Waitaha Canterbury Overview

(updated February 2022)

Canterbury overview

From lush vineyards and wild coastlines to sky-piercing mountains and pristine glacial lakes, Canterbury is a region of remarkable contrasts and a haven for those seeking incredible scenery and adventure.

From Ōtautahi Christchurch, you'll find the sparkling Pacific Ocean, the majestic Southern Alps and an ancient volcanic peninsula all within driving distance.

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

Soak away the day in numerous hot pools, from New Brighton to Hanmer Springs to Methven, explore charming townships, boutique galleries and hidden bays in Akaroa and Banks Peninsula or enjoy the delights of the North Canterbury wine region.

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

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