



# MARLBOROUGH

Marlborough is internationally recognised for producing world class wines and fresh seafood direct from the waters of the Marlborough Sounds. Marlborough sits at the head of the Southern Alps, at the top of the South Island. Savour the region's award winning Sauvignon Blanc at one of its 40 cellar doors or feast on locally farmed Greenshell Mussels and New Zealand King Salmon at a top restaurant in the main townships of Blenheim and Picton. The Marlborough Sounds encompass 1,500 km of coastline, bays, beaches and native forest, providing the perfect habitat for wildlife including penguins, king shags, dolphins and fur seals. Hike or cycle the spectacular Queen Charlotte Track or embark on a kayak adventure to see the marine life up close.

## ACCESS

Marlborough is situated in the centre of New Zealand, making it easily accessible by land, sea, rail and air. Visitors flying to Marlborough land at Marlborough Airport, 7km from the centre of Blenheim. Air New Zealand has multiple daily direct services between Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch linking with international flights. For those who want to arrive by water, the port town of Picton can be accessed by ferry on a scenic three-hour sailing from Wellington. Between October and April the Coastal Pacific train provides access to both Picton and Blenheim from Christchurch, 350km to the south.

## VENUES

The Marlborough Convention Centre is the region's purpose-built conference facility. Located on the banks of the Taylor River in Blenheim, this modern venue can host up to 560 people in theatre layout or up to 400 for a banquet event. Early 2016, Marlborough will have a new venue, the ASB Theatre, conveniently located next to the Marlborough Convention Centre. This multi-purpose venue will have tiered seating in its theatre for 700+ people as well as multiple break-out rooms and function areas. Both venues are supported by audio, visual, lighting, sound and event management provided on site with full time professional staff to help you with all your requirements.

Just out of Blenheim and set within a vineyard is the Marlborough Vintners Hotel. The hotel has theatre capacity for 220 people and is the perfect venue for an executive retreat or conference. In Picton the new Endeavour Park Pavillion can cater for up to 350 theatre style and is backed up by the Picton Yacht Club Hotel and neighbouring motels. If you are catering for a slightly smaller crowd, Scenic Hotel Marlborough and Chateau Marlborough are ideal central Blenheim locations.

Marlborough also has a range of stunning winery venues with dedicated facilities for business events and evening functions. For a spectacular themed event with a difference the internationally acclaimed Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre has an exhibition space for up to 500 guests for cocktails or 360 seated dining.

### Facts:

- Population: 46,000 people
- 7 km Airport to City
- Accommodation: 700 rooms
- Venue capacity: 750 people

### Claim to fame:

- Savour Greenshell Mussels and New Zealand King salmon matched with world-class Sauvignon Blanc wine
- The Marlborough Sounds is a marine playground and the perfect habitat for wildlife including dolphins, seals, penguins and king shags.



Marlborough Sounds

## GETTING AROUND

Once in Marlborough getting around the compact townships of Blenheim and Picton is easy. No waiting at traffic lights – there are none in the region. Most hotels are a short walk or coach ride from conference venues in the middle of town. Other transport options in Marlborough include taxis, shuttles and rental cars, or for a twist, miniature railway. Bikes to hire and cycle tours are available for those who want to explore the region's many vineyards.

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## ACCOMMODATION

Blenheim and Picton offer a good selection of accommodation for business events. There are more than 700 rooms available in accommodation ranging from luxury accommodation amongst the vines and nestled in the sounds, to town-based motels, and hotels combining accommodation and conference facilities on the same premises. For your convenience, the Marlborough Convention Centre and ASB Theatre offer a bed bank service to assist with your accommodation requirements.

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## MEMORABLE INCENTIVE OPTIONS

**BE AMAZED** by Sir Peter Jackson's collection of WW1 aircraft and memorabilia at Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre in Blenheim. The museum showcases an impressive array of mechanical marvels from days gone by.

**EXPLORE** the stunning Marlborough Sounds in a sea kayak or walk or cycle the 70km Queen Charlotte Track. Spend the nights in comfortable lodges overlooking the Sounds.

**DISCOVER** Molesworth Station, New Zealand's largest backcountry station on a 4WD tour to experience spectacular scenery, enjoy a picnic amongst the rolling farmland, and hear about the station's fascinating pioneer past.

**SAMPLE** the region's boutique food and embark on a food and wine matching challenge or visit a salmon or Greenshell Mussel farm in the Marlborough Sounds.

**EXPERIENCE** a behind the scenes tour of Marlborough's wine industry. Meet the winemaker of a leading wine brand, experience dining in a barrel hall or enjoy a tour of a working winery.

**STAY** at the award winning Bay of Many Coves resort in the pristine natural environment of the Marlborough Sounds. Only accessible by boat or helicopter, Bay of Many Coves has a fine dining restaurant, day spa and cafe. Relax at Marlborough Vintners Hotel amongst the vines or unwind at Chateau Marlborough in central Blenheim.

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## MEMORABLE PRE AND POST TOURING OPTIONS

**SAVOUR** the region's world famous Sauvignon Blanc and other wine varieties on a tour to some of Marlborough's top wineries and cellar doors. Relax in the sun at a vineyard café or restaurant or meet the winemakers to discover the secret to their award winning creations.

**MARVEL** at whales and dolphins off the Kaikoura coast on a boat, plane or helicopter tour. The small north Canterbury town is one of the best places in the world to see these amazing sea creatures in their natural habitat.

**EMBRACE** your inner artist in nearby Nelson. The city has a flourishing arts scene and is home to the World of WearableArt and Classic Cars Museum.

**CRUISE** through the Marlborough Sounds and across the Cook Strait to Wellington at the foot of the North Island. New Zealand's cultural and political hub is renowned for coffee and craft beer and offers a tantalising mix of culinary, artistic and nature experiences.

**JOURNEY** to the rugged West Coast. The area boasts five national parks and some of the world's most accessible glaciers

**BOARD** the Coastal Pacific Train for a breathtaking rail journey from Picton to the city of Christchurch. Operating from October to April, this 350km journey follows the ruggedly beautiful coastline and offers magnificent views of the ocean and steeply rising Kaikoura Ranges.

