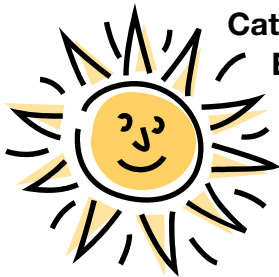




DAY TRIPS

Sun in Sumner (No. 3)



Catch the number 3 Bus from Platform B inside the Bus Exchange. Buses run generally every 15 minutes during the week and every half hour during the weekend. (For more information on Bus times for No.3 see the timetable at www.metroinfo.org.nz or pick up a timetable at the bus exchange)

The Bus leaves the Central City via Ferry Road, so called because in the early days of Christchurch settlement it led to the ferry across the Heathcote River. The ferry ceased to operate in 1864 when a bridge was built across the river but the road kept the name.

Edmonds Factory Gardens

Thomas Edmonds (maker of the famous baking powder) had this garden planted around his factory in 1923. The factory and garden feature on the cover of the well known Edmonds Cook Book (all time best selling book in New Zealand). The factory has sadly been demolished but the council acquired a major portion of the garden in 1991.

The Heathcote River – Opawaho

As you travel past Woolston you start seeing parts of Opawaho, the Heathcote River on your right. This river was important to the local Maori - Ngai Tahu. They gathered food and material for weaving from this area. Early European settlers used the river as a thoroughfare for trading.

Ferrymead - which means "The Meadow by the Ferry" is named after the ferry which began operating in the area in the 1850's and took Canterbury's early settlers across the Heathcote River as they travelled between the port of Lyttelton and the new settlement of Christchurch.

New Zealand's first public railway line went from Ferrymead to Christchurch (1863). Coastal ships would cross the Sumner Bar (the sand bar at the mouth of the estuary) and make their way up the Estuary to a wharf at Ferrymead (the piles of which can still be seen today). The rail line was closed when the Lyttelton road tunnel was opened in 1964.

Driver Recommendations (Ferrymead)

- **Casual and Country** - on the left-hand-side of the road is an interesting furniture and homeware store with a great café attached.
- **The Watershed Bar** has a great atmosphere matched with great food.
- **Ferrymead Heritage Park** – (400 metre walk from the Ferrymead Bus Stop) - is a Heritage Township complete with School House, Church, Tearooms, Jail and Railway Station plus a fascinating array of museum and heritage collections. Ferrymead Heritage Village is open daily from 10.00am - 4.30pm (except Christmas Day). There are tram rides on weekends and trains run every Sunday from December to February and the first Sunday of the month for the rest of the year. There's something for everyone.

Ôpâwaho – Ôtākaro or Avon-Heathcote Estuary

As the name suggests both the Avon and the Heathcote Rivers end their journeys in this estuary, the Avon River at South New Brighton end and the Heathcote here at Ferrymead. The estuary is an 880 hectare playground for many different recreational groups: yachties, windsurfers, kayakers, kite surfers, fishermen and birdwatchers (with more than 100 species of birds recorded, it's no wonder)

The start of the Peninsula

The Canterbury plains are alluvial plains made of stones washed down from the Alps by river action but the Port Hills and all of Banks Peninsula were created by two, now extinct, volcanoes. If you look at the cliffs alongside the road you can see coloured layers of volcanic rock. There are three distinctive rock formations to look out for. The first is Moa Bone Cave on the right just past the causeway. (The other two are Cave and Shag Rocks)

Trams were the main form of public transport in Christchurch City in the latter part of the 19th century, with horse drawn and steam trams running services to many parts of the city. 1905 saw the introduction of the electric tram as an integral part of the city's transport system, where they remained until the 1950s.

Red Bus Ltd started its life as the Canterbury Tramway Company in 1880 and ran the tram that went to Sumner. It then became Christchurch Transport Ltd., when buses took over.

The McCormacks Bay Causeway was built in 1907 so electric trams could get to Sumner. The roadway was added between 1932 and 1941. It was called the "Christchurch Sumner Lyttelton Motukarara Highway" in Government records to obtain funding for depression labour.

There are two old **Stone Tram shelters** still in existence, and being used as Bus Shelters. One on Main Road Redcliffs just after the Yacht Club and the other is at the bottom of the spur of Clifton Hill.



Redcliffs

Moa Bone Point Cave or Moa Cave or Te Ana o Hineraki

Now closed to the public due to the danger of falling rock, this cave was occupied at least 600 years ago by the earliest inhabitants of Canterbury, moa hunters who also took fish and shellfish from the estuary. Te Ana o Hineraki would not only have provided shelter in poor weather but also been a safe storage place for many valuable treasures.



Driver Recommendations

- **The Spur on Redcliffs** - "Best Muffins I ever had and the scones are good too" 87a Main Road
- **Redhouse** 186 Main Road, Redcliffs.

This house was originally built between 1865-66 in Oxford Tce in central Christchurch on the site where Tiffany's Restaurant now stands. In 1907 it was moved to spend the next 90 years in Armagh St. It housed many businesses but is remembered as Mother Hubbard's. In 1997 it was rundown and going to be demolished but instead it was bought by Peter Croft, who moved it to this site in Redcliffs. Here the building was restored to its original state. Now it is a shop and gallery.

Sumner Bar (where estuary outlet meets the sea)

The Sumner Bar is notoriously dangerous with the volume of water passing over it with each tide. One regular vessel crossing the bar in the early days was the *Mullogh*, New Zealand's first iron hulled steamer.

On August 25th 1865 disaster struck when 'Mullogh' ran onto rocks off Cave Rock in violent surf. Her cargo of liquor created keen interest on the beach. *Mullogh* was salvaged and repaired. One cargo of note that she carried over the Sumner bar was the statue of John Robert Godley, now standing in Cathedral Square.

Shag Rock – Rapanui

Another well-known landmark Rapanui Rock stands vigil at the entrance to the Heathcote/Avon estuary. Rapanui means "the great sternpost" and for Maori it marked the way into the estuary, a guiding stone, indicating the vast wetlands beyond that in pre-Pakeha (European) days extended across the present site of Christchurch.



Sumner

Surveyed by Captain Joseph Thomas, the advance agent for the Canterbury Association (whose mission was to found a Church of England Colony in New Zealand) and settled by work crews building the road to Port Cooper (now Lyttelton) in 1849, Sumner is one of the oldest European settlements in the Christchurch area. Sumner was named in honour of Dr John Bird Sumner, the then newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and president of the Canterbury Association. (While at University, Sumner was apparently nicknamed "Crumpet Sumner" due to his face being badly marked by smallpox)

Cave Rock – Tuawera

The Maori name Tuawera (killed by fire) is a Maori legend, in which the chief Turaki-Po loved a girl from Akaroa named Hineao (Maid of Light). Hineao spurned Turaki-Po who placed a curse over her and she died. Hineao's father retaliated and the story ends with the death of Turaki-Po and his tribe at Tuawera-Cave Rock.

The stone structure on top of Cave Rock was the Sumner Pilot's Shelter. The pilot used a series of signals on the mast (cross shaped structure) to inform ships about the safety of the Sumner Bar. There is a well worn track to the top.

Cave Rock evolved during the Pliocene period 10-15 million years ago. Intensive wave and tidal action have weathered it ever since.

The Esplanade

The Esplanade is a lovely and well used walkway along the beach. Great opportunities exist at each end for ice cream. The beach was badly scoured out in the 1950's and the protective rubble put down to prevent further erosion.

Driver Recommendations

- **Chocoblitz.** On the corner of Nayland and Heberden Streets, you will find the best chocolate shop ever - Yum!
- **Whitewash Heads Walk.** There is a great walk around the head of the bay – Challenging but well worth it for the views. Start at the lifeboat shed at the end of the Esplanade.
- **Scarborough Fare.** Is a lovely coffee shop with ice cream next door

Sumner Township

The Sumner township is fun just to wander around. It is full of great cafés, restaurants and quirky little shops.

Driver Recommendations

- If you are looking for a great restaurant – **The Cornershop Bistro**
- If you are after something cheap and cheerful – Indian Sumner and both pizza places are excellent
- If you just want to pick something up – **The Salty Pig Deli**, **Tart** –deli/café, and **The Red Snapper** for fish and chips are all great.

- **Hollywood Movie Theatre.** The Hollywood Theatre opened in 1938 as a single cinema with "Wings of the Morning" starring Tyrone Power. The cinema was twinned in 1976 and tripled in 1999. It is the only suburban cinema in Christchurch still standing and still running after 64 years of operation and cosy and great fun.

Van Asch Deaf Education Centre

If you take the bus to the end of the line you pass van Asch Deaf Education Centre (VADEC). Opened in 1880, van Asch is a residential special school for deaf children and the first of its kind in New Zealand.

After a great day in Sumner, take the Red Bus home again.

(Monday to Fridays the last bus leaves Sumner at 10.54pm, Saturdays 11.55pm and Sundays 9.55pm, but please check the schedule to be sure)



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