

# ŌTAUTAHU CHRISTCHURCH

## TOP TEN THINGS TO DO



Christchurch Adventure Park  
Christchurch



Ōtautahi Christchurch is the South Island's largest city, the gateway to the Canterbury region and the perfect base for further exploring Te Waipounamu (the South Island), with an international airport providing easy access. The city boasts a blend of modern architecture alongside charming heritage buildings and the Ōtākaro Avon River meanders through its heart, surrounded by lush green spaces. It's a region rich in arts, culture, history, cuisine, and shopping. Plus nature is on the city's doorstep, with the mountains and the sea, all within a two-hour drive from the city.

### JOIN A ZIP OR JET ADVENTURE

This region is the ultimate hub for adventure, offering quick access to the Southern Alps for hiking, skiing, and biking. Just 10 minutes from the city, the **Christchurch Adventure Park** boasts New Zealand's longest and highest zipline, as well as the southern hemisphere's largest mountain bike park. Take in sweeping vistas from the 1.8-kilometre chairlift and experience a thrilling dual zipline tour through the valley. Or, join on an exhilarating jet boat ride with **Alpine Jet Thrills**, cruising past the cliffs of the Southern Alps and witnessing waterfalls merging with the mighty Waimakariri River.

### EXPLORE THE CITY'S SIGHTS

The best way to familiarise yourself with this pretty garden city, is to join a sightseeing tour. Jump on board a beautifully restored heritage **Christchurch tram** for an informative hop-on, hop-off tour to all the city's attractions. Float away on the Ōtākaro Avon River on Christchurch's most iconic experience, **Avon River Punting**. Glide over the city on a **Christchurch Gondola** trip up the Port Hills. Or, take off with **Garden City Helicopters**, or **Ballooning Canterbury** for prime sightseeing from above.

### CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE 'WILDLIFE' KIND

Meet some of Christchurch's cute and cuddly locals. Visit **The International Antarctic Centre**, next to the international airport to learn about the world of ice and snow, meet kōrora (little penguins), and even experience an indoor Antarctic storm. At **Willowbank Wildlife Reserve** you'll come face to face with some of Aotearoa New Zealand's native wildlife including the kiwi, kea parrot, tuatara reptile, kākā parrot, and rare takahē bird.

### SOAK UP THE FRENCH CHARM AND NATURAL WONDERS OF AKAROA

Spend a day or two in picturesque Akaroa, a charming harbourside French-influenced town, just a 90-minute drive from Christchurch. Dive into the world of the tiniest and most elusive Hector's dolphins on a swim tour with **Black Cat Cruises**, or a harbour cruise with **Akaroa Dolphins**. Observe the unique variant of kororā (little penguins): the white-flipped penguins, of **Pōhatu Penguins** in their natural habitat, or returning from sea on an **evening tour**. Delight in the company of the adorable alpacas at **Shamarra Alpacas**, you can hand feed them and don't forget to take a selfie too!



Christchurch Tramway



Ōtākaro Avon River



Shamarra Alpacas



Coffee culture and street art scene

## SAMPLE THE FOODIE SCENE

Discover Christchurch's vibrant dining scene. Along the Ōtākaro Avon River, **The Terrace** offers a collection of new bars and eateries to explore. **The Riverside Market** boasting over 30 global food outlets across two levels, is a must-visit, as is **Little High Eatery**, with its nine family-run food options in a funky marketplace setting. For a unique experience, book in dinner on the **Christchurch Tramway Restaurant**. Just 20 minutes from the city, you'll find historic **Lyttleton** and its lively café culture, with acclaimed restaurants and a bustling Saturday morning market.

## BE IMMERSSED IN A HUMMING ART SCENE

Explore Christchurch's dynamic art scene, from street murals to exhibitions, history, and theatre. Visit the **Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū**, featuring a diverse range of artworks from old masters to contemporary pieces. Wander through **The Arts Centre**, a collection of heritage buildings housing galleries, museums, and cozy cinemas. Embark on a colourful tour of Christchurch's inspiring global street art scene with **Watch This Space**.

## TAKE A SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY

Embark on one of the iconic train journeys available from Christchurch, **The Coastal Pacific** or the **TranzAlpine**. Departing from the Christchurch Train Station, ride the Coastal Pacific to Picton, where you'll be treated to breath-taking views of the majestic Kaikōura ranges. Alternatively, opt for the world-renowned TranzAlpine journey, which takes you through the awe-inspiring Southern Alps, enroute to the rugged West Coast town of Greymouth.

## HIT THE TRAILS

For urban hiking, explore **the Port Hills'** interconnected walking and cycling paths with stunning city and harbour views. Join a **Garden City Guided Cycling Tour** for a 2.5-hour ride through scenic reserves, including Hagley Park – New Zealand's largest public space. If you're seeking a more extensive biking experience, **the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail**, offers breath-taking day trips and multi-day journeys through New Zealand's highest peaks and pristine lakes. Be sure to check out **Adventure South NZ**, for fully inclusive guided cycle holiday options.

## EXPERIENCE MĀORI CULTURE AND STORYTELLING

Embark on a Māori cultural tour for a deeper understanding of Ōtautahi Christchurch's history. **Āmiki Tours** offer insights into Māori and early settler heritage, visit iconic landmarks and learn the stories of their ancestors, complemented by delicious local cuisine. Experience a **Waka on Avon tour**, paddling along the Ōtākaro Avon River in a hand-crafted waka (canoe), learning about its historical use in transport and trade. In Akaroa, on a tour with **The Seventh Generation** discover Akaroa's early Māori, French and European settler history with a knowledgeable local storyteller and ecologist.

## RELAX AND UNWIND

Finish up a busy day of activities with a visit to **He Puna Taimoana New Brighton Hot Pools**. Here, you can luxuriate in five therapeutic saltwater hot pools, followed by a refreshing plunge, or a peaceful session in the steam room and sauna. Or, opt for a **City to Sea + Soak tour** and take an electric bike ride along the Avon River Trail, followed by a rejuvenating soak at He Puna Taimoana.



City dining



TranzAlpine



Port Hills



Hagley Park



Waka on Avon



He Puna Taimoana