CHRISTCHURCH

City of opportunity

Canterbury Development Corporation

www.cdc.org.nz
New Zealand’s newest, most exciting city

Christchurch is a place of transformation – where change and innovation have been embraced, creating a strong economy and vibrant place to live.

Alongside a wealth of employment opportunities, Christchurch offers an exceptional quality of life with picturesque parks, an abundance of recreational activities, world-class hospitality, retail and healthcare, first-rate educational facilities and access to some of the most stunning scenery and outdoor escapes in New Zealand.
Cantabrians* have shown great resilience since the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 and got on with the huge task of rebuilding their city and region. The sights and sounds of construction are everywhere, as the $40 billion earthquake rebuild continues at pace.

They have warmly welcomed the thousands of migrants from around the globe who have come to help with the rebuild, attracted by the varied work opportunities and the fantastic lifestyle available in the region.

Visitors are again flocking to the city, many attending global sporting events like the ICC Cricket World Cup and the FIFA U-20 World Cup. The next international events to be hosted by the city will be the Singularity University Summit in November 2016 and the Social Enterprise World Forum in September 2017.

The city is also winning international conferences in health science, earth science, international education and building technology and agriculture by partnering with locals who are international experts in these fields and capitalising on the region’s economic strengths.

Transitional Cathedral, also known as the ‘Cardboard Cathedral’ opened in August 2013.

* Cantabrian; someone who is born or affiliates themselves with Christchurch or the wider Canterbury region.

* Net international migration.
The $40 billion earthquake rebuild is the largest redevelopment project in New Zealand’s history and has driven unprecedented economic growth in the city and region.

The economy is strong

The economy has scaled up for the huge rebuild task and although the initial post-quake Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate is easing, the city is operating at high levels of economic activity with a large amount of construction work left to go.

Canterbury’s economy is responsible for 55 percent of the South Island’s GDP (Growth Domestic Product).

55%

CDC and Infometrics.

At just 3.8 percent, Christchurch’s unemployment rate is the lowest on either side of the Tasman (Dec 2014 quarter).

3.8%

Statistics New Zealand.

At the same time, the non-rebuild related economy continues to grow, particularly in manufacturing and the services sector, meaning the future prospects for the city and region’s economies remain overwhelmingly positive.
Christchurch is an incubator for those with big dreams. People living here are full of bold ideas and have a willingness to step outside the square in pursuit of a good idea.

The rebuild has been an opportunity to reinvent the city’s identity – and innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship have all played a key part, across many different business sectors. The world-class tertiary institutions based here, along with Crown Research Facilities, start-up accelerators and innovation hubs like GreenHouse, have been joined by exciting projects such as the Christchurch Innovation Precinct, Health Precinct and a food innovation facility at Lincoln University, FoodSouth, which is supporting the burgeoning food manufacturing sector.

These initiatives are adding to the creative feel of the city, as well as generating jobs and helping businesses grow. Nowhere else in the world can you experience the breadth of opportunities that abound right here, today, in Christchurch and across the region.

Key sectors – such as tech, manufacturing and agriculture - are all experiencing solid growth. The city’s tech sector has a high proportion of employment in hi-tech manufacturing, with a co-operative spirit among firms wanting to help each other succeed in the world market place. The strength of the sector is evident at the annual, and highly attended, Canterbury Technology Summit.

Christchurch manufacturing, as New Zealand’s second largest centre behind Auckland, specialises in developing products for global niche markets. There is also a talented pool of people developing technology solutions in the agricultural sector, helping Canterbury stand out on the world stage.
The region offers warm dry summers and access to snow-covered mountains during winter. These extreme seasons offer a range of recreational activities and along with a thriving arts, café and dining culture, ensure there’s plenty to do.

Christchurch’s geographic position makes it a natural gateway to the South Island, with easy access through its recently redeveloped international airport and expanding seaport. From the city, it’s less than a two-hour drive to popular destinations such as Hanmer Springs, Kaikoura and Akaroa, and just a hop, skip and a jump away from world-class ski-fields, famous lakes, vineyards and national parks such as Aoraki Mount Cook.

Adventure seekers, café dwellers and those looking to find work-life balance, in one of the most beautiful regions in New Zealand, are spoilt for choice in Canterbury.

CANTERBURY OFFERS

A lifestyle to suit you
If you prefer the city life – you won’t be disappointed. Many new restaurants, bars and shops have opened in the central business district and construction of numerous other cutting-edge developments are well underway. The suburban centres are also thriving and offer great cafés, retail therapy and entertainment – including local designers and boutiques.

The city’s Art Gallery is open, along with the Canterbury Museum, and it is expected more than half of the historic Arts Centre buildings will be open in the coming months. The internationally acclaimed children’s author Margaret Mahy’s destination playground is drawing families back into the heart of Christchurch and work continues on projects to enhance our engagement with the Avon River which meanders through the central city.

Ultra-fast fibre optic broadband technology, which enables downlink speeds of at least 100 Mbps (megabits per second), and uplink speeds of at least 50 Mbps, has been rolled out in Christchurch and most of the towns in Canterbury.

The number of new cafés, bars and restaurants that opened in the central city during 2015.
Cantabrians are sports-mad. They follow their local rugby team, the Crusaders, with a one-eyed passion. Netball, cricket, soccer, surfing, skiing, running and cycling are other favourites and sports fields, beaches and parks around the city are busy every weekend with people of different ages either playing or watching others get active. Every year in February the city comes out to support the Coast to Coast, an endurance race which traverses the width of the South Island in a single day, finishing in Christchurch.

There are more than 1000 parks to enjoy in Christchurch alone, including the acclaimed Christchurch Botanic Gardens, but if you feel like something a bit more active a large-scale mountain bike track is under development in the Port Hills – 15 minutes from the central city.

Mt Hutt ski season usually runs from early June to early October, which is the longest season of South Island ski fields.

Rugby

The Crusaders have won the Super Rugby title seven times since the competition started in 1996.
Growing incomes, along with stabilising rents and house prices, are making housing options in the city increasingly more affordable. The range of housing available is also broad, from inner city living to architecturally designed new homes and beautiful villas to family-friendly bungalows.

Whether you are looking for a suburb within close proximity to work, great local amenities, or beaches and leisure facilities – Christchurch has it all. Options range from breath-taking panoramic views in the idyllic and historic hill suburb of Cashmere to central city living in areas near Hagley Park or affordable riverside suburbs such as Opawa. The New Brighton and Sumner beaches are in close proximity to the central city, making them attractive suburbs for those who love the sea; whereas newly developed suburbs like Prestons and Rolleston provide easy access to the inland countryside. All have quality neighbourhood schools and community facilities such as parks and retail centres.

“A Living in Christchurch comes with a very reasonable price tag for buying, building or renting a home.”
Christchurch has a reputation for providing high quality education, with some of New Zealand's most renowned public and private schools and tertiary institutions including the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University and the Ara Institute of Canterbury.

We embrace and value the diversity international students bring to the city and seek to deliver high quality programmes and pathways with an industry focus that provide highly skilled graduates who contribute to our strong economy. Opportunities abound for students to sample the language, culture and local way of life.

www.education.govt.nz – provides details on our education system.

**Facts on education**

1. The first 20 hours per week of early childhood education is government funded.
2. Private school fees range from $8,000-$16,000 per year for primary and $11,500-$21,000 per year for secondary schools.
3. Christchurch has 19 state, 11 religious and 5 private secondary schools.
4. The University of Canterbury’s Civil and Structural Engineering course is ranked 49th in the international ranking agency QS’s 2016 World University Rankings by Subject.
5. Lincoln University’s Agriculture and Forestry course ranked in the top 100 in the 2016 QS World University Rankings. Lincoln University has number one world ratings in the 2015 International Student Barometer survey.
6. Ara Institute of Canterbury provides trades and industry based training to students specialising in areas such as health, engineering, design and architecture.
Tax facts
In New Zealand there is no inheritance tax, no general capital gains tax (although it can apply to some specific investments), and no social security tax. Personal tax rates are on a sliding scale up to 33 percent. The maximum company tax rate is 28 percent, and income from overseas investment can be exempt from New Zealand tax for up to four years for those that are eligible for Transitional Tax Resident status.

www.ird.govt.nz – to find out how our tax system works.

Immigration information
Australian Citizens or those with Permanent Residency are eligible to work in New Zealand.
For other parties there are a range of visa opportunities. A popular option is the Skilled Migrant Visa which enables eligible individuals to work in New Zealand.
The visa is based on a points system depending on age, experience, employability and qualifications. The application process also covers character, health, language, employment and partner/family information.
www.immigration.co.nz – for information about visas and working in New Zealand.

Do you need more information on the practicalities of moving to and working in Christchurch?

WANT TO

Find out more?
Useful links:

Qualifications
The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) determines transfer of credit and manages qualifications standards in New Zealand. You can apply for an International Qualifications Assessment (IQA) which will compare your qualifications with those on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF). The standard application length for this process is 35 working days.

www.nzqa.co.nz – for more information on how to get international qualifications recognised in New Zealand.

Note: All Australian universities and common qualifications are recognised.

Other useful links:

Looking for work?
www.seek.co.nz
www.trademe.co.nz/jobs

Find out more about Christchurch
www.christchurch.org.nz

Find out about the rebuild and plans for the city’s central business district
www.otakaroltd.co.nz

New Zealand Government website
www.govt.nz
Get in touch.

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