CLOSE TO CHRISTCHURCH

Introduction

Christchurch City and its surrounds are blessed with a wealth of places to fish for trout and salmon. While these may not always have the same catch rates as high country waters, they offer a quick and convenient break from the stress of city life. These waters are also popular with visitors to Christchurch who do not have the time to fish further afield.

Getting There

All of the places described in this brochure lie within a forty five minute drive of Christchurch City. The lower Rakaia, Lake Ellesmere and its south western tributaries are accessed by driving to the township of Lincoln and heading south towards Le斯顿 from there. Lake Forsyth and the north eastern tributaries of Lake Ellesmere are accessed off the Akaroa Highway. The rivers north of Christchurch can all be accessed off SH1 on the road to Amberley and Kaikoura.

Places to Fish

1. Ashley River

The Ashley River is typical of many small to medium sized Canterbury rivers in that it gets very low during summer months. The fishing is best between October and December in the lower reaches although the fishing upstream of Rangiora should remain good all season. The best access points are through the Waikuku Beach township, the SH1 Bridge or the bridge immediately north of Rangiora.

2. Cam River

The Cam supports reasonable populations of brown trout in the one to four pound size range. Access is available at the Tuawihi end of Bramleys Road, from Youngs Road which leads off Limeside Road between Kaiaua and Rangiora and from the Lower Camside Road bridge on the north-western side of Kaiaua.

3. Styx River

Another small stream which fishes best in spring and autumn, especially at dusk. The best access sites are off Spencerville Road, Lower Styx Road and Kainga Road.

4. Kaiapoi River

The Kaiapoi River experiences good runs of salmon and is one of the only places in New Zealand where Chinook salmon are regularly caught on baits; -freshwater shrimps and pilchards being most popular. The best fishing is between SH1 and the confluence with the Waimakariri. Access is available at the Hall Street boat ramp and from Smith Street, both within the township of Kaiapoi. The upper Kaiapoi (or Silverstream) offers good spring creek fishing for trout. Check with local landowners before fishing this part of the river because much of it lies on private land.

5. Waimakariri River

This delightful spring creek contains good populations of smaller trout and is a very popular "after work" fishery. It also hosts good runs of larger spawning trout in autumn. The most popular access points are the Dickies Road Bridge (turn left off SH1 just before leaving Belfast and travel a short distance down Dickies Road) and through the Groyne Park, (off Johns Road between the Airport and Belfast).

6. Avon River

Despite these rivers flowing through a major city, they are both good junior fisheries. Access is very good along both rivers. Please check the current regulations for closed areas and dates.

Methods

Bait, spinning and fly fishing are legal for trout fishing in most low water situations. The bigger rivers, especially when they are carrying a little colour, may require more difficult and sophisticated techniques. Worms, maggots and baits such as earthworms, blackworms and mussels should be used with care when fishing the small spring fed streams during daylight hours are advised. Slow sinking lines is the favoured technique, particularly in the lower reaches. For smaller fish, fly fishing with Timber Yard Road (heading south). Turn left down the latter and you will come to a small bridge not far from the corner. Fishing at the mouth can offer good fly fishing during daylight hours. To get to Harts Creek follow Lake Road to its intersection with Timber Yard Road and out into the beach. The tributaries of Ellesmere fish better than the lake itself, however good fishing for sea-run trout can occur at Taumutu when the lake is open to the sea. Take the access track which leads off Gullivers Road and out into the beach.

EcoFish Reporting

Reports on river fishing conditions are available on 03 366 2986. 

Fishing Reports

1 and April 30.
CLOSE to CHRISTCHURCH

Ashley River
Cust River
Cam River
Styx River
Kaiapoi River
Waimakariri River - see separate brochure

Otukaikino River
Avon
Heathcote River
Okana River (Little River)
Lake Forsyth
Kaituna River
Halswell River
Lake Ellesmere
II River
Selwyn River
Irwell River
Harts Creek
Rakaia River

NEW ZEALAND
North Canterbury Region