

DESTINATION OXFORD

Oxford is a destination

Situated 45 minutes easy drive west of Christchurch on the Inland Scenic Route 72 Oxford can either be enjoyed as a day visit or an ideal retreat so that its activities and surrounds can be explored further.

Named after Oxford University in England, and originally the planned location for a university you can find out more about its fascinating history at the local museum, see the old jail with its prisoner and try out the stocks!

And it's also a town where plenty is happening:

Planning on staying in and around Oxford

Oxford is serviced with a range of accommodation, including a range of B&B's and country stays where the emphasis is on warm and friendly hospitality. Check out Chirbury Manor, Country Life B&B, Hielan House Countrystay , Lynian Park, and the Country Garden B&B for hosted accommodation. The Ashley Gorge Holiday Park at nearby Ashley Gorge offers tent and power sites, bunkhouses and cabins plus a great river that offers adventure, fishing, swimming. Then there is the historical West Oxford Hotel that has the ambience of a genuine country pub and accommodation.

Tempt the taste buds

Visit Café 51 which offers a relaxed dining experience using flavours with a New Zealand theme and has inviting indoor, outdoor and evening dining.

New to Oxford this year is Jo Seagar, New Zealand's Celebrity Easy Peasy Chef, who with her café, shop and cook school, has become a great positive addition to the township. Jo is using some of the local butchery's famous sausages and meats on her menus and these can be purchased from the Oxford Butchery. They use good old fashioned methods and keep alive that traditional butcher service. You just can't beat their quality meats including ham, bacon, sausages and cheerios!

Village Foods Bakery has freshly baked breads and pies. A must do is to taste their raspberry buns! They have a selection of foods and takeaways. Sit down and also enjoy a cuppa.

The Oxford Workingmen's Club offers a bistro restaurant some evenings, plus takeaways, bottle store, sporting activities and entertainment.

Not far down the Oxford Road, 6 minutes drive you will find Lynkens Ice-cream parlour with treats for all the family, the latest selection of icecream flavours around and a place to have afternoon team. A dairy to with big icecreams and a supermarket will help with all those other food items that you need.

Oxford is a market town!

Yes, three markets, each offering different things. The Oxford farmers market held in the Main Street from 8.30am to 12 noon each Sunday morning offers a growing variety of fresh local produce and products.

A regular favourite is the Craft Market open the 1st Sunday of each month offering top quality handmade crafts. The Palmdale Llamas show up at the craft Market and visitors are also welcome at the farm where you can see baby Llamas and learn more about them.

Paddy's Market is a fun event organised by the Lions. Every 3 months or so on a Saturday in Harewood Road a big crowd gathers at the sale yards to grab a bargain. Its true – one person's excess can be another person's treasure!

There is a local stock agent operating livestock sales at the Oxford Saleyards. Much on offer each time for both the farmer and the lifestyler.

Completing the township a craft shop that offers a large variety of arts and crafts. Good for presents or as a treat for yourself. Another place to shop for fabulous giftware and beauty products is the Oxford Pharmacy. It's true that you can get giftware there that hasn't been viewed in Auckland.

A local boutique DVD shop offers new releases plus a range of interesting choices and classics.

Marina's Origami Studio has origami and paper art and other gifts. You will be surprised at the range of stunning items and you can learn the craft at local workshops.

Oxford can be adventurous!

For the adventure-seeker there is always jet boating rides on the Waimakariri River, and if you are a kayaker you can try the Waimakariri and Ashley rivers for thrills. There is also horse riding, mountain bike trails, bush walks and mountain tramps to consider.

Try the Ashley Gorge River for great safe swimming holes and the Reserve where you can picnic with toilets close by. Bring your gas barbeques and the family to enjoy the tranquil setting of Ashley Gorge.

An amazing and thrilling river trip up through the Waimakariri Gorge is operated not far from Oxford with Waimakariri Alpine Jets.

Kowhai Farm is a long established horse riding school for beginners and those more experienced wanting to tune their riding style. They also offer personal lessons and horse trekking through beautiful farmlands and bush.

The mountain valleys and ridgelines of the foothill forests offer a unique opportunity to enjoy the forest and alpine environments. The Wharfedale and the Blowhard are two tracks that can be used by mountain bikes while the Lees Valley offers a challenge to those who are preparing for the annual Lees Valley Challenge held in February or for those just want to get through! If you don't want to bike through Lees Valley you can do the remarkable round trip (Loburn to Oxford) in a 4WD.

Mt Thomas, Mt Oxford and Glentui are the areas where there are tramping tracks and bush walks. Remnants of the native vegetation that once existed throughout the region can be enjoyed. The flora consists of native beech and you can smell and taste the honey dew that the area is well known for. Oxford KiwiWalks offers easy walks through the township and there is Mears Track, a stand of native beech forest close to the township. Enjoy a picnic and check out the friendly fantails who like to follow you around the easy track.

For the young (and not so young) a skateboard park, junior play area and a heated outdoor swimming pool are located in the township. There is also tennis courts and playing fields. Pearson Park offers a green quiet area in the middle of the town.

Golf can either be relaxing or a challenge but with the spectacular views that the Waimakariri Gorge Club offers, along with the reasonable green fees it can be a place to escape. Toni Batey, Oxford PGA Golf Pro, gives lessons and can cater for holiday programmes and could help the whole family with their games.

Oxford can also be relaxing!

If you've got an interest in gardening there are a country garden and a lavender farm, both offering tours & visits by arrangement.

If you are interested in fishing, both the Waimakariri and the Ashley Rivers offer many pleasant spots. So take a chair, a picnic lunch, a rod and try out a local river. Don't forget the fishing licence.

Oxford is a place of learning!

The Oxford Area School provides a vital link in the community which starts with the Junior School right up to High School. It is the South Island's largest Area School and offers quality education in a rural setting. The new observatory is a rear facility that takes full advantage of the clear night skies and the observatory is open to the public on certain nights. The school Library has recently been extended and remodeled. The school is supported by a skilled Board of Trustees and an active PTA.

For the Under 5's there is a Childcare Centre, Plunket and Playcentre.

Oxford's services!

Oxford has not one, not two but three petrol stations – Oxford BP, Challenge Auto Centre and Oxford Motor Company (Mobil), who between them offer full vehicle service, petrol, diesel, LPG, tyres, AA agent and merchandise.

Oxford township has a medical centre, vet clinic, hospital for the elderly and respite care, Rest Home, police station and fire station. Kiwibank has a presence in the Waimakariri District Council's Oxford Service Centre with NZPost – Library – Information and internet.

Oxford – Yes, a place to visit.

There's no doubt about it, Oxford is a flourishing community with a proactive promotion group behind it. There is an abundance of activities and amenities for both residents and visitors. There is everything there that you need.

Enjoy a day in the country with the Oxford foothills as a beautiful backdrop, or use it as an ideal weekend escape with family or friends.

Tempted by the lifestyle, the relaxed atmosphere and the activities but still with all the services within easy reach you might like to contact Shirley Shuker, the local Oxford Agent for Harcourts who can help you,

Christmas is fast approaching and Oxford has a Carol by candlelight on the Village Green on Christmas Eve, a Family Fun Day in the Park on the 17th December. This includes a bed race that local sports clubs and

businesses challenge each other. Oxford's community gets behind the Lights Competition and after dark you can see homes and businesses light up.

Get to Oxford!

And if you think getting there is a problem; think again. Its an easy drive from anywhere and if you want to make up a group then Torlesse Travel with their range of coaches can help out with your travel and are only too willing to assist you. Oxford also has its own shuttle service offering an airport service as well as services and tours tailored to suit individual requirements. An excellent trip with them is the 4WD trip right through the remote Lees Valley.

For a great round trip – Come to Oxford via Tram Road then take the Old West Coast Road back. It's only a 45 minute drive either way from the centre of Christchurch.

If you want to plan a visit and need more information on the township and its activities the Oxford Promotion Action Committee is happy to help. Contact Heather (03) 3124099 or Shirley (03) 3124382.