

Avon River Walk

*Explore the city's heritage
and new beginnings.*



Ōtākaro/Avon River Walk

Use this brochure to navigate the Ōtākaro/Avon River as it is now, and also see what its future holds following a major redevelopment that is currently underway – Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct.

Ōtākaro/Avon River holds great significance for Ngāi Tahu: the river was their commercial vein, transport route, source of mahinga kai (food-gathering site), and the place by which they lived and traded.

In 1842 early Scottish settlers at Riccarton, William and John Deans, gave the river its European name after the Avon River in Ayrshire, Scotland.

In 1850 the Canterbury Association chose the land around the river to be the main city of the Canterbury settlement due to the plentiful resources surrounding it.

Follow the river, learn about its rich heritage and journey into the future and envisage Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct – one of New Zealand's largest urban river restoration projects. This \$90m project stretches 3.2km from the Antigua Boat Sheds to Fitzgerald Avenue and will redefine the river banks and streets on each side of the river.



AVON RIVER
PRECINCT
TE PAPA
ŌTĀKARO



Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct project partners

Ōtākaro/ Avon River Walk



Ōtākaro/Avon River Zones

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Puāri Pā

01

Puāri Pā covered a large area within the extensive wetlands that later became the central city. Puāri was first occupied by tangata whenua more than 700 years ago and remained one of the principle mahinga kai (food and resource gathering places) in Christchurch up to the Ngāi Tahu signing of the Canterbury purchase in 1848.

Christ's College

02



Christ's College, founded in 1850, is housed in a precinct of buildings from different eras, designed by the city's leading architects over a 140-year period.

Christchurch Botanic Gardens

03



Nestled in a loop in the Avon River, the Botanic Gardens has grand tree-lined paths and lawns, colourful flower beds and feature gardens. It also showcases some of New Zealand's favourite native plants. Discover the Botanic Gardens' new Visitor Centre. Enjoy a delicious bite to eat at ilex, explore the Gardens' permanent exhibition or purchase a gorgeous gift from the shop.

The Arts Centre of Christchurch

04



The Gothic Revival buildings of the former University of Canterbury were begun in the 1870s and were designed by various Canterbury architects. The site includes the former Boys and Girls High Schools buildings. Parts of the site will remain closed for some years while work is carried out to repair and conserve the facilities.

Canterbury Museum

05



Fine stonework, a prominent tower, large rose window and distinctive porch all contribute to the charm of the Gothic Revival Canterbury Museum buildings initially designed by B.W. Mountfort. The Museum is open, so explore the natural and human history collections that are currently on display.

The Curator's House

06



Architects Collins and Harman designed the Curator's House in an English Domestic Revival style. Built in 1920, it housed the curator of the Botanic Gardens until the 1980s.

Nurse's Memorial Chapel

07



The Nurse's Memorial Chapel is this country's only memorial built specifically to commemorate New Zealand women killed in war. Damaged in the earthquakes, the chapel is currently closed.



Antigua Boat Sheds to Durham Street

A

A section of this, known as Watermark, is the first stretch of Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct to open. This early development site spans the river's true left bank between Antigua Boat Sheds and Montreal Street and provides a glimpse of how other precinct elements could look and feel.

Antigua Boat Sheds

08



The 1882 Antigua Boat Sheds are the last of the commercial boatsheds that once stood along the banks of the Ōtākaro/Avon River. Rowing boats are available for hire from these premises.

St Michael and All Angels

09



St Michael and All Angels was the first Anglican church in Christchurch and served as the Pro-Cathedral until 1881. The free-standing belfry beside the church was designed by B.W. Mountfort and built in 1861.



The Terraces – city promenade

B

Redefining the relationship between the city and the river, the Terraces will be reconfigured into a series of platforms and a promenade to provide a range of places for gathering, hospitality and commerce. This section showcases how Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct enhances the setting of existing heritage bridges and statues — in particular the Bridge of Remembrance.

Re:START

10



Re:START is Christchurch's first central city retail hub to open post-February 2011. Many of Christchurch's best loved retailers are housed amongst the brightly coloured shipping containers. Re:START is open every day and offers free wifi.

Bridge of Remembrance

11



Built to mark the sacrifice of those who served in the Great War (World War One, 1914-1918), the Bridge of Remembrance has become a place where later conflicts have also been commemorated. Currently undergoing repairs.

Worcester Street Bridge

12



The 1885 Italianate-styled Worcester Street Bridge with its single span arched bridge and decorative cast iron railings forms part of the network of historic river crossings in the central city.

The Canterbury Club

13



Founded in 1872 as a private club for business professionals, the Canterbury Club was designed in a domestic Italianate style. The Club still operates from the building today.

ChristChurch Cathedral

14



The Gothic Revival Anglican Cathedral was built from 1860 to 1904, designed by the prominent English architect Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-1878). Damaged in the earthquakes, the building has been deconsecrated while long term options are considered.

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna O Waiwhetu

15



Christchurch Art Gallery is the largest art institution in the South Island and home to one of New Zealand's most important public art collections. Currently closed for repairs, the Gallery has introduced an Outer Spaces programme which brings arts and events to various locations throughout the city. Scheduled to re-open Summer 2015/16.



The Terraces to Victoria Square

C

This section of Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct will continue the quality and character of the city promenade, while providing a variety of riverside experiences and connecting The Terraces to Victoria Square.

Former Municipal Chambers

16



Samuel Hurst Seager's Queen Anne design for the Municipal Chambers (1887) was a marked departure from the prevailing Gothic Revival architecture of Christchurch. In recent years the building has been used for community exhibitions and events. Stabilisation work has been undertaken and the building will remain closed whilst options for its future are considered.

Kate Sheppard National Memorial 17



The Kate Sheppard National Memorial was sculpted in 1993 by Margriet Windhausen. It was unveiled on 19 September 1993 and commemorates the centenary of women's suffrage in New Zealand - the first self-governing country in the world to grant women the right to vote.

Canterbury Provincial Chambers 18



Canterbury's leading Gothic Revival architect B.W. Mountfort designed the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings (1858-1865) which are the finest example of Gothic Revival architecture in New Zealand and the only remaining purpose-built provincial government buildings in the country.

New Regent Street 19



At the time of its construction the concept of an entire street made up of small speciality shops was a new one for the nation. The 40 shops on individual titles were designed in the Spanish Mission Revival style by H. Francis Willis in 1930. Built from 1930-1932 it was one of the few large scale building projects undertaken in the South Island during the Depression.

Isaac Theatre Royal 20



Opened in February 1908 the Theatre Royal has hosted everything from wrestling matches and cinema to Shakespeare, ballet and grand opera as well as Louis Armstrong, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Dame Malvina Major. The original painted interior dome was conserved on site, and reinstated in the new theatre building behind the original façade.



Victoria Square and Pou Whenua

D

Victoria Square (Market Square), visible across the river, was an important site of early trading between Ngāi Tahu and European settlers. Many Māori, particularly Ngāi Tūāhuriri from Kaiapoi came here to sell their produce. A pou whenua (carved post) depicting tipuna (ancestors) and mahinga kai (food and resource gathering) was crafted by local carver Riki Manuel and erected in the square in 1994.

The Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority is working together with its partners and the community to develop a future plan for the square.

'A Tribute to Firefighters'

21



'A Tribute to Firefighters' was created in 2002 by Christchurch artist Graham Bennett and located in the Firefighters Reserve. This was completed with steel from the World Trade Centre site and gifted by the City of New York to the City of Christchurch to acknowledge firefighters worldwide.



The North Frame ----- **E**

As part of Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct, this important visual corridor extends from Victoria Square to the poplars and Barker's Plantation. It will offer a unique and sociable place with a different character from other spaces along the river.



The Margaret Mahy Family Playground ----- **F**

This spectacular all-ages and all-abilities playground is set to become one of Canterbury's most popular destinations. The size of a rugby field, it will be one of the biggest playgrounds in Australasia and boast some of the newest and coolest playground equipment imaginable.



The Avon Loop ----- **G**

This section of the Ōtākaro/Avon River will strengthen the cultural significance of the area through native planting that enhances the natural landscape.



East Frame Residential Precinct ----- **H**

This new inner-city community features a central park surrounded by residential housing for up to 2500 people – all centrally located in the heart of the city.



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Christchurch i-SITE Visitor Centre

Visit for information and bookings around the city and region.

Hours	Open 7 days from 8.30am
Address	Rolleston Avenue (Next to Canterbury Museum)
Tollfree	0800 423 783 (NZ Only)
Phone	03 379 9629
Email	info@christchurchnz.com
Website	www.christchurchnz.com

Christchurch City Council

For more information about the city and Future Christchurch.

Address	53 Hereford Street
Phone	03 941 8999
Email	christchurch@ccc.govt.nz
Website	www.ccc.govt.nz www.futurechristchurch.co.nz