

NEW ZEALAND SOUTH ISLAND - AKAROA GUIDED WALK 4-days / 3-nights to explore the Banks Peninsula - from Christchurch to Akaroa

Rapidly becoming an icon among New Zealand's many hikers, the Akaroa Walk in the Canterbury Region of the South Island of New Zealand is a 39km guided walk with a good selection of quality accommodation.

Our itinerary will take you along the summit ridges and across the Banks Peninsula and you can experience unsurpassed views of the Southern Alps, the Canterbury Plains, Lyttleton, Diamond Harbour, Port Levy, Okuti, French Farm Valley, Kaituna, Wainui, Lake Forsyth, Lake Ellesmere and the delightful French-inspired port of Akaroa. Travel in a small group of like-minded walkers with the support of an experienced walking guide.



Humans have inhabited the Banks Peninsula area for about 1,000 years. The first people to come here were the seafarers in canoes from Polynesia, known as the Mōa Hunters. Over time, several waves of Māori descended upon the area. When Captain James Cook sighted Banks Peninsula in 1770, he thought it was an island and named it after his botanist Sir Joseph Banks, who was on board his ship Endeavour at the time.

On the walk you will pass through a diverse variety of vegetation types, ranging from undisturbed Totara forest to wide open tussock and grazing pastures. The flora and fauna of the area has changed dramatically with about one third of the original plant life now gone. The remaining trunks of the giant trees of old offer some fantastic and at times surreal, natural sculptures.

Cost: \$1775 per person, twin share. Single supplement \$425 (limited single rooms are available)

Departs: Sundays – every week from November 2019 to April 2020

Includes: 3-nights of quality double/twin share accommodation (with ensuite or share bathrooms), all meals from lunch Day 1 to breakfast Day 4, Luggage transfers (you only carry a daypack), tour kit including snacks and water bottle, Field & History guide book, experienced walking guides, local transport from/to central Christchurch.

Personal expenses including wine and alcohol are not included, drinks are available at your own cost. The Akaroa Walk is not recommended for anyone under the age of 15-years.

Walking Grade: Moderate with 10 – 17km walking per day over 5-6 hours.

The *Akaroa Walk* requires a moderate level of fitness as the trails take you over farm tracks, rolling hilltops and ridges. Our guides will encourage you to walk at your own pace with plenty of photo stops and rest places for you to fully appreciate and take in the natural beauty of the surroundings.

Additional departure dates are available for private charter groups of 10 or more – please ask for more details.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Christchurch to Diamond Harbour

walking @ 12km 5.5 hours

Begin with a walk briefing in Christchurch where you meet fellow walkers and your friendly guide. After a picturesque drive along the Summit Road we arrive at Godley Head, which is the start of our 12km walk on day one. We walk along the historical Godley Head Walkway and then onto the Crater Rim Walkway, enjoying commanding views of Lyttelton Harbour and Christchurch City. We then descend into the port town of Lyttelton on the famous Bridle Path. From Lyttelton catch a ferry to boutique lodge accommodation in Diamond Harbour.

Day 2: Diamond Harbour to Duvauchelle

walking @ 17km 6 hours

Today's walk leads us up to Mt Fitzgerald which offers unsurpassed panoramic views of the small, secluded bays of Banks Peninsula. From the summit we follow undulating pathways to Mt Sinclair where the scenery continues to unfold. The views of Port Levy, Pigeon Bay, Lake Forsyth and (in the distance) Kaitorete Spit are delightful. We also get your first glimpse of Akaroa Harbour and the Onawe Peninsula. Our accommodation this evening is a charming B&B in Duvauchelle, with grand views the length of Akaroa Harbour.

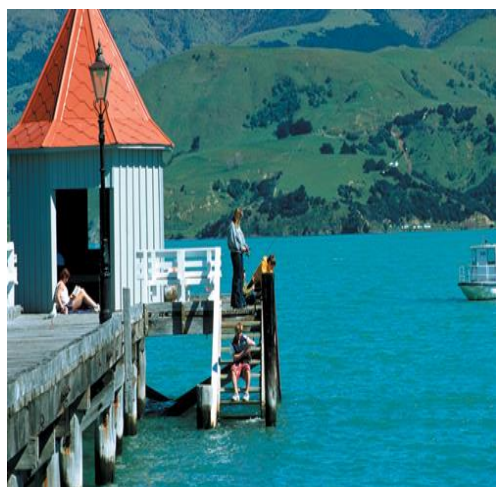
Day 3: Duvauchelle to Akaroa

walking @ 10km 5 hours

After a transfer from Duvauchelle, along the Summit Road above Akaroa Harbour take a short walk amongst the Totara forest on the Otepatotu Reserve track to warm up our legs. From the Otepatotu Reserve it's on to the old Le Bons Bay access track by which we descend into Takamatua and then walk to our accommodation in Akaroa via Childrens Bay. We should have time to enjoy the sights of Akaroa Township for the remainder of the afternoon. Tonight we gather and celebrate the completion of the walk at one of Akaroa's best restaurants.

Day 4: Akaroa to Christchurch

After breakfast we return to Christchurch by bus and are dropped off outside the Canterbury Museum in Rolleston Avenue, arriving around 12.30pm. Airport drop offs also possible – if requested when booking.



Contact **Outdoor Travel's** experienced staff for more details and reservations on a wide selection of walking holidays in New Zealand including the **Milford Sound Track, Routeburn or Kepler Tracks, Hollyford Valley Walk, Abel Tasman Walk, Queen Charlotte Sound Walk, or Grand Traverse:**

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