

OTAHUNA

LODGE



2017-2018 EXPERIENCES GUIDE

WELCOME TO CANTERBURY!

NEW ZEALAND'S LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE PROVINCE BOASTS AN AMAZING ARRAY OF EXPERIENCES TO INCITE YOUR OWN PERSONAL SENSE OF EXPLORATION.

Whether you wish to sail in an extinct volcanic harbour, take in the panoramas from one of the world's greatest train journeys or charter a helicopter from Otahuna's Great Lawn into the jaw-dropping scenery of the Southern Alps, there are numerous options to help craft your time at the Lodge and the areas around us. Working with a team of the region's finest operators, we have selected our favourite excursions to help you become immersed in the sights, sounds and flavours of the amazing place we call home.

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LIFE AT OTAHUNA

COOKING CLASS

Culinary excellence is a cornerstone of the Otahuna experience. A hands-on cooking lesson with Executive Chef Jimmy McIntyre provides an enjoyable overview of the philosophies behind the Lodge's celebrated food and wine programme as profiled in *Bon Appetit*, *Conde Nast Traveller*, and *The Financial Times*. Classes incorporate a harvesting visit to Otahuna's working gardens, provide an introduction to planning menus and offer a special chance to learn first-hand cooking techniques in our kitchens before tasting the results for yourselves.

Allow 1 or 3 Hours. Requires advance booking.

Price: \$195 for up to two guests for 1 Hour
\$395 per person for 3 Hours



GARDEN TOUR

Recognised as a Garden of National Significance, Otahuna's 30 acres have been renowned in New Zealand for well over a century. A guided tour with Head Gardener Steve Marcham or a member of his team illuminates the stories behind the property's rich history and its continued modern-day restoration. A visit to the many themed areas including the formal Dutch Garden, Great Lawn, and Woodland suggests what domestic life was like on the estate 115 years ago both for the owners and their fleet of staff. Plus, this tour provides insight into how the productive gardens carry on the tradition of supplying the house with hundreds of varieties of fruits, nuts, vegetables, mushrooms and cut flowers.

Allow 1 to 1 ½ Hours

Price: Complimentary for Lodge Guests



RELAXATION

A day spent relaxing at Otahuna is an experience in itself. Guests may indulge in a 60- or 90-minute massage with one of our therapists in our contemporary Woodland Massage Studio nestled amongst century-old trees and with views to the nearby Port Hills. Or, you can take a dip in the property's heated swimming pool or spa pool. Additionally, a round of tennis or a game of croquet can always be arranged.

Price: \$195 for 1 Hour Massage
 \$275 for 1 ½ Hour Massage



PICNIC LUNCH

Few experiences are more evocative of the Edwardian lifestyle than savouring a gourmet picnic hamper on a lazy afternoon in the Otahuna gardens. You choose your location and our team will provide the rest, including a New Zealand bottle of red, white or sparkling wine. Or, take the hamper with you to a waterfall in a beech forest, a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean or a host of other iconic Canterbury locations.

Price: \$100 per couple



WALKING & BIKING

Otahuna offers hybrid bicycles and walking maps for exploring the gentle 6-kilometre (4.2 mile) loop of the Otahuna Valley. Quiet country roads wind through local farms set against the backdrop of the steep Port Hills. Visits can be made to local Tai Tapu cafés or the nearby private gardens at Frensham. More adventurous guests can take advantage of the walking trails in the adjacent Port Hills or join a cycling guide for a tour of the Port Hills Summit Road with its spectacular views over Christchurch on one side and vistas of Lyttelton Harbour on the other.

LIFE BEYOND OTAHUNA



AKAROA & BANKS PENINSULA

No trip to Otahuna is complete without discovering the dramatic Banks Peninsula and its extinct volcanic harbour. Your expert guide will drive you from the Lodge around the base of the Port Hills to Hilltop where you will have wonderful views over Akaroa Harbour more than 1000 feet below. Descending into Akaroa, New Zealand's only original French settlement, you will board a two-hour scenic cruise taking in views of the dramatic coastline and getting up close and personal with Hector Dolphins (the world's smallest and rarest dolphins), Fur Seals and Little Blue Penguins. Back on shore you can explore the local shops and colonial architecture of the quaint seaside village or visit one of the region's most interesting gardens perched on the edge of a sea cliff overlooking the Pacific.

Allow 8 Hours

Price: \$1325 for up to two guests including gourmet picnic hamper or café-style lunch with wine.

Option: A private charter harbour cruise of Akaroa can be arranged with this experience.

KAIKOURA

Known as the “maritime Serengeti,” the mountainous north Canterbury area of Kaikoura boasts incredible marine wildlife near a unique ocean trench where the Southern Alps meet the Pacific. On this day your helicopter will accompany you and a professional guide from Otahuna over volcanic Lyttelton Harbour and along the beautiful Pacific coastline before arriving (50 minutes later) at the Kaikoura Heliport. There, you will fly on a separate breath-taking, private flight to view the majestic Sperm Whales as they breach and then dive some 1000 metres deep in search of food. Additionally, you may see pods of Dusky Dolphins and colonies of New Zealand Fur Seals. On your return flight you have the perfect opportunity to enjoy lunch and a vineyard tasting at Pegasus Bay Winery or Black Estate before arriving back at the Lodge.

Allow 6 Hours

Price: \$10,125 for up to two guests including refreshments, picnic lunch and wine tastings. Lunch at Pegasus Bay is not included.



GRAND GARDENS

Discover two of Canterbury's most celebrated private gardens with this "invitation only" excursion to both Fisherman's Bay and Ohinetahi. You will be driven by your guide in the morning to the volcanic Banks Peninsula, taking in the scenic views from the Summit Road before arriving at Fisherman's Bay. Here, the owners will welcome you into this unique "painter's garden" which explores colour and texture through combinations of native plants, perennials and grasses. Following lunch in the historic French settlement of Akaroa you will be spirited to Ohinetahi, the private gardens of New Zealand's most decorated Architect, Sir Miles Warren. Ohinetahi consists of a succession of outdoor "rooms" overlooking Lyttleton Harbour. An extensive array of sculpture by acclaimed New Zealand artists as well as a small modern art gallery contrast elegantly with the property's original mid-19th century homestead.

Allow 7 Hours

Price: \$1175 for up to two guests including garden admissions. (Lunch not included in tariff.)



TRANZALPINE ADVENTURE

Embark on one of the world's great train journeys, the TranzAlpine, which traverses across the South Island's majestic landscapes. Your guide will transport you at 7:45AM from Otahuna to nearby Rolleston Station. You will then experience the most scenic part of the rail journey as the train climbs into the heart of the Southern Alps, winding its way along the bright blue Waimakariri River and through dramatic alpine valleys before arriving at Arthur's Pass National Park. Here, your guide will meet you for a hike in moss-laden forests teeming with glacial streams and waterfalls followed by a café lunch or picnic. You might even meet a kea, the world's only alpine parrot. On your return via road to Otahuna, you may wish to stop at the monolithic limestone outcroppings of Castle Hill, one of the primary film locations from "The Chronicles of Narnia."

Allow 9 Hours

Price: \$1375 for up to two guests including gourmet picnic hamper or café-style lunch with wine.

Option: Add a bit of an adrenaline rush to your return road journey with the chance to experience a thirty-minute jet boat ride through the stunning canyons of the Waimakariri River gorge.



CHRISTCHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

A half-day guided tour of Christchurch provides a fascinating introduction to New Zealand's second largest city. Your guide will provide an overview of the city's English colonial history, how the area was affected by the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes and the vision behind one of the largest municipal rebuilding opportunities in human history. Count on a visit to the outstanding Quake City exhibition in Central Christchurch, the newly opened Christchurch Art Gallery, the neo-Gothic Arts Centre as well as a tour of the Garden City's wonderful parks including the internationally recognised Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

Allow 4 hours

Price: \$725 for up to two guests including morning/afternoon tea and coffee and light snacks.

Option: A full-day tour can be arranged including the above, a leisurely lunch at one of the city's vibrant local cafes and a visit to "Ohinetahi," the private gardens of New Zealand's most decorated architect Sir Miles Warren.

WAIPARA VALLEY WINE TOUR

The Waipara wine region boasts some of New Zealand's most sought after Pinot Noirs and Rieslings. After leaving Otahuna your guide will drive you north (about 60 minutes) where you will enjoy tastings at three different cellar doors including one private winery not typically open to the public. These vineyards are family-owned, and you will have the chance to meet some of the fascinating personalities who help to create such special wines. On this day, we recommend lunch at Pegasus Bay, New Zealand's top vineyard restaurant, or a lighter tapas plate at Black Estate.

Allow 6 Hours

Price: \$1050 for up to two guests including wine tastings. (Lunch not included in tariff.)

Option: For guests looking for a more immersive experience, it is possible to visit the nearby sculpture park of local ironwork artist, Raymond Herber.

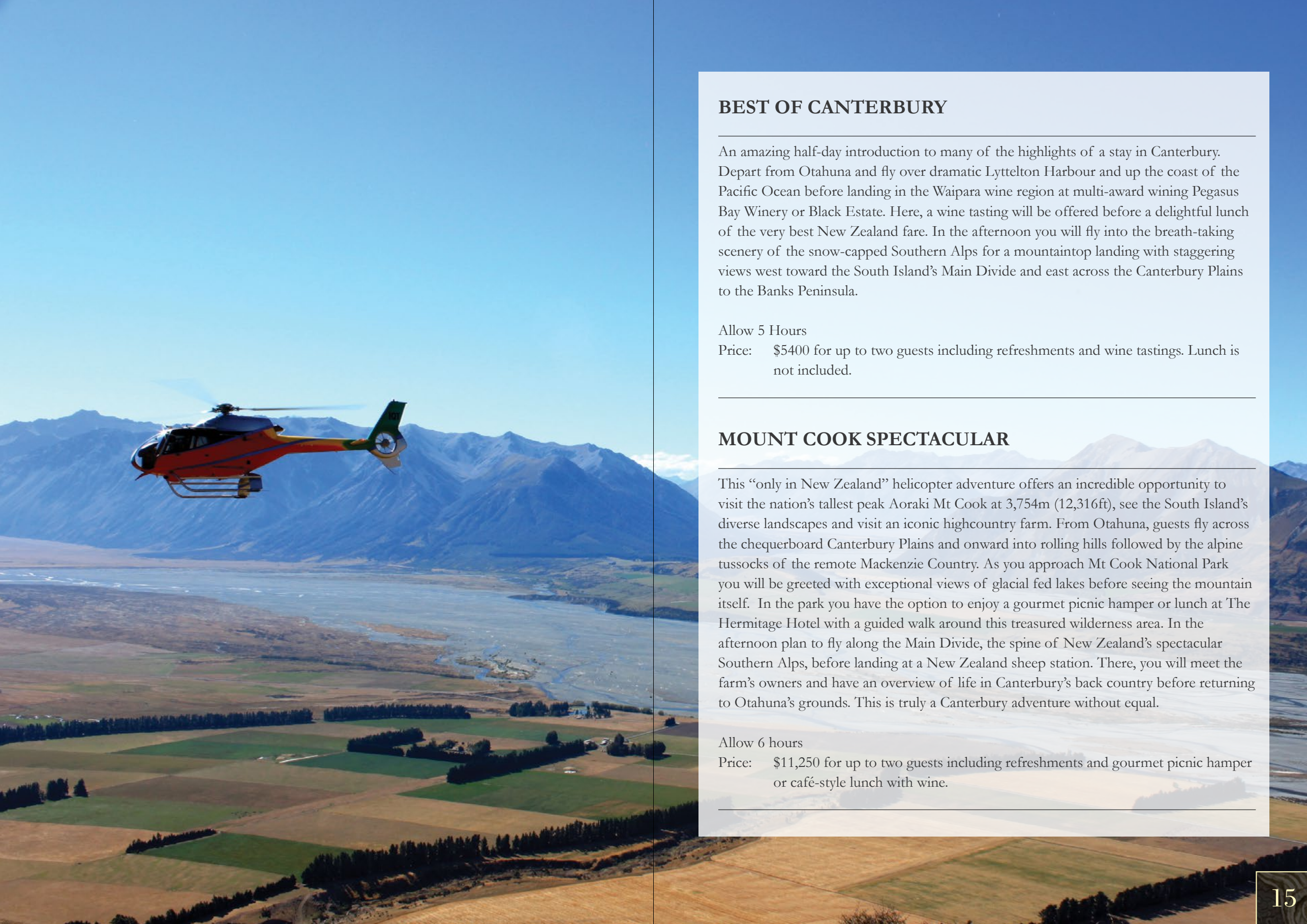
FOOTHILLS EXPLORER

This unique experience highlights two favourite Kiwi pastimes: a jet boat ride and a hike into the bush. Your guide will depart with you after breakfast at the Lodge and drive you to the braided Rakaia River. Here, you will be met by a skilled jet boat driver who will oversee your tour through the white and grey cliffs of the Rakaia gorge and into the wilds of the Southern Alps backcountry. After returning your guide will select a trail with a walk through native bush. Be on the lookout for unique flora as well as New Zealand's fascinating birdlife. Lunch can be taken at a nearby country store or enjoyed "al fresco" in the wilderness.



Allow 6 Hours

Price: \$1200 for up to two guests including gourmet picnic hamper or café-style lunch with wine.



BEST OF CANTERBURY

An amazing half-day introduction to many of the highlights of a stay in Canterbury. Depart from Otahuna and fly over dramatic Lyttelton Harbour and up the coast of the Pacific Ocean before landing in the Waipara wine region at multi-award winning Pegasus Bay Winery or Black Estate. Here, a wine tasting will be offered before a delightful lunch of the very best New Zealand fare. In the afternoon you will fly into the breath-taking scenery of the snow-capped Southern Alps for a mountaintop landing with staggering views west toward the South Island's Main Divide and east across the Canterbury Plains to the Banks Peninsula.

Allow 5 Hours

Price: \$5400 for up to two guests including refreshments and wine tastings. Lunch is not included.

MOUNT COOK SPECTACULAR

This “only in New Zealand” helicopter adventure offers an incredible opportunity to visit the nation's tallest peak Aoraki Mt Cook at 3,754m (12,316ft), see the South Island's diverse landscapes and visit an iconic highcountry farm. From Otahuna, guests fly across the chequerboard Canterbury Plains and onward into rolling hills followed by the alpine tussocks of the remote Mackenzie Country. As you approach Mt Cook National Park you will be greeted with exceptional views of glacial fed lakes before seeing the mountain itself. In the park you have the option to enjoy a gourmet picnic hamper or lunch at The Hermitage Hotel with a guided walk around this treasured wilderness area. In the afternoon plan to fly along the Main Divide, the spine of New Zealand's spectacular Southern Alps, before landing at a New Zealand sheep station. There, you will meet the farm's owners and have an overview of life in Canterbury's back country before returning to Otahuna's grounds. This is truly a Canterbury adventure without equal.

Allow 6 hours

Price: \$11,250 for up to two guests including refreshments and gourmet picnic hamper or café-style lunch with wine.



HELI-SKIING

Canterbury's Southern Alps offer arguably the best variety of back country, helicopter-accessed terrain available in New Zealand. Within 25 minutes from the Lodge you can be skiing or snowboarding on over 1000 square kilometres of mountains and hundreds of named runs beyond the headwaters of the Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers. The terrain is remote and spectacular, with many glaciated runs exceeding 1000 vertical metres from which you can even gaze at views of both the Pacific Ocean in the east and the Tasman Sea in the west. Single and multi-day heli-skiing adventures can be arranged based upon guests' ability and specific interests.

Price: On Application

FISHING

Canterbury's rivers provide excellent chances for both the novice and expert fly-fisherman to test their skills. Guests benefit from the knowledge of a local guide who will choose a location to ensure the best chances of making a successful catch. Brown and rainbow trout and Chinook salmon can be caught in both the high country as well as lowland streams from October through April. Guides provide licenses, tackle equipment, waders, instruction and transport in a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Access to remote mountain streams via helicopter provides an alternative option.

Allow Full Day

Price: On Application

HIKING

Canterbury and the Banks Peninsula offer an unparalleled selection of walking opportunities for every energy level. Guided experiences can be tailored, or you can enjoy some of our favourites.

SIGN OF THE PACKHORSE

This nearby half-day rambling walk, accessible from either Gebbies Pass or Kaituna Valley, showcases the stunning beauty of Christchurch's Port Hills. The marked track crosses open paddocks and pine forests before climbing to the crater rim with fantastic views across Lyttelton Harbour and out to the Pacific before ending at the historic Sign of the Packhorse Hut. 1.5 hours one way or 3 hours return.

GODLEY HEAD WALKWAY

Leaving from the surfing beach at Taylor's Mistake, this coastal walkway offers spectacular views of the city, New Brighton Beach, estuaries and the Southern Alps. This track climbs to Godley Head with its historic World War II military buildings overlooking the entrance to Lyttelton Harbour. 3 hours return.

HINEWAI RESERVE

Hinewai Reserve boasts sweeping views and some of the best walking opportunities on the Banks Peninsula, including almost 12 kilometres of well-marked tracks. The 1000 hectare reserve offers wonderful old-growth bush as well as vast swathes of regenerating native bush under the stewardship of New Zealand's leading botanist. 1 hour to half-day walks.

ORTON BRADLEY PARK

Orton Bradley Park is a charming out-of-town destination, spanning 653 hectares from the shores of Lyttelton Harbour to Mt Herbert, the highest peak (919m) on the Banks Peninsula. There is a wide array of short walks and longer tramps alongside a working farm park and numerous historic buildings. 45 minute to full-day walks.





CHRISTCHURCH GOLF CLUB

Canterbury’s historic golfing destination, the Christchurch Golf Club, has a proud history that dates back to 1873 making it the fifth oldest club outside the United Kingdom. The club has held numerous New Zealand Open and Amateur, Men’s and Women’s Championships. The course is renowned world-wide as a challenging championship course of the highest quality which offers a fair test of golf for both club and professional golfers.
Travel Time from Otahuna Lodge: 35 Minutes

CLEARWATER

This par 72 course has hosted the New Zealand PGA Championship and multiple international tournaments. Designed by John Darby in consultation with New Zealand golfing legend, Sir Bob Charles, the course combines elements of links golf inspired by the great Scottish courses with parkland golf more reminiscent of Florida. Playable year-round, the course meanders around a succession of spring-fed lakes and trout-filled streams.
Travel Time from Otahuna Lodge: 35 Minutes

TERRACE DOWNS

Terrace Downs is rated as one of the top courses in New Zealand. Based at the foothills of the Southern Alps, there are very few scenic alpine courses like it. The course offers a unique mixture of parklands and links style with views of the Rakaia Gorge and nearby mountain ranges. At par 72, the course is challenging. However, a choice of four tees on each hole ensures the course caters for a range of golfing abilities.
Travel Time from Otahuna Lodge: 75 Minutes

TAI TAPU GOLF CLUB

Less than 2 kilometres from the front gates of Otahuna lies the friendly Tai Tapu Club course. The course is only 9 holes but offers differing tee positions for guests wishing to play 18 holes (par 70).
Travel Time from Otahuna Lodge: 5 Minutes

HORSEBACK RIDING



English-style horseback riding can be found alongside the banks of the nearby Waimakariri River. Here, guests can attain basic skills such as how to mount and dismount, hold reins in an English saddle and communicate with the horse before departing on a leisurely ride through local farms and woodlands alongside the scenic, braided riverbed. More experienced riders will enjoy crossing the tributaries of the river and the challenge of steeper inclines with plenty of wide trails and spaces to canter or gallop.

Allow 4-6 Hours. Travel time from Otahuna Lodge: 45 Minutes
Price: \$250 per person for 2 hour ride. \$375 per person for 4 hour ride. Minimum of 2 guests.

Please note: All prices quoted are inclusive of New Zealand Goods and Services Tax of 15%.



OTAHUNA

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