



OTAHUNA

LODGE



EXPERIENCES GUIDE
2024 - 2025

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 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 may incorporate a harvesting visit to Otahuna's working gardens and will offer a chance to learn first-hand cooking techniques before tasting the result yourselves.



Allow 1 or 3 Hours. **Requires advance booking.**

Price: \$395 for up to two guests for 1 hour; \$50 per additional guest
\$895 for up to two guests for 3 hours with Executive Chef Jimmy McIntyre;
\$100 per additional guest

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 125 years ago both for the owners and their team 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 1/2 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 game of croquet or patanque are never far away on the Lodge's sun-filled Games Lawn.

Price: \$295 for 1 Hour Massage
\$395 for 1 1/2 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: \$150 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 cafes 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 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's 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.

Allow 8 Hours

Price: \$2200 for up to two guests including a scheduled group harbour cruise of Akaroa and gourmet picnic hamper or cafe-style lunch.

Option: A private harbour cruise of Akaroa can be arranged as an alternative with this excursion.

SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS

Few experiences are as unique or rewarding as swimming with wild dolphins in their natural habitat. With this ultimate eco-adventure, named by Lonely Planet as one of the world's "Best Marine Encounters," you depart from the Lodge in the morning for Akaroa Harbour and the Banks Peninsula. There, a wet suit and mask will be provided before setting sail for approximately two hours in the sheltered, volcanic crater. Guests typically swim for around 45 minutes with the Hector's Dolphins, nicknamed "the panda of the seas" due to their distinctive three-colour markings. Following your time with these playful aquatic mammals, you'll enjoy lunch, a tour of the charming Akaroa village and visit a hidden corner or two of the stunning Peninsula before returning to the Lodge.

Allow 8 Hours

Price: \$2500 for up to two guests including a small, scheduled group harbour swimming cruise and gourmet picnic hamper or cafe-style lunch.



GARDENS OF THE BANKS PENINSULA

Discover three of New Zealand's most celebrated private gardens while taking in stunning ocean views across the landscapes of the Banks Peninsula. This tour features first a visit to Fisherman's Bay Garden located on the wild, dramatic coastline of the Peninsula's outer bays. Here you will discover grass-covered terraces, flowering perennials and architectural New Zealand plants silhouetted against the Pacific Ocean several hundred feet below. Next you will visit The Giant's Garden in Akaroa, which uses masses of plantings to accentuate its whimsical, one-of-a-kind mosaic sculptures created by artist Josie Martin. Finally 'Ohinetahi,' developed by New Zealand's most decorated architect the late Sir Miles Warren, presents a succession of formal outdoor "rooms" overlooking Lyttelton 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 19th century homestead.

Allow 8 hours.

Price: \$2300 for up to two guests including garden admissions, a private guided tour at either Fisherman's Bay or Ohinetahi and a gourmet picnic hamper or cafe-style lunch.



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 cafe 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: \$2250 for up to two guests including gourmet picnic hamper or cafe-style lunch.

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.



CULTURE & FOOD EXPERIENCE

Join a private, guided cultural tour hosted by one of Christchurch's leading indigenous personalities. On this fascinating introduction to Ōtautahi (Christchurch), plan on a walking tour of the central city, its many vibrant laneways and the areas surrounding the historic Avon River – known to our Māori ancestors as the Ōtākaro River. Along this journey you'll come to understand the stories of both Māori and European settlers as they developed the South Island's largest city. Best of all, this tour has a strong emphasis on discovering Kai (food), through a series of unique restaurant and boutique tastings celebrating fresh, seasonal flavours and highlighting the emerging gastronomic scene of our closest city.

Allow 2.5 Hours

Price: \$750 for up to two guests including food tastings and lunch.

Option: This tour can be customised to include transfers to/from Christchurch International Airport and Otahuna.

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. Count on a visit to the Christchurch Art Gallery, Riverside Market, 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: \$900 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 visits either to Ravenscar House, a house museum showcasing an impressive collection of decorative arts, or to "Ohinetahi," the private gardens of New Zealand's most decorated architect the late Sir Miles Warren.

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 a helicopter will fly you from Otahuna over volcanic Lyttelton Harbour and along the beautiful Pacific coastline to Kaikoura before viewing majestic Sperm Whales as they breach and then dive some 1000 metres deep in search of food. On your return flight you have the perfect opportunity to enjoy a decadent lunch and wine tasting at Greystone Wines before arriving back at the Lodge in the afternoon.



Allow 6 Hours

Price: \$15,250 for up to two guests. (Lunch not included in tariff.)



HELI-TOURING



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 North Canterbury wine region at award-winning Greystone Wines. 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 mountain top 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: \$6750 for up to three guests. (Lunch not included in tariff.)

MOUNT COOK SPECTACULAR

This “only in New Zealand” helicopter adventure offers an incredible opportunity to view Oceania's tallest peak Aoraki Mt Cook at 3,724m (12,217ft) and see first-hand some of the South Island's most unforgettable landscapes. Departing from Otahuna's Great Lawn, guests fly across the chequerboard Canterbury Plains and onward into rolling hills followed by the alpine tussocks of the remote Mackenzie Country. There, you will soar over bright blue, glacially fed lakes for views of Aoraki Mt Cook. Next, the tour ventures up the spine of New Zealand's rugged Southern Alps, taking in the spectacular Rakaia Glacier followed by a landing for a Champagne picnic lunch with panoramic views of the surrounding mountaintops. On your return, you will fly through the scenic Rakaia Gorge as it empties onto the Canterbury Plains forming one of New Zealand's largest braided rivers. This is truly a Canterbury adventure without equal!

Allow Full Day

Price: \$11,500 for up to three guests including Champagne and a gourmet picnic hamper.



HIKING

Canterbury and the Banks Peninsula offer an unparalleled selection of walking opportunities. Private guided experiences with our team of specialist walking guides help to uncover the very best, off-the-beaten-path trails in the adjacent Port Hills and can be tailored for all ability levels with both half and full-day guided hikes available.

Half-day pricing is \$450 per person including walking poles, day bags, light morning or afternoon tea and transfers from Otahuna.

Alternatively, some of our favourite recommendations should you wish to venture out on your own are:

E-BIKING

Canterbury's Banks Peninsula offers arguably some of the best variety of cycling terrain available in New Zealand. Within 30-60 minutes from the Lodge you can set off with a guide on modern, cross country electric bikes and tour an array of landscapes boasting bright blue harbour views, volcanic mountains blanketed with pastures and native bush cascading down to picturesque coastlines. Several guided tours have been developed for guests on quiet gravel and sealed roadways that showcase the absolute best of the Peninsula. And, with the assistance of powerful uphill acceleration you can be assured a most memorable day even as you easily conquer the highest parts of the crater rim.

Allow Full Day

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 Xequipment, 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

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.

Travel Time from Otahuna Lodge: 45 Minutes

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.

Travel Time from Otahuna Lodge: 75 Minutes

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.

Travel Time from Otahuna Lodge: 30 Minutes

GOLF



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

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

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



Horseback riding can be found alongside the banks of the nearby Waimakariri River. Here, guests can attain basic English-riding skills such as how to mount and dismount, hold reins in English-style 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: \$400 per person for 2 hour ride. \$525 per person for 3 hour ride.

Minimum of 2 guests.

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



OTAHUNA
LODGE

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