



Essential DownUnder Travel's Exclusive

TREKKERS' COAST, LAKES & FOREST

Meals included indicated by B, L, D

DAY 01 KIA ORA AND WELCOME TO AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND

After arriving Auckland International Airport, you will be met by our local representative who will deliver your travel documents. Transfer to the domestic terminal, and fly to Nelson. Collect a Toyota Camry or similar 2 litre automatic rental vehicle (airport collection fee applies – NZ\$28.00 + GST, pay direct).

The remainder of the day is free to explore Nelson's famous art, craft, pottery and glass blowing studios, or to sample the local produce at one of the wineries (not included).

Your accommodation is an old villa with Historic Places rating, which has been renovated into a boutique guesthouse and is within walking distance of the city centre.

ACCOMMODATION: CALIFORNIA HOUSE (1 NIGHT)

DAY 02 NELSON/GOLDEN BAY

(B)

Breakfast at your accommodation, then drive to Kaiteriteri to join a half day kayaking trip in the Abel Tasman National Park. See the unusual Split Apple Rock, visit one or two of the golden sandy beaches along the way, explore small islands and see the seal colony (in season).

Following this, drive over the Takaka Hill into the lovely Golden Bay area. Your accommodation is a 1904 colonial home that was built as a private residence when the township of Collingwood was a thriving gold town of three thousand people. Today Collingwood is a charming beachside township serviced with a café, general store and relics of the goldrush days. Time permitting you may wish to enjoy a bush walk this afternoon or a walk along the beach.

ACCOMMODATION: COLLINGWOOD HOMESTEAD (3 NIGHTS)



DAY 03 FAREWELL SPIT EXCURSION

(B)

Breakfast at the guesthouse. Today join a trip to Cape Farewell, which is the northernmost point of the South. The coastal cliffs are sliced through with fault-lines, vertically walled slashes where streams run inland rather than to sea. Hear the history of Puponga and New Zealand's first Radar Station. See where Whales strand and uncover the mystery of the migrant waders. During the summer there are up to 20,000 godwits and 30,000 knots at the Spit as well as

other Northern migratory birds, New Zealand natives and introduced species. At the Farewell Spit Lighthouse there is time to explore around the historic buildings and enjoy the refreshments provided in the century old lighthouse keeper's residence. Along the beach you have stunning views of the Tasman coastline and the opportunity to climb the sand dune at Mullet Channel for panoramic views of the intertidal plain and a stop at Fossil Point, where fossilised shells and wormcasts emerge from blocks of mudstone cliffs. Operates according to tides (duration 6.5 hours).

DAY 04

GOLDEN BAY

(B)

Breakfast at the guesthouse then the day is free to explore independently – there is a choice of walking tracks available in the area.

DAY 05

GOLDEN BAY/NELSON LAKES

(B)

Breakfast at the guesthouse, then drive over the Takaka Hill, around the Tasman Bay, then south into the Nelson Lakes District – home to Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa. Your accommodation is a short drive from the lake and has a restaurant on site.

ACCOMMODATION: ALPINE LODGE (2 NIGHTS)
Studio

DAY 06

NELSON LAKES

Free day to enjoy some beautiful walking tracks in the Nelson Lakes National Park (established in 1956), which protects 102,000 hectares of the northern-most Southern Alps. The park offers tranquil beech forest, craggy mountains, clear streams and lakes both big and small. There are networks of short tracks exploring the forest, lake shore and glacial features of both lakes. You may wish to take one of the many walks through the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project and you'll experience a forest alive with the sights and sounds of birds or there are walks around Lake Rotoroa to enjoy.



DAY 07

NELSON LAKES/ROUGH AND TUMBLE COUNTRY

(D)

Today drive through the scenic Buller Gorge to the West Coast, then north from Westport along the coastline into Rough and Tumble territory. The lodge is purpose built in keeping with its setting overlooking the river and surrounded by bush. Dinner at the lodge this evening.

ACCOMMODATION: ROUGH AND TUMBLE BUSH LODGE (2 NIGHTS)

DAY 08

OPARARA BASIN DAY TRIP

(BD)

After breakfast return to the coast and head up into the Karamea area. From Karamea village it is a 50 minute drive (part of the road is unsealed) into the Oparara Basin. Depart on a guided tour through the Honeycomb Hill Cave. This unique area is of great intrinsic value and combines delicate limestone formations with a multitude of extinct fauna species. Duration 2.5 hours.

Following the tour you may also wish to enjoy a walk through ancient forest to visit one of the natural archways while in this area (not included). You may

also wish to walk a part of the Heaphy Track which starts/ends near Karamea in the Nikau Palm Grove then return to Rough and Tumble at your leisure. Dinner at the lodge this evening.

DAY 09
(B)

ROUGH AND TUMBLE COUNTRY/HOKITIKA

After breakfast at the lodge, you may wish to enjoy one of the marked walks around the lodge, or kayak on the river which the lodge overlooks. Later in the day drive south through Westport to Punakaiki, where you may wish to visit the Pancake Rocks and Blow-Hole, or take a walk in the Paparoa National Park.



At Charleston, there is an adventure trip into the magical world of a cave where you will see pristine limestone formations in the upper 2 chambers then walk down into the lower chamber where you will float through the Glow-worm grotto on the underground river in your wetsuit and inner-tube. Once in the open, enjoy floating downriver through the small rapids to your landing point (not included). Continue on to Hokitika and return the rental vehicle to the Airport depot (airport return fee applies). Depart Hokitika and fly to Auckland/Christchurch. You may continue with additional touring in New Zealand, or return home.

COST PER PERSON – USD \$1,860.00*

**Based on double occupancy. Price subject to confirmation of all arrangements and fluctuations in the exchange rate. Call for an updated price.*