THE MARKET / A PRICE SNAPSHOT

Tattoo Cost in Christchurch

Published shop minimums, hourly rates and deposits from Christchurch tattoo studios, the age rules and 4,011 Google reviews on 14 profiles. Checked on 15 November 2026.

SMALLEST TATTOO
$100 to $180
Shop minimums: City of Ink $100/$140/$180 by placement, Haven from $120, Ōtautahi $160. [1] [2] [3]

BY THE HOUR
$140 to $180
City of Ink, the only Christchurch studio we found with a published hourly rate. Two hours: $280 to $360. [1]

DEPOSIT
$80 to $200
Ōtautahi $80/$160, City of Ink $80/$200, Soular $100. Lost with late cancellation. [1] [3] [4]

What the data shows

Most Christchurch studios quote after a message or consultation. Of eight studio websites, one publishes an hourly rate, three give a single figure and four give none. None says whether prices include GST; Soular says its quotes exclude it. [1] [2] [3] [4] [12]

4,011 Google reviews: 674 in the last 12 months, 142 with three stars or fewer, 34 of those about price. About 16 give a dollar figure. [12]

Method. We read eight studio websites, four comparison studios in other NZ cities, the national rules and every Google review on 14 Christchurch profiles. No studio was asked for a quote. [12]

01 / PRICES

Minimums and hourly rates

Published figures, Christchurch and, for comparison, other NZ cities.

Studio	Minimum	Hourly	GST	Src
City of Ink, Christchurch	$100 / $140 / $180 by placement	$140; senior $180	Not stated	[1]
Haven Tattoo, Christchurch	From $120	–	Not stated	[2]
Ōtautahi Tattoo, Christchurch	$160	Day rate, figure not published	Not stated	[3]
Cuba Street Tattoo, Wellington	$100	$150	Not stated	[6]
The Tattooed Heart, Auckland	$150	$200	Not stated	[7]
Buttercat, Wellington	$180	About $200 (guest page)	Not stated	[8]

Time in the chair (City of Ink rates)

Hours	$140 an hour	$180 an hour
1	$140	$180
2	$280	$360
4	$560	$720
6	$840	$1,080

Fresha guide: palm-sized 1 to 3 hours, full sleeve 6 to 10 hours. Day rates are lower but not published. [9]

02 / DEPOSITS AND SMALL PRINT

Deposits, GST and surcharges

What studios state on their own pages.

Studio	Deposit	Rules	Src
Ōtautahi Tattoo	$80 consultation; $160 full day	24 h notice (consult), 48 h (session); price set at stencil	[3]
City of Ink	$80 under 4 h; $200 full day	One free touch-up in first year (not face, hands, feet)	[1]
Soular Tattoo	$100	Non-refundable; 48 h notice; quotes exclude GST unless stated; Laybuy and card surcharge	[4]
B.List	Required, amount not stated	Non-refundable; over 18 only; free consultation	[5]
Haven Tattoo	Payment link, amount not stated	Free consultation; walk-ins welcome	[2]

Ask before the stencil. Several reviewers say they heard the total only after the stencil was on. Ask the price, the hours, the deposit and whether GST is included first.

03 / AGE AND RULES

Who can be tattooed

New Zealand has no national tattoo age law.

Point	Detail	Src
National law	No national age limit for tattoos or piercing	[10]
Council bylaws	14 bylaws covering 16 councils (May 2024); Christchurch City Council not among them	[11]
Auckland	18 for tattoos, 16 for piercing	[10]
TAANZ code	No under-18s without parent or guardian permission	[10]
B.List	Over 18 only, consent form	[5]
City of Ink	18; 16+ with parent or guardian consent and proof	[1]
Ōtautahi	Artist decides; prefer 18; cultural or memorial pieces considered	[3]

04 / REVIEWS AND WHO TO CALL

4,011 reviews

Every Google review on 14 Christchurch tattoo profiles, 15 November 2026.

Three studios to call first

Rated 4.9 with 200+ reviews and 70%+ of last year's answered, ranked by new reviews.

Studio	Phone	Rating, reviews	New (answered)
1. Haven Tattoo (two studios)	027 318 0029	4.9, 849	284 (264)
2. B.List Tattoo Studio	020 425 4788	4.9, 230	83 (69)
3. Absolution	03 381 7539	4.9, 527	72 (56)

SEO4 Price Score

Eight checks, 0 to 2 points: price, deposit, age policy, free consultation, rating, review count, new reviews, replies.

Studio	Score	Studio	Score
Ōtautahi Tattoo	13/16	Soular Tattoo	11/16
Haven Tattoo Christchurch	12/16	Absolution	8/16
B.List Tattoo Studio	12/16	Laneways Tattoo Studio	6/16
Haven Tattoo SOL	11/16		

None of these studios are SEO4 clients. A public snapshot from 15 November 2026, written in good faith; the score says nothing about tattoo quality. [12]

05 / HOW TO GET A FAIR QUOTE

Same brief, same questions

Tattoo quotes compare only when they cover the same piece, the same hours and the same GST treatment.

Quote request template
Hi, I'd like a quote for a [black and grey / colour / fine line] tattoo of [idea], about [size] cm, on my [placement]. Reference images attached. Could you tell me the artist's hourly rate or a price for the piece, roughly how long it will take, the deposit, and whether the price includes GST? I'd like to confirm the total before the stencil goes on.

Five questions: by the piece or by the hour? How many hours and sessions? Deposit and cancellation rule? GST and card surcharge? Touch-ups included?

Estimate your own tattoo with the free calculator in the full article: **seo4.co.nz/blog/tattoo-cost-christchurch**. Studios that want a clearer price page can contact SEO4 at seo4.co.nz/pricing-contact.

Sources

[01] City of Ink · FAQ
[02] Haven Tattoo
[03] Ōtautahi Tattoo · Christchurch FAQ
[04] Soular Tattoo · deposit
[05] B.List Tattoo Studio
[06] Cuba Street Tattoo · FAQ
[07] The Tattooed Heart · information
[08] Buttercat · guest artists
[09] Fresha · Christchurch tattoo shops
[10] YouthLaw · tattoos and piercings
[11] NZIEH · appearance industries report
[12] SEO4 · full article and calculator