

Christchurch  
The Garden City

# *Banks Peninsula Parks*



Christchurch  
City Council



# *Welcome to Christchurch and Banks Peninsula*

There's so much to see, do and enjoy in Banks Peninsula.

While Captain Cook's map of the South Island of New Zealand, plotted in 1770, was remarkably accurate, he made the mistake of charting and naming the landform protruding deep into the Pacific Ocean as Banks Island, after his botanist Joseph Banks.

Some 40 years later a merchant captain, endeavouring to find passage between the landform and the mainland discovered that it was a peninsula.

Today you can explore this giant ancient volcanic remnant with its deeply indented bays, wild beaches, striking mountains and intriguing geological and human history.

Within this publication you will find 21 sites containing trails and walks, heritage sites and contemporary amenities - feel free to visit as many as you like! Throughout the Peninsula there are many great spots to stop at along the way. Enjoy your time, and travel safely.



1

## Lyttelton Historic Area



### Lyttelton Information Centre, 64 London Street, Lyttelton

Lyttelton, the port of Christchurch, is an historic town featuring heritage buildings, a quirky shopping street, cafes, restaurants, bars, nautical museums and harbour cruises. The Information Centre in Oxford Street is packed with maps and information to help you make the most of your time, including historic and family walks within the town centre and walking tracks in the hill reserves. A delightful vista or place of interest will intrigue as you explore Lyttelton and its delightful residential bays close by.

**Getting there:** Drive through Lyttelton Tunnel, or over Dyers Pass Road and then left along the scenic Governor's Bay Road.

2

## Magazine Bay Reserve



### Magazine Bay, Lyttelton

In 1885 when the Russians invaded Afghanistan, all the colonial powers around the Pacific strengthened their coastal defences. View and appreciate the remains of these defences, enjoy a picnic, swim at the sheltered sandy beach, visit the Torpedo Boat Museum in the old powder magazine or enjoy a cliff top walk to Corsair Bay.

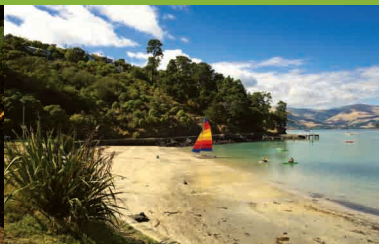
**Opening hours:** 1pm-3pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

**Entrance fee:** Adults \$5, Children \$1, Families \$10

**Getting there:** 30 min walk from Lyttelton township on sign-posted Torpedo Boat track. Drive to the end of Charlotte Jane Quay, then walk around the side of Naval Point Club and up a short track (2 mins).

3

## Corsair Bay



### Lyttelton Harbour Basin

Beautiful Corsair Bay is a safe swimming beach very suitable for children and young families. There is plenty of parking, changing rooms, picnic tables and a playground to make life easy. Enjoy a stroll in either direction along the coastal walking tracks to neighbouring Magazine Bay and Cass Bay.

Car parks are open from 7am to 9pm summer, 7:30am to 5:30pm winter.

**Getting there:** By road over Dyers Pass Road then left along Governor's Bay Road around the harbour. (Access road not named or sign-posted). On foot from walking tracks from Cass Bay, Magazine Bay and from Governor's Bay Road.

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## Cass Bay



### Lyttelton Harbour Basin

Ideal for entertaining children, Cass Bay offers three swimming beaches linked by a gentle walking track, the third of which is a child-size golden sand cove. Park at the playground and explore from there. Follow the beach to find the track to the little cove and carry on to Corsair Bay, or go in the other direction past the playground for a steep short walk to Pony Point on the hill above. Launch your own dinghy or kayak from the small boat slipway.

**Getting there:** Bayview Place off Governor's Bay-Lyttelton Harbour Road.



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## Rapaki



### Rapaki Drive, Lyttelton Harbour

Rapaki is home to the Ngāti Wheki hapu, an important Ngāi Tahu settlement for 300 years. Enjoy a swim at its beautiful beach. You may fish from the jetty but only with a customary permit from the Rapaki Mataitai Kaitiaka. The road to the beach is narrow and parking limited, the best option being to park on the main road and walk down to the beach.

**Getting there:** Rapaki Drive, turn off from Governor's Bay–Lyttelton Harbour Road.

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## Foreshore Road Walkway



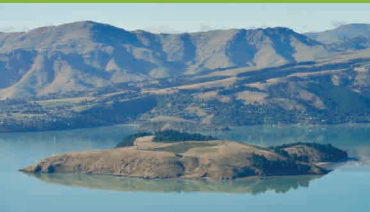
### 113 Governors Bay Road

The bridleway between Governor's Bay and Allandale was originally constructed by prisoners from Lyttelton Gaol. Today it is a part of the Lyttelton Harbour Head to head walkway and is a gentle 3.5km walk or cycle around the head of Lyttelton Harbour giving excellent views right out to the heads and Pacific Ocean. The walk can be started at either the Governor's Bay jetty or the Allandale Reserve. Parking is easier at the Allandale end where there is also a picnic area & toilet.

**Getting there:** Jetty Road in Governors Bay or Allandale on the Governors Bay-Teddington Road.

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## Ōtamahua/Quail Island



### Quail Island, Lyttelton Harbour

Quail Island is a perfect family outing with something for everyone - safe swimming, walking tracks and historic sites including pioneer quarantine barracks, replica leprosy colony huts, shipwreck graveyard and the site of Scott's Antarctic expedition quarantine kennels. Allow 1 hour to walk the Discovery Trail or 2.5 hours to walk around the whole island. Get there on a Black Cat cruise, run twice daily during summer, less frequently in autumn and winter. The Ōtamahua/Quail Island Restoration Trust are replanting areas of the island in native trees.

**Getting there:** Drive or take the #28 bus to Lyttelton Harbour B Jetty and take the Black Cat ferry. Ph 03 328 9078 [www.blackcat.co.nz](http://www.blackcat.co.nz)

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## Orton Bradley Park



### Charteris Bay, Lyttelton Harbour

Early ecologist Orton Bradley gifted his entire farm to the people of New Zealand in 1943. Now this beautiful place, with the oldest stone building in Canterbury, mature arboretum, rhododendron gardens, and adventure playground offers an ideal day out. An extensive network of walking tracks traverse the park, extending to the top of Mt. Herbert (931m). There is also an outdoor education centre and watch out for gala days and special events at the park. Overnight campervan stays allowed.

**Entrance fee:** \$5 adult, \$1 child, \$10 max per car load.

**Getting there:** Off the main Teddington to Diamond Harbour Road at Charteris Bay, Lyttelton Harbour.



### Waipapa Avenue, Diamond Harbour

Stoddart Point dominates the central headland in Diamond Harbour. Get there by car, or more fun – on the ferry from Lyttelton. Then enjoy a stroll in the Memorial Garden, kick a ball on the rugby field, or visit the charming Stoddart Cottage, a Category 1 listed historic building and birthplace of Margaret Stoddart, one of New Zealand's foremost flower and landscape painters. Enjoy a picnic with panoramic views across Lyttelton Harbour.

**Getting there:** Driving - Dyers Pass from Christchurch to Lyttelton Harbour. Turn right onto the Harbour Road, carry on to Diamond Harbour. Drive through Diamond Harbour and turn left into Waipapa Avenue. Ferry – Take 28 bus to Lyttelton B Jetty. Black Cat ferries depart regularly and take 8 minutes.



### Kaituna Quarry Reserve

The Rail Trail runs parallel to State Highway 75 from Motukarara to Little River. Allow approximately 2 hours to cycle the full distance one way, or do part of it by bike or on foot. The most spectacular section for a short trip starts at Kaituna Quarry. Park your vehicle in the car park beside State Highway 75 and enjoy wonderful views across Lake Ellesmere (Te Waihora) to the Southern Alps as you explore the quarried remains of the hill used to construct the railway embankments. Head east along the Rail Trail toward Little River on the embankment alongside Lake Forsyth.

**Getting there:** Drive on State Highway 75 to Kaituna Quarry Reserve.

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## Kaituna Valley Scenic Reserve



### Kaituna Valley Road

5kms off State Highway 75 is one of the only remnants of the grand podocarp forest that dominated the Banks Peninsula valleys in pre-colonial times. Although heavily grazed until the 1950s, this reserve boasts some large matai and kahikatea trees and the best stand of tītoki trees in Canterbury. There is a pleasant picnic area at the entrance and a short easy walking track making a circuit around this flat valley floor reserve.

**Getting there:** Turn off State Highway 75 on the Kaituna Valley Road. Reserve is approximately 5kms on left side.

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## Kaitorete Spit at Birdlings Flat



### Birdlings Flat Road

Stand at the edge of the Canterbury Plains and appreciate geology in action on a visit to Kaitorete Spit. Pebbles have been smoothed on their journey down rivers from the Southern Alps to the ocean and then pushed up as the currents are blocked by the volcanic cliffs of Banks Peninsula. Walk toward the cliffs to see how the shingle blocks the entrance to Lake Forsyth (Waiwera) requiring bulldozing to keep it open. The beach has grown in living memory - the lake entrance was still open when the first Europeans arrived on Banks Peninsula and Māori used it to access what is now Little River by waka.

**Getting there:** Turn off State Highway 75 on Poranui Beach Road. The road ends after 2kms at the beach.



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## Okuti Valley Scenic Reserve



### Reserve Road

This small reserve rises up the hillside from the babbling Okuti river and makes a pleasant side trip from Little River, either by car or bicycle. The podocarp remnant is dominated by mataī and tōtara trees with a good variety of lowland plants and native birds. The walking track starts on Reserve Road. Allow approximately 20 minutes to walk to the top of the reserve and make a loop return on the gravel Reserve Road.

**Getting there:** From State Highway 75 turn off just before Little River (coming from Christchurch). At the fork take the left branch, Okuti Valley Road. The reserve is on the left, just after the Reynolds Valley Road turnoff and next to the Little River campground at Manaia Native Habitat.

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## Little River Railway Station Area



### State Highway 75, Little River

Enjoy the historic railway station area while you take a break in Little River. Inside see the restored waiting room and enjoy the local crafts on sale. Behind the building is the platform and an old carriage and playground which children will enjoy. Take a short walk along the back road to the old railway marshalling area, now the beautifully planted Wairewa Heritage Park featuring a time capsule and picnic tables - all the work of a local voluntary trust. Discover other local crafts in the Gallery.

**Getting there:** State Highway 75, Christchurch to Akaroa Road.

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## Historic Akaroa



### 80 Rue Lavaud, Akaroa

Originally a French colonial settlement, Akaroa offers charming architecture and a vibrant mix of activities, eateries and walking opportunities. The town centre – once one of the most important places in the South Island is now a registered Historic Area. Call into the Visitor Centre on Rue Lavaud to learn more about local history, whaling artefacts, interesting walks in the town reserves, longer walks in the surrounding countryside and two self guided historic tours, including an audio tour.

**Getting there:** Take State Highway 75 to Akaroa. Drive yourself or take the Akaroa Shuttle or French Connection daily bus service.

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## L'Aube Hill - French Cemetery



### L'Aube Hill Reserve, Akaroa

Pick up a copy of the 'French Cemetery' walk brochure from the Akaroa Visitor Centre and then take a short walk in L'Aube Hill Reserve to see the first consecrated burial ground in the South Island. Relax in this tranquil setting and read about some of the people who founded the first town in the South Island of New Zealand. Continue through L'Aube Hill Reserve to the top for great views, or on to Rue Grehan to complete the French Cemetery circuit.

**Getting there:** Take Rue Brittan off Rue Lavaud (near the Recreation Grounds) and follow the signed walking track to the French Cemetery, about a 2 minute walk.

## 17 *Garden of Tane*



### 2 Onuku Road, Akaroa

Children, lovers of romantic graveyards and those looking for a gentle bush stroll will all enjoy the tranquil Garden of Tane, just 5 minutes walk from Akaroa's town centre. Sheltered by a canopy of exotic trees and regenerating native forest, the Garden is criss-crossed by a myriad of easy tracks leading to a playground, surprise views and two cemeteries. To make the most of your experience, pick up either the 'Garden of Tane' or 'Graves of the Garden' brochures from the Akaroa Visitor Centre.

**Getting there:** Main entrance is on the corner of Rue Jolie and Aubrey Street opposite Akaroa Hospital. Side entrances along Beach Road or through Public and Dissenters Cemetery, Onuku Road or Anglican Cemetery off Hempleman Drive.

## 18 *Britomart Monument & Takapuneke*



### 273 Beach Road, Akaroa

French hopes for a sovereign colony were dashed when the settlers spied the Union Jack flying on this site when they arrived in August 1840. It had been erected just days earlier by British magistrates who arrived on the HMS Britomart. The site offers wonderful views over the harbour and Takapuneke, a historic reserve recently gazetted to commemorate the massacre of local Ngai Tahu 10 years prior. The collusion of an English sea captain in this incident precipitated Britain to send its first Government Representative to New Zealand. The significance of these events is gaining it a reputation as the 'Waitangi of the South'.

**Getting there:** Walk or drive from Akaroa along Beach Road past the lighthouse. If driving, park near the Britomart Monument sign on the left hand side and walk the last minute up towards the monument.

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## Akaroa Heritage Park



### 280 Long Bay Road

The Heritage Park is high above Akaroa with wonderful views across the harbour. A tree can be planted here to commemorate any occasion and will then be looked after by a dedicated team of local volunteers. Enjoy a stop at the Heritage Park as you drive to the Summit Road, or even better walk up from Akaroa on the popular Woodills route and enjoy a picnic. Walking brochures are at the Akaroa Visitor Centre.

**Getting there:** Take Long Bay Road from State Highway 75. The Park is on the right hand side, about halfway to Summit Road.

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## Hinewai Reserve



### 908 Long Bay Road, Akaroa

Huge Hinewai Reserve creates a lovingly protected habitat for a range of native flora and fauna inhabiting a variety of environments from sea level to the summit of Stony Bay Peak at 800m. 15kms of walking tracks enable you to visit mature southern beech forest, a giant totara tree, waterfalls, the Otanerito beach or complete the Skyline circuit tramp from Akaroa over the peak. Pick up a Hinewai brochure from the Akaroa Visitor Centre, or at the Hinewai entrance see the walking tracks and plan your visit.

**Getting there:** Drive up Long Bay Road from Akaroa. To enter the top of the reserve, turn right on Brocherries Road (shingle road) to parking area at the end. For the main entrance, continue down Long Bay Road for another 2.5 kms. Entrance is sign-posted. Lower entrance is at the end of the Long Bay Road extension.



## 21 *Misty Peaks Reserve*



### **Misty Peaks - Shared Use Track**

Both walkers, runners and mountain bikers will relish this track high above Akaroa. The track is approximately 3kilometres long and traverses high between the top of Stony Bay Road and Flea Bay Road through Misty Peaks Reserve. Great lunch spots can be found to enjoy fantastic views over Akaroa Harbour, and east over bush clad valleys leading down to Pohatu / Flea Bay. The track is best done as a return trip from either the top of Stony Bay or Flea Bay Roads. Mountain bikers could consider riding up from Akaroa to enjoy an outstanding 15km loop with over 700metres climbing.

**Getting there:** Drive up Light House Rd and park at the entrance off Flea Bay Road. Alternatively drive up Stony Bay Road and park at the carpark at the top. The two Reserve entrances are clearly signposted.

## 22 *Okains Bay*



### **Okains Bay Main Road, Banks Peninsula**

Drive over to Okains Bay and enjoy exploring its historic precinct, river and beach. The bridge over the river in Victoria Park was built as a local community millennium project. Across the road is the family-friendly Okains Bay Māori and Colonial Museum – home to one of the finest collections of Māori artefacts in the country.

Walk along the river, explore the beach and the Domain reserve campground. Children will love the giant double flying fox and swimming hole at the lagoon. An excellent family day out to one of the Peninsula's most beautiful bays.

**Getting there:** From State Highway 75 take the Okains Bay Road. Victoria Park is at the start of the village area on the junction with River Road.



To enjoy your drive around Banks Peninsula make sure you allow plenty of time and take frequent breaks. We suggest you follow the routes suggested in this map and where possible stay on the sealed roads. If your destination takes you over a shingle road allow extra time for your journey.

**For further information:**  
 Christchurch traffic: [www.tfc.govt.nz](http://www.tfc.govt.nz)  
 Driving in New Zealand: [www.drivesafe.org.nz](http://www.drivesafe.org.nz)

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## *Further information:*

To find parks, walking tracks and other things to do around Christchurch and Banks Peninsula visit: [christchurch.org.nz](http://christchurch.org.nz) and [ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

Walks in the area: [bankspeninsulawalks.co.nz](http://bankspeninsulawalks.co.nz)

Christchurch 360 Trail: A 130km natural and cultural experience, encircling the city of Christchurch: [chch360.org.nz](http://chch360.org.nz)

Visit: [findchch.com](http://findchch.com), or scan this QR code to get the app (which can then be used without using your mobile data).



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**Website:** [christchurch.org.nz](http://christchurch.org.nz)

### *Christchurch i-SITE Visitor Centre*

Next to Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue. Open 7 days from 8:30 am  
PO Box 2600, Christchurch

**Phone:** (03) 379 9629

**Email:** [info@christchurchnz.com](mailto:info@christchurchnz.com)

**Fax:** (03) 365 0787

**Website:** [christchurchnz.com](http://christchurchnz.com)

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