



Christchurch*eguide* **2006**

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Christchurcheguide....

The “Christchurcheguide” provides the independent traveller with complete practical information for Christchurch. Other eguides are available from www.Traveleguides.com. Every effort is made to provide accurate information, however things do change and eguide accepts neither responsibility nor liability for incorrect information that might appear in the text. We do very much welcome corrections and additions, please email them to info@Traveleguides.com.

Transport

Public Transport

Buses are a great way to get around in Christchurch most buses are operated by Canride and run from Cathedral Square. Bus information can be obtained by phone from Bus Phone, 03 366-8855. The Shuttle is a free service, with about 20 pick up points in the central city area, it runs every 10 minutes during the week, between 8am and 7pm (and until 9.30pm Friday and Saturday, until 6pm Sunday). City Circuit bus run two circuits through the city, leaving from the visitors center and visit most of the main tourist spots, you can pay for unlimited travel on one or either circuit.

Taxis

Christchurch has ample taxis, and several firms run taxi services.

Reaching Christchurch

Christchurch has a modern international airport and is easily reached from anywhere in the world. There are regular direct flights from Australia, the United States and Europe on most of the major international airlines, including Air New Zealand. Some flights connect through New Zealand's largest city, Auckland, a two hour flight away. The airport is located approximately 12 km from Christchurch city centre.

Taxis are available to the city centre, your journey will take approximately 15 - 20 minutes.

A public bus service runs to the city centre, this will take approximately 30 - 40 minutes

Shuttle buses can be shared and take travellers to their accommodation. Transport to Christchurch city centre is available outside the Domestic and International areas of the terminal building.

Alternatively you can hire cars from the major car rental companies at both the international and domestic airports.

Christchurch attractions

Air Force Museum

The Air Force Museum is a great day out for all the family with 28 amazing aircraft and fun, hands-on displays. The exhibitions will capture your imagination and our free, guided tours take you exploring behind the scenes of the fascinating restoration projects.

The Air Force Museum is close and convenient, located just 15 minutes drive from Christchurch city centre with free parking for 200 cars and plenty of space for motor homes and buses.

Follow the Main South Road towards Hornby and look for the aeroplane on your left. Turn left at the plane into Harvard Avenue and follow signs 100 m to the Museum...

Open daily from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm (Except Christmas Day) (03 343 9532)

Antarctic Centre

Christchurch is a major gateway for the Antarctic and the centre shows the history of the exploration and life as it is today. Brave the wind chill machine, or ride on the all terrain amphibious vehicle. Twice voted as New Zealand's best attraction. Located at the International airport and reachable by the airport bus which leaves Cathedral square every 20 minutes.

The Antarctic Centre is open daily. (64 3 736 4846). Click on the link below to find out more information and to book a tour that includes a visit to the Antarctic Centre.

Avon River

The Avon River flows through Christchurch and lined with willows, poplars and other trees and crossed by 13 bridges. Punt on the river or walk along the riverside.

Canterbury Brewery

Tour the brewery on one of the set tours. Location 36 St Asaph Street. Book tours on 64 3 379 4940.

Cathedral Square

Christchurch cathedral Square is the focal point of the city. The Cathedral was built in 1864 and is possible to climb the tower for panoramic views. In the centre of the square is the statue of John Godley the founder of Canterbury. In contrast in the modern 18 metre high sculpture 'Chalice' by Neil Dawson in 2001 which celebrates both the new millennium and the 150th anniversary of Christchurch.

Christchurch Gondola

The 954 metre Christchurch Gondola, runs up to the top of the Port Hills. Be rewarded with panoramic views of Christchurch, the Canterbury Plains and Lytleton Harbour. Two easy walkways along the crater rim take you to lookouts with views

At the summit there is The Heritage time tunnel experience which leads you from the volcanic eruptions through all the phases of human settlement in the Canterbury region. The Gondola is open daily. (64 3 384 0700)

If you want to enjoy the view at night click on the link below to find out more information about a great tour that includes dinner. Save vacation time! Plan & book now, not when you're there!

Christchurch Art Galleries

Christchurch has an active art scene and some fine galleries and includes. The Art's Centre, Centre of Contemporary Art and Christchurch Art Gallery.

Arts Centre

Christchurch's centre for arts and crafts with art galleries, shops, theatres, cinemas, and places to eat and drink. A short walk from Cathedral Square at 2 Worcester Boulevard. Open every day. (64 3 363 2836)

Centre of Contemporary Art

Five galleries with regular changing exhibitions with a specialism in New Zealand Art. Location 66 Gloucester Street. Closed on Mondays. (64 3 366 7261)

Christchurch Art Gallery

A modern gallery with nine halls with fixed and changing exhibitions. Located on Worcester Boulevard. Open daily. (64 3 941 7381)

Christchurch Museums

Christchurch has a number of museums that are well worth visiting. These include the Air Force Museum, Canterbury Museum, Science Alive and the Yaldhurst Museum of Transport and Science.

Air Force Museum

A museum that captures the essence of air force history particularly during the World Wars. Both fixed and interactive displays at 45 Harvard Avenue, Sockburn. Open daily. (64 3 343 9532)

Canterbury Museum

A large collection of cultural and natural history and tells the history of Canterbury. A large display on Antarctica, a 19th century Christchurch Street, Discovery Centre and "Living Canterbury" along with other changing displays. Located next to the Botanic gardens and entered on Rolleston Avenue. Open daily. (64 3 366 5000)

Science Alive

A fun science centre with plenty of interactive experiences that bring science alive. Located at 392 Moerhouse Avenue. Open daily. (03 365 5199)

Yaldhurst Museum of Transport and Science

Over 100 vehicles from horse drawn buggies to classic cars. Located close to Christchurch airport at School Road, Yaldhurst. (03 342 7914)

Christchurch Tram

An historic tramway that operates around the city centre starting at Cathedral Square and passing many of the main attractions. Accompanied children under 16 travel free and you can get on and off as many times as you want.

Christchurch Parks

Christchurch is famous for its parks and has many. They are lovely to walk round, to relax in and in some be rather more active. Enjoy Christchurch...

Avebury Park

An English style park small park garden that dates back from 1885 with lawns and trees and children's' play area and paddling pool. Enter via Evelyn Couzins Avenue, in Richmond.

Abberley Park

A small park with mature trees dating back to the 1860's and herbaceous borders. There is a children's play area and lawns and a stream. Located at Edgeware and enter via Abberley Crescent.

Christchurch Botanic Gardens

The gardens in central Christchurch cover 30 hectares and were started in 1850. The gardens include an arboretum, rose garden, rock gardens and a collection of New Zealand trees and plants. The glasshouses date from 1925 and contain a good display of tropical plants. Children will enjoy the play area and space. Enter via Rolleston Avenue.

Edmonds Factory Garden

Built in 1923 by Thomas Edmonds with lawns, lily pond, rose garden and changing annual displays. Enter via Ferry Road, Linwood.

Ferrymead Heritage Park

Ferrymead is the sight of the first New Zealand railway and the park is now an Edwardian township where you can step back in time to experience colonial Christchurch. Located at Ferrymead Park Drive. (64 3 384 1970)

Hagley Park

A large park of 161 hectares is the major park in Christchurch and the location of sport and cultural events.

Haswell Quarry Park

Haswell has a collection of historic buildings, walks and botanical collections. Six individual areas represent Christchurch's sister cities of Adelaide, Christchurch (UK), Gansu Province, Kurashiki, Seattle and Songpa-Gu. Location Haswell Road.

Jellie Park

A 12 hectare park with indoor and outdoor pools and landscaped gardens. Enter via Ilam Road.

Millbrook Reserve

A very small park adjacent to Hagley Park contains the two of the tallest trees in Christchurch and popular for riverside picnics. Enter via Helmores Lane in Merivale.

Mona Vale

A Victorian homestead with traditional garden and large numbers of English and European trees and a beds of annuals. Mona vale is a short drive from the city in Fendalton and enter via Fendalton Road. Open daily. (64 3 348 9660)

Orana Wildlife Park

A open range wildlife park with giraffe, cheetah, rhino and lions and other animals. Open daily. McLeans Island Road, Harewood. (64 3 359 4330)

Queen Elizabeth 11 Park

The Park was built for the 1974 Commonwealth games and now a multi sport and leisure centre with a theme leisure pool and mini golf courses.

Riccarton House and Bush

A historic Victorian house built in 1856 with well established gardens and bush land. Located at 16 Kahu Road, Riccarton. (64 3 341 1018)

Risingholme

A well established garden with mature trees, both exotic and indigenous and a formal rose garden. There is a children's playground. Located in Opawa and enter via Cholmondely Avenue.

Willow bank Wildlife Reserve

View the kiwis and "wildlife by night" .Every evening is 'Ko Tane' a cultural experience with an interactive village. Located at Hussey Road. (64 3 359 6226)

Woodham Park

A park built around three lawns, with shrubs and trees and a collection of rhododendrons. Within the park are an aviary and a children's play area. Enter via Woodham Road, Avonside.

Nga Hau E Wha National Marae

Two carved Whare which are the traditional Maori meeting houses. Cultural shows and displays. Open Monday - Friday. 250 Pages Road, Aranui. (64 3 388 7685)

One of the most successful aspects of the Marae's tourism programme has been the Night of Maori Magic. The experience includes a powhiri, a ceremonial welcome onto the Marae including the traditional warrior challenge (Wero). Visitors are conducted on a tour of the Marae meeting houses and given a chance to sample earth oven cooking with a selection of Hangi food. The evening is completed by a performance of the Marae's cultural group, including poi dances, action songs and the famous Haka.

Our City O – Tautahi

Located in the former Municipal Chambers an exhibition showing present and future issues about Christchurch. Located on the corner of Oxford Terrace and Worcester Boulevard. (64 3 941 7460).

Southern Encounter Aquarium & Kiwi House

An aquarium in the city centre with sharks, turtles, crayfish and many species of fish. Location: Canterbury Visitor Centre, Cathedral Square. Open daily. (64 3 359 0581)

Christchurch wild places

Explore the wild places around Christchurch. Great tramping, great views and great for mountain bikes... enjoy our wonderful scenery and wild places.....

Bottle Lake Forest

An area of pathways and tracks about 20 minutes north of Christchurch, off Marshlands Road in Burwood.

Port Hills

Reached by the Summit Road the Port Hills provides lots of opportunities for walking and mountain biking. The gondola can be used to take you to the top and then walk or bike down.

Quail Island

Quail Island was originally a leper colony and now home to native birds.

Ripapa Island

Home to Fort Jervois built in 1886 now has historic tours.

Victoria Park

The gateway to the Port Hills and popular for walking, biking and picnics. Named after Queen Victoria in 1883. Location: Dwyers Pass.

Travis Wetland

Travis Wetlands Heritage Park is a 112 hectare park to

Christchurch Entertainment

The main entertainment area is around Cathedral Square, Oxford Terrace ('The Strip') or the Cashel Mall. The Strip attracts the late night partying crowd. Manchester Street has nightclubs, bars and live music. Lichfield Street has late night bars open.

The Arts Centre in Worcester Boulevard is a fulcrum for the artistic lifestyle. The Centre hosts The Court Theatre. The Southern Ballet Company performs here along with other groups.

Over the past decade, Nga Hau E Wha Marae has developed its tourist potential in order to become financially independent and in support of its role as a cultural centre. One of the most successful aspects of the Marae's tourism programme has been the Night of Maori Magic. The experience includes a powhiri, a ceremonial welcome onto the Marae including the traditional warrior challenge (Wero). Visitors are conducted on a tour of the Marae meeting houses and given a chance to sample earth oven cooking with a selection of Hangi food. The evening is completed by a performance of the Marae's cultural group, including poi dances, action songs and the famous Haka. The Movie multiplexes at the Regent, Hoyt's 8 and Rialto are located near the city centre. The Academy Theatre and Cloisters Cinema show non mainstream films.

Christchurch Casino

Opened in 1994 the casino has an Egyptian based theme. Free buses shuttles Marae is located in Pages Road and the telephone number is 64 3 388 7685 operate from hotels all evening. Located at 30 Victoria Street. (64 3 365 9999)

Christchurch Day Trips

Akaroa

Akaroa Harbour is the crater of an extinct volcano and has a French flavour and part of the Banks Peninsula. A scenic 90 minute drive from Christchurch. Harbour cruises will show the Hector's Dolphin and fur seals and other marine life.

Amberley

A short drive north of Christchurch well known for its country gardens and arts and crafts.

Arthur's Pass

This pass on Highway 73 crosses South Island and the township of Arthur's Pass is the centre of the National Park with plenty of tramping possibilities.

Banks Peninsula

Banks Peninsula is an area of stunning coastline and the harbours of Akaroa and Lyttelton.

Hanmer Springs

Hanmer Springs is a small alpine village 385 metre above sea level. Natural mineral thermal springs bubble up from the earth with terminal pools open all year 90 minutes drive north of Christchurch.

Kaikoura

Kaikoura is situated north of Christchurch and famous for the whale watching that can be done by boat or helicopter. Kaikoura is also an adventure playground with many activities possible.

Lyttelton

Just 12 km from Christchurch is the flooded crater of a volcano. There are many cruises on the harbour.

Methven

Methven is the base for the Mt Hutt ski area and a popular winter resort about one hour from Christchurch. Methven has all the facilities expected of a ski destination and is also a popular summer resort with walks, fishing, golf and lots more.

Mt Cook

Mt Cook is a long day trip but gives a chance to see the rugged landscape of Mt Cook.

For more Christchurch day trips [click here](#) for more information

Christchurch Essentials

Climate

The average summer temperature is 21° C and rainfall is low. In the winter the temperature averages 12° C.

Departure tax

There is an international departure tax of NZ\$25.

Driving license

Reciprocal license is available from most countries but some rental companies may ask for an international driving license. For rentals drivers will need to be over 21. Vehicles drive on the left hand side of the road.

Emergencies

For police, fire and ambulance call 111. The central police station is at the corner of Hereford and Cambridge Terrace. (64 3 379 3999). The Christchurch hospital is at Riccarton Avenue. (64 3 364 0640 and the emergency department 364 0270)

Language

English and Maori are the official languages and English the major language.

Money

New Zealand uses a dollar broken into cents. Banks are open Monday to Friday 9am - 4.30pm and ATMs are widely available. All major credit cards are widely accepted.

Newspapers

The national paper is the New Zealand Herald and The Press is the Christchurch paper.

Parking

On street parking in Christchurch is metered. Free car parking is available during the day is available at Hagley Park using the Armagh Street entrance.

Shopping hours

Most shops open from 9am until 5pm with late night shopping on Friday.

Telephone

Pay phones in Christchurch are normally set up for phone cards which are easily purchased. Local calls from a phone box are 50 cents. Toll free numbers are marked with 0800. The country code for New Zealand is 64. For national directory call 018 and for international directory call 0172. For the national operator call 010 and for the international operator call 0170.

Time

Christchurch is 12 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time which means if it is 12 noon in UK then it is midnight in Christchurch. This will alter by one hour with daylight saving.

Tipping

Tipping is not expected for normal service and a discretionary tip can be given to reward special service.

Visas

Visitors from some countries do not need visas if staying for three months or less but must be in possession of a return air ticket or have funds to buy one. Your passport must be valid for a period for three months beyond the date you depart from New Zealand. You must also have at least \$1000 available to support you for each month that you stay in New Zealand.

Christchurch Restaurants

Boulevard Restaurant and Bar
64 3 374 6676

Central Christchurch
64 3 365 8888

Chancery Restaurant
64 3 366 0250

Chateau on the Park
64 3 366 0250

China Town Restaurant
64 3 377 7057

Curator's House
64 3 379 2252

Dux de Dux Restaurant
64 3 366 6919

Ginkgo
64 3 374 2523

Kaze
64 3 366 1038

Oasis
64 3 363 2800

Oxford on Avon
64 3 379 7148

Palazzo del Marinaio
64 3 365 4640

Retour Restaurant
64 3 365 2888

Sala Sala
64 3 366 6755

Seafood Kitchen
64 3 365 6543

Strawberry Fare Restaurant
64 3 365 4897

Sudima Hotel
64 3 358 3139

Tandoori Palace
64 3 365 7816

Viaduct Restaurant
643 377 9968

Christchurch Bars

Bohemian Café and Bar
64 3 366 2563

Loaded Hog
64 3 366 6674

Shooters
64 3 365 1046

Christchurch shopping

Christchurch has a vibrant shopping scene and many shops and malls. Good buys are wool, leather, deerskin, outdoor wear and blue pearl jewellery. There are several factory outlet stores.

The main inner city shopping area is around Cashel Mall. There are malls around the city that rely on transport to reach. The Riccarton Sunday market is a large market with good bargains.

Riccarton Market

Every Sunday morning this large market operates at the Riccarton Racecourse selling a wide range of items.

Location: Riccarton Racecourse, Riccarton Park Racecourse Road. Open every Sunday 8am - 2pm. (64 3) 339 0011.

Christchurch Environment

Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island of New Zealand and is often referred to as the Garden City. It is situated on the Canterbury Plains between the Southern Alps and the Pacific Ocean. The city occupies flood plain, sand dunes, wetlands, river banks, tidal estuary and part of a volcanic crater rim known as the Port Hills.

The city covers an area of approximately 46,000 hectares, with a population of 310,000. The streets are laid out on a geometric grid system, through which the natural spring-fed waters of the Avon and Heathcote Rivers make their way to the Estuary and the sea.

Christchurch has been known since early this century as the Garden City with numerous parks and gardens throughout the city for all to enjoy.

Christchurch History

The first inhabitants were the moa-hunting tribes, followed by the Waitaha who migrated into the area in the 1600's. Captain Cook sighted Banks Peninsula in 1870 and the first Europeans arrived in 1815 and an active whaling community operated from Lyttelton during the 1850's which developed into a steady migration of English settlers. Nearly 800 settlers arrived on the first four ships and four oak trees have been planted in Cathedral Square to commemorate their arrival...

Christchurch was given its Royal Charter on July 31, 1856.

The Dean brothers arrived in 1843 and their farm 'Riccarrton' survives today and an interesting place to visit. The early economy was agricultural and livestock particularly sheep and now is a diversified regional economy. Many of the original buildings have been demolished but some remain that can be viewed.