



## DAY TRIPS

### Views and Vessels (No. 28)



**Catch the number 28 Bus from Platform D outside the Bus Exchange on Colombo Street. Buses run generally every 15 minutes during the week and every half-hour during the weekend. (For more information on Bus times for No.28 see the timetable at [www.metroinfo.org.nz](http://www.metroinfo.org.nz) or pick up a timetable at the bus exchange)**

The Bus leaves the Central City via Colombo Street, Christchurch's main and longest street. The bus travels through Sydenham, an area that still retains many of its heritage buildings. It then moves through the suburb of Opawa, which is named for the pā that once stood on the banks of the Opawaho or Heathcote River.

The route continues up Port Hills Road to the Heathcote Valley.

#### Christchurch Gondola

The Gondola is a spectacular experience. The 945 metre Gondola ride gently lifts visitors, in 4 person passenger cabins, almost 500 metres (1500 feet) above sea level. At the summit complex you see 360 degree views of Christchurch, the Canterbury Plains, Pegasus Bay, the estuary and Lyttelton Harbour.

At the top there are many easy walks suitable for most fitness levels, a restaurant and a fascinating time tunnel that shows you the history of the area from its beginnings as a volcano.



#### The Lyttelton Tunnel

The first tunnel from Lyttelton to Christchurch was a rail tunnel completed in 1867. The tunnel is 2.4 km long and built at a cost of 195,000 pounds. It was New Zealand's first rail tunnel, and for many years the longest. It was the first tunnel in the world to be driven through the side of an extinct volcano.

A man named Dobson was the engineer who oversaw the building of the tunnel. He showed his skill when the two lines of the tunnel (one coming from Lyttelton, one from Heathcote) met exactly as planned on 24 May 1867. In five days it was possible for men to walk from one end of the tunnel to the other. On 10 June 1867 people made the most of the opportunity to walk through the new tunnel.

The Lyttelton rail tunnel was officially opened for passenger traffic on 9 December 1867, taking less than seven minutes to make the trip through the hill section of the track.

The Lyttelton Road Tunnel opened on 27 February 1964 as the longest road tunnel in New Zealand. For many years there was a toll to pay to go through

**Banks Peninsula** started as a volcanic island, built of lava from two craters located in what are now Lyttelton and Akaroa harbours. Erosion and other changes at the end of the last Ice Age resulted in both craters being flooded by the sea.

Erosion of the mountainous country 50 miles to the west produced a shingle plain which at length reached the hilly shores of the island turning it into a peninsula.

## Lyttelton



Lyttelton Harbour is home to the South Island's biggest multi-purpose port. Its picturesque, bustling port town, reflects its founding settlement past with turn-of-the-century weatherboard cottages and stone buildings nestled into the hillside. Originally called Port Cooper and Te-Whaka-raupo (the harbour of the bulrush reeds) by the Maori who lived here for about 1,000 years before Captain Cook sighted the peninsula on 16 February 1770, on the Endeavour's first voyage to New Zealand,

The colonisation of this area began in England in 1848 with the formation of the **Canterbury Association**. Its mission to found a Church of England Colony in New Zealand. Lyttelton was chosen because of its suitability as a port and the availability of a large area of flat land just over the hill, later known as the Canterbury Plains.

An official proclamation on August 30, 1849 established the town as a recognised port and a 150ft long by 15ft wide wharf was constructed, putting it on the shipping map.

Christchurch's first European settlers landed here in 1850 in the **First Four Ships**: "Charlotte Jane" appeared off the town at 10am on 16 December 1850, "Randolph" at 5.30pm, "Sir George Seymour" at noon the next day, and "Cressy" eleven days later. The settlers had to then trek over the Port Hills to establish their new homes.

Dramatic changes followed the settlers arrival: Canterbury's first printing press arrived on the Charlotte Jane and the first edition of the Lyttelton Times (later the Christchurch Press) was produced in 1851.

The Lyttelton gaol was built in 1860. The hard labour gang built most of the roads and stone walls around Lyttelton. New Zealand's first telegraph line, between Lyttelton and Christchurch was opened in 1862.

In 1877, the Lyttelton Harbour Board was established and was responsible for the management of the harbour. Lyttelton Port Company was formed in 1989 and in July 1996, the company listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange and now has a 30 percent public listing.



## ***What to do in Lyttelton***

### **Lyttelton Visitor Centre**

Inside Anchor Fine Arts 34 London St Ph:  
03 328 9093



**Lyttelton Museum** Gladstone Quay - The local museum has a maritime theme; it also has an excellent Antarctic gallery (Lyttelton was an expedition launching point in the days of South Pole expeditions).

**Time Ball Station**, on Sumner Road, was used to signal the sighting of new arrivals and as a time signal for ships to set their chronometers. The Ships master compared the local time with Greenwich Mean Time to calculate his latitude. Accurate time keeping was essential and chronometers were checked at every opportunity. Longitude was calculated by simple Geometry.

The Lyttelton time ball, the third in New Zealand and the only survivor, was built in 1876. The signal discontinued in 1934, when the time ball was superseded by radio. It is one of only 5 in the world that still remains in working order.



**Black Cat Cruises** depart from Lyttelton every day - with any luck, you'll encounter Hector's dolphins. Black Cat runs the Diamond Harbour Ferry (\$10 return and 10 minutes) and wildlife and private charters. Bookings for the wildlife cruises and charter can be done on line at [www.blackcat.co.nz](http://www.blackcat.co.nz)

If you go on a Saturday the **Farmers Market** is a must. It is on Oxford Street in the School Grounds.

***After a great day out, take the Red Bus home again.***

**(Monday to Thursdays the last bus leaves Lyttelton at 10.30 pm, Fridays and Saturdays 11.00 pm and Sundays 10.00 pm, but please check the schedule to be sure)**



**Red Bus Limited**

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