great place for a chat and a beer with the locals.

3 Real fruit icecreams at Strawberry Divine

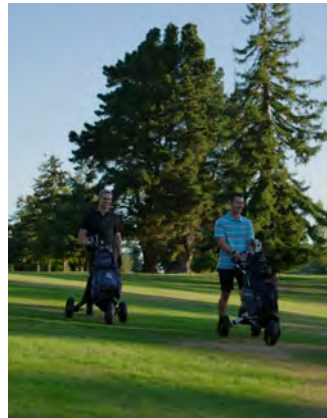
People drive for miles for these ice creams and to hang out in the courtyard. Hosts Giles and Crissie grow their own berries and stone fruit, or source fruit locally. Pick one or two fruits and see them mixed before your eyes with vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt. Depending on the season they are open from September to April.

4 Play a round of golf

Pleasant Point has a fabulous country golf course, and visitors of all ages are welcome. If you don't have clubs with you, there is a small range of clubs for hire, as well as golf carts.

5 Look for bats

Pleasant Point is home to colonies of native Long-Tailed Bats. They are tiny and elusive, but keep an eye out for bat roost trees. You'll recognise these by the aluminium bands tied around them to stop predators scaling the trees. If you stare hard enough up into the branches of these trees you might get lucky and catch a glimpse of these little locals.



Peel Forest

Peel Forest is an historic bush-clad settlement located 15 minutes from Geraldine. Made up of native podocarp forest, the reserve is a popular location for locals and visitors to explore. With eight walking and tramping tracks throughout the 780 hectare reserve, there is something for every level.

Top 5 things to do in Peel Forest

1 Explore the Forest

Peel Forest is the perfect place for a walk. Splendour under the canopy of the large native trees and enjoy the beautiful bird song. Take the kids to see the Big Tree with it's huge 3 metre diameter! Discover Emily or Acland Falls or challenge yourself to a half-day hike up Little Mount Peel/Huatekerekere.



2 Grab some lunch at The Parasol

Stop in at The Parasol for lunch after enjoying one of the reserves walks. Inside you'll find a delicious menu to tempt your tastebuds.



3 Visit the Church of the Holy Innocents

Opened on 12 December 1869, the Church of the Holy Innocents was gifted to the community by John Barton Acland on his property of Peel Forest Station. The church is named after four infant children that are buried in cemetery, two of which are Acland's. Explore this beautiful church and cemetery.



4 Fishing the mighty Rangitata River

The Rangitata River is world-renowned for salmon fishing. Bring the fishing rod and trying your luck.



5 Pack the tent and camp at the campground

This family-friendly campground is open from mid-October till the end of April each year. Wake up to beautiful birdsong coming from the forest above the camp and then tackle a day of fun outdoor activities.

Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia means 'the land between the two rivers'. It's an area of outstanding natural beauty, fascinating pioneering history and outdoor adventures.



Getting there

If you have a vehicle, Mesopotamia is the perfect place for a day trip. Mesopotamia Station (the end of the road) is located a 2 hour and 45 minute drive from Timaru city, or 2 hours, 15 minutes from Geraldine.

Pack a picnic and the family, and head up into the valley watching the landscape change from seaside, to native bush and farmland to tussock covered sub-alpine beauty.

Sit back and relax with Alps 2 Ocean

If you are after a guided experience, look no further than Alps 2 Ocean 4x4 Tours. Explore the history of the high-country stations that farm this land. Learn about the pioneering ways of the early settlers to this region, visit the historic Mesopotamia school and graveyard as well as the peaceful Peel Forest church.



Mesopotamia Station

Located at the head of the valley, Mesopotamia Station is a fascinating place to visit.

Named in 1860 by Samuel Butler who was an explorer, pastoralist, writer, artist and musician, arriving from England in early 1860. Butler settled in this area running his sheep and building a hut up Forest Creek. The original site is marked today by a plaque. Over the coming years, Butler would expand his operations, acquiring neighbouring runs and establishing the station in it's current location.

This area became a community to those living in this remote valley, offering a school which the school building is open to the public and a great place to stop for a picnic.

Another important historic site is the cemetery which features a number of resting places from people associated with the station over the years. This includes the grave of Dr Sinclair who drowned in the Rangitata River on March 1861 when his horse bolted crossing the river. Dr Sinclair was surveying the area at the time of his death.

New Zealand's longest walking trail, the Te Araroa makes it's way through the Mesopotamia area before continuing through to Lake Tekapo

Mackenzie Region

Only 1.5hrs inland from Timaru City, and 1hr from Geraldine you'll find the glorious Mackenzie Region.

Discover New Zealand's highest mountains, longest glaciers, vivid turquoise lakes, golden grasslands and the country's largest dark sky reserve – you'll find these all in the Legendary Mackenzie!

The Mackenzie Region is an inter-montane basin – an elevated plateau ringed by mountains in every direction with a tri-colour palette: turquoise lakes, white snow-capped mountains and golden grasslands. With such dramatic landscapes below and the pristine dark sky reserve above, the Mackenzie is a paradise for connecting with nature.



Top 5 things to do in Mackenzie

1 Highest mountain

Visit Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, home to NZ's highest mountain! Choose from plenty of walking trails to suit all abilities or enjoy a scenic flight amongst the mountains.

2 Largest glacier

Explore NZ's largest glacier, the Haupapa/Tasman Glacier. Heli-hike, boat tours amongst icebergs, skiing on the glacier – there are so many ways to experience it!

3 Largest Dark Sky Reserve

Stargaze in a protected 4,367sq km dark sky reserve. There are many options for a stargazing experience in the Mackenzie, including a working observatory, soaking in hot pools, wine cellar, farm tours, and many more!

4 Ski the Mackenzie Three

Take in the stunning surroundings and skip the lift queues. The Mackenzie boasts three quintessentially Kiwi ski fields all within driving distance of each other. Spectacular scenery, spacious runs and laid back, family-friendly vibes create the ultimate snow holiday.

5 Longest cycle trail

Cycle some of NZ's longest cycle trail, the epic 315km Alps 2 Ocean. Suitable for all ages, the nine-section bike trail is an easy to intermediate grade and takes around 4 – 6 days for the entire ride. Sections can easily be ridden as a day trip as well.



ROAM

RIVER, OCEAN, ASTRO
& MOUNTAIN LOOP

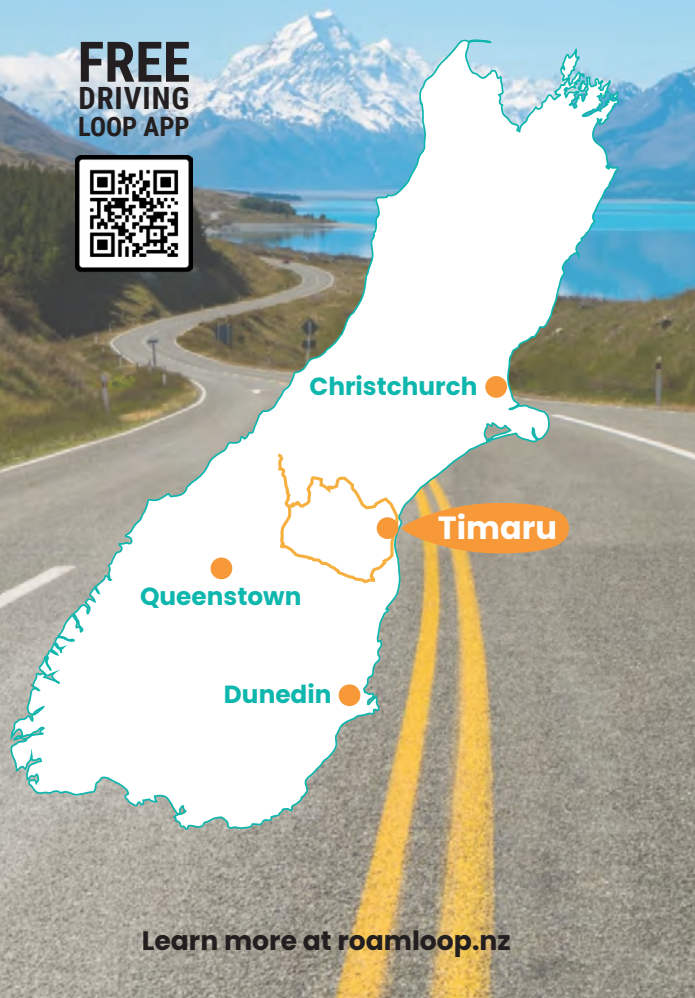


Go for a ROAM around the beautiful Central South Island lakes

The Central South Island is an area of stunning landscapes from the Pacific Ocean to the mountainous high country. The ROAM Driving Loop takes approximately six hours to complete from Timaru, however, we're sure you're going to want to stop, stay and play along the way.

Visit fabulous locations like Aoraki/Mt Cook, Caroline Bay and the Ōmarama Clay Cliffs. Wine, dine and coastal walk in little seaside city Timaru. Check out the fascinating geology and wineries of the Waitaki Valley. Explore superb shared-use tracks, and spectacular silo art in Waimate.

**FREE
DRIVING
LOOP APP**



Learn more at roamloop.nz



TIMARU TRAILS

EXPLORE TIMARU DISTRICT

Explore Timaru District's fascinating history, art scene, food, walking and biking tracks and more with the free Timaru Trails App.

You'll find all kinds of trails and self-guided tours in Timaru, Geraldine, Peel Forest, Pleasant Point and Temuka.



DOWNLOAD

Timaru Trails App from Google Play or the App Store



CHOOSE

Your choice of a number of different trails



TAKE

A tour of Timaru District's best spots in one app



Download the Timaru Trails app here

Useful Info

Information Centres

Timaru Information Centre

2 George Street, Timaru

+64 3 688 4452

Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10am – 4pm, Saturday & public holidays 10am–3pm

Temuka Library, Service and Information Centre

72–74 King Street, Temuka

+64 3 687 7591

Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5pm, Saturday 10am – 1pm

Geraldine Information Centre

38 Waihi Terrace, Geraldine

+64 3 693 1101

Hours: Open 7 days, 9am – 4.30pm

Getting around

Public transport

My Way by Metro

My Way is an on demand service that comes when you need it. There are various pick-up and drop-off points around Timaru and smart technology matches your ride with other passengers going the same way for efficient shared travel.



Download the **MyWay** app from the Google Play or Apple Store, or call their friendly team on +64 3 688 5544 to make a booking.



Metro Link – Timaru to Temuka

Buses travel between Temuka and Timaru during weekdays. Find the stops at timaru.metroinfo.co.nz/our-services/temuka/

Taxis Services

Timaru Taxis

+64 3 688 8899

Discover Taxis

+64 27 291 0356

Highway Taxis

+64 22 101 2344

Temuka Taxis

+64 3 615 6226

Rental Vehicles

AVIS

[Avis.co.nz](https://avis.co.nz)

+64 3 688 6240

Smith's Auto Rentals

+64 3 684 3100

Aoraki Rentals

aorakirentals.co.nz

+64 3 683 9069

Public holidays

For the full list of New Zealand public holidays, visit govt.nz. Please note that many restaurants and retail stores are closed on Christmas Day, Good Friday and the morning of ANZAC Day.

CBD Free Wifi

Free Wifi is available in locations in Timaru, Temuka and Caroline Bay with a daily limit of 500MB per device. Look for the signs around the district on how to connect.

Wifi is also available at the Timaru District Libraries: Timaru City, Temuka and Geraldine.

Emergencies

For fire, police and ambulance dial 111 in emergencies. Call 105 to report incidents that don't require urgent police assistance.

Hospital and medical services

Timaru Hospital

Queen Street, Timaru

+64 3 687 2100

Timaru After Hours Medical Service

45 Heaton Street, Timaru

+64 3 684 8209

For General Practice treatment Monday to Friday, please call 03 684 8209 between 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM