nileGUIDE
ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

Corey Leopold

Food: off the tourist trail

Christchurch, 1 Day

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: It's often hard to know how to leave the tourist trail for food ... these are just some of the places we local love to eat at. I'll meet you there!

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My List

contact:
tel: +64 3 332 4052
fax: +64 3 337 2769
http://www.signofthetakahe.co.nz

location:
200 Hackthorne Road
Christchurch Canterbury 8022

hours:
Tu to Sa from 06:00 PM to 11:00 PM

1 Sign of the Takahe

wcities

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Although the lights over the city are pretty make sure you see the views in daylight too

DESCRIPTION: Housed in a magnificent castle-like building perched on the Port Hills overlooking Christchurch, this silver-service restaurant is the brainchild of acclaimed chef, Bruce Griffiths. Using stone quarried from the nearby hills, Henry Ell constructed the building in 1918 as a rest house, drawing his inspiration from English manor houses and inns. The interior is opulent, with magnificent lead light windows, ornate timbered arches and big open fireplaces. Candle-lit tables and spectacular views of Christchurch add to the ambiance making this a truly wonderful dining experience. This restaurant serves elaborate, refined cuisine with attention to every detail. Open for afternoon and morning teas. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: (03) 371 9333
http://www.restaurantschwass.com/home

location:
190 Ferry Road
Phillipstown Canterbury

hours:
from 6pm Monday to Saturday

2 Restaurant Schwass

DESCRIPTION: The name Jonny Schwass is significant when it comes to Christchurch culinary circles and it's said if he's involved in a project, it will be good. In an area known for car sale-yards - Ferry Road - this is a great surprise for fine dining
© NileGuide

MY NOTE: this is an award-winning restaurant that produces wonderful food ... see the NileGuide blog about this and other top local places

contact:
tel: (03)329 9825
http://www.shechocolat.com/

location:
79 Main Rd, Governors BAy
Christchurch

3 She Chocolat

Heather Hapeta

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Book early ... so your taste buds can enjoy the anticipation!

DESCRIPTION: I have spent a delicious half-day of decadence here! Over the hill from Chrischurch in Governors Bay She has great food, stunning views and features the most sensuous chocolates. It is gourmet, decadent and authentic. A foodies dream!
Starting from one chocolate at the local Lyttelton Farmers Market (every Saturday morning) She has grown into an amazing foodies paradise.
They source all their organic chocalate beans from a farm in Samoa, (Pacific)

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contact:
tel: (03) 379 5122
http://www.mediterraneanfoods.co.nz

location:
322 Tuam St
Christchurch

hours:
9am - 6pm mon/ fri To 430
Sat &Sunday

4 Mediterranean Food Co (retail)

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
wine tasting nights here are provided by Lindsay Dick of the Wine Ferret

DESCRIPTION: From Spanish, Sicilian, and Italian foods, even pasta from Bologna, this place has it all and is famous for its thin crust pizza and cooking classes.
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Christchurch Snapshot

Local Info

Although Christchurch and Canterbury were planned by British idealists as an ordered settlement- along their English lines- the city was actually first inhabited by Maori,(the Maori word for Christchurch is Otautahi- ie belonging to Tau Tahi) and the Scottish Deans brothers- who named the rive'Avvon' after a stream in Scotland.

Nevertheless, the'founding fathers' stamped their ideas firmly on the city by placing an Anglican cathedral right in the centre. To this day, lazy writers continue to call it an'English city': true many of our old buildings date back to the style of our heritage. Many of us locals consider them as'of the style of our beginnings' rather than as an English city- Gothic, Regent,Queen Ann. And, of course, most people had migrated to escape the old'rules' and refused to'stay in their place', and so began our- still firmly-held - egalitarian traditions: Jack is as good as his master we had decided.

Christchurch is in the heart of the South Island, is surrounded by nine districts- all within a few hours drive- and which provide a variety of experiences - from skiing to vineyards, wildlife to art- natural wonders on our plains and from the oceans to the alp's.

The architecture ranges from neo-Gothic and Gothic Revival to contemporary, and the roads are mainly set out in a grid-like pattern. Our centrally-located Hagley Park is the 3rd largest city-park in the world(behind New York's Central Park and London's Hyde Park)

The Avon river runs through the centre of the city(Note: it is not named after the Stratford-on-Avon river in the UK but after a small Scottish stream- Avvon- near where the Deans brothers grew up.

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History

Although Christchurch and Canterbury were planned by British idealists as an ordered settlement- on English lines- the city was actually first inhabited by Maori, and the Scottish Deans brothers. Nevertheless, the'founding fathers' stamped their ideas firmly on the city by placing an Anglican cathedral right in the centre. To this day, lazy writers continue to call it an'English city': true many of our old buildings date back to the style of our heritage. Many of us locals consider them as'of the style of our beginnings' rather than as an English city- Gothic Revival, Regent,Queen Ann. And, of course, most people had migrated to escape the old'rules' and refused to'stay in their place', and so began our- still firmly-held- egalitarian traditions:'Jack is as good as his master' we had decided.

Victorian Christchurch encapsulated the British culture of the 1850s and we have preserved many of these. Unfortunately many have been damaged during the7.1 earthquake, 4th September 2010. Coincidently, just a week before the earthquake, I(the NileGuide'local expert' for Christchurch) had attended a meeting about the possibility of presenting a case to have a group of these Gothic Revival buildings to be inscribed on theWorld Heritage list.

In 1849, a Captain Joseph Thomas had been dispatched to New Zealand to prepare the way for the emigrants who would follow soon afterwards- the land he chose was the very marshy area a short distance down-steam from the established Deans farm. After years of drainage, the only swamp-land left in Christchurch is Travis Wetlands- well worth a visit to see our birds..

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Hotel Insights

Outwardly a genteel English town of meandering rivers and tasteful gardens, Christchurch's appearance belies its adventure-seeking heart. Conveniently nestled at the base of an outdoor adventure playground, you can travel from the beach to the ski fields in less than two hours! This city is a tourist's dream sojourn; cosmopolitan living, with easy access to spectacular harbors, rivers, hot springs, walkways and over a dozen ski fields in New Zealand's largest ski region.

Despite the surrounding hive of activity, the South Island's largest city exudes tranquility in the very best of English traditions, and is aptly referred to as the Garden City. From the expansive Hagley Park, with its tree-lined cycle paths and walkways, to the meticulous private gardens and endless flower borders, Christchurch is proud to be green.

Accommodation ranges from top-quality international hotels to bed and breakfasts(there are some real gems in Canterbury). Most places are located in the Central City, west of the CBD, or around 90 minutes drive from the city.

Central City

The Cathedral Square, dominated by the neo-Gothic Cathedral, is the heart of Christchurch, and a gathering place for locals and visitors. Two major hotel complexes, Millennium and the Heritage Christchurch, offer superior accommodation on the edge of Cathedral Square, and close to shopping malls and Hagley Park. The Square also houses the Christchurch and Canterbury Visitors Center which provides information about entertainment venues in the city. Heading along Worcester Street from the Square you will find'Our City O-Tautahi', an exhibition and discussion space about Christchurch run by the City Council, on the corner of Oxford Terrace on the banks of the Avon River. Overlooking this historic river is Rydges Hotel. Here you can soak up the atmosphere of the string of trendy outdoor cafes and bars running the length of Oxford Terrace. Recent years have seen a myriad of new bars cafes and restaurants appear alongside the river, giving new life and sophistication to the city by day and night.

Over the bridge on Worcester Boulevard is the Arts Centre. These grand gothic buildings, once an institution of learning, now form the largest arts center in the country. Within its walls are numerous art galleries, craft studios, and unique shops, four cafes, restaurants and bars. Live entertainment ranges from performances by the Southern Ballet Dance Theatre to buskers on the street.

Near this cultural hotspot are the Canterbury Museum and the George,

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a superb location overlooking the park. For"Georgian-style" at a more moderate price, the Weston House is also located on Park Terrace. The Holiday Inn City Centre is close to the City Mall and the Spanish-colonial boutique shopping in New Regent Street.

Located right on Victoria Square, the Crowne Plaza Christchurch is close to Christchurch Casino and the Town Hall complex. The Christchurch Convention Centre forms part of the Christchurch Town Hall, which was designed by award-winning, local architects Warren& Mahoney. Heading south down Manchester Street is the Brooke Gifford Gallery and character hostel accommodation like the New Excelsior Backpackers.

West of the Cathedral Square

If you want to stay close to the airport, there is plenty of entertainment, including a flight of a different kind, in a hot air balloon cruising over the vast Canterbury Plains. The Antarctic Centre is opposite the Sudima Hotel Grand Chancellor; and one of New Zealand's premier golf courses, the Russley Golf Club, is near the Commodore Hotel.

Riccarton Avenue runs from the city center to the nearby suburb of Riccarton and divides the 200 hectare park into South Hagley(Sports Grounds) and North Hagley(Golf Course and Botanic Gardens). Riccarton is just a few minutes from the city centre, yet it takes you away from the inevitable noise and traffic. One of the best hotels is the peaceful Chateau on the Park. Riccarton is also only 10 minutes from the airport and is home to Christchurch's largest indoor shopping complex—Riccarton Mall.

North of Cathedral Square

Merivale is a stylish suburb with loads of trendy shopping and eateries. It offers a range of accommodation, within walking distance to the well-known Merivale Mall on Papanui Road. The Pavilions Hotel and Camelot Motor Lodge are just a few minute's walk from the Christchurch Casinoon Victoria Street.

Outside the City

If you wish to escape the city and enjoy clear mountain air, head to Methven, only 90 minutes from Christchurch. Lying at the foot of Mt Hutt, it boasts a long snow season and offers some of the best skiing/ snowboarding in the Southern Hemisphere. Lodges, B&Bs and holiday homes abound in this once-quiet rural town.

Also 90 minutes out from the city on the Pacific coastline is the town of Akaroa, settled by French in 1840 and still a truevillage Francais. The spectacular harbour views are worth the arduous trip along winding roads over the hills of the Banks Peninsula. Visit French Farm Winery or stay at a bed and breakfast nearby. For waterfront accommodation there is the Akaroa Criterion Motel or the Akaroa Village Inn& Conference Centre.

The Waipara Wine Region, 48 kilometers north of Christchurch hosts several wineries. A sample of accommodation in the area include the intimate, yet spacious, Winery Cottageand Bredon Downs, near the Waipara Springs Winery. Another option is Heritage Hanmer Springs, nestled in a valley surrounded by mountain ranges, with natural hot thermal pools.
©

Restaurants Insights

Bursting into culinary life in the late 1980s, Christchurch is fast developing a reputation for the dazzling range and sophistication of its cuisine and locally-produced wines. From the rolling hills of the Banks Peninsula to the vast central plains and small valleys of the north, the Canterbury region boasts award-winning vineyards, innovative cafes, restaurants and bars, specialty cheese producers, chocolate makers, and a burgeoning array of boutique breweries.

For a city that flaunts its Englishness, the food styles are supremely far-ranging and there is something to enliven even the most jaded palate. Choose from Mediterranean, Italian, Indian, French Continental, Vegetarian and South American cuisines. With the Asian migration to this region there has also been an explosion of flavors and styles from the East-Thai, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian and Korean. In the hands of the many talented chefs, these flavors and influences are culminating in a unique cuisine often referred to as"Pacific Rim." And as every chef will confirm, no visitor should leave town without tasting some the region's specialty of lean, tender Canterbury lamb.

The City

Overlooking the Avon River, along Oxford Terrace, is"The Strip"- a major part of Christchurch's cafe and restaurant scene. By night,"The Strip" transforms as DJs and local bands pump it up in Christchurch's hottest nightspots like All Bar One.

For a memorable culinary experience, Christchurch offers a number of silver-service restaurants run by restaurateurs who are internationally renowned. The perfect place for a romantic candlelit dinner is Michael's Restaurant, run by New Zealand's culinary great, Michael Lee Richards. There is also Le Bon Bolli, where Phillip Kraal creates award-winning French cuisine.

A modest budget, however, is no obstacle to great and innovative cuisine. There is the European-styled Café Valentino offering award-winning Mediterranean-inspired food or Topkapi with its special brand of authentic mouth-watering Turkish fare. Most restaurants provide a good range of vegetarian options with a handful, such as the Main Street Vegetarian Café& Bar, specialising exclusively in scrumptious vegetarian and vegan food.

Christchurch is brimming with every flavor and style of Asia. Among the is the Mythai Restaurant, where innovative Thai food is enjoyed by locals and Thais alike.

For the ultimate in choice, however, the food stalls at the Arts Centre Weekend Market are difficult to beat. Choose from an enormous variety of offerings--Thai, Czech and Lebanese—all very tempting. There are also good cafes nearby if you prefer to dine in comfort, including Le Café, which

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is still humming well into the small hours during the weekend.

Watering holes abound in the central district, with popular haunts, such as the Loaded Hog, producing their own excellent range of beers. The coffee connoisseur is also well catered for, with cafes such as C1 Espresso, Vivace and Coffee Culture roasting their own special blends on the premises. For great cafe food and a refined, yet relaxed ambience, drop in at Caffe Roma, just by Cathedral Square.

The Suburbs

While the heart of the culinary scene beats within the confines of the inner city, some of the best dining can be had in and around the suburbs. In the west of the city Yummy comes highly recommended for spicy Malay cuisine. Or in the delightful seaport of Lyttleton, the kitschy Wunderbar is a great place to relax over a drink while enjoying excellent views of the harbour. And for the ultimate in elegance and refinement--along with spectacular views of the city—try the historic Sign of the Takahe on the Port Hills. Five minutes drive north from the city centre is Merivale, an upmarket shopping district with a good range of cafes and bars to match. Brigettes Espresso is an award-winning coffee specialist and serves a scrumptious brunch, while Zanzibar offers good drinking in contemporary, retro-style surroundings. However, if 19th century charm is the order of the day then the romantic ambience and authentic Indian cuisine of Little India is difficult to beat.

No visit is complete without stopping off at the charming seaside suburb of Sumner. Here you can have a relaxing meal, or enjoy drinks or coffee after a movie. Along the waterfront Scarborough Fare offers a delicious range of seafood and meat dishes, while within the village itself there are a number of good cafes, including the excellent gourmet pizzeria, Ruptured Duck.

On the Wine Trail

With its long dry hot summers, Canterbury has developed a flourishing wine industry. The heart of the winemaking area is here, in the Waipara Valley, where vineyards such as Pegasus Bay and Waipara Springs have received international recognition for their Pinot Noir and Chardonnay varieties. Other grapes grown in the region include Riesling, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon. On the periphery of Christchurch is the St Helena Wine Estate, while further South you can visit Giesen's —wineries that put Canterbury on the winemaking map back in the 1980s. Most of Christchurch's restaurants include a good selection of New Zealand and local wines, with Annies Wine Bar, in the heart of the Arts Centre of Christchurch, featuring over 70 on the list.

Treading the wine trail is a favorite pastime of locals and visitors alike, and many of the vineyards now have excellent restaurants or cafés offering food that complements the quality and style of the wines. But the highlight for any wine lover would have to be the Waipara Food and Wine Festival, where every March the very best of the new vintage is on display.

When every appetite has been satisfied, share your experience with the world through one of Christchurch's many well-equipped cyber cafes in the central city area, such as Cyber Café Christchurch. ©

Nightlife Insights

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All work and no play will make us dull according to the old adage – and we invite you to play in the centre of our city: there will be a playground to suit you.

Maybe you can get a last minute ticket for a show at our Town Hall, the wonderfully refurbished Theatre Royal, or the Court Theatre on Worchester Boulevard: alternatively, take a walk along the Avon River where the inner city bridges are lit at night.

While walking, check out the fountains in Victoria Square, and opposite Rydges Hotel, admire the life-sized Kate Sheppard National Memorial that depicts some of New Zealand's leading suffragists – led by Christchurch woman Kate Sheppard.

A little further upstream is the marble statue of Captain Robert Falcon Scott-carved by his wife, Lady Kathleen Scott: she portrayed him in polar dress, facing north on the homeward journey when death overtook him and his companions. Continue past the old water-wheel and onto the, now pedestrian, Bridge of Remembrance.

Now, head west, up Cashel Street to the beautiful Botanic gardens that have been gracing our city since 1863: these 30 hectares are open until sunset. Later, stop for a coffee and stroll around the old university- now called The Arts Centre(open daily) and where a local craft market is held each weekend, and food market on Fridays.

The inner city has many living within the CBD and as you wander past places with names such as Le Plonk, Twisted Hop, Minx, Sticky Fingers, Oasis, or Barcelona, you will meet some of these city-dwellers as they enjoy their vibrant backyard and take their dogs for a walk.

Need to eat? Our city centre is a gastronomic cornucopia- walk in any direction and there will be something to suit your palate. Your taste buds can travel around the world, Japanese, Middle East, Indian, Greek, Italian, Mexican, Moroccan, and Turkish, along with all the various Asian and Kiwi dishes. Alternatively you could sightsee and eat at the same time by indulging in fine dining on the Tramway Restaurant. Vegetarians will undoubtedly head for music and food at the Dux de Lux, a long-established place in the Christchurch food scene. The Dux also produces a range

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of award winning, naturally brewed beers they make on site.

Strawberry Fare, at the back of the Convention Centre, has been serving consistently fabulous food for years and booking is recommended. Overlooking the Avon, Indochine serves an excellent menu of east-meets-west food in delightful surroundings and for those who have already eaten, the bar is a good place to hang out in and meet locals: their non-alcoholic Ginger Sting is divine.

Love jazz? Eat, drink, and listen at Sammy's on Bedford Row; Blue Note in New Regent St; or at the Crowne Plaza. With a barista school in Christchurch, and winners of national and international Barista competitions, coffee connoisseurs will find much to suit them too. Just one great place to relax on couches with friends and a cup of Java could be Triptych, on the corner of Armagh and Colombo.

The square has a variety of old buildings to check out and on a Tuesday night we recommend you listen to the cathedral bell-ringers practise – a different travel-memory to take home.

If you would prefer a younger set to hang out with, the'strip' on Oxford Terrace(between Hereford St and Cashel Mall) may take your fancy, and various dance bars, with DJs and late hours, line Lichfield St between Colombo and Manchester Streets. However, for the mature under-forties, the most fashionable place to be seen is the Concrete Club: a basement bar on Manchester St.

Where ever you chose to spend your playtime, keep safe, and have a wonderful time before work starts again.
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Things to Do Insights

It is not surprising that Christchurch is called the Garden City; one third of its public land is devoted to reserves and parks. It was Anglican ideals that instigated this lavish spread of greenery, yet New Zealand's third largest city remains firmly rooted in the Antipodean soil. The city lies on the coastal hem of the vast, patch-worked Canterbury Plains, and is tantalizingly close to the adventure playground of the Southern Alps. Christchurch is regarded as one of the friendliest cities in the world. It is an easy place to get to know, just ask the locals!

Tour One: Orientation

To get your bearings, take a ride on the City Loop Tramway, or hop aboard the free Shuttle bus which circumnavigates the central city—you can get on and off both services as often as the mood takes you. From the bus terminus in Cathedral Square, buses run to every corner of the city. For an overview of the city, ride the Christchurch Gondola to the summit of Mt Cavendish on the Port Hills. For a unique view of the city, try a hot air balloon ride with Aoraki Balloon Safaris or a flight in a classic DC10 aircraft with Pionair.

Explorer Tourline and Christchurch Sightseeing Tours offer introductory bus tours of the city and surrounding areas, while Canterbury Leisure Tours also offers excursions to Kaikoura for whale-watching, pelagic bird-watching, and swimming with seals; Mount Cook/aoraki, the alpine thermal resort of Hanmer Springs; and the historic French settlement of Akaroa. A railway journey not to be missed is the TranzAlpine Experience, taking you across the mountainous spine of the South Island to the rain forest's of the West Coast.

Tour Two: Bike or Hike

Pancake-flat, Christchurch lends itself to exploring by foot or by cycle. The Historic Christchurch Walk takes you through some of the city's magnificent architectural heritage, while the Writers' Walkway lets you indulge in a more literary ramble of such famous local scribes as Ngaio Marsh. Take a stroll down Worcester Street, past the Arts Centre, the Canterbury Museum and the striking Peacock Fountain, and end up at the Botanic Gardens. Several short central city walks(around 45 minutes) are outlined in a brochure available from the Visitor Information Centre.

If you prefer an organized walk, Walkaway Tours offer several walks around the city and further afield to Banks Peninsula and the Southern Alps. Do-it-yourself explorers will find a wealth of walking tracks on the Port Hills—Godley Head Walk, Major Hornbrook Track, the Bridle Path—and on Banks Peninsula, Southern Bays Walkway, and Banks Peninsula Track- or far beyond the city limits at Geraldine, Peel Forest and Woolshed Creek.

The best way to explore the Avon River is to hire a bike, pack a lunch and set off downstream along the riverbank. A good starting point is Hagley Park where the river bends around the Botanic Gardens and past the Antigua Boatsheds. Take a Punt in the Park while you are passing time, before beginning the long, gentle meander to the Estuary.

Tour Three: Over the Hill

It is worth hiring a car for an excursion to the east coast, and over the Port Hills, where you will be introduced to some of the landscapes and historic places, which have defined Christchurch, from the central city drive, to Sumner Beach along the southern shore of the Estuary. Sumner is worthy of a day trip by itself, but before you begin the ascent of the Port Hills, take a detour to the top of Scarborough Hill. From the cliff top, one of New Zealand's great vistas unfolds, across the clustered houses of Sumner to Southshore Spit and the long northern sweep of Pegasus Bay leading away toward the distant Seaward Kaikoura Range.

For a change of scene, take the Evans Pass Road to the summit of the Port Hills and down the other side to Lyttelton. Stop here for a view of Lyttelton Harbour at Windy Point then carry on down to the town, past the Timeball Station. Lyttelton is full of interesting historic buildings—outlined in the Historic Walk brochure available from the Information Centre—and is a colorful working port.

You can return to the city via the Road Tunnel or carry on along the edge of Lyttelton Harbour, past Corsair, Cass and Rapaki Bays, to Governors Bay then take Dyers Pass Road back up to the Crater Rim. From the Sign of the Kiwi either

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descend to the city through Cashmere or turn right along the Summit Road which will bring you, eventually, back to Sumner.

Tour Four: Proud to be Green

Along with the formal gardens of Mona Vale, Millbrook and the Botanic Gardens, there are literally thousands of private suburban gardens to be admired in Christchurch. Garden aficionados can pick up a Garden Drive leaflet from the Visitor Centre and tour the city's plots, including the city cemeteries. Private gardens and heritage homes can be visited with Christchurch Sightseeing Tours.

Tour Five: Maritime Escapades

Canterbury Sea Tours offers a boat tour of Lyttelton Harbour while Christchurch Wildlife Cruises will introduce you to the harbor's unique marine fauna. You can swim with dolphins in Akaroa Harbour or take a cruise out to the Akaroa Heads with Akaroa Harbour Cruises. Aspiring mariners can even learn the ropes with the Jack Tar Sailing Co.

Tour Six: Thrills& Spills

Adventure buffs are well catered-for in Christchurch with activities to suit every adrenaline-charged whim. You can jump out of an airplane, be hurled skyward via a bungee cord, or take a ride on the Waimak Alpine Jetboat. Staunch thrill-seekers can experience terror and exhilaration at the same time rafting the Grade 5 rapids of the Rangitata River with Rangitata Rafts. Anglers will find fish aplenty in the turquoise waters of the Rangitata, Rakaia and Waimakariri rivers. Whether you are looking for adventure, a cultural experience or simply a place to unwind, you will likely find something to your liking in Christchurch. As the locals promise, there is something"fresh each day."
©

Travel Tips

Getting There

By Air

The Christchurch International Airport(+64 3 358 5029/ http://www.christchurch-airport.co.nz/) is the major gateway to New Zealand's South Island. The airport provides direct service and connections to domestic and international destinations from the following airlines:

Air New Zealand(http://www.airnewzealand.co.nz) Air Pacific(http://www.airpacific.com) Emirates(http://www.emirates.com) Freedom Air(800 600 500(from NZ only)/ http://www.freedomair.co.nz) Korean Air(http://www.koreanair.com) Origin Pacific(http://www.originpacific.co.nz) Pacific Blue(http://www.pacificblue.co.nz) Qantas Airlines(http://www.qantas.co.nz) Singapore Airlines(http://www.singaporeair.com)

A public bus service operates to and from the airport and the centre of Christchurch's. The bus runs every half hour M-F and at peak times on the weekends. Cost is reasonable at NZ$5 per person and the trip is around 30-40 minutes.

A shuttle bus is also available providing door-to-door service to all areas of Christchurch. Cost is NZ$12-18 per person and total trip time to the city centre is 20-30 minutes.

Taxis are readily on hand and service all parts of the city for a travel time of around 15-20 minutes and a fare of around NZ$25 to the city center.

Taxi Companies

Corporate Cabs Maxi Taxi

Rental car offices are located in the terminal building including:

Avis(http://www.avis.co.nz) Budget(http://www.budget.co.nz) Hertz New Zealand(http://www.hertz.com) Maui Rentals(http://www.maui.co.nz) Thrifty(http://www.thrifty.co.nz)

By Train

Tranz Scenic(+64 4 495 0775/ http://www.tranzscenic.co.nz) is New Zealand's only passenger rail service. The TranzCoastal route offers service from Picton to Christchurch. The train station is 2 km southwest of the city centre.

By Bus

InterCity Coachlines(+64 9 913 6100/ http://www.intercitycoach.co.nz) offers frequent daily coach service throughout all of New Zealand. The bus stops are located at Ritchies Travel on 123 Worcester St, outside the International Departure Terminal of the Christchurch Airport, at Christchurch Public Hospital, and at the Canterbury Information Centre on Worcester St.

By Car

State Highways 1 and 74 are major motorways into Christchurch.

Getting Around

There are several ways of getting around Christchurch including bus, shuttle, and tram.

All local buses(+64 03 366 8855/ http://www.metroinfo.org.nz) run out of the Bus Exchange on Columbo and Lichfield Streets and provide service throughout all of the city and surrounding areas. The Red Bus Explore Christchurch Day Pass(+64 03 379 4260/ http://www.redbus.co.nz) is a great way to explore Christchurch at a reasonable price. Passes can be purchased at Metro Information in the Bus Exchange or from the bus driver. There is also a Midnight Express Service that operates from midnight-4a.

Hop on the bright yellow electric shuttle that offers free service throughout the city centre. Pickup points are easily visible and are located at the Casino, Town Hall, Victoria Square, Cathedral Square and more.

The city also has a tramway(+64 03 366 7830/ http://www.tram.co.nz) that operates from Cathedral Square down Worcester to Rolleston and New Regent Street and ends up back at the Square. Buy tickets when boarding.
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Fun Facts

1. A fun fact is since an earthquake on 4th September 2010 we've been saying" **Our city rocks**!" A little different to the usual name;"the garden city"

2. A weird fact about my city is that the rest of NZ think we are" **one-eyed**" about our sports teams: not really weird as its true- we know they are the best!

3. A random fact about Christchurch is we have the oldest bridge in NZ. It's in **Victoria Square** – you will cross it to see the flower clock

4. An interesting fact about my city is one of our local famous women, **Kate Shephard**, is featured on the NZ ten-dollar note.

5. Our **Hagley Park** is the 3rd biggest city park in the world(behind Central Park, NY and Hyde Park, London.

6. Another fun fact is the first coffee shop, jail and post office were side-by-side in **Market Place.**

7. It's a weird fact(or an interesting one) that by 1900, the Avon River and the weeping willows were featuring on **postcards** of the city.

8. Although Christchurch is now the **biggest city** in the South Island, both Lyttelton and Akaroa were bigger than us until about 1860.

9. Christchurch only became a city because it had a **cathedral**, making it the first city in New Zealand,

10. A random fact is: when exhibitions were in vogue, Christchurch staged the **NZ International Exhibition** in 1906/7 – according to the programme"good suits made to measure cost 40 shillings"

11. Lyttelton was burned to the ground in 1870

12. Christchurch has been the departure place for the **Antarctic** for 100 years

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