

International Media Toolkit





Resources for Media:

Access Christchurch image gallery, video gallery and media resources via the ChristchurchNZ toolkit.

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ChristchurchNZ

Five Lanes at The BNZ Centre
Level 3, 101 Cashel Street
Christchurch 8011
New Zealand

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Ōtautahi Christchurch

Ōtautahi Christchurch is a city reimagined; a place for everyone, from everywhere. New Zealand's second largest city, this urban hub at the heart of the scenic South Island is stacked with street art and distinctive visitor attractions, serene botanic gardens and green spaces in every direction. Feel warmly welcomed by our world-class hospitality and diverse accommodation offerings, and marvel at our state-of-the-art architecture alongside the country's best heritage gems.

Explore by bus, e-bike, gondola, tram or punting boat, and walk around the vibrant central city to discover riverside markets and global cuisine, laneway shopping and rooftop bars. Wander among The Arts Centre, one of the most significant collections of heritage buildings in New Zealand, and follow the charming Ōtākaro Avon River as it meanders through beautiful gardens before continuing through the central city and out to sea.

Within easy reach of the city streets are beaches bordering the Pacific Ocean, the majestic Southern Alps, the sweeping Canterbury Plains, and arguably the world's most scenic ancient volcanic peninsula.

Home to spectacular experiences within the diverse Canterbury and West Coast regions, stay awhile as you discover all the magic our region has to offer. In the heart of Aotearoa New Zealand's South Island, discover Ōtautahi Christchurch; a city enriched in balance, where people and nature are at its heart.



Waitaha Canterbury Region

From the coastlines of Banks Peninsula, lush vineyards to sky-piercing mountains and pristine glacial lakes, Canterbury is a region of remarkable contrasts. It is a haven for those seeking peace and harmony, while also the thrill of new experiences and adventure.

Journey through the Southern Alps by train, marvel at the clearest night skies in the world's largest International Dark Sky Reserve or get up close with some of nature's finest sea creatures in Kaikōura – from a boat, plane or helicopter. See a diversity of species from giant sperm whales to pilot whales, orca and humpbacks.

Soak away the days in the hot pools of New Brighton, Hanmer Springs and Methven. Explore charming townships, boutique galleries and hidden bays in Akaroa and Banks Peninsula or enjoy the delights of the North Canterbury wine region or the vast natural beauty of Waimakariri.

Take in the magical turquoise lakes, powerful glaciers and magnificent alps of the Mackenzie district and Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park.

Experience the breath-taking scenery of Arthur's Pass in the Southern Alps on a train journey that starts in Christchurch and takes in internationally significant braided rivers and snow-fed lakes.

Highlights

Food & Drink



Foodies rejoice in the variety of kai – te reo Māori for food – from Waitaha Canterbury, within Te Wai Pounamu (South Island). From limestone bluffs to endless grassy plains, pristine shoreline or thriving native forest; the diversity of Canterbury’s landscape creates a cornucopia of produce all year round. We understand that kai brings people together, so we create time and space to connect over delicious food and our vibrant hospitality scene. Artisan producers and laneway hospitality precincts await in Ōtautahi Christchurch, rivalling the very best overseas foodie destinations.

From relaxed cafes and bars to romantic fine dining, our culturally diverse region has something to satisfy all tastes and budgets. Taste the best from across the city, feast on fresh and foraged local fare or sit lakeside and sip on perfectly paired wines.

With exceptionally talented chefs who have gained their skills the world-over, you can rest assured that your taste buds will be well looked after, with seasonal and locally sourced produce always on the menu. Whether you want to sit up close and personal with chefs as your feast is prepared or overlook the city as you enjoy organic wines and sharing plates, dining in Christchurch is an experience in itself.

For a more ‘hands on’ experience, attend a plant-based culinary school, or take part in an urban foraging tour. Learn from the best in the business as you cook up a storm in an interactive cooking class using seasonal, local ingredients.

Wildlife & Nature



Waitaha Canterbury is a playground of waterfalls and forests, lakes and wildlife. Meet the locals in their own habitat and connect with Papatūānuku – Mother Earth. Seek the harmony that is only found in nature, right here on the doorstep of Ōtautahi Christchurch city.

In the Central South Island, wildlife encounters are never too far away with zoos and wildlife parks in the urban centre and the chance to get up close to critters in their natural habitats. Cuddle with alpacas on a private farm with panoramic views of the Banks Peninsula’s rolling hills behind you or view a penguin colony in tranquil surroundings. For memories you will never forget, spot rare endemic native species and lend a hand helping these critically endangered critters back from the brink.

Launching from a historic French village, Akaroa, glide through the belly of an extinct volcano alongside the Hector’s Dolphin – the world’s rarest and smallest oceanic dolphin, found only in the South Island. With upstairs terraces and 360-degree views, you won’t miss out on getting an epic shot of the dolphins playing near the sparkling water’s surface of the Akaroa Harbour onboard a catamaran.

You don’t have to head into the high-country hills for an adventure worth telling friends about. The Awaroa Godley Head loop track rises from Taylor’s Mistake beach and hugs clifftops past heritage baches and penguin nesting sites. The track finishes at the Awaroa / Godley Head, home to enormous headland and coastal views. Loop back to Taylor’s Mistake or take another track along the Port Hills and find yourself anywhere along the southern edge of the city.



Landscapes

Adventure-ready, awe-inspiring landscapes are right on Christchurch's doorstep. Take to the air or hop on a bike to experience the thrill of views from the ocean to the alps.

Nicknamed the 'Playground of the Gods', Whakaraupō, Lyttelton Harbour is a natural amphitheatre formed by the extinct volcano that created the Banks Peninsula and two inlets over 15 million years ago. The natural caldera features many secluded bays, each as charming as the next. Explore the harbour on a number of walks, scaling the Bridal Path or Rapaki summit, or Mt Herbert to the South East. Meander Diamond Harbour round to Purau or stretch those legs to the expansive Orton Bradley Park. Finally, get your dose of history upon Ōtamahua - Quail Island, with its shipwrecks, colonial quarantine station, wildlife sanctuaries and Antarctic heritage.

Formed from the same ancient volcano was Akaroa, a romantic colonial French settlement with sweeping harbour views and a hilltop vantage point to take it all in. The Port Hills are one of the city's gems and best loved landscapes, with their signature skyline providing the scenic backdrop for Ōtautahi Christchurch. Whether it's beautiful views of the city or Lyttelton harbour you're looking for, you'll find it here. With scenic road and off-road cycling trails, alongside short and long walking tracks for all to explore, the Port Hills provide the perfect place to perch atop the city.

Arts & Culture



Alongside the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū and monumental Ravenscar Museum, culture is woven through Christchurch, its galleries and public art, Māori experiences and off-the-beaten-track museums. An ever-evolving cityscape and the combination of historic structures versus new modern buildings that work in harmony to create a vibrant destination.

Gain a deeper insight into New Zealand's Māori culture and heritage by venturing into rugged mountains and sparkling coastlines, talking to real people sharing real stories. Take part in a guided tour to learn about Ōtautahi's Māori and early settler heritage combined with the city's most delicious fare, as you're guided through iconic landmarks and hidden historical gems.

Paddle on a traditional hand-crafted waka, learn about Māori astronomy or discover 600-year-old rock drawings. Māori culture is woven throughout Ōtautahi with experiences and guided tours that will help you grow a deeper understanding of the region.

Christchurch is a global street art capital in its own right. Spend your days wandering the city's many laneways, discovering creative murals that decorate the buildings. There is no need to rush, in Christchurch we make time and space for quiet moments of wonder. Take part in one of many art tours, via foot or bicycle to learn about the history of urban art, the artists and inspiration behind their works. Christchurch's vibrant art scene is visible throughout the streets and public spaces of the city with lively painted murals and art installations.

Outdoor Adventure



The Central South Island is made for creating moments of joy, especially when you get outdoors to play in the rolling countryside, lush green spaces, brilliant blue waterways, and dynamic alpine environment. In Christchurch, you're spoilt for choice when it comes to adventure and day-trip destinations. Take to the skies by balloon or scenic flight or ground yourself with an adrenaline-filled activity.

Whether you're seeking a thrill on New Zealand's longest zipline, enjoying a scenic gondola ride, or mountain biking in the hills, the best way to immerse yourself in the city is by getting involved in the action.

Hike to stunning waterfalls, harness the power of the wind on a blokart, get the blood pumping with a jetboat ride or white-water rafting trip, or during the winter seek untouched snow and visit one of Canterbury's many ski fields. There's something for every energy level. Diverse landscapes and outdoor-loving culture make Canterbury the ultimate playground for explorers and adventurers.

Experiences

Christchurch is just the beginning. Mountains slope down to seaside villages, hidden bays at every turn, nature retreats amongst vast bushlands, and at the heart of it all, a city that offers everyone that perfect balance. A treasure trove of experiences awaits you on the doorstep of Ōtautahi Christchurch. With a myriad of rich experiences, no matter where your interests lie or what stage of life you're at, this city delivers in spades.

See and experience the best of Christchurch by immersing yourself in its heritage, activities and engaging with its people. Tick off this bucket list adventure by travelling to the Central South Island, a place with opportunities for every travel time length, price point and desire.

Peruse the provedores of local farmers' markets held in the city and surrounds on Saturdays. Enjoy a buzzing atmosphere in a charming historic setting at Riccarton Farmers Market or explore the seaside vibe at port town Lyttelton and the Lyttelton Farmers' Market with buskers and restaurants serving up local specialities. Venturing out of town? Take a trip north and delve into the bread-basket of the region with meats, cheeses, fruit and vegetables alongside superb coffee, local wines and goodies to enjoy while you're strolling around.

The International Antarctic Centre opened in 1992 at the International Antarctic Programme's working campus and created a visitor experience pairing adrenaline and entertainment with inspiration and education.

As one of only five gateway cities to the frozen continent, Christchurch has a rich history of exploration and adventure, a pioneer spirit and bold ambition to go beyond the known world. One of the areas key attractions, The International Antarctic Centre, opened in 1992 at the International Antarctic Programme's working campus and created a visitor experience pairing adrenaline and entertainment with inspiration and education.

The region is passionate about sharing and celebrating Christchurch's connection to Antarctica with the world, with the aim to educate and encourage visitors to focus on its environmental protection.

Whether by air, land or water – experience Christchurch your way with one or all of these must-do Christchurch attractions. Be guided around the city aboard a heritage tram and their knowledgeable drivers through old, restored or entirely brand-new parts of the city. Take to the Ōtākaro Avon River with your own Edwardian-dressed punter and wistfully meander the iconic river as your guide retells the city's stories. Or head for the hills and see the city from the sky from the Gondola and hilltop café – they're iconically Christchurch and a fantastic experience for all ages.





Architecture & Design

Many would agree that the best way to explore the city is through its architecture and design, learning about the stories behind some of its special and iconic buildings. Discover Christchurch's heritage through its buildings, both new and old, with many hidden gems to explore.

Tūranga has reinvented the word 'Library'. Designed with input from the city's children and a multi-cultural narrative woven throughout, the central library is the centrepiece of the earthquake rebuild and a beacon of the city's diverse and inclusive future. With exterior flashings of gold, seemingly movable staircases, arguably the best views in town and fun spaces to explore on each floor, regardless of your age, no trip to Christchurch is complete without a visit to the library.

Located in the historical heart of Christchurch, The Arts Centre has been extensively restored — the twenty plus heritage buildings constructed in the distinctive gothic revival style are like a time warp back to the industrial birth of the city as we know it today.

The Great Hall and Rutherford's Den have undergone an incredible restoration bringing the over 135-year-old heritage buildings back to life. Shop at the growing number of boutique shops and galleries, wine and dine at food outlets, catch a movie or experience the wide range of on-site events. Lumière Cinemas located in the West Lecture building, is a sophisticated boutique theatre experience offering state-of-the-art technology with vintage ambiance and luxurious seating.

The city's Christchurch Cathedral is being lovingly restored after being severely damaged by the 2011 quakes. Its reinstatement will see it restored to its former glory in Cathedral Square where it will breathe new life and vibrancy into the heart of our city for generations to come. Once complete, the Christchurch Cathedral rebuild will feature a reinstated stone Cathedral and Bell Tower — with a viewing platform, a Visitors' Centre — with a cafe and visitor experience, and a Cathedral Centre — providing space to support the wider community.

Transport yourself to another era as you experience Christchurch's famous New Regent Street, a colourful pedestrianised street built in the early 1930's with Spanish Mission style architecture. Here you will find an eclectic mix of hospitality offerings, everything from a fine dining restaurant, dive bar, and gelato cafe to a cocktail and whisky lounge. Sit outside as you sip on a drink and watch the charm of the street come alive as the Christchurch tram makes its way down the middle.

Relaxation

Find your zen and take a break in Christchurch, where hot pools and wellness reign, alongside serene walking tracks weaving around mountains and rivers. Slow down and appreciate nature by grounding yourself in the now whether taking a hike or yoga class.

Relax and let your thoughts drift away as you punt down the Ōtākaro Avon River or take a stroll through the world-famous Hagley Park and renowned Botanic Gardens. An activity for nature enthusiasts of all ages, the Botanic Gardens feature the best examples of native and exotic flora in New Zealand, and a bite at the Ilex cafe is a must-do activity for any season. For those who wish to meander further, explore the blooming meadows of Hagley’s north and south parks. See daffodil carpets, cherry blossoms, centuries’ old trees and rambling fields in one of the world’s largest central city parks.

Spend the day at stunning hot pools with beach side views, the ultimate in pampering and relaxation. Shake off the winter blues with a sunrise soak and watch the first golden rays of the sun edge above the eastern horizon. A great way to gear up for more adventure that awaits you in Ōtautahi.

Take relaxation to the next level by indulging in some retail therapy on your travels in Christchurch. Explore the many shopping districts, laneways and boutiques of Ōtautahi Christchurch to find one-of-a-kind fashion, locally designed items and unique gifts. Browse The Laneways of the Crossing, a newly emerged retail hub in the heart of the city or wander to High Street for a mix of local and international brands. Surrounding the food mecca Riverside Market, you’ll find cute laneways that are home to boutique stores well worth a visit.

Accommodation

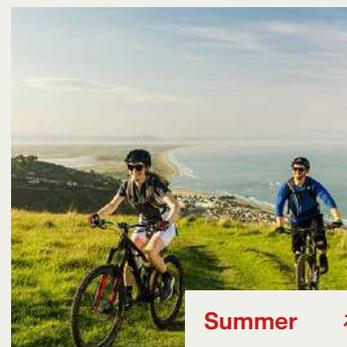
Ōtautahi Christchurch makes you feel right at home with an array of memorable stays, from undisturbed and remote accommodation within nature’s reach to central city design-led boutique hotels. Unwind in a sustainably minded oasis with eco-options perfectly suited to the conscious traveller. Soak up the beauty of dramatic natural landscapes in a remote glass pod and wait for the sun to set to reveal Canterbury’s breath-taking night sky or sleep ten metres above the ground in a canopy tree house.

From laid-back to luxury, travelling solo to a family holiday, there is an accommodation option to suit all tastes and budgets.



Seasonal Guides

Make the most of a city and region full of seasonality. Long days in summer, vibrant colours in autumn, crisp clear days in winter and acres of beautiful blossoms in spring. Ōtautahi has something spectacular in every season.



Summer ↗



Spring ↗



Autumn ↗



Winter ↗

Explore the city by season by clicking on each tile



**Our Region;
On Our Doorstep**



Akaroa & Banks Peninsula

Banks Peninsula is one of New Zealand's most unique landforms. With endless hills, bays and hidden bush, this is nature's playground right on Christchurch's doorstep.

Delight your tastebuds as you discover the delectable tastes of the area, with local specialty products including artisanal breads and cheeses, pickles, jams and preserves, beers, wines and spirits.

Akaroa and its surrounds are steeped in Māori and settler history, adventures and unique experiences. Take to the water to see the rare Hector's dolphin or New Zealand's largest little penguin colony – there's plenty of wildlife to get up close and personal with. Only a short drive from Christchurch, you'll feel like you're in another world.



Waimakariri

Only 20 minutes north of Christchurch is a region of vast natural beauty, slower paced country downs, and beach settlements offering their own unique experience.

Waimakariri is home to more than 10kms of beach, two conservation areas in the foothills of the Southern Alps, two regional parks, wetlands and lakes, all with cycling and walking tracks ready to explore.

Check out the braided rivers for fishing and jet boating, golf courses for a lazy Sunday, and charming towns and character villages brimming with cafes and boutique eateries.



Hurunui & Hanmer Springs

A place of relaxation and adventure for generations, Hurunui and Hanmer Springs is a premier Canterbury destination. Rugged coastlines, lush forests, thermal pools, and wineries – this area is popular year-round.

Explore the Hurunui Alpine Pacific Touring Route to take in the best of the region, including the alpine resort of Hanmer Springs. Stop in at one of the many wineries in the North Canterbury Wine Region.

Combine family-owned vineyards with an innovative approach to viticulture and close proximity to Christchurch, you've got the North Canterbury wine region. With more than 90 vineyards, a variety of soil types makes for a varied range of wines but all are expressive of their home.

Traverse the area by foot or mountain bike, take a dip in award-winning hot pools, and sample the best local produce surrounded by mountains, forests and crisp air.



Kaikōura

Few places in the world can boast of such natural wonders as those offered by land and sea in Kaikōura. Kaikōura is the northern-most district within the Canterbury region and is easily accessible with a 2.5hr drive from Christchurch. The name 'kai-kōura' literally translates to 'meal of crayfish' – a local delicacy – and when you get there, you'll understand why. Rich in sealife diversity, eat fresh seafood from shoreline food trucks or hop aboard a boat to whale watch, seal spot and dolphin dive!

Kaikōura has a captivating history and remnants of early Māori and European settlement remain throughout the region. Visit Kaikōura Museum or the historic Fyffe House to learn about Kaikōura's whaling history. For the more active, the Kaikōura Peninsula Walkway is a great way to explore the area. Information panels along the walk highlights the history of the local people, geology and marine environment that makes Kaikōura so unique.



Mid Canterbury & Methven

From the Southern Alps to the Pacific Ocean, with stunning snow-capped Mt Hutt and bordered by uniquely braided rivers and crystal-clear lakes, Mid Canterbury offers an inspiring range of activities, complemented by genuine New Zealand hospitality.

Within an hour of Christchurch, explore skiing and snowboarding, white-water rafting and jetboating, skydiving, hiking and mountain biking.

High country lakes lure fly fishers, hot air ballooning provides a bird's eye view of a varied landscape, and 4WD adventures take you high into the wilderness.

As one of the largest ski areas in New Zealand, Mt Hutt is the perfect destination for adrenaline seeking snow enthusiasts, providing beautiful views over the Canterbury Plains.



Selwyn & Arthur's Pass

The Selwyn district stretches from the Southern Alps to the sea and is bound by the braided Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers providing a variety of breath-taking scenery along the way.

Take time to experience Selwyn's local cafés, farmers' markets, wineries, country gardens and lodges. Meet local artisans and taste their fresh produce crafted from the land.

Explore one of the many walking and cycling tracks from the peaks of Arthur's Pass to the shores of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. Take in the stunning night skies by gazing up at the stars, with crystal clear views of star clusters, planets and galaxies.



Mackenzie

Clearest starry skies, highest mountains, vivid turquoise lakes, expansive golden grasslands - welcome to the Mackenzie Region!

Home to Aoraki/Mount Cook and Lake Tekapo, this region is one of the most photographed and visited in all of New Zealand. Take a scenic flight into the mountains and land on glaciers; enjoy stargazing within the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve; explore the beautiful landscape by cycling, walking, kayaking, swimming, skiing and more.

Stay in boutique accommodation, eat local cuisine, and smile at the genuine Kiwi hospitality you'll find all around you. This is a landscape that stays in your memory forever - truly one of New Zealand's most cherished treasures.



West Coast

Between towering mountains and the crashing sea, the West Coast is bigger than anticipated and greater than you thought. If you yearn for something more from your holiday, real people, real towns and real experiences, then this is the place for you.

Wind-buffed coastlines, rainforests as far as the eye can see and pounamu-green rivers make Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast of the South Island) a perfect side trip for adventurous travellers from Ōtautahi Christchurch who love a road trip.

Embrace the outdoors by experiencing natural wilderness at its best with world famous glaciers and untouched landscapes.



South Canterbury & Timaru

A destination for families, foodies and adventure seekers, Timaru and South Canterbury are stacked with beautiful outdoor environments. From coastal trails to sub-alpine hiking tracks, there's something for everyone. Discover the serenity and country charm of the region that will leave you feeling connected with nature.

Explore ancient Māori rock art, history and heritage, outdoor adventures, fabulous fare, and great Kiwi hospitality,

Canterbury Region South Island, New Zealand

Banks Peninsula & Akaroa
90min drive from Christchurch

Kaikōura
2.5hr drive from Christchurch

Waimakariri
20min drive from Christchurch

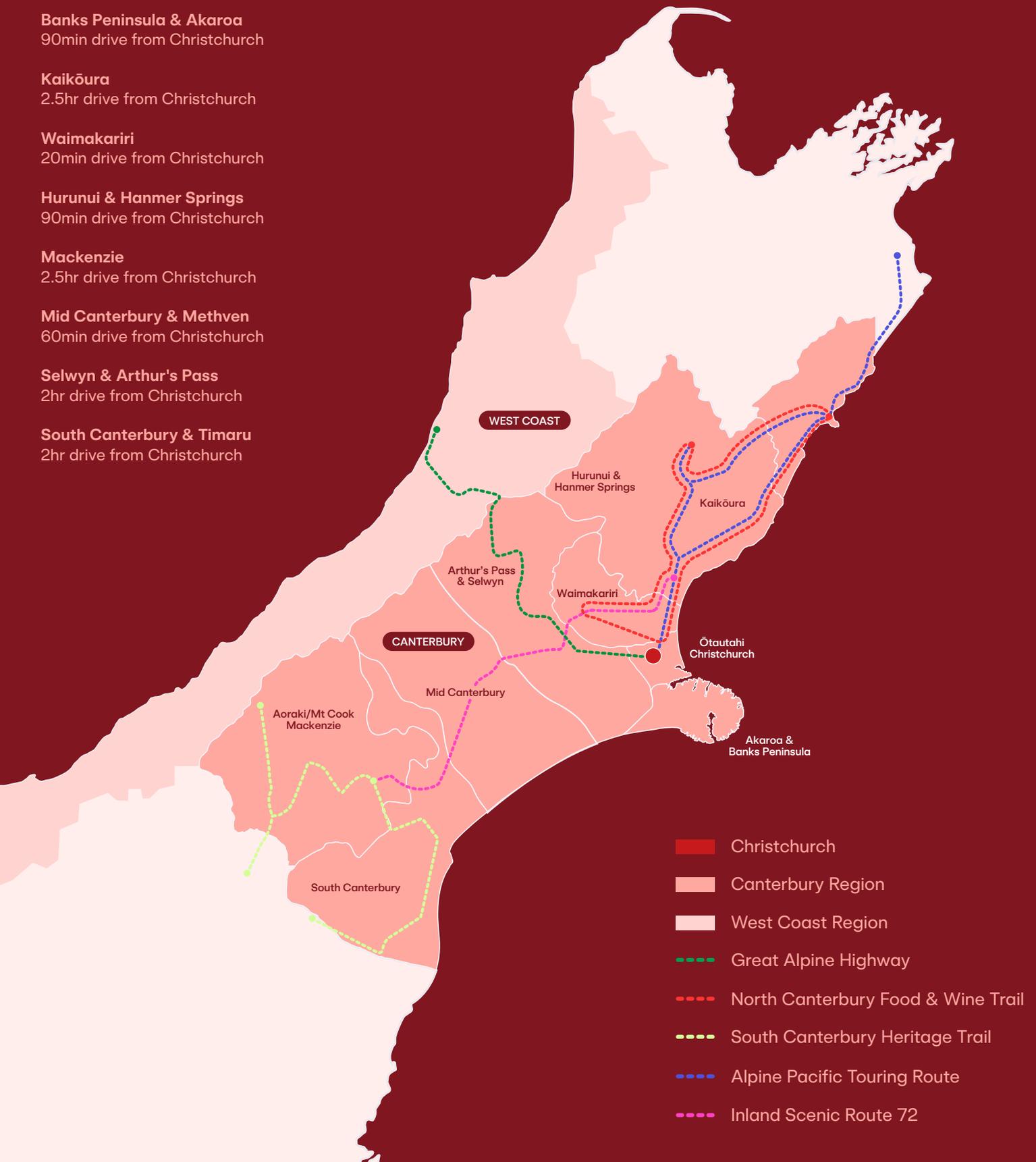
Hurunui & Hanmer Springs
90min drive from Christchurch

Mackenzie
2.5hr drive from Christchurch

Mid Canterbury & Methven
60min drive from Christchurch

Selwyn & Arthur's Pass
2hr drive from Christchurch

South Canterbury & Timaru
2hr drive from Christchurch



- Christchurch
- Canterbury Region
- West Coast Region
- Great Alpine Highway
- North Canterbury Food & Wine Trail
- South Canterbury Heritage Trail
- Alpine Pacific Touring Route
- Inland Scenic Route 72



