

# MOLESWORTH & RAINBOW STATION

HOME – BLENHEIM – MOLESWORTH STATION/HANMER SPRINGS –  
RAINBOW STATION - KAIKOURA– CHRISTCHURCH – HOME

16 March 2023



6 Day Fully Hosted Tour





## MOLESWORTH & RAINBOW STATION

16<sup>th</sup> March to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### THU 16 Home – Blenheim (D)

This morning, for those travelling from Kapiti or Wellington, we have an early afternoon departure as we board the Interislander Ferry for our cruise across the Cook Strait and Queens Charlotte Sound to Picton.

On arrival in Picton we take a drive through the Marlborough countryside to Blenheim to our centrally located hotel, we have arranged for the rest of the day to remain at leisure for rest and relaxation, before beginning our big adventure tomorrow morning.

For those flying into Blenheim, your flights and transfers from Blenheim airport will be organised ensuring you arrive in time for our Welcome Dinner together this evening.

### FRI 17 Blenheim – Molesworth Station/Hanmer Springs (B L D)

This morning we say a temporary farewell to our YOURTours driver and coach as we join our Molesworth guide, boarding a purpose built 4WD vehicle for our touring today and tomorrow.

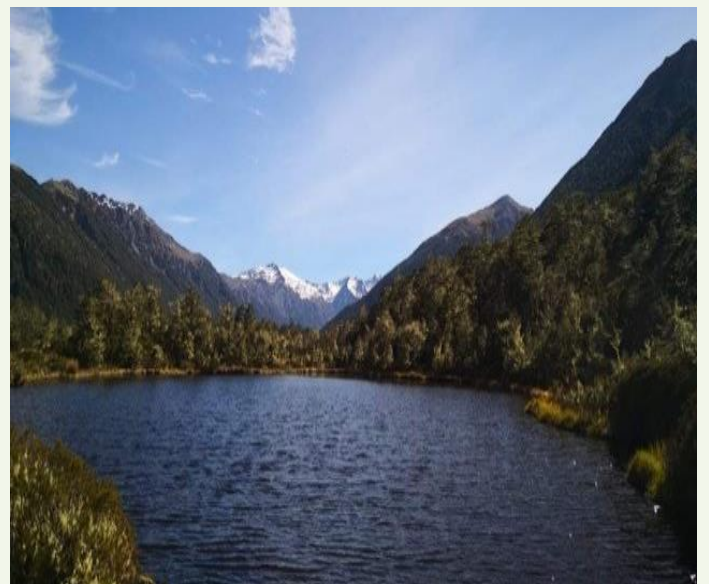
Today we travel approx. 238 km over Taylors Pass (the original stock track) to the Awatere Valley and on up to Molesworth, passing numerous famous high country runs on the way and here we call in to one of these farms for morning tea. This part of the journey is a scenic delight with the colourful and swift Awatere River snaking its way down to the East Coast and the high narrow country road wending its way up through idyllic rural life scenes, stock, narrow gorges, rough country and the incredible early pioneer history and tales, all explained by our friendly driver/guide.

After a picnic lunch we travel through the Molesworth to the Acheron River and down to the famous old Acheron House for a break. Crossing over the Clarence River and on into the Clarence Valley and we finally descend down the historic Jollies Pass stock track into the tranquil Alpine Village of Hanmer Springs.

Tonight, after a full day of touring, Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant.

### SAT 18 Hanmer Springs - Rainbow Station (B L D)

Today we re-join our Molesworth guide and explore the southern and western sides of Molesworth Station through to **Rainbow Station**. We start with a climb up through Jacks Pass to **Lake Tennyson**, nestled under the spectacular Spenser Mountains. Lake Tennyson is the “jewel in the crown” amongst the lofty peaks of the Spenser Mountain range and has a combination of water, forest, high mountains, tussock, and scree creating a scenic highlight. From Lake Tennyson, we make our way over **Island Pass**, the highest road in New Zealand at 1347-metres to enter the **rugged old Tardale area of Molesworth**. Passing through a natural divide in the Southern Alps called ‘Hells Gates’, we enter the **Wairau & Rainbow Valleys** with their craggy, beech tree covered mountains that sweep down to the boulder strewn fast flowing Wairau River dissecting the St Arnaud and Raglan Mountain Ranges. A picnic lunch is included today. After our adventures today, there is time for a dip in the hot pools before we dine together at the hotel this evening.



Meals included.

(B) Breakfast

(L) Lunch

(D) Dinner

## Trip Highlights

- MOLESWORTH STATION TOUR
- HANMER SPRINGS
- RAINBOW STATION TOUR
- LAKE TENNYSON
- WAIRAU & RAINBOW VALLEYS
- KAIKOURA MUSEUM
- WHALE WATCH EXPERIENCE

## Molesworth & Rainbow Station

We begin our wonderful 6-day adventure travelling south to Marlborough and onto Molesworth Station. This vast landscape contains scree-scarred mountains, wide river valleys and tussock slopes new Zealand's largest high-country station.

Following our full day in Molesworth, we arrive in Hanmer Springs, our home for two nights, as we continue our journey around Rainbow Station via Jacks Pass to Lake Tennyson, nestled under the spectacular Spenser Mountain. Mountain ranges for as far as the eye can see, clear rivers that flow through the centre of the valley, hidden waterfalls created by the melting snow and the beauty of all the things New Zealand is known and loved for.

Leaving Hanmer Springs behind we head to Kaikoura for our overnight stay, venturing through the back country route, along Route 70 through the lovely countryside.

This adventure has the perfect ending, as you will enjoy a whale watching experience before heading through the Waipara wine valley to Christchurch for our final night as we then relish in our farewell dinner before leaving these iconic landscapes behind and head home.

### SUN 19 Hanmer Springs – Kaikoura (B D)

This morning we re-join our YOURTours driver and coach, we leave Hanmer Springs and venture the back country route, along the Mt Lyford Route 70 road through the lovely countryside from Waiiau towards Kaikoura.

On arrival in Kaikoura, we visit the **Kaikoura Museum** located in the landmark "Craypot" building in the towns' West End. The museum offers a modern and relaxed environment with a contemporary and fun approach to telling the stories of Kaikoura's natural, social, and cultural journey. After checking in to our hotel, there is time for a rest and relax before we dine together this evening at a local restaurant.

### MON 20 Kaikoura – Christchurch (B D)

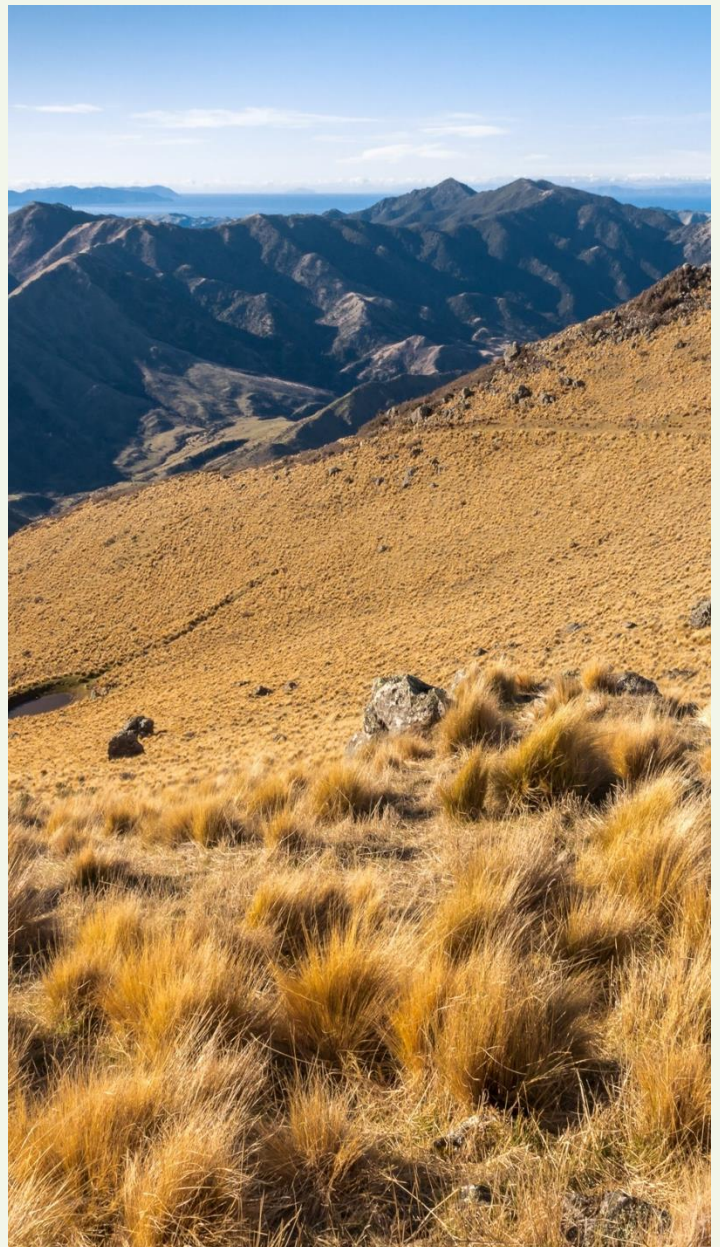
This morning we have breakfast at the local café and then head to Whale Watch Headquarters at the Whaleway Station for our 10.00am excursion. After a safety briefing, we then enjoy a **Whale Watch Experience** by purpose-built boat and see these magnificent creatures in their natural environment. The waters of the bay are rich in nutrients which attracts a variety of marine life such as seals, dolphins, and birds including the Wandering Albatross.

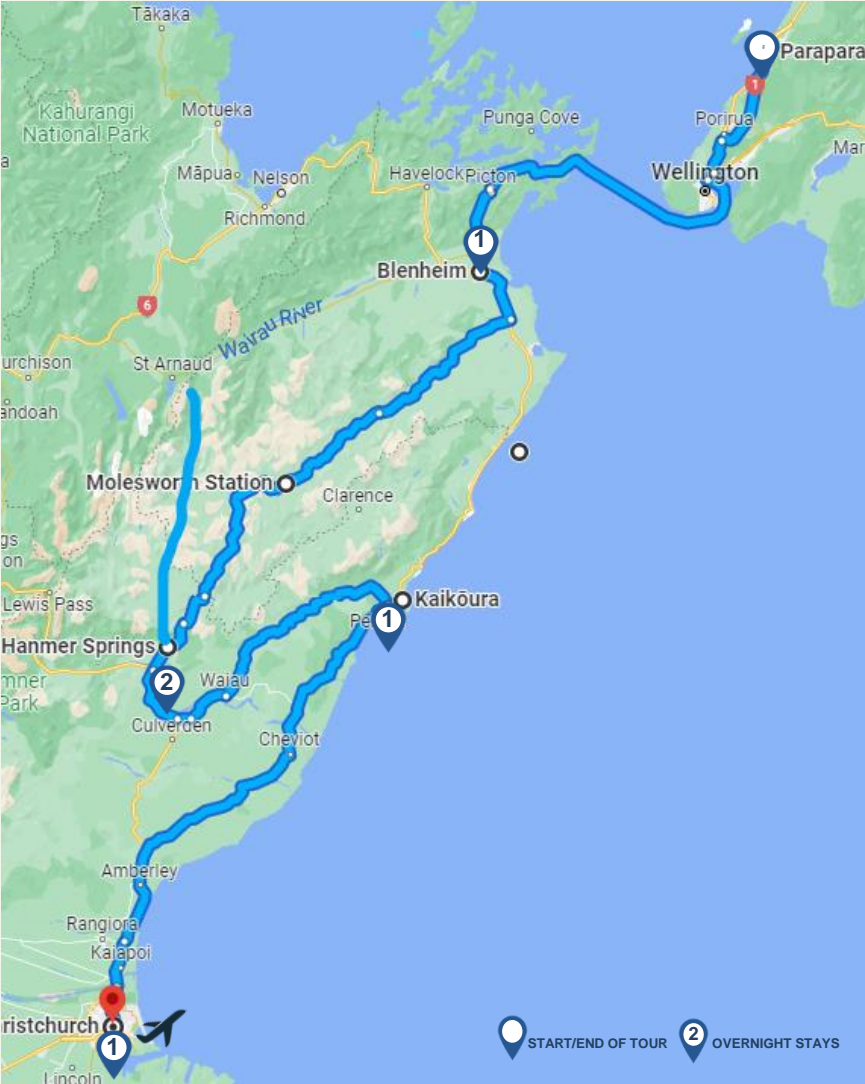
After our exhilarating excursion, we head off south along the coast road travelling through the Waipara Valley wine country before arriving in Christchurch.

We will have an orientation tour of the central city before arriving at our hotel, where we have our Farewell Dinner together this evening.

### TUE 21 Christchurch - Home (B D)

After breakfast we transfer to Christchurch Airport and check in for our departure flight home.





# MOLESWORTH & RAINBOW STATION

## 6 Day Tour Includes

Fully hosted by a YOURTours Host

Quality Accommodation & Coach

Sightseeing & Entrance Fees as indicated on itinerary

Domestic Flight and Home Pick-up\*

Meals as per itinerary

Departs 16 March 2023

Price \$3,995 pp twin share

Price \$4,875 single

T&Cs apply

You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 15 guests on our Molesworth Tours.

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be reassured that your tour host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Hosts, ensuring everything is taken care of from start to finish, allowing you to relax and enjoy your tour.

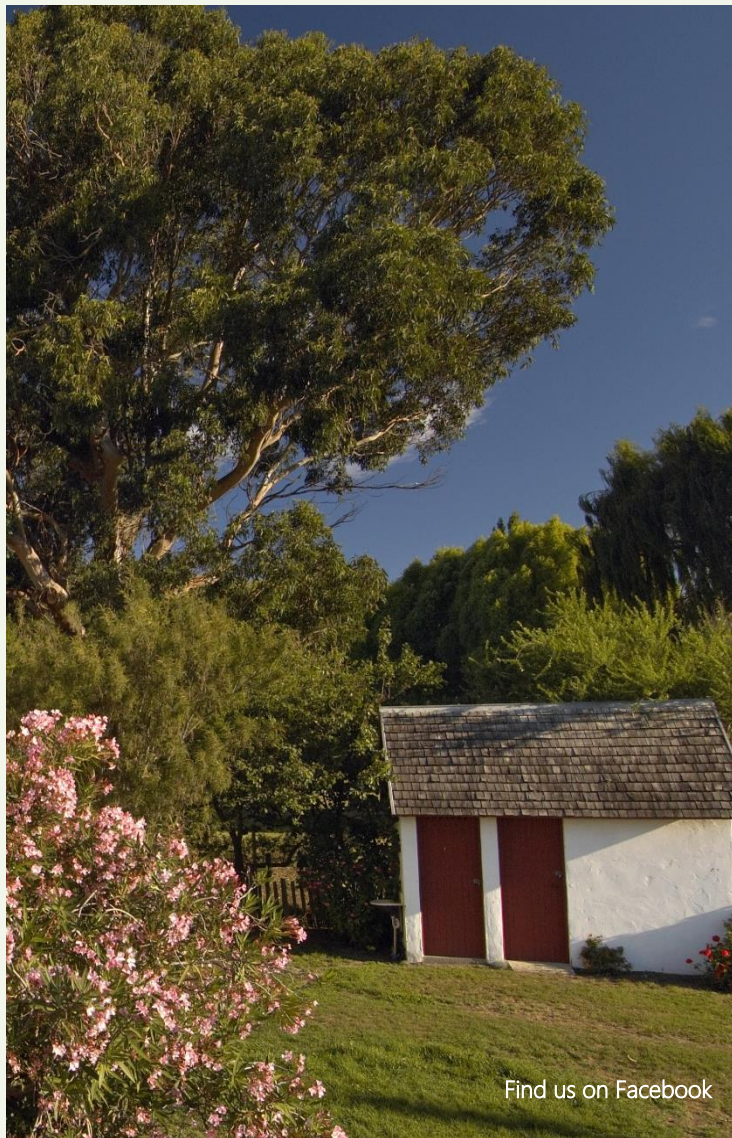
*NOTE: Map above may not be to scale or entirely accurate due to the off-road components through Molesworth and Rainbow Stations.*



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