



WELCOME TO THE OBSERVATORY HOTEL

Tena Koe and a very warm welcome to The Observatory Hotel where we are taking you through a unique journey at a location that is listed by Heritage New Zealand with an outstanding historical significance.

We understand that it is the little things that matter. We are at your service to complement your journey with unique and personalised services. Please feel free to contact us anytime where we will be happy to assist you to ensure you have a pleasant and memorable stay with us.

Warmest Regards,
The Observatory Team

OUR TIKANGA

KAITIAKITANGA

Kaitiaki is a New Zealand term used for the Māori concept of guardianship, for the sky, the sea, and the land. A kaitiaki is a guardian, and the process and practices of protecting and looking after the environment are referred to as kaitiakitanga.

The concept and terminology have been increasingly brought into public policy on trusteeship or guardianship—in particular with the environmental and resource controls. We endeavour to follow these principles throughout the operation of our hotel.

MANAAKITANGA

Hospitality, kindness, generosity, support - the process of showing respect, generosity and care for others. This is a core principle for our staff here at the hotel, and we are excited to showcase this to you throughout your stay with us.

MATARIKI

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. It rises in midwinter and for many Māori, it heralds the start of a new year. Iwi across New Zealand understand and celebrate Matariki in different ways and at different times.

Matariki is an abbreviation of 'Ngā Mata o te Ariki Tāwhirimātea' - 'The eyes of the god Tāwhirimātea'. According to Māori tradition, the god of the wind, Tāwhirimātea, was so angry when his siblings separated their parents, Ranginui the sky father and Papatūānuku the earth mother, that he tore out his eyes and threw them into the heavens.

Traditionally, Matariki was a time to acknowledge the dead and to release their spirits to become stars. It was also a time to reflect, to be thankful to the gods for the harvest, to feast and to share the bounty of the harvest with family and friends.

Matariki, or Māori New Year, celebrations were once popular, but had largely stopped by the 1940s. In the 2000s, they were revived. Now, thousands of people take part in events to honour the beginning of the Māori New Year, and in whānau celebrations to remember those who have died and to plan for the year ahead.

1978

THE BIOLOGY BUILDING

The exterior is a mix of Old English and French Gothic elements. This was the eclectic approach to join two separate buildings together that were erected 20 years apart by two different architects. The entrance doorway is Old English and the false turrelle is a French motif to cover the right-angled join with the Physics department. Due to the increasingly shaded South Quad it meant that the botanical glasshouse had to be installed on the buildings roof.

ARTS CENTRE OF CHRISTCHURCH TRUST ESTABLISHED

The University of Canterbury (formally Canterbury College) was outgrowing the site and moving departments over to Ilam. At the university's centenary in 1973, it announced that it would gift the buildings to the people of Christchurch as an arts centre. On 31 December 1978 The Arts Centre Trust of Christchurch formally became the owner and official landlord of the centre.





2010

CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKES

The Observatory Tower was badly damaged in the 2010 Canterbury earthquake. The buildings were closed, and tenants relocated.

The Observatory Tower collapsed in the 2011 Canterbury earthquake. The full Arts Centre site was closed for earthquake strengthening work.

2019

OBSERVATORY, PHYSICS & BIOLOGY BUILDINGS RESTORATION

Leighs Construction won the contract to work on the buildings' restoration and moved on site working alongside The Arts Centre's stonemasons to restore the buildings. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there were a couple of nationwide lockdowns that halted restoration work.



2022

THE OBSERVATORY HOTEL GRAND OPENING

The buildings restoration was complete, and The Observatory Hotel officially opened.



KEY HOTEL INFORMATION

Baggage Storage

You are welcome to store your luggage with Guest Services at any time. Please notify our team and you may leave it in your room or bring it to our reception and we can store it in our secure luggage facilities.

Breakfast

Light continental breakfast is available between the hours of 6:30am - 10am. It is served at The Conservatory, located on level 3 of the hotel. Should you wish to have hot breakfast, Quad which is across the hotel opens for breakfast from 8am.

Car Hire

A full range of vehicles is available for hire from leading national and international rental car companies. We are more than happy to make rental car enquiries & arrangements on your behalf.

Check Out

Our check out time is 10:00am. If a later check out time is required, please contact reception, as an additional surcharge may be required. If unavailable, you are welcome to store your luggage with Guest Services.

Concierge Service

We have a knowledgeable concierge team to help you with any queries you may have whilst staying with us. We also have a helpful area at our reception, with informative brochures about Canterbury activities and attractions. Please ask our team for further details.

Dining Chargeback Service

We are pleased to offer our guests the convenience to chargeback their outside restaurant dining to their hotel bill, which can be paid for directly to the hotel upon check out. Please get in contact with Guest Services to be advised which of our neighbouring restaurants are currently available to take advantage of our charge back offering.

Dry Cleaning

Dry Cleaning services are available, please use the bag provided in your wardrobe and fill out the form (pricing is listed). Please leave the bag outside your door prior to 7.00am to be collected by a staff member, or alternatively leave it with us on your way out for the day. Please be advised that there is no dry-cleaning service on Sundays or New Zealand Public Holidays.

KEY HOTEL INFORMATION

Earthquake

In the event of an earthquake, please seek safety under a table or in a doorframe. Do not attempt to exit the building. Remain in your place of safety until the shaking has stopped then proceed to the front lawn and follow staff instructions.

Electricity

New Zealand electricity operates at 240 volts. Adaptors for electrical appliances are available from Guest Services.

Fire Evacuation

In the event of a fire, please sound an alarm, (located near the elevator), call 111 to alert the fire service and evacuate the building immediately. Please use the stairs and under any circumstances do not use the lift. Our assembly area where you will meet our chief fire warden is situated in front of the hotel entrance.

Gym

Your room key will give you a full access to our gym, which has the latest workout equipment. It can be used at any time of the day or night and is reserved only for our guests. Our gym is located on the ground floor of The Observatory Hotel and is open 24/7.

Housekeeping

Daily housekeeping service is provided for all guests between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. If you require your room to be serviced outside of these hours, please inform Guest Services as soon as possible and we will do our best to get your room serviced.

Internet Access

To access our complimentary Wi-Fi access, please go to our Observatory Hotel Wi-Fi network and proceed with the instructions that appear on your screen. You will then be prompted to enter the below network password to access the highspeed Wi-Fi network.

Network: **ObservatoryGuest**

Password: **observatoryhotel**

Iron & Ironing Boards

Irons and ironing boards are located in the wardrobe of your room. If you require any assistance, please contact Guest Services.

KEY HOTEL INFORMATION

Linen & Towels

Housekeeping can provide extra towels or amenities if necessary. To arrange this, please notify Guest Services on “0”. The Observatory Hotel practices Eco- Friendly procedures. If your towels are hanging in the bathroom, we will leave them for you to reuse. If you wish to have them replaced, please leave them on the floor or in the shower.

Maintenance

If you have any problems with your room, appliances or equipment, please dial Guest Services on ‘0’ and we will do our best to amend the situation immediately.

Massage

Within The Arts Centre precinct, a short walk away from The Observatory Hotel, is Dee Dee Thai Massage. They are open from 9:00am to 6:30pm, 7 days a week. Advanced bookings are preferred and can be done so at +64 21 053 9253. Our team at Guest Services can also book this in for you.

Meeting Room

Designed to cultivate creativity, our meeting room seats up to 8 people. The room provides a flexible space for board meetings, planning sessions, workshops and everything in between. Equipping you with a premium suite of tools and features, our meeting room is complete with all the equipment and amenities to fulfill your individualised requirements. Catering is available upon request.

Minibar

Minibar items are available to order upon request from Guest Services at any time during your stay. We have placed our full Minibar menu within your room for your convenience.

Pillow Menu

The Observatory Hotel is pleased to offer our guests with a range of pillows on our hand-picked pillow menu to ensure you have a pleasant night’s sleep. We currently offer the following pillows to choose from:

- Memory Foam Pillow
- Lavender Pillow
- Symphony Pillow
- Hypoallergenic Pillow

Please contact Guest Services to request for one of the above.

KEY HOTEL INFORMATION

Room Service

Light meals are available from 11am – 4am daily. Please contact our Guest Service Team by dialing “0”.

Safe Deposit Box

All rooms are equipped with a security safe for your valuables. Follow the instructions located on the safe before placing your personal belongings inside.

Smoking

The Observatory Hotel has a non-smoking and non-vaping policy inside all guest rooms & public areas. This also includes the entire Arts Centre precinct. A fixed fee of \$400 per day will be added to your account if you are found to be smoking inside your guest room, plus any additional expenses we incur due to this activity.

The Drawing Room

Paying homage to the library art form, the Drawing Room reimagines the traditional library into an expressive and provocative space for you to meet, ponder and indulge. It boasts an inspired selection of delectable books. Its elegance and ambience will have you captivated.

Taxis & Private Airport Transfers

Private airport transfers are available at an additional cost. Please contact Guest Services on ‘0’ with your flight details for us to book this service for you or if you would like us to call a taxi instead, at any point during your stay.

Telephone Dialling Instructions

Outside line – dial “1” then the phone number you are calling to Guest Services – dial “0”. Room to Room – dial “7” then dial the room number directly. International – dial “1” followed by “00”, country code, area code and number you are calling.

Tours

There are many different types of tours that you can experience here in Christchurch but also in the wider Canterbury region. If you are interested in a specific tour or would like to enquire about tours, please get in touch with Guest Services.

Useful Contacts

In-House Emergencies: Call Guest Services on ‘0’. For Police, Ambulance or Fire: 111

WINE & DINE OPTIONS

The Observatory Hotel is located in the heart of Christchurch City, providing you with easy access to the cities best dining facilities. There are a number of eating options available here in the Arts Centre itself and in the surrounding area.

Curators House

An exquisite sanctuary, originally built for the curator of the Botanic Gardens in 1920, now is home to an iconic restaurant located at the Botanical Gardens. Enjoy its authentic Spanish cuisine & friendly service at the terrace garden or in one of its charming dining rooms.

Quad

Quad vibrant atmosphere is perfect for both quick bites and leisurely meals, making it an ideal spot for visitors and locals alike. With a strong focus on exceptional customer service, the team is dedicated to creating memorable experiences for every guest.

Zen Sushi & Dumplings

Zen Sushi & Dumplings offers a unique combination of cold sushi and hot dumplings under one roof. Zen's sushi is made by the best sushi chefs, who not only ensure their sushi tastes heavenly, but also pursue presentation perfection which is sure to please the eye. The chefs use the highest quality ingredients, such as free-range chicken, free-range eggs and Marlborough King Salmon.

Riverside Market

In the heart of the CBD, overlooking the Avon River, Riverside Market us a 7-day indoor farmers' market selling local produce, meat, seafood, baked goods, coffee and more. Alongside the market is Riverside Lanes, a destination boutique shopping experience with major fashion brands.

Inati

At Inati you will dine around the chef's table and share in the experience that is the theatre of the kitchen. Inati will offer seasonally-inspired tasting plates that will challenge the notion of what a traditional dining experience is. Utilising the finest produce sourced locally, to will showcase the best of Canterbury.

Christchurch Tramway Restaurant

New Zealand's only restaurant tramcar, we offer you a unique way to view the inner city of Christchurch while enjoying a delicious evening dinner. Experience the luxury of our 36 seater air-conditioned, heritage dining tram and be treated to premium local cuisine and beverages along with attentive and friendly service.

Frances Nation Grocer

Frances Nation Grocer is renowned for its coffee and lunch options at Te Matatiki Toi Ora The Arts Centre. The Grocer stocks freshly baked bread and a wide range of locally produced pantry items: cheese, eggs, honey, jams, bottled fruits, flour, vinegar, olive oil and more. There are plenty of picnic-ready options for those wishing to enjoy the natural scenery provided by the Botanic Gardens.

Cellar Door

Cellar Door offers comparative wine tasting flights and an extensive selection of local and international wines by the glass and bottle. It also offers a collection of library wines from New Zealand and around the world, along with craft beer, cocktails and spirits. The fresh seasonal food menu is matched to complement its wine list.

Fiddlesticks Restaurant & Bar

Sociable and relaxed, Fiddlesticks Restaurant & Bar is Christchurch's most sophisticated retreat. Fiddlesticks offers an inviting atmosphere in which to while away some time in the heart of the Arts Precinct. Watch the street side activity while soaking up the ambience in front of a roaring outdoor fire in our sheltered courtyard, or join friends in one of the intimate dining spaces.

ACTIVITIES

Christchurch is a city like no other, offering the best outdoor pursuits and activities such as skiing, golfing, hunting, fishing, tramping and mountain biking just in our backyard. Bordered by the Port Hills, the Canterbury plains, the Pacific Ocean and the Southern Alps, Christchurch is host to an abundance of wildlife and unique flora, offering spectacular scenery as well as the comforts of the city life.

In February 2011, Christchurch experienced a devastating earthquake that rocked the central city. Since then, Christchurch has emerged as one of New Zealand's most resilient and innovative cities. It is an exciting time to visit as it is currently experiencing a renaissance of fresh ideas and renewed creativity.

Te Matatiki Toi Ora - The Christchurch Arts Centre, located in the heart of Ōtautahi Christchurch, The Arts Centre is an Aotearoa New Zealand landmark. Home to galleries, museums, cinemas, boutique retailers, artisan eateries and bars, engaging events, stunning venues and much more.

Hurunui Trails

The Waipara Vineyard Trail has been developed to encourage cycling and hiking in the Waipara Valley. Pass through world-class vineyards and historic farms; visit cellar doors and lunch at one of the

wineries along the way. The views across the valley to the Main Divide are truly remarkable. Trails are designed for cyclists, walkers, and joggers.

Akaroa

Akaroa is a French settled township with amazing food and beautiful scenery, perfect for a day away from the city. The small township offers some once in a lifetime opportunities such as swimming with wild dolphins and the very special cooking school using local ingredients from sea and land. With many scenic walks and things to see in Akaroa there is no chance of a boring day. Take in the relaxing sea air, shop in some unique boutique shops; experience New Zealand with a French twist!

Christchurch Botanical Gardens

Christchurch is known as the Garden City, what better way to experience the reason behind this name than seeing it for yourself. The area is a 2-minute walk from the Arts Centre. The Botanical Gardens is connected to Hagley Park making it the biggest, open, green space in Christchurch allowing you to feel like you are away from the city when in fact you are directly in the middle. Enter the green houses and see exotic flowers and plants, take a walk through the bush and just relax, stop for a drink or something to eat in the cafe or continue the relaxation by entering the Canterbury Museum and take a step back in time.

Farmers Markets

Christchurch is full of the freshest and highest quality produce and products and the best place to find these are at local farmers markets, which occur all over the city in many different areas. Farmers markets bring together small local businesses and farmers that supply their community with fresh produce week after week. Many of the markets occur over the weekend and can be found in all corners of the city. Ask reception if you are interested in visiting a market and they can point you in the right direction.

Up & Coming Events In Christchurch

Post Earthquake Christchurch is full of rebuilding and hype for new activities and events that will brighten the city and once again make it the beautiful Garden City.

Check out www.bethere.co.nz for information on events and many more, happening in Christchurch and the Canterbury area.

If you require more information or would like some assistance on these events & activities, or any others, our Guest Services team share local knowledge and would be happy to assist you with your plans. Local maps and activity brochures are also available from reception.