

WELCOME TO CHRISTCHURCH

This is an introduction to Christchurch and its main attractions. If you require more information about individual attractions or accommodation advise contact the Christchurch i-SITE Visitor Centre in Cathedral Square. See details below.

Map Reference example: (6-D, MAP 3)

Grid Reference      Map Number

**CHRISTCHURCH i-SITE VISITOR CENTRE** 9 (6-D, MAP 3) All the information you will ever need for your visit to Christchurch and Canterbury is housed in the historic former Chief Post Office. A booking service is also offered. Ph: +64 3 379 9629    info@christchurchnz.com    www.christchurchnz.com

**A BIT OF HISTORY** The Maori had a large settlement north of the city near Kaiapoi. They also favoured the then lush bush covered Banks Peninsula.

In the late 1830s whaling ships from many nations found shelter in both Akaroa and Lyttleton Harbours and in 1840 the French set out to settle the **Akaroa** area. Just before they arrived in New Zealand was declared a British colony, but many of the settlers stayed on and thus gave the area an enduring French flavour. The first Europeans to settle on the site of Christchurch were the Dean brothers, who established a farm in 1843 at a location they called **Riccarton**. They also named the Avon River.

In 1848 the Canterbury Association was formed to implement an Anglican Church settlement on the Canterbury Plains. The first Canterbury settlers arrived at Lyttleton in December 1850. They were soon making their way over the ‘Bridal Path’ to the then swampy ground where the first streets of Christchurch had been laid out. The city was named after ChristChurch College in Oxford. The association wanted to create a social structure that emulated the English class system and many believe that to some degree this structure still permeates Canterbury and Christchurch.

**SHOPPING & OUT ON THE TOWN** Christchurch Central (MAP 3) offers a wide variety of shops and an endless variety of bars and restaurants.

**The Christchurch Casino** (6-F)

There are several urban malls and shopping complexes. Most well known of the malls is Westfield Riccarton (3-D, Map 2)

**SOUTHERN ENCOUNTER AQUARIUM & KIWI HOUSE** 9 (6-D, MAP 3) Next to the i-SITE Visitor Centre. See Southern aquatic wildlife, native reptiles and Kiwi.

**ARTS CENTRE** 12 (5-D, MAP 3) Historic former University Campus now houses a vast array of activities and specialist retail operations. There are over 40 shops, galleries and working studios plus a variety of cafes and restaurants. Shops open: 10am - 5pm.

**COURT THEATRE** 12 (5-D, MAP 3) Housed at the historic Arts Centre, the Court is a full time professional live theatre company. A variety of productions are offered throughout the year. Bookings, Ph: +64 3 963 0870

**CANTERBURY MUSEUM** 13 (5-E, MAP 3) Displays include Canterbury’s natural and social history, Maori culture and a popular Antarctic section. Hours: Oct - Mar, 9am - 5.30pm; April - Sept, 9am - 5pm.

**ART GALLERIES** (MAP 3)

**A1: Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu** (6-E): Public art gallery houses a large collection of Canterbury, New Zealand and International art. Hours: Daily, 10am - 5pm.

**A2: Centre For Contemporary Art (Coca)** (6-E): Exhibitions of established and emerging artists changing every 3 weeks. Hours: Mon - Fri. 10am - 5pm; Sat & Sun, 12pm - 4pm.

**OUR CITY O-TAUTAHI** 10 (6-E, MAP 3) Life and issues of Christchurch are presented via changing exhibitions and public talks in the historic former Municipal Building. Hours: Mon - Sat, 10am - 4pm.

**CENTRAL LIBRARY** (6-E, MAP 3) Public lending library also houses an extensive collection of research material. Hours: Mon - Fri, 9am - 9pm; Sat & Sun. 10am - 4pm.

**CHRISTCHURCH TRAMWAY** (MAP 3) Restored trams travel a circular route around the inner city. Hop on or off at stopping points outside major inner city attractions.

**INNER CITY HISTORIC BUILDINGS & SITES** (MAP 3)

**NOTE: Due to the recent earthquake many of the buildings mentioned below have been damaged and some may be demolished. The text will be updated after decisions are made on the future of these buildings.**

**CHURCHES:** 1: **ChristChurch Cathedral** (Anglican) (7-D) Gothic style, construction began in 1864; 2: **Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament** (Catholic) (8-C) 1905 neo-Renaissance - regarded as the city’s finest structure; 3: **Baptist Church** (8-E) 1882, Classical style; 4: **Methodist Church** (6-E) (Durham St) 1863, City’s oldest stone church; 5: **St Michael & All Angels** (6-D) 1872, Gothic wooden structure; 6: Former **Trinity Church** (7-D) 1874, stone Gothic; 7: **St Johns Church** (8-D) stone, 1865; 8: **St Mary’s of the Virgin** (4-A) early wooden masterpiece

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS:** Former 9: **Chief Post Office** (6-D) 1879 Italianate style; 10: Former **Municipal Building** (6-E) 1887 ‘Queen Anne’ style brick building (now houses ‘Our City O-Tautahi’); 11: Former **Library Chamber** 1876; 12: Former **University campus** (Arts Centre) (5-D) Gothic stone (see separate entry); 13: **Canterbury Museum** (5-E) 1869-76 Gothic stone structure; 14: **Christ College** (5-E) 1863-1931, stone buildings grouped around quadrangle; 15: **Provincial Council Building** (6-E) 1859, 1860, 1865 wooden and stone sections - regarded as the city’s most impressive historic public building; 16: **Former Girls High School** (5-E) 1880, Venetian Gothic style; 17: former **Normal School** (6-F); 18: **Edmonds Rotunda** (7-E) 1929; 19: Former **Government Buildings** (7-D) 1911 Renaissance style.

**COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS:** 20: **Regent Theatre** Building (6-D) 1905, Edwardian Baroque style; 21: **New Regent St.** (7-E) Spanish Mission style line of shops; 22: **Christchurch Club**, (7-D) 1862 wooden Italianate style; 23: **The Press Building** (7-E) 1909, large Gothic style structure.

**MEMORIALS:** 24: **Bridge of Remembrance** (6-D), 1924.


**PARKS** **Hagley Park** (MAP 3) Christchurch’s vast central park includes a Botanic Garden, Golf Course and Playing Fields all connected with a network of walking paths. **Other Parks and Gardens** (6-D, MAP 2: see overleaf) Edmonds Garden: last vestige of the famous Edmonds factory and grounds.

**AVON RIVER - BOATING** (5-D, MAP 3) Take a 30min punt ride on the river from Antigua Boatsheds or Worcester Boulevard Bridge. Canoes and rowing boat can be hired at the historic Antigua Boatsheds.

**MONA VALE** (2-F, MAP 3) The ground and homestead at Mona Vale provide a picture of how Canterbury’s wealthy ‘wool barons’ lived in the early 1900s.

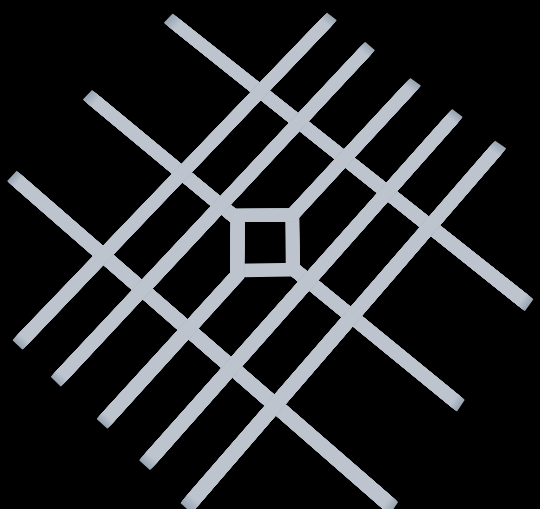
**SPORTS VENUES** **AMI Stadium** (9-B, MAP 3) Rugby Union, Cricket; **Westpac Centre** (4-D, MAP 2: see overleaf) Westpac Arena and Rugby League Park; **Addington Raceway** (trotting) (3-D, MAP 2: see overleaf); **Riccarton Racecourse** (horse racing) (2-E, MAP 2: see overleaf).

**AIR FORCE MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND** (2-D, MAP 2: See overleaf) 45 Harvard Ave, Wigram. Located at the former Wigram Air Force Base. Free admission (activities extra). Large aircraft display, fight simulator and display depicting the history of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.



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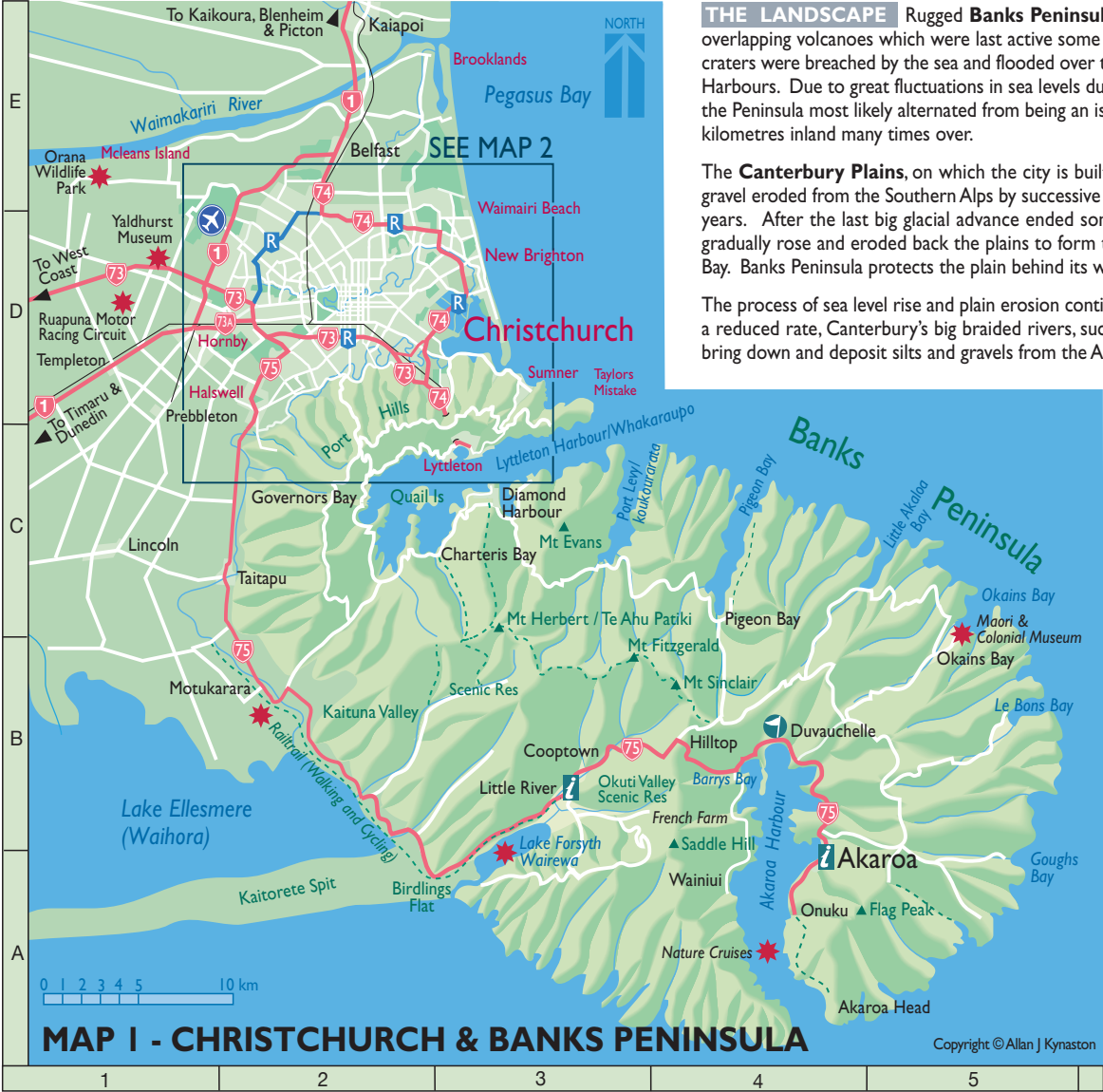
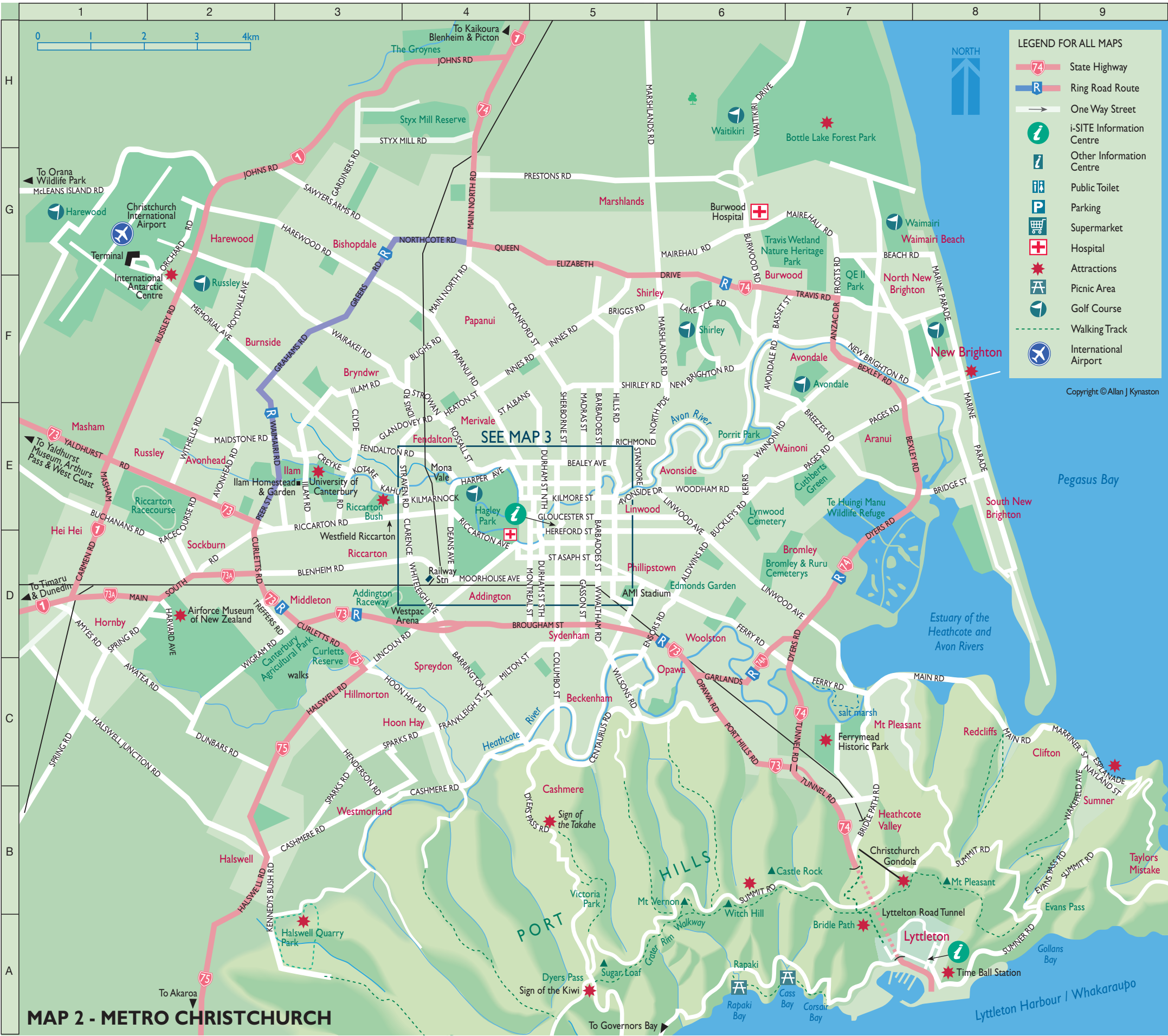
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**THE LANDSCAPE** Rugged **Banks Peninsula** is the eroded remnants of two overlapping volcanoes which were last active some 13 million years ago. The two old craters were breached by the sea and flooded over time to form Lyttelton and Akaroa Harbours. Due to great fluctuations in sea levels during interglacial and glacial periods the Peninsula most likely alternated from being an island to being a range of hills many kilometres inland many times over.

The **Canterbury Plains**, on which the city is built, have been built up from silt and gravel eroded from the Southern Alps by successive glacial advances over thousands of years. After the last big glacial advance ended some 12,000 years ago the sea level gradually rose and eroded back the plains to form the Canterbury Bight and Pegasus Bay. Banks Peninsula protects the plain behind its western flank.

The process of sea level rise and plain erosion continues, but at the same time, be it at a reduced rate, Canterbury's big braided rivers, such as the Waimakariri, continue to bring down and deposit silts and gravels from the Alps.

**LYTTLETON** (8-A, MAP 2) (also see 'A Bit of History' overleaf)

Take the tunnel or a scenic drive over the Port Hills to the historic seaport of Lyttelton. Attractions includes historic town centre, museum, Time Ball Station, wildlife cruises on harbour, harbour side drive to Governors Bay.

**BANKS PENINSULA** (MAP 1) Also see 'The Landscape' and 'A Bit of History' overleaf Banks Peninsula attractions include many public walking tracks and scenic reserves. There is a winery at French Farm, cheese making at Barry Bay and a Maori & Colonial Museum at Okains Bay.

**AKAROA** (4-A, MAP 1) Also see and 'A Bit of History' overleaf Akaroa offers colonial architecture, waterfront cafes, harbour and dolphins cruises

**FERRYMEAD HERITAGE PARK** (7-C, MAP 2) 185 Ferrymead Park Drive. Heritage Village, aeronautics and Hall of Wheels Museums, trams (running weekends and holidays), steam trains (run every Sunday over summer).

**CHRISTCHURCH GONDOLA** (B-7, MAP 2) 10 Bridle Path Rd: Travels up to the summit of the Port Hills (elevation of 500m above sea level). Panoramic views over Christchurch, Banks Peninsula and over the plains to the alps, Summit complex includes restaurant.

**PORT HILLS** (Base of MAP 2) Of volcanic origin the Port Hills offers a great variety of walking tracks including the Crater Rim Walk and the historic Bridle Track. Only the major tracks are shown on this map. Visit the i-SITE Information Centre for more detailed information.

**GREAT SCENIC TRAIN TRIPS** (2-C, MAP 3) Christchurch Railway Station.

**'Transalpine'**: travels from Christchurch across the plains and through the Southern Alps to Greymouth. Along the way it traverses the spectacular Waimakariri Gorge, Arthurs Pass National Park and finally West Coast rain forests.

**'Transcoastal'**: Travels from Christchurch to Picton via the rugged Kaikoura Coast with views of the high Kaikoura Ranges.

**SCENIC FLIGHTS** (MAP 2, G-2) Several firms offer flights from Christchurch International Airport.

**THE BEACHES** **New Brighton** (8-F, MAP 2) and **Sumner** (9-B, MAP 2) have beautiful sandy beaches.

**ORANA WILDLIFE PARK** (1-E, MAP 1) Open range zoo set in 80 hectare grounds. Attractions include exotic animals such as giraffes, rhinos, cheetahs and lions as well native reptiles and birds including Kiwi.

**YALDHURST MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT & SCIENCE** (1-D, MAP 1) Includes classic and racing cars, military vehicles and horse drawn vehicles.

**RICCARTON BUSH** (3-E, MAP 2) (also see 'A Bit of History' overleaf) Walks in the native bush. Visit and view the historic homestead and Deans Cottage.

**INTERNATIONAL ANTARCTIC CENTRE** (2-G, MAP 2) Orchard Rd. Christchurch has a long history of being the setting out point for Antarctic exploration. Scott and Shackleton set out from Lyttelton and from 1955 the American Operation Deep Freeze air operations have been based at the International Airport. The Italian Antarctic programme also uses it as a base.

Among various interactive displays the Antarctic centre lets people to experience Antarctic conditions in realistic surroundings, ride on vehicles used on the ice, view penguins and an aquarium housing Antarctic species.