

# Christchurch

*The Garden City*

## *Scenic Drive Guide*



# Scenic Drives

This scenic self-drive guide enables you to explore, at your leisure, many fascinating sites in the Christchurch area, while viewing some of the most beautiful and spectacular scenery in the country.

There are three different drives, all start and finish at Our City O-Tautahi on Oxford Terrace. Cyclists may also find this guide useful and may wish to deviate from the main roads. For example, an entirely different perspective of Hagley Park can be experienced by using its many cycle-ways.

The first drive follows the Avon River, named by the pioneering Deans brothers after the River Avon in Scotland. The journey along the river leads you past sites of historical interest. Stop in the seaside suburb of New Brighton for a walk along the Pier, on the beach, or through the mall. The drive then weaves you back past important wetland areas, to the heart of the city.

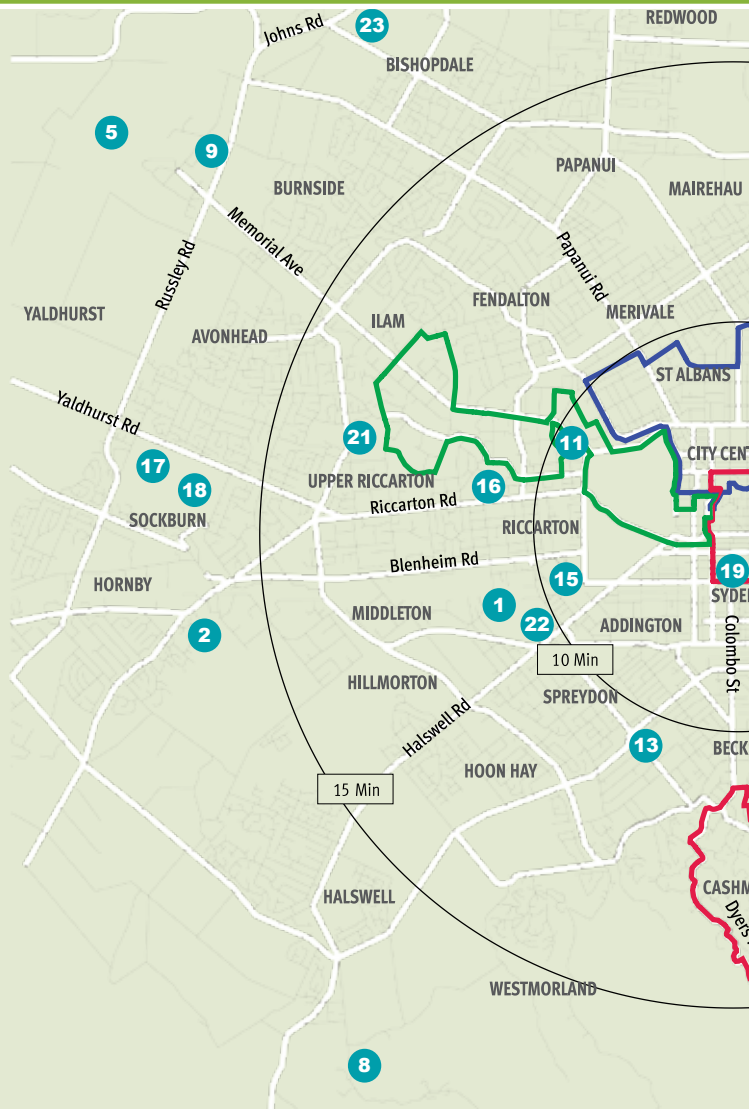


The second drive takes you from the central city, past sites of special significance, to the city's expansive Hagley Park, then leads you to elegant historic estates and ends near the city's Botanic Gardens. The Gardens feature many of the most beautiful and unusual trees and plants in the country, while situated close to the city's central business district.

The third drive marks the way from the heart of the city to the summit of the Port Hills, Christchurch's most prominent geographical feature. At the summit of the Port Hills magnificent views can be seen of Christchurch, the Canterbury Plains, Southern Alps, Lyttelton Harbour and Pegasus Bay. The drive carries on through the seaside suburb of Sumner and returns to the city centre past the wonderful Avon-Heathcote Estuary.



# Map - City Attractions



1. Addington Raceway
2. Air Force Museum
3. AMI Stadium
4. Christchurch Gondola
5. Christchurch International Airport
6. Cowles Stadium
7. Ferrymead Heritage Park
8. Halswell Quarry Park

9. International Antarctic Centre
10. Lyttelton Port - Harbour Cruises
11. Mona Vale Gardens
12. New Brighton Pier and Library
13. Pioneer Leisure Centre
14. Queen Elizabeth II Leisure Centre
15. Addington Railway Station
16. Riccarton House & Bush





- 17. Riccarton Sunday Market
- 18. Riccarton Park Raceway
- 19. Science Alive!
- 20. Tamaki Heritage Village
- 21. University of Canterbury
- 22. Westpac Arena
- 23. Willowbank Wildlife Reserve

- **Avon River Drive**  
32 kilometres, see page 8
- **Garden Drive**  
19 kilometres, see page 16
- **Port Hills Drive**  
46 kilometres, see page 24





# Welcome to the Scenic Drive Guide



*There are three different drives in this guide, all start and finish at Our City O-Tautahi on Oxford Terrace.*

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## **Our City O-Tautahi (1)**

This building was erected in 1887 as the former Christchurch City Council Chambers, and was the centre of local government until 1924.

Designed by architect Samuel Hurst Seager, the three storeyed brick and stone building features four different facades blending Gothic, Elizabethan and Dutch motifs.

It is now home to Our City O-Tautahi, a facility that provides exhibitions and displays examining past, present and future issues about Christchurch city.



# Avon River Drive

Distance 32 kilometres



## Edmonds Band Rotunda (2)



Across the Avon in Cambridge Terrace, the octagonally-shaped rotunda with its tall columns and copper dome is built in the Italian Renaissance style. It was a gift to the City from Thomas John Edmonds

(1853-1932), a successful businessman and founder of the Edmonds baking powder factory and gardens. It was one of eight band rotundas in the city by 1945, and was converted into a restaurant in 1987. In his bid to beautify the “Poplar Crescent” stretch of river bank, T.J. Edmonds also donated the distinctive clock tower, telephone cabinet and street lights further along the river near Madras Street.



## Avon Loop (3)

Over the Madras Street bridge the river winds around the Avon Loop. A cairn near the Barbadoes Street Bridge marks the site of the Bricks Wharf where many of the first

settlers chose their sections. Christchurch’s first commercial

*Map reference page 14*

buildings, including Wards Brewery, were also erected on this site. Today a cluster of remaining cottages overlook the picturesque Avon to the park-like setting of the old Barbadoes Street Cemetery.

## **Bangor Street Pumphouse (4)**

Bangor Street No 3 pumping house on the banks of the Avon resembles a miniature pavilion. The quaint little brick building was designed by the noted architectural firm of Collins and Harman and built in 1907. Two smaller versions were built on the opposite riverbank at Templar Street in 1911 and at Glade Avenue in 1914. The pumphouses still have an important role, collecting and pumping waste into the main sewerage system.

## **Beverley Park (5)**

On Avonside Drive, in the historical area called Englefield, you will find Beverley Park. A heritage rose garden was planted in August 2000 (in the southwest corner of the park and facing the northeast), to commemorate the Millennium and 150 years of European settlement in the area. The roses are old-world varieties, planted according to height, form and colour.

## **Avon River – Otakaro (6)**

This gentle river is one of Christchurch's most significant icons. It spans across 13 bridges within the four avenues and is



flanked by distinctive willows, poplars and other trees. Maori called it the Otakaro meaning “the place of a game”, and it was an important place for gathering food and materials for making textiles and medicines. It was also an important means of transport for both Māori and European.

## **Kerr's Reach (7)**

Kerr's Reach was named after pioneer Peter Kerr and his hospitable wife, whose house became a favourite stopping place for craft on the river. The river was transformed in 1950 when a cut was put through to create a rowing course for the Centennial Games. Canterbury Rowing Club (the oldest registered sports club in New Zealand) and other clubs then moved down river to the new course. Since then Kerr's Reach has been a training ground for many top rowers. A plaque on Fitzgerald Avenue Bridge depicts the history of rowing in Christchurch.

## **Porritt Park (8)**

The park was named after New Zealand's Governor General and Olympic athlete Sir Arthur Porritt and was developed for hockey in the early 1970s. The park now consists of twin artificial hockey turfs and stadium.

## **Amelia Rogers (9)**



The former home of Amelia Frances Rogers (Burwood Postmistress between 1891 and 1928) is marked by a plaque in a riverside reserve opposite Bathhurst Lane. From the reserve you can walk to the river through

artificial marshland created during the dredging of Kerr's Reach in 1995.

## **Cockayne Reserve (10)**

This 3.3 hectare nature conservation reserve is the last remnant of pre-settlement vegetation along this stretch of river. It is named after a leading New Zealand botanist and conservationist Leonard Cockayne (1855-1934), who established his Tarata Experimental Garden opposite the

reserve. The Bower Bridge marks the beginning of the Jubilee Walkway, which links with the Estuary Walk at Bridge Street.

## **New Brighton Mall (11)**

Christchurch's first Arbor Day planting took place in New Brighton in 1892 and the country's first surf life saving club was formed there in 1910. During the 1960s New Brighton flourished as Christchurch's only Saturday



shopping venue. Its centre has since been pedestrianised and is a great place to stop for a stroll amongst the shops and cafés.



## **New Brighton Pier and Library (12)**

The original New Brighton Pier, built in 1894, stood on the same site as the present concrete pier (opened in 1997), which stretches 300 metres into Pegasus Bay. The pier is a popular fishing spot and provides great views back over the city, especially at sunrise. Nearby stands the New Brighton Clock Tower, donated to the Borough of New Brighton in 1934 in memory of Edmund Green. He had arrived in Christchurch in 1859 to install New Zealand's first telegraph system in the South Island.

The New Brighton Pier building houses the New Brighton Library - situated right on the beach this is a library where you can sit and enjoy stunning ocean views.

*Map reference page 15*



## **North New Brighton Beach (13)**

North New Brighton Beach is one of the 12 beach parks managed by the Christchurch City Council. Sand dunes are being managed and planted to

ensure they act as a natural buffer between the forces of the sea, salt-laden winds, and urban areas. Beach access-ways have been developed to protect planting, and tracks have been formed for recreation use. A walkway exists among the sand dunes along the length of the coastline.

## **Queen Elizabeth II Park (14)**



QEII Park was built specifically for the 1974 Commonwealth Games and today is an impressive multi-sport and leisure complex which caters for family recreation through to elite sport performance and development. The Atlantis

themed leisure pool is fantastic for family entertainment. The themed aquatic facility includes a 40metre wave pool, lazy river, children's playzone and a 50metre lap pool. Spa, sauna, and café facilities are also available poolside. Adjacent is a golf driving range, 18 hole, and par three course, as well as mini-golf facilities.

## **Travis Wetland (15)**

Travis Wetland Nature Heritage Park is the largest remaining example of freshwater, lowland swamp in the region. Located in the midst of housing, the 112 hectare park was purchased by the Christchurch City Council in the 1990s

to provide a viable habitat for local pukeko and other wildlife. The urban park contains a number of species which are now rare on the Canterbury Plains, including the only substantial stand of

manuka. Other plants such as the spider orchid and native sundew are regionally vulnerable. A recently completed track provides an easy walk around the whole wetland.



## **Horseshoe Lake Reserve (16)**

As surrounding wetlands gradually disappear, this reserve is a reminder of a once common land type. This stretch of water, called Horseshoe

Lake, was probably once a meandering arm of the Avon River, cut off when the main current found a more direct route to the sea. The reserve offers a unique walking track through the wetlands.



## **Merivale Village (17)**

Surrounded by the affluent suburb of Merivale, the local shopping centre offers a range of restaurants and boutique shops catering for more exclusive tastes.

The area was named after “Merevale” farm, purchased by Mrs Charlotte Jackson who arrived from Rugby in 1851. Her original 40.5 hectare block had been named after a parish in Warwickshire, England.






# Map - Avon River Drive






1. Our City O-Tautahi
2. Edmonds Band Rotunda
3. Avon Loop
4. Bangor Street Pumphouse
5. Beverly Park
6. Avon River - Otakaro
7. Kerr's Reach
8. Porritt Park
9. Amelia Rogers
10. Cockayne Reserve
11. New Brighton Mall
12. New Brighton Pier and Library
13. North New Brighton Beach
14. Queen Elizabeth II Park
15. Travis Wetland
16. Horseshoe Lake Reserve
17. Merivale Village



**KEY FOR SYMBOLS:**

-  Bus Exchange
-  Public Hospital
-  City Council Libraries

-  City Council Service Centres
-  Leisure Centre / Swimming Pools
-  Malls and Shopping
-  Universities / Tertiary Institutes

# Garden Drive

Distance 19 kilometres



## Nurses' Memorial Chapel (2)

Built between 1927 and 1928, the chapel is believed to be the only purpose-built hospital chapel in the world which commemorates nurses who died in World

War I. In the attractive garden around the chapel medicinal herbs, roses, vines and other plants can be found.



## Hagley Park (3)

Covering 161 hectares, Hagley Park was declared a public reserve in 1856. Hagley Park is Christchurch's most significant city park and a major sporting and cultural

focal point, offering facilities for golf, netball, cricket, rugby, softball, hockey and soccer.

## Mona Vale (4)

Mona Vale is an historic Victorian homestead and was once part of the estate belonging to the Deans, Canterbury's first permanent European settlers. The house and garden date

*Map reference page 23*

from 1899, with additional land acquired and outbuildings constructed after the turn of the century. The property passed into City Council ownership in the late 1960s, with help from the public of Christchurch in raising funds for the purchase.



The elegant homestead and beautiful, well-established gardens have been further developed since that time and now provide a wonderful place for a walk among the graceful and tranquil surrounds.

Mona Vale house is now a restaurant and function centre, and is a relaxing place to stop for a cup of tea or coffee.

## **Riccarton Bush & Riccarton House (5)**

The Maori name for the bush is Putaringamotu (the place of an echo). Riccarton Bush is among the last remnants of lowland podocarp forest remaining in Canterbury.



The 6.4 hectare forest, which is open to visitors, features 400-500 year old kahikatea trees and ancient ti palms (cabbage trees).

Riccarton Bush is also important because it is the site of Canterbury's first permanent European settlers, William and John Deans of Scotland, who made Canterbury their home in 1843. They gave the name "Riccarton" to the area for their home parish, Riccarton in Ayrshire, Scotland. Their first permanent farm cottage was built in 1843 and still remains within the grounds, as does the homestead which was built between 1856 and 1900.

*Map reference page 22 - 23*



The grounds of the homestead also feature very broad specimens of some of the earliest exotic broadleaf and coniferous trees planted in Christchurch. Rest at the licensed café or participate in a guided heritage tour.



## University of Canterbury (6)

The campus of the University of Canterbury was progressively moved from its site in central Christchurch, in what is now The Arts Centre, to the Ilam campus

from the late 1950s through to the mid 1970s.

## Ilam Homestead (7)



This homestead was gifted to the Canterbury College by Edgar Stead, with the request that the wonderful azalea and rhododendron gardens he established be maintained in perpetuity. Set around two converging

branches of the Avon River, the gardens are a mix of introduced and native species. Exploring the many paths and bridges is particularly beautiful in spring.

## Jellie Park (8)

The 12 hectare park was donated to the city by Mr James Jellie. The park features heated indoor and outdoor pools and gym facilities set within landscaped grounds.

## St Barnabas Anglican Church (9)

This impressive stone church framed by fine copper beech and lime trees, was consecrated in 1926, as a memorial to men and women who died in World War I, on the side of the original St Barnabas, built in 1876.



## Millbrook Reserve (10)

Located opposite Little Hagley Park, Millbrook Reserve is a 0.4 hectare reserve which became a public park after the Helmore estate was subdivided in 1917. “River Bank” Owen, a prominent tailor renowned for his efforts to beautify the Avon, was the driving force behind the development of the reserve which opened in 1924.

Established trees planted by the Helmore family were supplemented with collections of other exotics and later a special area of New Zealand plants. A cedar and eucalyptus tree dominate the reserve and are among the tallest trees in Christchurch.

## North Hagley Park (11)

Hagley Park was set aside as a reserve in 1856. The first tree plantings were undertaken in 1863. Today, North Hagley Park is the venue for many outdoor concerts during the summer,



offers a nine hole golf course all year round and features a popular running track. It also provides an entrance into Christchurch’s beloved Botanic Gardens.

## Christchurch Botanic Gardens (12)



The Christchurch Botanic Gardens cover 31 hectares and feature broad avenues, attractive vistas, large trees, many beautiful floral features, statues, and conservatories encompassed by the meandering Avon River. The Gardens contain the finest single collection of exotic and indigenous plants in New Zealand representative of tropical to alpine regions. There is a visitor information centre, restaurant and café, as well as a play area for children, which includes a paddling pool.

## The Canterbury Museum (13)

Housed in one of Christchurch's finest historic buildings, Canterbury Museum has world class displays of geology, zoology, Maori, Asian and European collections. Other highlights are the late 19th century

Christchurch Street, the hands-on Discovery Centre for children of all ages, the world's top stories from Antarctica's heroic era of discovery and exploration, and *Living Canterbury*. The Museum's Exhibition Court features a range of changing special exhibitions.



## The Arts Centre of Christchurch (14)

This precinct of Gothic Revival buildings was formerly the home to Canterbury University College, first established in 1873. Christchurch's hub of arts and crafts, featuring

art galleries, craft studios and shops, theatres, cinemas, a selection of cafes, restaurants and bars and an exciting colourful weekend market and ethnic food fair.

The Arts Centre includes many places of historic note, including the oldest lecture theatre in New Zealand and Rutherford's Den, named for the New Zealand born Ernest Rutherford, who was known as the "Father of the Atom".



## Christchurch Art Gallery (15)

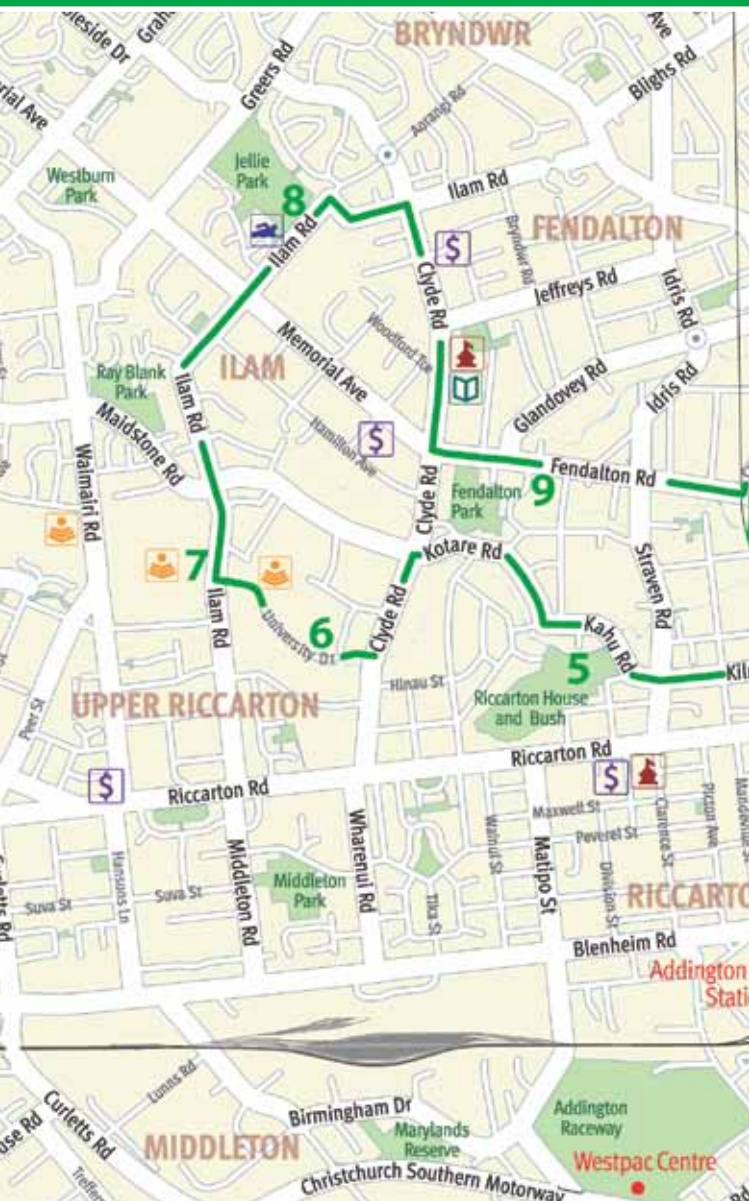
### Te Puna o Waiwhetu

Opened in 2003 the Gallery is the largest art institution in the South Island and replaces the Robert McDougall Art Gallery (est.

1932) as the home of one of New Zealand's most important public art collections. The new facility houses nine galleries with a vibrant programme of national and international exhibitions, shop, restaurant and bar.






# Map - Garden Drive




1. Our City O-Tautahi
2. Nurses' Memorial Chapel
3. Hagley Park
4. Mona Vale
5. Riccarton House and Bush
6. University of Canterbury
7. Ilam Homestead
8. Jellie Park
9. St. Barnabas Anglican Church
10. Millbrook Reserve
11. North Hagley Park
12. Christchurch Botanic Gardens
13. The Canterbury Museum
14. The Arts Centre of Christchurch
15. Christchurch Art Gallery  
Te Puna o Waiwhetu



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# Port Hills Drive

Distance 46 kilometres



## Edmonds Factory Gardens (2)



Thomas Edmonds (the manufacturer of the famous brand of baking powder) commissioned this garden around his new factory, built in 1923. The garden and factory, which featured on the cover of the best-selling

Edmonds Cookery Book, were a horticultural delight and won many awards in civic beautifying competitions.

The City Council acquired a major portion of the original Edmonds Factory Garden in 1991, after the building had been demolished and the property sub-divided. Since then, a rose garden and an oval garden have been added. The garden is well supported by the local community.



## Heathcote River – Opawaho (3)

The Opawaho was an important river for Ngai Tahu in the gathering of food (mahinga kai) and materials for weaving. Renamed by early European

*Map reference page 30*

arrivals, the Heathcote was used as a water thoroughfare for early Canterbury traders and settlers.

## **Sign of the Takahe (4)**

Completed in 1948, the Sign of the Takahe is a magnificent Gothic-inspired building, designed to satisfy the vision of Harry Ell, a prominent local eccentric, visionary and conservationist. Harry Ell formed a strong attachment to the plants and birds of the Port Hills, and sought to preserve them by establishing a number of reserves along the Port Hills. These reserves were to be linked by a summit road that would eventually stretch from Godley Head at the head of Lyttelton Harbour, right across Banks Peninsula to Akaroa Harbour. The Sign of the Takahe is set within the Cracroft Reserve which features native trees, shrubs and tussocks and a plane table that illustrates and names the peaks of the Southern Alps (including *Aoraki* Mount Cook, New Zealand's tallest mountain), which can be seen from this lookout.



## **Victoria Park (5)**

Considered the gateway to the Port Hills, Victoria Park has been popular for walking, mountain biking and as a picnic spot with Christchurch people since it was constituted a recreation



*Map reference page 30*

area in 1883. The area was officially named Victoria Park to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Facilities at the park include the Port Hills Visitor Centre and a memorial to the soldiers of the 19th Infantry Battalion and Armoured Regiment who fought and fell during the first and second world wars.



## **Sign of the Kiwi (6)**

The Sign of the Kiwi was designed by one of Christchurch's most prominent architects, Samuel Hurst Seager, and opened in June 1917. It serves as a tearoom and offers magnificent views of the

western part of Christchurch city and the Southern Alps. The Sign of the Kiwi is also an excellent place from which to begin one of the many walking routes along the Port Hills.

## **Rapaki Rock (7)**

This rock marks the path local Ngai Tahu took across the Port Hills, from the Canterbury Plains to Rapaki Bay in Lyttelton Harbour where a large Ngai Tahu settlement existed (and still does). Rapaki Rock is an example of the volcanic dykes formed by eruptions radiating from a central vent near Quail Island in Lyttelton Harbour. The now-extinct volcano forms the northern part of Banks Peninsula.



## **Castle Rock (8)**

### **- Te Tihi O Kahukura**

Castle Rock is another vantage point from which to see the city, as well as Pegasus Bay and the broad, sparkling Avon-Heathcote

Estuary. The Rock was familiar to both Ngai Tahu, who lived in and around Christchurch (Otautahi) and Lyttelton Harbour (Whakaraupo), and the early European settlers who struggled over the Port Hills from Lyttelton to settle in the new Christchurch.



A distinctive geological feature is that the rock is strongly magnetic. Because of the many facets and aspects of the rock, a uniquely diverse range of plant species abound within a very small area.

## **Bridle Path and Memorial to Pioneer Women (9)**

This hexagonal shaped stone memorial is to the courage of the European pioneer women who rested at the top of the path that led from the Port of Lyttelton. They had disembarked after a four month journey by sea from England to Christchurch,



and the arduous tramp over the Bridle Path, often carrying their children and possessions, was the only practicable route to Christchurch from Lyttelton. The Bridle Path still exists today and is a popular excursion for walkers.

## **Christchurch Gondola (10)**

At the top of Mount Cavendish sits the top station of the Christchurch Gondola. The building offers panoramic vistas of both sides of the Port Hills from its various viewing



platforms. Gondolas glide up to the top station from the Heathcote Valley below for visitors to enjoy the views and other attractions on offer. Situated in the building is a restaurant, souvenir shop and a Time Tunnel, which graphically illustrates the history of Banks Peninsula from the dawn of time to the present day.

## **Sumner (11)**

From Christchurch's early days, city residents have enjoyed coming to Sumner and neighbouring Scarborough beaches for their summer fun. The area is also distinctive for its two unusual rock features, Cave Rock (Tuawera) and Shag Rock (Rapanui). Stop for ice cream, a cold drink, coffee or even gourmet pizza at one of the local stores, restaurants and cafés.



## **Moa-bone Point Cave (12)**

Moa-bone Point Cave was occupied at least 600 years ago by the earliest inhabitants of Canterbury, the Waitaha people, who hunted the moa and took fish and shellfish from the estuary and Pegasus Bay.

*Map reference page 31*

## **Avon-Heathcote Estuary (13)**

The Avon's journey ends at South New Brighton where it merges with the Heathcote River in the Avon-Heathcote Estuary. Only 12km from the City Centre, the 880 hectare



estuary is a vast playground for many different recreational groups including yachties, windsurfers, kayakers, walkers and birdwatchers. More than 100 species of birds have been recorded there in recent years, with total numbers peaking at 32,000. Oystercatchers, herons and kingfishers add to the colour and diversity of the estuary and adjoining oxidation ponds. The waters and margins of the estuary provided a rich food supply to the tangata whenua (local Maori) including shellfish, flounder, birds and plant life.



## **Convention Centre and Town Hall (14)**

Now a bustling part of Christchurch's tourism and convention activities, this area was once a substantial settlement called Puari and was occupied by the Waitaha people from the 1500's.

# Map - Port Hills Drive



1. Our City O-Tautahi
2. Edmonds Factory Gardens
3. Heathcote River / Opawaho
4. Sign of the Takahe
5. Victoria Park
6. Sign of the Kiwi
7. Rapaki Rock
8. Castle Rock Te Tihi O Kahukura
9. Bridle Path / Memorial to Pioneer Women
10. Christchurch Gondola
11. Summer
12. Moa-bone Point Cave
13. Avon-Heathcote Estuary
14. Convention Centre and Town Hall

KEY FOR SYMBOLS:


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