

Rakaia

At Rakaia, 50 kms south of Christchurch, visitors are welcomed by a striking salmon landmark heralding some of the best salmon fishing in New Zealand. The long 1.8 kilometre bridge crosses the Rakaia River, one of the world's best examples of a braided river where hundreds of salmon are frequently caught during the season (November to March). The annual Rakaia Fishing Competition attracts anglers from all over the country.

Several private gardens are open to the public and the local domain on the western edge of the town and the reserve by the Salmon Statue has attractive, landscaped picnic areas, children's play area and clean toilet facilities. Craft lovers can seek out local artisans or select a unique memento at the local craft shops or the regular Rakaia Craft Market, during summer months.

Take a relaxing wander along the Rakaia Walkway traversing the banks of the Rakaia River or around the nearby Barhill Village.

There's variety of accommodation from farmstays and guesthouses, to a holiday park and motel.

