

BUSINESS EVENTS WAITAKI GUIDE



NEW ZEALAND
Ōamaru

It's Ok to do things your own way here

Waitaki fascinates and inspires. Still a hidden gem, its diversity appeals broadly and surprises many. The people who live and visit here come from all walks of life and, increasingly, all corners of the globe, but they have one thing in common – they've found a place with room to move, room to be themselves.

Striking, uncrowded landscapes from the mountains to the sea tell of deep roots and a rich history. Water (wai) has shaped our place and physical and metaphysical creation stories intertwine. Stories of our volcanic past are highly visible. Rich, marine fossils are embedded in the limestone, aka Whitestone, and this limestone legacy is integral to the identity of our district.

A bustling commercial town in the mid 1800's, locally quarried limestone architecture remains as a testament of our pioneering past. This entrepreneurial spirit is still vibrant today. You'll meet some real characters, eclectic artisans: it's OK to do things your own way here.

We specialise in slow, sustainable tourism and drink our coffees freshly roasted, crafted with a smile.

Ōamaru is a bite sized treat, allowing your conference cohort to inhabit the space and navigate the delights of the town with ease. Further afield are a selection of wineries, beautiful vistas, smaller villages with quaint main streets and access to the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trails.

The Economic Development team look forward to assisting you planning your event.



Why Waitaki?



The spirit of ancestors' stories and histories is written in the landscapes and the spiritual significance is respected.

Moeraki Boulders/Kaihinaki
Photo: Neat Places

Ōamaru, New Zealand's coolest little town



Steampunk HQ

Steampunk HQ has taken over the "Grain Elevator", an historic 1883 limestone building, located at the entrance of Ōamaru's Victorian Precinct.

This interactive museum encourages exploration and discovery, featuring a collection of retro-futuristic sci-fi art, movies, sculpture and sound. Steampunk HQ is available to host canapes in its atmospheric courtyard.



Waitaki Museum

Waitaki Museum tells the stories of the natural, cultural, agricultural and industrial history of the Waitaki Region. Recently refurbished, the museum has capacity for 105 people over both floors for private bespoke events.



Forrester Gallery

The Forrester Gallery is housed in a spectacular neo-classical building and boasts a growing collection of artworks significant to the region, standing as an icon of Ōamaru's unique historic precinct. The Gallery hosts a variety of exhibitions and has capacity for smaller bespoke events of up to 90.



Victorian Precinct

Ōamaru's Victorian Precinct is home to beautiful galleries and shops, a picturesque, cobbled street flanked by carefully restored limestone crafted Victorian buildings.



Whitestone Cheese

The Whitestone Cheese factory store is a remarkable destination for visitors, offering a unique and authentic experience that highlights the craft of award winning, artisan cheese-making. Cheese tasting, sales and factory tours are available in house. Try delicious cheese platters, fresh coffee, wine, beer and light refreshments.



Ōamaru Blue Penguin Colony

Watch hundreds of little blue penguins return home from a day at sea each evening and learn about what's being done to protect these cute critters. It's one of the most up close and personal wildlife encounters you'll find in NZ. A wonderful night time activity after a day in conference.

While you're here, why not explore?



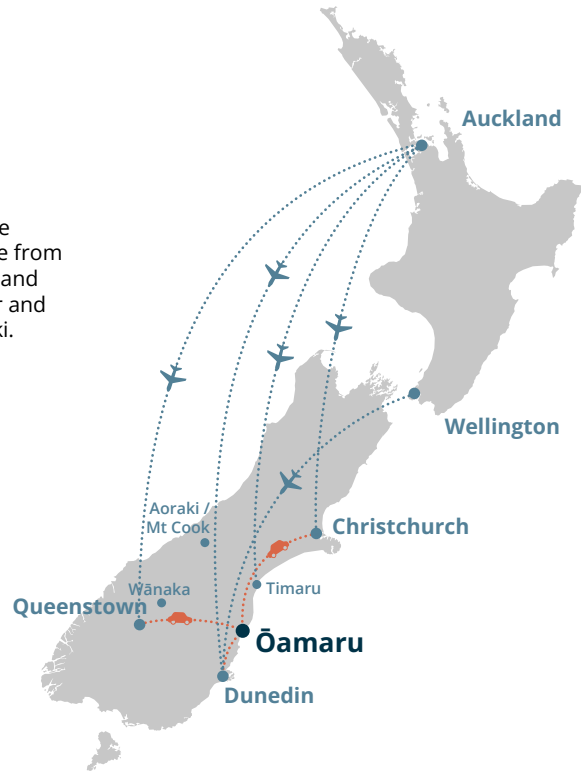
Flights

Ōamaru is conveniently positioned in the centre of the South Island and accessible from many urban centres and their domestic and international airports. Stay a little longer and make time to discover the rest of Waitaki.



Drive

Located at the center of the South Island on State Highway 1



Approximate drive times from Ōamaru

Dunedin	1 hrs 30 mins
Mt Cook	2 hrs 30 mins
Wānaka	2 hrs 50 mins
Christchurch	3 hrs 20 mins
Queenstown	3 hrs 40 mins



Ōamaru Blue Penguin Colony



Elephant Rocks



Clay Cliffs/Pariteta



Elephant Rocks

Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail®

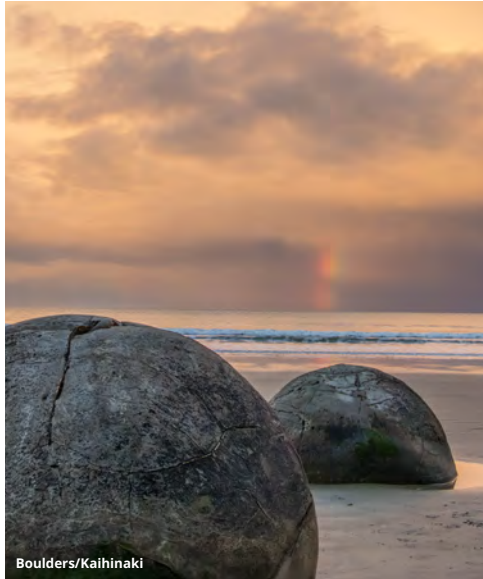
The A20 Cycle Trail is the longest of the 23 Ngā Haerenga Great Rides of New Zealand, serving up epic vistas from Aoraki Mount Cook all the way to Ōamaru on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. It is one of the best multi-day cycling experiences in New Zealand, known for its iconic landscapes and ease of navigation. Ride the whole length over five to seven days, for depth of experience and sense of accomplishment, or pick sections to ride as day trips from Ōamaru.

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark is New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark. It includes an abundance of unique geological sites and cultural stories. Notable features include Te Kaihīnaki / Moeraki Boulders, karst limestone at Elephant Rocks as well as the braided Waitaki River.



Clay Cliffs/Paritea



Boulders/Kaihīnaki



Puketapu Hill (extinct volcano)

Waitaki Valley on your doorstep

A short drive outside of Ōamaru up the braided Waitaki River lie the villages of Duntroon, Kurow, Otematata and Ōmārama. Within the townships you will find friendly cafes and charming shops, all connected by the A20 cycle trail through breath-taking landscapes of lakes, geomorphological wonders, peppered with little vineyards angled towards the sun.



Hot Tubs Ōmārama



Elephant Rocks



River-T Wines



Food & Drink



Cucina restaurant

Ōamaru's food and drink heroes excel in sustainable and ethical production, crafting exceptional artisanal products that embody the district's natural abundance.



Photo: Neat Places

Craftwork Brewery

Craftwork Brewery owners Lee-Ann and Michael brew authentic Belgian-style beers in a way that is labour and time intensive, but the beers (and their many accolades) speak for themselves. Located in the historic precinct this is beer nerd heaven!



Photo: Neat Places



Photo: Neat Places

Cucina & Del Mar

Two of Ōamaru's best restaurant offerings. Cucina focuses on refined dining - a fusion of Italian, Spanish and South American flavours, expertly balanced by chef and owner Pablo. Pablo and Yanina also own Del Mar, positioned on the shores of Friendly Bay next to the Ōamaru Blue Penguin Colony. Bright and breezy interiors which let the oceanscape take centre stage is the setting for relaxed dining with a focus on seafood.

Riverstone Kitchen

Nestled in the grounds of Riverstone Castle this the epitome of sustainable dining - much of Chef Bevan Smith's ingredients are grown in the gardens around the restaurant or sourced from nearby farms. The kitchen resists the urge to tamper too much with the good stuff, with dishes here delicious and honest. Bevan often holds workshops and events.



Photo: Neat Places

The Criterion Hotel

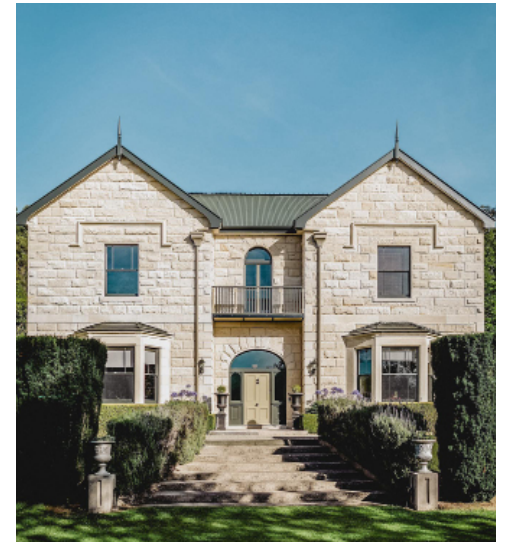
Built in 1877 in the Victorian Precinct and recently renovated throughout, The Criterion offers a charming and elegant atmosphere that is sure to impress. The hotel features several private dining rooms that can accommodate private groups from 8 to 50 people, making it an ideal choice for small to medium-sized events. Exclusive use of the Criterion Hotel is also available by prior arrangement.



Photo: Neat Places

Scott's Brewery

Scott's Brewery produces a range of exceptional craft beers and is a favourite hangout for locals. Alongside an ever-changing array of craft beer made with local grain, South Island hops and Southern Alpine water - the purest ingredients to make premium craft beer. Enjoy beer and wine as well as a selection of pizzas and BBQ foods with local live bands at weekends al fresco or in the tap room.



Casa Nova

Casa Nova Restaurant 1861 brings Spanish-inspired tapas dishes to town. The menu is focused on shining a light on fresh, seasonal produce and is, most importantly, perfect for sharing. The dining room space is intimate, and the impeccable service combined with delicious food will leave you wanting to return. Qualmark 5-star rated, and featuring three private on-site guest rooms, Casa Nova offers an intimate venue for small to medium groups. The house features several beautifully appointed communal areas that can accommodate groups of up to 30 people, making it an ideal choice for cosy gatherings. Each room is decorated in a classic style, with high ceilings, antique furnishings, and luxurious finishes throughout.



Accommodation



Mariner Suites

Brydone Hotel



★★★

Hotel Star Rating

49

Number of Rooms

98

Maximum Occupancy

Highlights

- Set in the central business region
- Easy walking distance of attractions
- Family-friendly environment

Contact Details

📍 115 Thames Street, Ōamaru, 9400

☎ +64 (0) 3 433 0480

✉ brydone.hotel@olt.co.nz

🌐 www.brydonehotel.co.nz

Step inside the enchanting Brydone Hotel Ōamaru and you will find yourself in a gentler, more gracious era, when a sweeping staircase, grand chandeliers and ornate interiors represented the height of style and the finest accommodation. Built of white, elaborately carved Ōamaru limestone in 1881, this impressive Ōamaru hotel has welcomed and charmed guests for over a century.

Today, that proud tradition of style and exceptional hospitality is maintained and enhanced by every contemporary comfort. The hotel offers four stylish conference rooms, with options up to 200 guests, with all modern conference equipment available.

Venue	Ceiling height	Area	Theatre	Board room	Banquet	U shape	Cocktail	Cabaret	Classroom
Whitson	4m	40m2	-	12	-	12	-	-	-
Flanagans	6m	64m2	40	16	40	16	40	40	20
Lindis	3.4m	80m2	50	24	50	24	50	50	20
Moeraki	3.4m	110m2	120	40	80	40	120	90	30
Lindis/Moeraki	3.4m	190m2	200	-	180	-	280	150	50



Northstar Motel



★★★★	16	32
Hotel Star Rating	Number of Rooms	Maximum Occupancy

Highlights

- Onsite restaurant and Bar provide high-quality food at affordable prices
- Flexible units
- conveniently located on State Highway 1

Contact Details

- 📍 495A Thames Highway, Ōamaru 9400
- ☎ +64 (0) 3 437 1190
- ✉ Manager.northstar@olt.co.nz
- 🌐 www.northstarmotel.co.nz

Northstar Motel's units offer stylish accommodation in Ōamaru, at an affordable price. Each motel room features your choice of either a super king size bed or two king single beds, a large cozy couch, full kitchen facilities and a modern bathroom. Our elegantly furnished Superior units offer the perfect motel accommodation for couples, individuals and corporate travellers. Our family units provide great Ōamaru accommodation for families, groups or sports teams. Two interconnecting units create a large space, with the option of privacy when required.

Northstar Motel's disability units offer the modern features of our superior units, but with wheelchair accessible bathrooms and lower kitchen benches. Large, double glazed windows feature thick curtains to keep out the cold and flowing organza sheer curtains for your privacy.



Mariner Suites



★★★★★	22	44
Hotel Star Rating	Number of Rooms	Maximum Occupancy

Highlights

- Only motel accommodation in the harbour/historic precinct area
- Harbour, sea & Historic Precinct views
- Available for exclusive use

Contact Details

- 📍 47 Tyne Street, South Hill, Ōamaru 9400
- ☎ +64 (0) 3 434 7788
- ✉ stay@marinersuites.nz
- 🌐 www.marinersuites.nz

Nestled perfectly between the breath-taking Ōamaru coastline and the vibrant Historic precinct, you're never more than a stone's throw from all the best that Ōamaru has to offer.

Soak in the coastline and harbour views from every suite complete with contemporary, modern facilities and with beautifully handcrafted, locally made furniture. Locally owned and operated, Mariner Suites welcomes you to experience Ōamaru at its finest and from the comfort of our unique, high-quality, boutique Ōamaru accommodation.

The Board Room & guest lounge: For up to 9 delegates. Private and quiet The Board Room is available exclusively to you whatever your requirements. We are here to make your boutique conference stress-free and memorable in a unique and exclusive setting.



Poshtel



At Poshtel you'll find 16 rooms, providing the perfect balance of suites, superior king and deluxe rooms. With adjoining rooms offering various combinations for families and groups, and accessible rooms for people with disabilities, we are big without being impersonal.

The Hotel delivers 'a kaleidoscope experience' for guests - just as the surrounding region holds hidden delights and unexpected inspiration at every turn, the hotel contains a new perspective around every corner, be it with a unique item, an enthralling artwork or a fresh story.

★★★★★	16	32
Hotel Star Rating	Number of Rooms	Maximum Occupancy

Highlights

- In the heart of the Ōamaru
- All rooms include a complimentary continental breakfast
- An in-house art gallery

Contact Details

- 📍 126 Thames St, Ōamaru 9400
- ☎ +64 (0) 3 434 8888 or +64 (0) 27 252 2233
- ✉ info@poshtelnz.com
- 🌐 www.poshtelnz.com



Pen-y-bryn Lodge



Pen-y-bryn Lodge is the ultimate choice for holding your next special event in Ōamaru, whether it's an AGM, partners' meeting or any other event. As the largest single-storey wooden dwelling in Australasia, and as one of New Zealand's most distinctive historic homes, Pen-y-bryn offers privacy, comfort and discernment that will make any event just a bit more special. Our five luxurious guest rooms can accommodate up to 13 overnight guests, and our several large gathering spaces are ideal for meetings, including an ornate dining room suitable for serving 30 guests a gourmet celebratory meal.

★★★★★	5	13
Hotel Star Rating	Number of Rooms	Maximum Occupancy

Highlights

- Each lodge room offers sumptuous comfort
- Beautifully restored
- Available to be exclusively rented for your private event

Contact Details

- 📍 41 Towey Street, Ōamaru
- ☎ +64 (0) 3 434 7939
- ✉ stay@penybryn.co.nz
- 🌐 www.penybryn.co.nz



Venues



Ōamaru Opera House

The team at Ōamaru Opera House have over 20 years' experience in event management. We have staff on hand to ensure your event runs smoothly and are able to provide expert knowledge on all technical aspects of your conference. We are able to provide all necessary equipment, including lighting, audio, data projectors and internet connections.

Whatever your requirements are, we can make it happen.

Matthew Wicks, Event Coordinator

Highlights

- Prominent and centrally situated in the heart of the city.
- Blend of timeless architecture with contemporary amenities.
- Located in the heart of the city

Contact Details

- 👤 Matthew Wicks
- 📍 94 Thames Street, Ōamaru 9400
- ☎ +64 (0)3 433 0300
- ✉ mwicks@waitaki.govt.nz
- 🌐 www.Ōamaruoperahouse.co.nz

Venue	Theatre	Board room	Banquet	Cocktail	Cocktail/ Café	Classroom
The Grand Foyer	-	-	-	-	100	-
The Footlights Stage	-	-	90	130	-	-
The Auditorium	550	-	-	-	-	-
The Inkbox	113	-	70	70	-	60
The Empire Room	80	30	64	90	-	40
The Chambers	50	15	30	50	-	30
The Boardroom	-	14	-	-	-	-
The Study	-	4	-	-	-	-



The Business Hive



Perfect for corporate events, boutique conferences and social gatherings, The Business Hive is an award-winning, thoroughly modern, fit-for-purpose coworking and function space.

The magnificent kitchen features a 16-seater kitchen island along with commercial and domestic-sized ovens - making catering and serving a dream.

The main auditorium, The Bank, is a striking, light-filled expanse of industrial chic - set off by its double-story windows and dramatic, architecturally inspired light installation suspended through its mezzanine.

Highlights

- Award-winning decor
- Multiple, flexible spaces
- Centrally located to local accommodation

Meeting rooms are light and airy, serviced by a common foyer, The Race, which functions beautifully as an additional greeting, catering or mingling space.

Contact Details

- 👤 Alex Regtien
- 📍 120 Thames Street, Ōamaru 9400
- ☎ +64 (0)3 398 2400 or +64 22 699 5292
- ✉ functions@thebusinesshive.co.nz
- 🌐 www.thebusinesshive.co.nz

All rooms are fully-equipped with plug and play audio-visual equipment and high-speed WiFi.

'We'd love to show you around this hidden gem. Get in touch to arrange a tour (virtually or in person).'

Alex Regtien, Company Director

Venue	Theatre	Board room	Banquet	Cocktail	Classroom
The Bank	45	24	30	70	25
The Farm	30	20	24	30	20
The Farm + The Race	30	20	24	50	25
The Foundry	10	10	-	-	10
The Bureau	6	6	-	-	6
The Locker Room	4	4	-	-	4



Photo: Neat Places



Photo: James Glucksman