

# The Akaroa Walk



**Discover the magic of  
Banks Peninsula**

**4 Days, 3 Nights**

**Moderate Grade**



## **Tour Cost (NZD)**

**2025 / 2026**

**Low Season (Nov, Dec, Jan, Apr): \$2,195**

**High Season (Feb, Mar): \$2,395**

**Single Supplement: \$545**

## **Tour Highlights**

- Panoramic views
- The unique geology of Banks Peninsula
- The charming French Settlement of Akaroa
- Support from our experienced guide



Tuataratours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand



[www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



[info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

**NEW ZEALAND**  
0800 377 378

**WORLD**  
+64 39623280

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### The Tour at a Glance

Soak up the scenery on your journey from Christchurch to Akaroa—where native birds sing, fascinating tales abound, and sweeping panoramic views take your breath away. Explore ancient volcanic landscapes and uncover the unique geology, history, and charm of Banks Peninsula— a spectacular journey through one of New Zealand's most captivating regions.

### Trip Grading: Moderate

Ideal for anyone comfortable walking 20 to 25km on formed tracks and off-road trails with some average to steep inclines.

### Pre-tour

We depart Christchurch at 9am on the morning of the tour. To avoid a rushed start after a flight, we recommend you arrive a day early and enjoy exploring the city at leisure.

### Day-by-Day Itinerary

**Day 1** Christchurch to Sumner **11km**

**Day 2** Sumner to Duvauchelle **17km**

**Day 3** Duvauchelle to Akaroa **12km**

**Day 4** Akaroa to Christchurch - travel day

### About your guide

Our guides are very experienced, friendly walkers and bikers who love to share their knowledge of New Zealand's flora and fauna and local history.

They all hold current first aid certificates, passenger driving licences and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.



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### Day 1 Christchurch to Sumner (11km)

Welcome to the Akaroa Walk. The day starts with a 9am briefing in central Christchurch — your chance to meet your guide and fellow walkers for the journey ahead.

Then it's off to the Port Hills and a gondola ride to the top, where sweeping views stretch over Te Whakaraupō / Lyttelton Harbour and the Canterbury Plains.

Our walk begins along the Crater Rim Walkway, heading toward Mt Pleasant with ever-changing vistas from mountains to sea. A short descent brings us to the historic WWII gun emplacements — once built to defend the coast, now a fantastic lookout and a perfect lunch stop. Continuing after lunch, the trail descends through native Rapanui Bush, where cheeky fantails often flit among the trees, before joining the Captain Thomas Track for the last leg to sea level.

Our day ends in Sumner Village, a long-loved seaside escape known for its surf, sunshine, and relaxed holiday vibe. There may be time for a beach stroll, a dip, or a scoop of gelato before heading out for dinner.

MEALS INCLUDED: L D

### Day 2 Sumner to Duvauchelle (17km)

A scenic drive around Te Whakaraupō / Lyttelton Harbour takes us past quiet bays and beach homes to our trailhead at the Purau–Port Levy Saddle.

We start with a steady climb up Mt Fitzgerald, rewarded at the top with sweeping views across Banks Peninsula's patchwork of hills and harbours. From here, the ridge track rolls on toward Mt Sinclair, with panoramic vistas stretching from Port Levy to Pigeon Bay, Lake Forsyth, and the long finger of Kaitorete Spit.

Along the way, you'll catch your first glimpse of Akaroa Harbour and the volcanic arm of the Onawe Peninsula — a hint of what's to come tomorrow.

Descend into Duvauchelle, where a hearty pub meal and a comfy bed for the night are waiting.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

### Day 3 Duvauchelle to Akaroa (12km)

We begin the day with a drive along the Summit Road, high above the sparkling waters of Akaroa Harbour, before stretching our legs on a short forest loop through the peaceful tōtara groves of Otepatotu Reserve. With sweeping views over the harbour, this is a photo stop you won't want to miss.

From here, we begin our descent toward Akaroa, following the old Le Bons Bay access track down into the quiet bay of Takamatua. The final stretch winds around the harbour's edge, taking us through scenic Childrens Bay and into Akaroa. Keep your eyes peeled for some unique works of art on this last section.

There's time to explore the village — wander the waterfront, browse the shops, or simply soak up the charm — before we come together for a relaxed celebratory dinner. A fitting finale to your Banks Peninsula walking adventure.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

### Day 4 Akaroa to Christchurch - no walking today

After breakfast at a local café, we farewell Akaroa and begin the journey back to Christchurch.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the scenic drive — we'll have you back in the city by around 12:30pm. Reluctant to leave Akaroa just yet? Why not stay on a day or two and really soak up the atmosphere of this special place.

MEALS INCLUDED: B



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### What's Included



All Accommodation in comfortable motels, with ensuite facilities



All meals during the tour—great local cuisine



Luggage transfers and daily transport



Entrance fees to listed activities



DOC concession fees



Fully qualified, knowledgeable guide



Tour Kit Bag with helpful goodies



### Please Note:

Rooms are double or twin, either one queen bed or two separate beds. If you have a preference for a twin room please let us know when you make your booking. Solo travellers can choose to share or pay a single supplement for a private room

**Dietary needs?** We're happy to cater for gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian diets—just let us know at time of booking.

### What's Not Included

Alcoholic beverages with meals – these are available for purchase.

Pre- and post-tour accommodation



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### Your travel check list:

The following is a list of recommended items. Please also use your own experience to supplement this list. If you're unsure about anything, feel free to contact us.

Avoid walking in cotton, jeans, or silk — they dry slowly and can leave you feeling damp and cold. Instead, dress in three layers: a moisture-wicking base (merino or polypropylene), an insulating middle layer, and a waterproof outer layer for wind and rain protection. Coin Laundry facilities are available at your accommodation if required.



✓	Waterproof rain jacket with hood (a must) and waterproof over trousers (if you have them)
	Boots or sturdy walking shoes with ankle support, spare laces
	Thermals (top and bottom) merino or polypropylene are recommended
	Polar fleece jacket or top (mid layer)
	Gloves, warm hat
	Woolen or thermal hikers socks 3-4 pair
	Hiking shorts or zip off long trousers (quick-dry fabric-no jeans). Gaiters, if you have them.
	Drink bottle (we provide one , you might like to bring a second)
	Medium size (35-40l) day pack with waterproof liner
	Camera/ phone and charger/ torch
	Sun hat , sun glasses sun block,
	Swimsuit and small towel
	One set of casual wear for the evening, including casual shoes or sandals
	Personal toiletries and essential medications, a small personal first aid kit, insect repellent
	Walking poles (we can lend you a set if you don't have any)





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### Frequently asked questions:

#### How do I book a tour?

A deposit of \$300 per person confirms your place and can be paid via credit card (Visa or Mastercard, no surcharge) through our website: <https://www.tuataratours.co.nz/make-a-payment/>, or by bank transfer to Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd: 01 0797 0308837 00.

#### When is the balance due?

The final balance is due 90 days prior to departure. A reminder will be sent via email. You're welcome to pay in instalments, as long as the full amount is received by the due date.

#### What if I need to cancel?

Our cancellation policy for the Akaroa Walk is:

- 91+ days before departure – no fee
- 90–60 days – \$300 per person
- 59–30 days – 30% of total cost
- 29–0 days – 100% of total cost
- After departure – no refund available

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance in case of unforeseen events.

#### How big are the groups?

Our tours typically accommodate up to 12 people, though we can cater to larger groups on request.

#### Do I have to share a room?

Tours are priced on a twin-share basis (two people per room). Let us know if you prefer a queen bed or two singles. Solo travellers will be paired with another solo of the same gender, or you can opt to pay a single supplement for your own room.

#### Am I fit enough?

The Akaroa Walk is graded moderate, suited to walkers with above-average fitness. You should feel confident walking 20km on formed tracks, including some steeper sections.

Daily distances are under 20km, but there are ascents and descents that require good walk fitness. Not sure if it's right for you? Just give our team a call — we're happy to chat.

#### Can I take a day off walking?

Yes! You're welcome to ride in our support van to the next stop. If your room isn't ready, you can still enjoy some free time — relax with a book, explore the area, or enjoy a drink at a local café.

#### When's the best time to go?

Our season runs from November to April, with January and February being the warmest months. As much of the walk is on exposed hilltops, weather can change quickly — sunblock, a hat, and layers are essential. Always carry appropriate gear in your day pack (see our gear list for details).

**Can you pick me up?** Yes — we offer pickups and drop-offs from selected Christchurch CBD hotels. We can't collect from Airbnbs or private homes, so check with us before booking accommodation if you're unsure.

**Is there parking at your office?** No, sorry. You'll need to arrange parking for the duration of the tour. We suggest long-term parking at Christchurch Airport or checking with your pre/post-tour accommodation



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#### What kind of food is included?

You'll enjoy continental breakfasts, packed lunches, and restaurant dinners each night. We cater to most dietary needs — vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free — just let us know when you book.

#### Do I need breakfast on Day 1?

Yes — please have breakfast before pickup on the first day. All other meals during the tour are provided.

#### Is alcohol provided?

No, but you're welcome to purchase drinks at dinner. As we dine at licensed venues, BYO is not available — it's a great chance to try local!

#### Do I need to come dressed to walk?

Yes — please arrive ready to walk with your overnight bag packed. You won't have access to your overnight gear during the day, so make sure your day pack includes everything you need (wet weather gear, water, sunhat, lunch, etc.). We provide a 500ml drink bottle, but you may want to bring extra water, as refills aren't available on the trail.

#### Can I fly in or out on the same day?

We recommend arriving the day before your tour starts and flying out the day after it ends. If needed, we can drop you at Christchurch Airport by around 1:30pm on Day 4.

#### Should I spend extra time in Akaroa?

Yes, if you can! You'll have some free time in Akaroa on Day 3, but there's lots more to see and do. Let us know if you'd like to stay longer — we're happy to share suggestions.

#### How much luggage can I bring?

Space is limited — please bring one day pack and one overnight bag or suitcase (max 20kg).

#### Do I need hiking boots?

We strongly recommend well-fitting walking boots with good tread and ankle support. The track is mostly clay and can be slippery when wet, with some tree roots and hills, but no stream crossings. Please break in your boots before you come for the walk. A multi-day walk is no time for brand-new footwear!

#### Do I carry a full pack?

No! You'll only carry your day pack with essentials: wet weather gear, lunch, drink bottle, sunhat, etc. Your overnight bag travels ahead in the support van and will be waiting at your accommodation.

#### What's in the tour kit bag?

We like to keep it a surprise — but it includes a few handy items for your trip. You'll receive a thermal drink bottle (approx. 500ml) and a thermal cup for tea or coffee on the trail, so no need to bring your own.

**Are all your walking tours guided?** Yes — the Akaroa Walk is a fully guided experience. Your guide will bring local knowledge to enhance your journey, and ensure your safety and comfort along the way.

**What time do we return to Christchurch?** The last day is a travel day, with some local sightseeing enroute. We will have you back in Christchurch at approx. 12.30, and can drop off at Christchurch airport as well (around 1.00pm)



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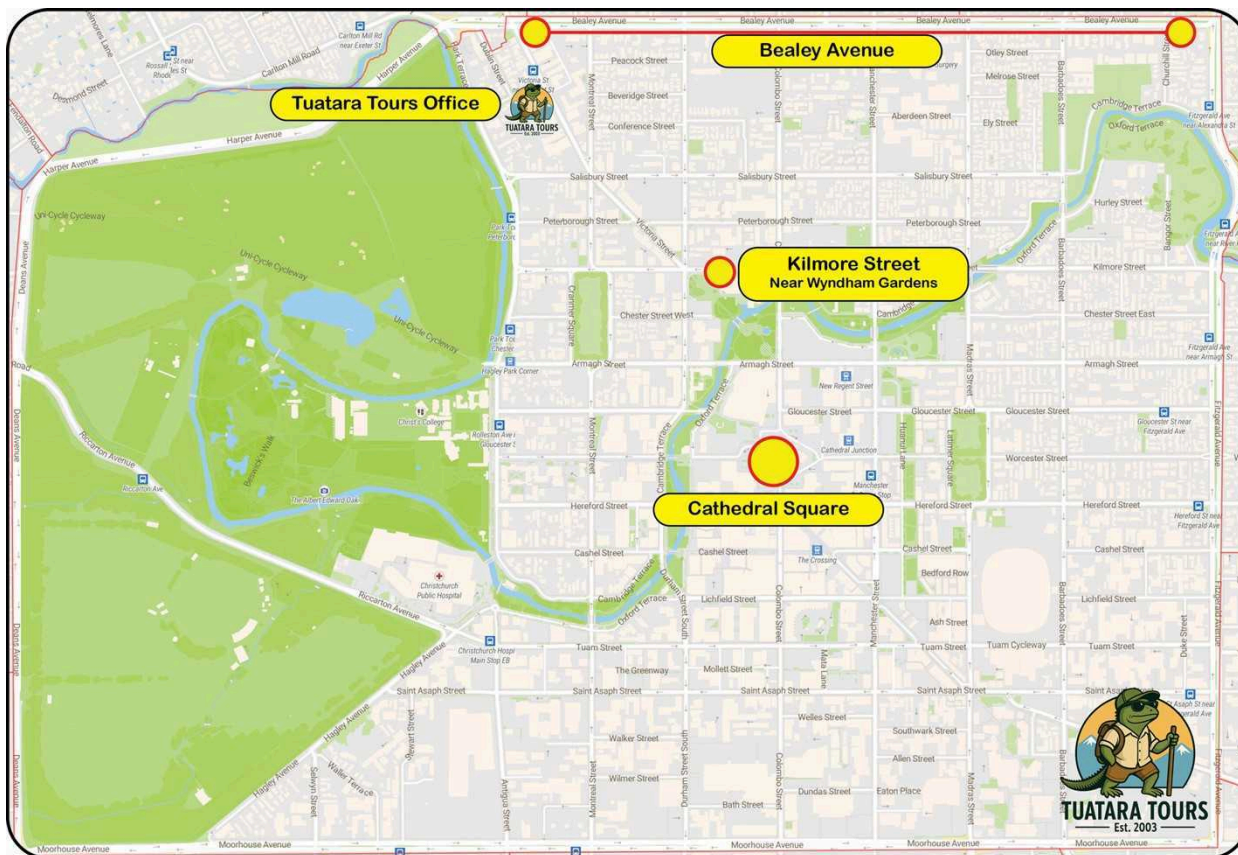


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### Pickup Points

Please contact us to confirm the nearest pick-up location to your accommodation. Unfortunately, we are unable to collect guests from Airbnb properties, private residences, or hill suburbs due to restrictions on access.



**Central City**  
Cathedral Square, outside  
Novotel



**Bealey Avenue**  
Local motels



**Kilmore Street**  
Wyndham Gardens vicinity



**Tuatara Tours Office**  
122 Victoria Street

### Tuatara Conservation

We're proud supporters of tuatara conservation. We've adopted "BP"—a juvenile tuatara at Orana Park in Christchurch, helping ensure the future of this amazing native species.



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### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Tuatara Tours NZ Limited accepts bookings subject to the following terms:

#### Contract

This contract is between Tuatara Tours and you, the client—defined as any person travelling or intending to travel on a tour operated by Tuatara Tours. The contract, including all matters arising from it, is governed by New Zealand law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the New Zealand courts. Only employees or directors of Tuatara Tours have the authority to vary or omit any of the terms stated herein.

#### Cancellation Policy Due to Travel Restrictions

If your trip is impacted by travel restrictions imposed by the New Zealand government or any other government, Tuatara Tours will either work with you to transfer your trip to a future date at no additional cost, or provide a full refund.

#### Price

All prices are quoted in New Zealand dollars and include 15% GST. Prices are based on rates current at the time of publishing. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to modify prices without notice if deemed necessary or appropriate.

**Accommodation** on organised tours is based on twin or double share. Solo travellers will be paired with another traveller of the same sex. A single supplement is available upon request.

#### Confirmation of Booking

Bookings are confirmed upon receipt of the full tour price, which is due 90 days prior to the start of the tour. Tuatara Tours and its agents reserve the right to decline any booking at their discretion.

#### Cancellation

If a client cancels a tour, the following charges apply (unless otherwise stated):

- 91+ days prior to departure – no fee
- 90–60 days prior to departure – NZD \$300.00 per person
- 59–30 days prior to departure – 30% of the total package cost
- 29–0 days prior to departure – 100% of the total package cost
- After tour commencement – no refund available

These cancellation fees are non-negotiable. We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance.

#### Travel Insurance

Tuatara Tours strongly recommends that clients take out travel insurance, including tour cancellation cover and any other relevant insurances. It is the client's responsibility to ensure adequate coverage. Tuatara Tours cannot be held liable for any failure to obtain appropriate insurance.

#### Medical Conditions

You must inform us at the time of booking of any medical condition, history, or medication you are currently taking.

#### Changes to Tours

Tuatara Tours will make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. However, reasonable changes to the itinerary may be made if deemed necessary or advisable. Clients will be informed of any changes as soon as reasonably possible. Where a tour service must be substituted, a service of similar quality and standard will be provided.

#### Weather

Adverse weather may prevent planned activities from proceeding as scheduled. The tour guide may decide to alter the itinerary based on weather conditions, prioritising group safety. Tuatara Tours and its contracted suppliers are not responsible for changes resulting from weather-related circumstances.



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#### General conditions

Tuatara Tours, its agents, contractors and guides do not accept responsibility or liability for loss, damage to, or theft of personal belongings (owners risk) or for any expenses, including medical and transport expenses arising from a personal accident, injury, illness, or hospitalisation. Tuatara Tours and their guides reserve the right to make any alterations to the itinerary in the interest of safety, or unforeseen circumstances due to causes such as weather, illness or misadventure. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to keep to published schedules but no guarantee is given. Tuatara Tours will not be held liable for costs incurred by change, delay or the missing of connecting services. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to exclude a person from a tour at any time, if in the opinion of the guide or operator, that person may be likely to risk the health, safety or comfort (including unsociable behaviour) of other clients, him or herself or the environment. In such circumstances, Tuatara Tours will not be obliged to offer any refund or transfer ticket. These terms and conditions apply to each participant including in a group booking. Where a booking is made on behalf of a group of two or more people then each participant in the group must be made aware of and accept these terms and conditions.

#### RISK DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In any adventure activity, there is an element of risk involved. Risks in undertaking this activity include (but are not limited to): hypothermia, heat exhaustion, physical injury caused by environment i.e. rock falls, and physical injury caused by self, i.e. falling over.

The staff and management of Tuatara Tours and any of its agency partners take all practicable steps to identify and minimise potential dangers. The Operator makes all arrangements for all tours on the condition that it shall not be liable for any sickness, injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, either directly or indirectly, by reason of any defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, by weather, by any other cause, or through acts of default of a company or person engaged in conveying the passengers, or in carrying out arrangements for these activities.

We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance prior to your trip.

By participating in this activity, you are expressly assuming those risks and responsibilities and are, to the maximum extent permitted by law releasing the Operator, its officers, employees, directors, agents and any other person associated with us, from any liability, claims, loss, damages or expenses (whatsoever and irrespective of whether direct, indirect or consequential) caused by any event including but not limited to: personal injury or death; property loss or damage; acts which may be construed as negligible or accidental; any other loss, damage, suffering, emotional or nervous disorder suffered by you or any other person in relation to this activity. You accept that you have been advised to obtain adequate travel insurance for all persons named on the booking.

#### In participating in the activity, the customer agrees to be bound by the following conditions:

- My successors, executors and administrators are bound by the Terms and Conditions;
- I agree not to commence any litigation proceedings in any country in relation to the risks and liabilities set out above and to indemnify the Operator against any claims;
- I confirm and warrant I am physically fit and suffer no medical conditions, which may affect my ability to participate in the activity;
- I confirm I am aware that professional medical assistance may be difficult and/or take some time to access due to the remote areas in which we are travelling;
- I consent to receive medical treatment in the case of injury, accident or illness during the activity and to indemnify the Operator against any claims, costs or expenses in respect of the treatment;
- I agree that any film, sound, video or other recordings taken of or during the activity will not be used in any production, or advertising without prior consent of the Operator, however the Operator may use such recordings itself at its complete discretion without any prior approval; and
- I agree to listen to my driver/guide/host, follow their instructions and make sure any children in my care do the same. Furthermore, the Operator will not be responsible for any personal injury and or property damage caused by you and any costs for such injury / damage will be your responsibility.



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### Custom Tours Available

Want to change the itinerary or create something entirely new? We enjoy designing custom adventures for friends, families, work groups and clubs. Get in touch!

### Keen to join a tour? Enquire now



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Australia free dial 1800 044 633

World +64 3 962 3280



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### You might also like....

The West Coast Trail Walk

The Queen Charlotte Walk

The Humpridge Track



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