

Akaroa, Banks Peninsula, New Zealand

A French-flavoured harbour village tucked inside an ancient volcanic crater, where the world's rarest dolphins swim just beyond the wharf and the hills roll green to the sea.

Tender port (anchor & ferry ashore) Typical call: 7–9 hrs NZD (New Zealand Dollar) English Hector's dolphins in the wild

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — ships anchor in Akaroa Harbour; 15–20 min ferry to Drummond's Jetty (tender landing while the main Akaroa Wharf is rebuilt, ~2026–2027)

Best For: Wildlife (Hector's dolphins, penguins), scenic harbour cruises, French-heritage village strolling

Walk to Centre: Steps from the tender jetty to village cafes and shops

Don't Miss: A harbour wildlife cruise — Hector's dolphins are unique to New Zealand and abundant here

Getting around: **Taxi** Metered (local taxis); Uber app · **Rideshare** Uber · **Hop-on hop-off** Hop-on hop-off

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Hector's Dolphin & Wildlife Harbour Cruise** — Board a catamaran to search for Hector's dolphins — the world's smallest and rarest, found only in New Zealand.
- **Swim with Hector's Dolphins** — A handful of licensed operators offer in-water experiences with wild Hector's dolphins in the harbour.
- **Sea Kayaking in the Marine Reserve** — Paddle beneath volcanic sea cliffs, through sea caves, and past fur seal colonies in the Akaroa Marine Reserve.
- **Little Penguin & Banks Peninsula 4WD Safari** — Head into the rugged Banks Peninsula hills by 4WD to visit the Pohatu Marine Reserve — home to the largest little (blue) penguin colony on mainland...
- **The Giant's House Garden & Akaroa Village Walk** — Stroll Rue Lavaud past French colonial cottages to The Giant's House — a historic homestead with a fantastical garden of mosaic sculptures by artist...

BEST WALKS

- **Harbourfront Promenade — Jetty to Village** 1 km · 15 min · Flat · No gear needed — Walk south from Drummond's Jetty along Beach Road past heritage buildings, the Akaroa Museum, and waterfront cafes.
- **Rue Lavaud Heritage Walk** 1.5 km · 20 min · Flat · Self-guided — Follow Rue Lavaud from the waterfront up through the heart of the French-settled village.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 7:01AM–5:54PM · Jun 8:00AM–4:56PM · Aug 7:23AM–5:42PM · Sep 6:31AM–6:16PM · Oct 6:36AM–7:51PM	
Apr	62°	50°	11d		
Jun	54°	44°	12d		
Aug	54°	42°	12d		
Sep	56°	44°	11d		
Oct	60°	47°	11d		

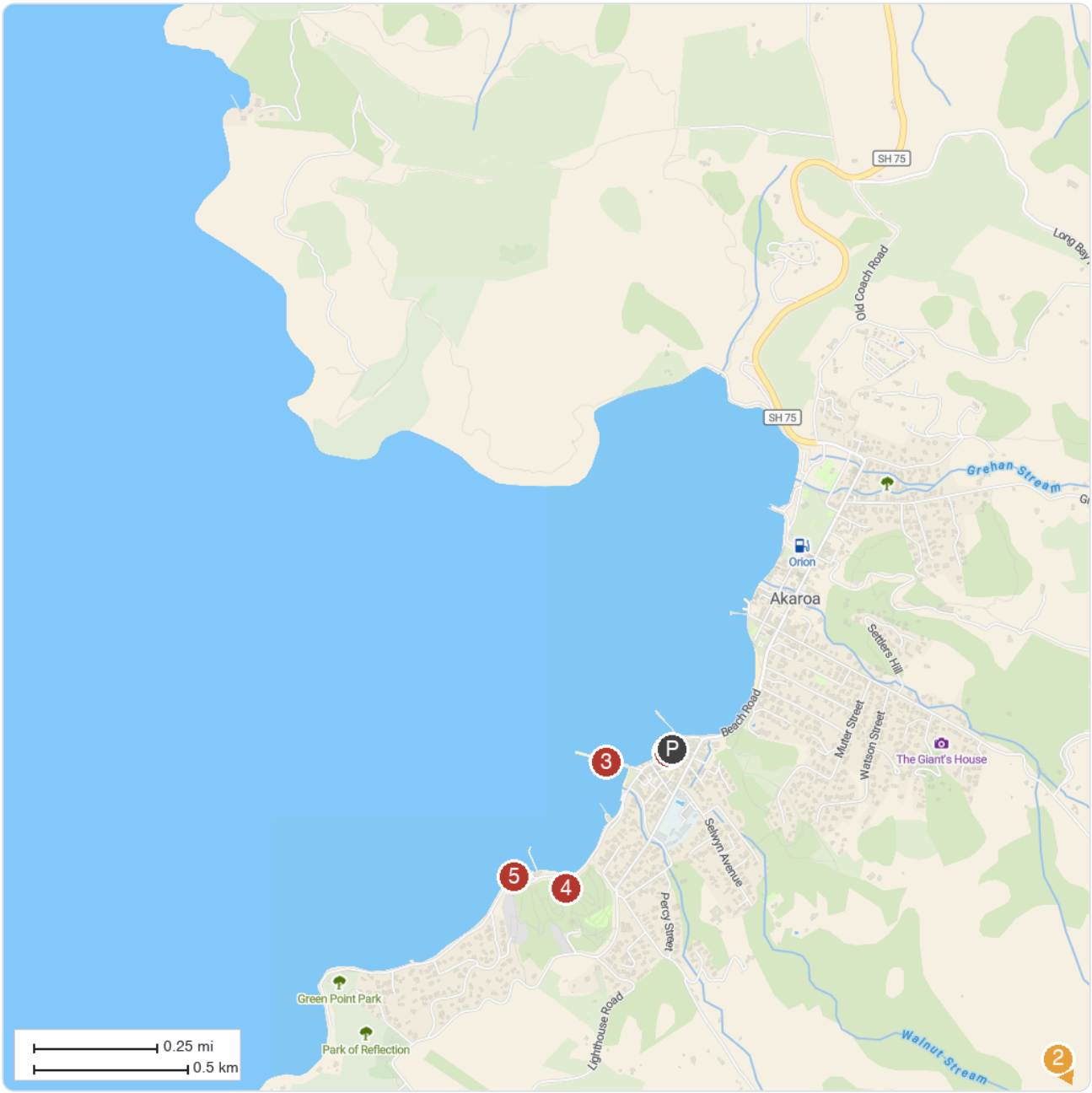
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Watch the last tender: Ships post a firm last-tender time. Book excursions that guarantee ship-time returns, or set a phone alarm and build in 30 min buffer.
- Book dolphin tours before sailing: Swim-with-dolphin permits are capped; slots sell out weeks in advance. Reserve through your ship or directly with a licensed operator.
- Cash or card accepted: Most Akaroa shops and cafes take Visa/Mastercard. ATM available in the village. NZD is the local currency — no need to carry AUD.
- Layer up: Banks Peninsula weather shifts quickly. Even in summer, bring a windproof layer for harbour boat tours and kayaking.
- Eat the salmon and fish & chips: Akaroa is known for fresh King salmon and excellent fish & chips. Several waterfront spots offer local seafood worth the stop.
- Christchurch day-trips are long: Christchurch is ~75 min each way by road. Only worthwhile on longer port calls (10+ hrs); otherwise stay local and enjoy the harbour.

Akaroa, Banks Peninsula, New Zealand — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Akaroa Dolphins | A boat tour company offering cruises to see Hector's dolphins. | 2 Banks Track / Banks Peninsula, NZ | A multi-day walking track showcasing Banks Peninsula's stunning scenery. |
| 3 Main Wharf | The main pier for boat tours, fishing, and scenic views. | 4 Akaroa Lookout point | A scenic viewpoint offering panoramic views of Akaroa Harbour. |
| 5 Akaroa Lighthouse | A historic lighthouse offering insights into maritime history. | P Cruise port / terminal | |