

CHRISTCHURCH AT NIGHT

Bars, Live Entertainment

In Christchurch, most bars are also restaurants and serve pub meals. Many of them have live music at night. On Fridays and Saturdays, especially, they are lively places and often stay open for much of the night. Some identify themselves as “sports bars” and offer patrons televised sporting events on a big screen. For real night owls, “the Strip” is the place to go.

A word of warning: in New Zealand, the “drinking age” is 18; people below that age are not permitted to consume alcoholic drinks. Smoking is also no longer permitted in bars, restaurants and other public places.

Among the choices for your after-dark amusement and pleasure are:

Shooters:

Manchester St
Tel: (03) 365 1046

A full restaurant and bar with good quality food - everything from steaks and burgers to lamb shank and open sandwiches. From about 10.30 onwards the restaurant converts to a bar/nightclub. There is a big screen to watch sport as well as other entertainment. Shooters stays open to 3.30 am.

Dux de luxe
41 Hereford St
Tel: (03) 366 6919

A restaurant and a bar. Brews its own beer. Located in what was once the Canterbury University Student Union building it is a charming old Tudor style building, popular with young and old alike. Each January it is the centre of the fortnight-long buskers festival. It serves vegetarian and seafood meals and makes some of the largest pizzas in Christchurch.

The Carlton
Cnr Bealey Avenue and Papanui Road
Tel: (03) 355 1818

A pub restaurant that serves a variety of reasonably priced meals. It has been standing on this corner since 1867 and is the oldest pub in its original building in Christchurch. It was built for stage coaches and travellers, its location then being on the outskirts of town.

Warner's Hotel
Cathedral Square
Tel: (03) 366 5159

Best described as an Irish sports bar/restaurant, with live music some nights of the week. The present building opened in 1902 and for its first fifty years was considered the city's best hotel.

The Strip

After 10 pm when most of the diners have gone home, the restaurants of the Strip become of the city's most popular night-spots. Many have live music and most don't close until the early hours of the morning. They include:

Barcelona – (03) 377 2100

The Boulevard- (03) 374 6676

All Bar One – (03) 377 9898

Viaduct – (03) 377 9968

Azure Bar and Restaurant – (03) 365 6088

The Tap Room – (03) 365 0547

Sports Bars

The Bard on Avon,
Gloucester Street
Tel: (03) 377 1493

An old English style pub serving traditional meals. Specialities include shepherd's pie, hot-pot and egg and bacon bessies. Specialises in screening European sport and will open for big games such as Six Nations rugby and major European football matches. These are shown on the big screen. The Bard has a 24-hour licence, so will remain open until the game is over.

The Holy Grail
Worcester Street
Tel: (03) 365 9816

Located in a former picture theatre, this is a complex of bars and restaurants where big screens allow patrons to see all aspects of the game. It claims to have the largest screen in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Holy Grail is New Zealand's biggest sports bar. It operates on three levels. There is dancing and big screen rugby on the ground floor, a restaurant on level 2 and pool on the top floor. It can cater for up to 700 people and also merchandises rugby wear through Champions of the World.

Vic & Whale
Cnr Colombo and Armagh Sts
Tel: (03) 366 6355

A sports bar/restaurant. It has numerous 'Happy Hours', a two-for-one drink deal that covers beer, house wine and house spirits. These are from 5-7 on weeknights, Thursday from 10-11 pm and Saturday 8-11 pm. Meals are reasonably priced and cater for a wide range of customers. There is a DJ on Thursday and Friday and a band on Saturday. There is a dance floor and billiards upstairs. Has a 24-hour licence.

Rockpool
85 Hereford St
Tel: (03) 377 2686

Christchurch's No 1 Pool Bar with 20 tables of international standard. It is open everyday from 9.00 am till very late. There is an all-day menu with great coffee and gourmet pizza. There are 18 jackpot casino machines. The music can be described as groovy and there is a funky chilled atmosphere.

Night Clubs

Southern Blues Bar
198 Madras St
Tel: (03) 365 1654

Live music and dancing six nights a week.

The Grumpy Mole Saloon
Cnr Cashel and Manchester St
Tel: (03) 371 9301

A bar/night club with a Western theme. Venue very popular with young singles. There are special nights for them. Dancing is to music provided by a DJ or you can play pool. The music features current top twenty plus music of the 80s and 90s.

Calendar Girls Review Bar
103 Armagh Street
Tel: (03) 379 5641

Aptly named for what it is. Opens at 8pm.

Live Music Venues

The Jolly Poacher,
cnr Kilmore and Victoria Street
Tel: (03) 379 5635

An English style tavern that is open all hours. There is a 24 hour menu that includes soups, salads, mega-toasties and pizzas. From 5 pm until midnight more elaborate mains are served and these feature New Zealand lamb, beef and chicken. From Thursday to Saturday there are local bands: the poacher also works closely with many top New Zealand rock bands who often play here.

Micky's in the City
85A Hereford St
Tel: (03) 366 2593

Part of a group of pubs called Micky Finn's Irish Pubs. The live music, every night from 9.30 pm, is not only Irish but also includes rock, funk, jazz and soul. There is an all-night menu and Micky Finn's is reputed to have some of the best bar prices in the city.

Sammy's Jazz Review
14 Bedford Row
Tel: (03) 377 8618

An up market jazz bar and restaurant. There is live music every night. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, the music is quieter with guitar duos, vocalists and a flute and guitar group. Wednesday there is a classic jazz trio. Thursday to Saturday it is a mix of classic jazz, guitar and funky jazz. Meals are top class and feature fresh Canterbury produce - lamb, salmon, seafood and beef served with specially designed sauces.

Sullivans Saloon Bar
150 Manchester St
Tel: (03) 379 7790

An Irish bar with live music from Wednesday to Saturday. On Wednesday Sullivans runs a jam session where anyone bring

instruments and play. Open from 4pm until late, closing when the last customer goes. Pub snacks like fishermen's basket, kumara chips and mini spring rolls are available.

The Loaded Hog
Cnr Manchester and Cashel St
Tel: (03) 366 6674

Here, a full range of hog beers, brewed on the site, is served. Among them is the famous wheat beer. Food is middle of the range restaurant-style meals with an emphasis on burgers and steak. On Saturdays and Sundays a \$5 breakfast is served between 10 and 2 pm. At the Loaded Hog there is a dancing to the swing band on Wednesday and Latin American dancing on Thursday. Friday and Saturday there is a DJ.

The Bog Irish Bar
Cashel Mall
Tel: (03) 379 7141

A real Irish bar with hearty traditional fare like Irish stew and pies. Irish music every night of the week. Tuesday night is jam night when customers can bring their own instruments and play. The Bog has a 24-hour licence, so has no need to close.

Sticky Fingers
Clarendon Towers
Oxford Tce
Tel: (03) 366 6451

Everything from a breakfast bar to a night club. Many people come here for breakfast while others will dance or share a drink in the small hours. There is a 'Happy Hour' on Wednesdays, 5-7 pm, and a Pint-and-Pizza Club from 9.30 pm on Sundays and Mondays.

Theatres and Cinemas

Court Theatre
The Arts Centre
20 Worcester Boulevard
Tel: (03) 963 0870 or 0800 333 100

The Court usually has two plays in separate theatres. The programme changes usually after 4-5 weeks and there is a mix of modern international and New Zealand plays as well as a number of classic works for the theatre. Bookings are essential.

The Theatre Royale
145 Gloucester Street
Tel: (03) 377 8899

Hosts a variety of touring companies. This is a beautiful old turn of the centre theatre that has been lovingly restored.

James Hay Theatre
And the Town Hall
86 Kilmore St
Tel: (03) 377 8899

Attracts a variety of touring companies and hosts seasons of opera. The Christchurch Symphony and the New Zealand Symphony orchestra play during the year at the Town Hall.

Academy and Cloisters Cinemas
Arts Centre
25 Hereford St
Tel: (03) 366 0167

These are the main art house cinemas and they show an exciting range of European films.

Regent on Worcester Cinemas
94 Worcester St
Tel: (03) 366 0140

Specialises in good quality New Zealand and international films. Tend to be films that have a high profile in the media.

Big box office successes are at Hoyts cinemas spread across the city. Call the Movie Information line, (03) 366 6367, for current attractions.

Gambling

The Casino
30 Victoria Street
Tel: (03) 365 9999

This Egyptian-themed casino is regarded as one of New Zealand's most elegant. It has tables for all the major games: Black Jack, American Roulette, Mini Baccarat, Sic Bo and Caribbean Stud Poker. There is also a Big Money Wheel and heaps of pokies. Upstairs there is a players' club. The casino is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except for a few public holidays. Patrons are expected to conform to the dress code. Jeans, thongs, tee shirts, track suits, and active sportswear are all prohibited.