

Christchurch



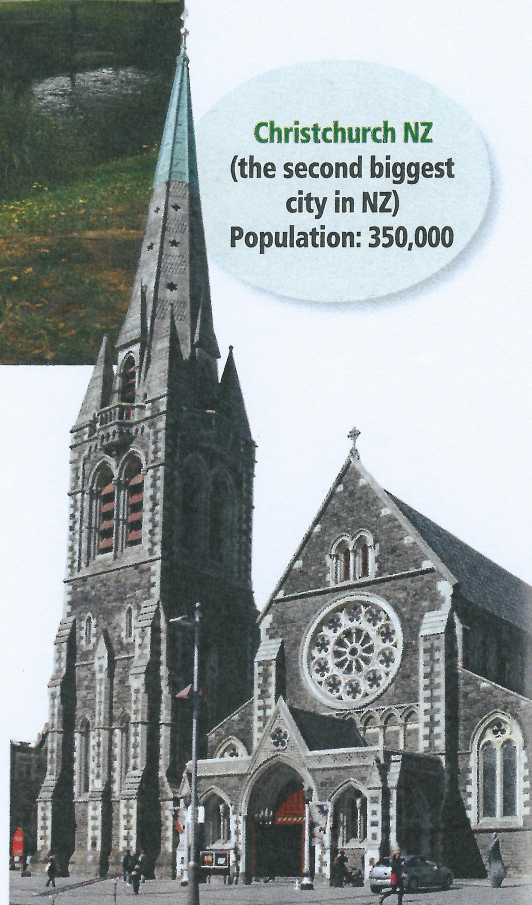
Christchurch NZ
(the second biggest
city in NZ)
Population: 350,000

Christchurch is a charming city located on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island. The city was built by British settlers at the end of the 19th century and it retains a distinctly English character.

The settlers, known as the Canterbury Pilgrims, wanted to create a city around a central cathedral and college, based on the model of Christ Church College in Oxford, England. They decided on the name 'Christchurch' before they had even arrived on the island!

The atmosphere in Christchurch is reminiscent of the English university cities of Oxford and Cambridge. A neo-Gothic cathedral dominates the central square, the architecture of the buildings is very elegant and there are numerous parks and gardens. A beautiful tree-lined river, the river Avon, flows through the city centre and tourists can hire a small wooden boat, known as a punt, for a leisurely ride.

Christchurch is also the gateway to exploring New Zealand's South Island. The fjords, mountain ranges, glaciers and plains of the island are all within easy reach.



Warm up

1 Look at the photos of Christchurch in New Zealand. What English city does it remind you of?

Reading

2 These statements about Christchurch are all incorrect. Read the text and correct them.

1 Christchurch is on the northern tip of the South Island.

- 4** It is reminiscent of London.
- 5** The cathedral is on the outskirts of the city.
- 6** Tourists can hire canoes for a ride along the river Avon.

3 Read about Maori culture and answer the questions.

- 1** Where did the first Maoris come from?
- 2** What does the legend say about their journey?
- 3** How many Maoris live in New Zealand today?
- 4** What is the Haka?