

TOP OF THE SOUTH

HOME – NELSON – KAIKOURA – HANMER SPRINGS – NELSON – HOME

3 October 2023



10 Day Fully Hosted Tour

Home Pickups from Manawatu, Horowhenua, Kapiti & Wellington



TUE 3 Home – Blenheim

ⓓ

This morning we depart on our adventure together, travelling to Wellington in time to board our Interislander ferry for our cruise across the Cook Strait and into Queen Charlotte Sound before arriving in Picton. Here we reboard our coach and travel the short distance to Blenheim.

This afternoon we visit the **Omaka Aviation Heritage Museum** to visit the Knights of the Sky and Dangerous Skies exhibitions. The development of aviation and the stories of the men that flew them are brought to life in two distinctive exhibitions. The first featuring the extensive collection of World War One aircraft and rare memorabilia belonging to Sir Peter Jackson and showcasing the talents of WingNut Films and Weta Workshop in Knights of the Sky. The second exhibition, the story of aviation continues with Dangerous Skies in World War II, the aircraft, some exclusive to Omaka, are given the trademark theatrical treatment the museum has become famous for. Expert guides will host us in each exhibition and bring the stories of the exhibitions to life. We have our Welcome Dinner together this evening in our hotel restaurant.

WED 4 Marlborough Sightseeing Day Out

ⓑ ⓓ ⓓ

This morning we visit the gardens at **Welton House**. Settled high on an ancient dune and surrounded by geometric rows of vineyard, Welton House Garden is at once thoroughly modern whilst proudly celebrating its 150-year history. Owner Wendy Palmer and her garden designer brother Ross have created a plant lovers paradise, filled with rare horticultural beauties and clever use of the more commonplace. Highlights include unique and extensive topiary hedges, which mirror the stunning Richmond Ranges, and powerful, oversized wooden steps, platforms and pergolas that settle the garden in its place.

New Zealand's largest wine producing region and internationally renowned for its distinctive, herbaceous Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough enjoys a temperate climate and high sunshine hours with diverse geographical features. Today we visit a favourite Marlborough winery to taste their produce. Saint Clair Family Estate have been viticulture pioneers in Marlborough since 1978 and have developed a strong reputation as a leading international wine producer. **Enjoy a tasting followed by lunch in The Saint Clair Vineyard Kitchen.** After a day out exploring, we leave the late afternoon free for time to rest and relax or explore the town centre.

We dine at a local restaurant this evening.

TOP OF THE SOUTH

3rd October to 12th October 2023

THU 5 Blenheim – Kaikoura

ⓑ ⓓ

Travelling south from Blenheim today we pass Seddon and continue south with the Pacific Ocean to the east, stopping at the Store Café for our morning tea.

We then continue along the Kaikoura Range onwards to Kaikoura. The town is a small fishing port with and the means “to eat crayfish”, is known for its abundant wildlife and its sperm whale population, which are spotted 95% of the year. The Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway winds from the town centre to lookout points at Point Kean. Close by, the rock platforms are home to a colony of New Zealand fur seals. Dinner tonight in the hotel restaurant.

FRI 6 Kaikoura

ⓑ ⓓ

This morning after breakfast we head to the Whale Watch headquarters at the Whaleyway Station to check in for our 10.00am excursion.

After a safety briefing 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. **Whale Watching is weather dependent*

This afternoon you may visit the Kaikoura Museum (tickets included), which hosts a great collection of Kaikoura heritage, including interesting information about the 2016 Earthquake – the rest of the afternoon is yours at leisure to relax or explore. We dine this evening together at The Pier Hotel.



Meals included.

ⓑ Breakfast ⓓ Lunch ⓓ Dinner

Trip Highlights

- VISIT WELTON HOUSE GARDENS
- SAINT CLAIR FAMILY ESTATE WINE TASTING & LUNCH
- OMAKA AVIATION HERITAGE MUSEUM PRIVATE TOUR
- WHALE WATCHING IN KAIKOURA
- KAIKOURA MUSEUM
- WAIPARA SPRINGS WINERY & LUNCH
- VINTAGE WEKA PASS RAILWAY RIDE
- HANMER SPRINGS THERMAL POOLS & SPA
- MARUIA FALLS
- ST ARNAUD & LAKE ROTOITI
- ABEL TASMAN CRUISE
- SIGHTSEEING IN NELSON & TASMAN REGIONS
- MOUTERE HILLS WINERY TASTING & LUNCH
- BARTLETT & GOLD GALLERY
- SOMERSET FARM SETTLERS COTTAGE
- EYEBRIGHT COUNTRY STORE

SAT 7 Kaikoura – Hanmer Springs (B) (L) (D)

Today we drive south to the North Canterbury wine district where we visit **Waipara Springs Winery** to sample wine before enjoying a shared platter lunch together.

After lunch we have a treat as we board a vintage train and travel along the **Weka Pass Railway**. Volunteers who form the Weka Pass Railway will warmly welcome us aboard. The excursion trains travel over 12.8 km of scenic line through the unique limestone beauty of the Weka Pass. This will be an experience to be remembered and includes a special stop to photograph the engine at work up the line. The line traverses past rolling hills and through scenic limestone country, best enjoyed from the open-air viewing carriage. *** May be steam or diesel train.* Afterwards we head inland to Hanmer Springs, this alpine village is situated in a high-country basin 385-m above sea level and is one of New Zealand's favourite retreats – perfect for rest or for adventure. We dine together at our hotel this evening.

SUN 8 Hanmer Springs (B) (D)

Today is a day at leisure in Hanmer Springs allowing plenty of time to enjoy the Hot Pools (**admission to Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools included**).

Various optional activities will also be available today should you wish to explore further afield. We regather this evening for dinner together at a local restaurant.

MON 9 Hanmer Springs – Nelson (B) (D)

After a leisurely start we head inland crossing Lewis Pass and passing through the small towns of Springs Junction and Maruia, with an stop at **Maruia Falls**, which were created following the 1929 Murchison Earthquake. Today our lunch stop will be Murchison, site of a 7.3 magnitude earthquake in 1929 before we make a stop at picturesque St Arnaud & Lake Rotoiti in the Nelson Lakes National Park. From here we travel via Tophouse Road to Nelson.

Tonight, we have dinner at our hotel.

Top of the South

Discover the attraction of New Zealand's South Island during this spectacular 10-day hosted tour, embarking on a series of lovely tours to better explore the Top of the South.

Showing-casing some of the best of everything found in the area, we explore the spectacular scenery of the South Island, taking time to enjoy the fascinating cities and countryside's.

Beginning in Blenheim, we will explore the striking scenery of Marlborough, from its gardens, wineries and aviation heritage to the shores and marine wildlife of the Kaikoura Coast.

Discover the vintage Weka Pass Railway and alpine village of Hanmer Springs, with time at leisure to rest and relax, before continuing on to explore the beautiful Nelson & Tasman regions. Embark on our scenic cruise through the Abel Tasman National Park, marveling in its beauty, step back in time as we visit an early settlers cottage and shop until you drop with the "locally famous" artisans and quaint country stores.

The end of our journey sees us leaving sunny Nelson behind, before heading back to Picton via the beautiful Marlborough region.

TUE 10 Abel Tasman National Park & Tasman (B) (L)

This morning we travel to Kaiteriteri and **enjoy a cruise** along the granite coastline of the Abel Tasman National Park. From Kaiteriteri we cruise through the Astrolabe Roadstead to Torrent Bay and Bark Bay, calling into picturesque beaches and coves where walkers and kayakers are transferred to golden-sand beaches. Here we pause to view the antics at Tonga Island Seal Colony in the Marine Reserve, then continue past isolated northern beaches to the long sweep of burnished sands at Totaranui before we head back to Kaiteriteri. Our lunch is included today on our cruise.

After our day out you have plenty of time for your own dinner arrangements tonight.

WED 11 Nelson (B) (L) (D)

Today we take a sightseeing tour of Nelson and then explore the Tasman region.

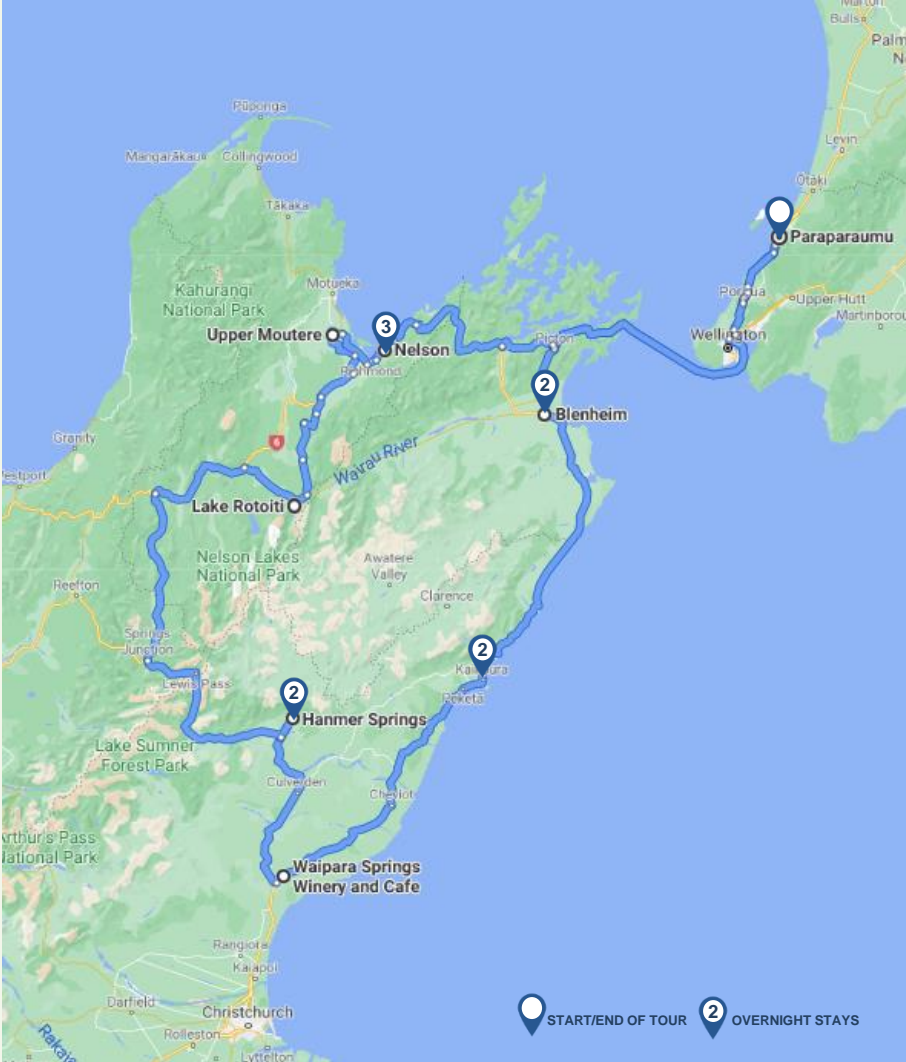
Firstly, we head out to the village of Upper Moutere – home to a variety of artists and boutique food producers. Forsters restaurant is located at Moutere Hills Winery and here we enjoy a **tasting of their wines with our lunch**. While in the area we make a stop at the **Bartlett & Gold Gallery** which features the clay work and pottery of local artists Katie Gold & Owen Bartlett.

Following lunch, we visit the **Somerset Farm Settlers Cottage** on George Harvey Road. The cottage was finished in late 1859 and is constructed from clay dug onsite mixed with native grasses, wheat straw, small stones, cow manure and water, blended by bullocks driving the mixer. Each day a half metre of every thick wall was constructed and then left to dry overnight. This picturesque cottage has been lovingly restored by a trust since 1989.

Heading back into Nelson we make a stop at **Eyebright Country Store** set in a beautiful garden close to Richmond. We return to Nelson with time for a freshen up then gather together this evening for a **farewell dinner at a local restaurant**.

THU 12 Nelson - Home (B)

This morning we drive over the the Whangamoia Saddle, through Rai Valley and towards Marlborough, stopping en-route at Havelock for morning tea (own cost) before continuing on through the winelands to Picton in time to check in for our afternoon sailing on the Interislander Ferry Terminal. On arrival back in Wellington we travel home, where our tour concludes.



TOP OF THE SOUTH 10 Day Tour Includes

Fully hosted by a YOURTours Host

Quality Accommodation & Touring Coach

Sightseeing and Entrance Fees as indicated
on itinerary


Meals include all Breakfast and Dinners
and some lunches as per itinerary

Departs 3 October 2023

Price \$5,995pp twin share

Single Price \$7,355 pp

Note: If flying in to join us on this tour, you may connect with a flight into either Wellington or Blenheim. Our tours team can assist with relevant flight bookings.

 Find us on Facebook



You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.

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 team members, ensuring everything is looked after from start to finish.

YOURTours[®]

0800 470 005

www.yourtours.co.nz

17a Maclean St. Paraparaumu Beach | 04 297 13925
tours@yourtours.co.nz