



AKAROA, NEW ZEALAND

Akaroa is a small French township in the Canterbury region of New Zealand's South Island. See rare Hector's dolphins swim in the wild, and visit the Akaroa Museum to learn more about the region and its 19th Century British and French colonial history. 75km from Christchurch

KEY INFO

Currency: NZ Dollar (1 USD = 1.6 NZD)

Population: 624 (5.12 million NZ)

Emergency #: 111


Drinking water: Tap water is drinkable

Time Zone: GMT+13 (Sep-Apr) / GMT+12

ID Requirements: Photo ID

Languages: English, Māori

Drive on the: Left

Pharmacy: Akaroa Pharmacy, 55 Beach Rd 

Protection: Bug Spray & SPF 30+

Wi-Fi: Akaroa Library, 141 Rue Jolie

Post Office: iSITE Information Centre, 61 Beach Rd 

PORT LOCATION

Ships anchor off the coast of Akaroa. A 20-minute tender ride terminates at the Main Wharf pier

Getting Around: Akaroa is very compact, and everything is within walking distance.

For taxis, dial 03 304 7784 (Danny's Taxi)

Tourist Bus: There is no Hop-On Hop-Off bus in Akaroa

Port Facilities: None

Port Address: Main Wharf Pier, Beach Road 

AKAROA HIGHLIGHTS

Akaroa town center is small and cozy, making it easy to walk around and explore by foot. The French food here is especially renowned.

Akaroa Museum: Sharing the history of the Banks Peninsula, this diverse collection includes archives, photos, art, textiles, technology and more. Located in the historic Langlois-Eteveneaux cottage, the museum extends into the heritage Akaroa Court House and Custom House. 10:30a-4:30p | Free

 <https://akaroamuseum.org.nz/>

The Akaroa Cooking School: Known regionally for its top-quality food, Akaroa is the perfect spot to learn to cook. Book into a class at the local cooking school. From \$270

 <https://www.akaroacooking.co.nz/>

Hector's Dolphins: A variety of tour options introduce you to this delightful dolphin – the smallest and rest dolphin species in the world. Take a scenic cruise or even jump in and swim with them.

Scenic Cruise: \$110 | Dolphin Swim: \$219

 <https://www.akaroadolphins.co.nz/> or <https://blackcat.co.nz/>

Akaroa Heritage Park: Just on the edge of town is this hilltop park with breathtaking panoramic views. 24 hours | Free

 <https://www.christchurchnz.com/explore/getting-around/akaroa-nature-s-playground>

For more: www.christchurchnz.com, www.newzealand.com

 card payment accepted

 cash payment accepted

Akaroa Lighthouse: Hexagonal wooden lighthouse, first erected (on another site) in 1878. It more to its current site at Cemetery Point in 1977, when it was operationally replaced by an automatic lamp.

1p-3p (Sat-Sun) | \$ Unknown

📍 www.akaroacivictrust.co.nz/fastpage/fpage.php/link/1/templateid/76/tempidx/2/menuid/1

Garden of Tane: Nature reserve just on the edge of town. The reserve fell into disrepair for a while and since 2010, locals have been working hard to restore the large site to its full glory. 24 hours | Free

📍 www.gardenoftane.co.nz

The Giants House: The self-dubbed 'happiest garden on Earth', this ethereal mosaic garden has distinct Gaudi vibes, and fans of Gaudi's house in Barcelona should definitely make a visit.

11a-4p (Oct-Apr), 11a-3p (May-Sep) | \$35

📍 <https://thegiantshouse.co.nz/>

Hinewai Reserve: Offering days-worth of trails, this 1250-hectare private reserve is a highlight of any nature-lover's visit to the area. 24 hours | Free

📍 <https://www.hinewai.org.nz/>

TOP IN CHRISTCHURCH

If you make the 90-minute journey to Christchurch, you'll be rewarded with one of New Zealand's brightest cities. The country's second-largest city was devastated by an earthquake in 2011, and the rebuilt city is really wonderful to explore, with punting on the Avon as a fun summer activity.

International Antarctic Centre: Christchurch was the site of the main supply depot for the US Antarctic base. Discover more at this informative museum attraction. 9a-4:30p | \$69

📍 <https://www.iceberg.co.nz/>

Canterbury Museum: Located in the city's Botanic Gardens, this museum has been a Christchurch landmark since 1867. Telling the natural and social story of the region. 9a-5:30p | Free

📍 <https://www.canterburymuseum.com/>

Quake City: The place to discover the impact of earthquakes on the city, and suitable for all ages. See treasures rescued from the rubble and learn about the science of quakes. 10a-5p | \$20

📍 <https://quakecity.co.nz/>

Christchurch Tram: This hop-on hop-off tram loop takes 50-minutes to complete a full circuit and your ticket lasts a full day. 9a-6p | \$35

📍 <https://www.christchurchattractions.nz/christchurch-tram/>

Air Force Museum of New Zealand: Located at Wigram, the Royal New Zealand Air Force's first operational base, with a collection of aircraft, engines, and other vehicles. 9:30a-4:30p | Free

📍 <https://airforcemuseum.co.nz/>