

CHRISTCHURCH PROFILE

History

Maori oral tradition suggests moa-hunting Maori tribes first appeared in Canterbury about one thousand years ago. The Waitaha tribe is thought to have migrated from the east coast of the North Island to the Pegasus Bay area early in the 16th century, followed by Ngati Mamoe, also from the North Island, towards the end of the century. About one hundred years later Ngai Tahu tribespeople also began to move south in a migration that continued until about 1830. By 1832 the population had been decimated by the North Island warrior Te Rauparaha and his supporters.

The first European landed in Canterbury in 1815, 45 years after Captain James Cook sighted Banks "Island", later discovered to be a peninsula. Whaling ships were operating out of Lyttelton by 1835, and in 1840 the first Europeans to settle on the plain arrived.

But it was in 1850 that the English settlers who were to found Christchurch reached Lyttelton. They came in four ships - the Charlotte Jane, the Randolph, the Sir George Seymour and the Cressy.

Christchurch became a city by Royal Charter on 31 July 1856. This makes it the oldest officially established city in New Zealand.

Recreation

Christchurch has over 3,000 hectares of parkland, comprising 13 major metropolitan parks, including the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park, 89 major district parks and approximately 330 local and neighbourhood reserves.

Three main beaches - Sumner, New Brighton and Taylor's Mistake - lie close to the city.

There are five multi-purpose sports stadia and centres, including Queen Elizabeth II Park which was built for the 1974 Commonwealth Games and features swimming and diving pools and the Hydroslide. Thirteen other public swimming pools provide outdoor and indoor swimming.

Animal reserves include Orana Park Wildlife Trust and Willowbank Wildlife Reserve.

Eight museums can be visited within or close to the city, and Banks Peninsula and Kaiapoi also have museums. At least 20 art galleries feature works by local and international artists. Sports, social and cultural clubs number well into the hundreds.

Education

A wide range of private and state-operated pre-school education facilities are available in Christchurch. The city has 23 state and integrated private secondary schools and more than 120 primary and intermediate schools. Numerous schools service the outlying country areas.

Christchurch is the only New Zealand city with two universities. The University of Canterbury, about 5km from the city centre, offers a wide range of disciplines including engineering. Lincoln University, 15km from Christchurch Airport, specialises in agriculture, parks management and other environmentally-oriented courses.

Christchurch Polytechnic also offers a wide range of career and recreational courses.

Health and Welfare

Christchurch has two general and eight specialist state hospitals, 14 private hospitals and more than 20 community health care services.

More than 100 welfare organisations and support groups are provided to meet the needs of the community.



Statistics

Location

Latitude: 43° 31 mins, 48 secs south

Longitude: 172° 37 mins, 13 secs east, East Coast, South Island, New Zealand.

Area: Christchurch City:, 45,249 hectares.

Climate

Temperature: Mean daily maximum, Jan 21°C, July 10 °C, Mean daily minimum, Jan 12°C, July 1°C.

Mean annual maximum 32°C, mean annual minimum -4°C.

Sunshine: Mean average bright sunshine, 2,040 hours per annum.

Rainfall: Average rain days, lmm or more - 87 per annum, average rain days 5mm or more - 37 per annum, average annual rainfall - 655mm.

Frost: Average days of screen frost (minimum air temperature less than 0°C) - 36 per annum.

Relative Humidity: Average relative humidity: Jan 3am - 83%, 3pm - 57%, July 3am - 88%, 3pm - 70%

Wind: Average number of days with gusts reaching 63km/h or more, 54 per annum, average number of days with gusts reaching 96km/h or more, 2.8 per annum.

Sister Cities

Adelaide, South Australia; Christchurch, Dorset; Kurashiki, Japan; Seattle, USA; Province of Gansu, Peoples Republic of China.

Population Analysis

Resident population of Christchurch City: 309,028 (1996 Census) 1991 Census Detail (1996 detail not yet available)

Male: 48.3%; Female: 51.7%

Under fifteen years of age: 56,370 (19.6%)

Fifteen to 24 years: 51,199 (17.7%)

Twenty-five to 39 years: 67,208 (23.3%)

Forty to 64 years: 74,733 (25.6%)

Sixty five years and over: 38,733 (13.4%)

Ethnic Groups

European: 259,764 (90.1%)

NZ Maori: 15,300 (5.3%)

Pacific Island: 4,920 (1.7%)

Other and mixed: 8,262 (2.9%)

Employment

Total Workforce (1996):

152,460 (Statistics NZ, Business Directory)

Manufacturing: 30,230 (20%)

Trade, Restaurants and Hotels: 37,800 (25%)

Finance, Insurance and Business: 18,800 (12%)

Community, Social and Personal Services: 44,240 (29%)

Other: 21,400 (14%)