

New Zealand's natural landscape, raw and dynamic, with rivers, lakes and mountains of epic proportions, is still wild, very unpopulated and refuge for a rich variety of marine and birdlife. Our journey takes you from the Kaikoura Coast, up to Blenheim, across to the west coast and Punakaiki Rocks, the glaciers and coastal wilderness and through the Southern Alps to the West Coast and on to Lake Wanaka.



### At a glance

**Duration:** 14 days, 13 nights

**Connection points:**

Christchurch airport / Inter-Islander ferry  
Queenstown airport

**Activity level:** moderate

**Best season:** October-April

### Driving times

Kaikoura - Blenheim: 1 1/2 hours  
Blenheim - Greymouth: 4 1/4 hours  
Greymouth - Franz Josef: 2 1/2 hours  
Franz Josef - Lake Moeraki: 1 1/2 hours  
Lake Moeraki - Wanaka: 2 1/2 hours

### Indicative Price from \$6,840

Price is for accommodation only and excludes meals, ground or air transport unless stated. [Contact one of our Travel Agents](#) or use [My Holiday](#) to contact the operators and book direct.



## OCEANS TO ALPS

### Raw Nature

South Island



## Day 1 - Kaikoura

Stay [Accommodation near Kaikoura](#)

## Day 2 - Kaikoura

Do [Whale Watch Kaikoura | Whale Watch Cruise](#)

A stay in Kaikoura is not complete without seeing the whales. After your Whale Watch Cruise, relax and take lunch at a 'kai cart' where freshly caught koura (lobster) is sold by the sea.

Do [Encounter Kaikoura | Albatross Encounter](#)

Birdwatchers and photographers will enjoy the Encounter Albatross tour which gets close to these amazing birds and many other species.

Stay [Accommodation near Kaikoura](#)

## Day 3 - Blenheim, Marlborough

Stay [The Peppertree](#)

Blenheim is just one hour north of Kaikoura.

Blenheim is gateway to the Marlborough Sounds and Picton just 30 minutes north, so you will have time to take a water taxi and a short hike on the Queen Charlotte Track. Alternatively you could treat yourself to lunch at one of the fine winery restaurants.

## Day 4 - Blenheim, Marlborough

Stay [The Peppertree](#)

The Marlborough Sounds offer hiking, mountain biking and kayaking options with a good chance of seeing dolphins.

## Day 5 - south of Punakaiki, West Coast

Stay [Breakers Boutique Accommodation](#)

The drive from Blenheim to the West Coast brings you past Nelson Lakes so stop for lunch and a hike on the lovely lakeside tracks beneath the snow-capped mountains.

## Day 6 - south of Punakaiki, West Coast

Stay [Breakers Boutique Accommodation](#)

Spend the day exploring the local area and Punakaiki Rocks. There is some fascinating early settler history as well as great walking & mountain bike trails.

## Day 7 - Franz Josef, West Coast

Stay [Holly Homestead](#)

A couple of hours south brings you to Franz Josef township so take your time meandering down the coast today.

## Day 8 - Franz Josef, West Coast

Stay [Holly Homestead](#)

Get up early and head out to Okarito Lagoon to join an eco-boat tour where you drift quietly amongst feeding birds or a gentle kayak adventure amongst the wetlands.

## Day 9 - near Haast, West Coast

Stay [Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki](#)

You have time today to explore the Fox glacier as you head south.

It is an lovely drive south to Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge. The lodge is utterly remote, beside a river that runs between Lake Moeraki and the sea. Dinner is booked for you at the Lodge tonight.

## Day 10 - near Haast, West Coast

Stay [Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki](#)

Each day the lodge runs two complimentary guided nature activities. Go forest exploring, hiking, birding, kayaking or discover the freshwater ecology of the Moeraki River.

## Day 11 - Wanaka

Do [Eco Wanaka Adventures | Nature Tour & Lake Cruise](#)

Stay [Lime Tree Lodge](#)

A spectacular 2 hour drive further down the West Coast and over Haast Pass to lakes Wanaka and Hawea.

Take the afternoon cruise up Lake Wanaka to Mou Waho island and hike up to an idyllic little lake called the Arethusa Pool with panoramic views of Lake Wanaka. Your guide from Eco Wanaka Adventures will point out buff weka, falcons, wood pigeons, bellbirds, fantails, wax eyes, grey warblers, the occasional kaka, gecko lizards and wetas.

Limetree Lodge is just outside Wanaka township with sweeping views to the mountains beyond.

## Day 12 - Wanaka

Do [Southern Alps Air | Milford Sound Flight & Cruise](#)

Stay [Lime Tree Lodge](#)

Visit the famous Milford Sound, the scenic flight from Wanaka cuts out long drives and replaces them by stunning areal scenery. Land and take a boat cruise before returning to Wanaka.

## Day 13 - Journey's End

Queenstown airport is one hour from Wanaka and connects with other New Zealand destinations as well as direct flights from Australian cities.