

Signature | Captivating Coast Tour

Wellington to Christchurch – 6 Days

Day 1

Wellington

Explore Wellington

Welcome to Wellington – New Zealand’s capital city!

Wellington is known for its world-class dining, great coffee and eccentric shops. After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your Tour Director, head out and explore all that Wellington has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to get cultured at Te Papa Museum or grab a drink at one of the many quirky bars on Cuba Street. You may even fancy a ride on the cable car!

After an exciting day on the town, your tour will officially begin as you join your fellow travellers and Tour Director at this evening’s welcome dinner.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night in Wellington)

Meals Included

Dinner

Activities

Welcome dinner

Day 2

Wellington to Marlborough

Crossing Cook Strait

This morning, say poroporoaki ki te motu raki (goodbye to the North Island) as you board the Interislander ferry for your voyage across Cook Strait. Travel in style in the Premium Lounge, where you’ll enjoy a seafarer’s breakfast and perhaps a mimosa as you take in the sights of the open ocean.

Keep your eyes peeled for dolphins dancing in the ferry’s wake—or,

if you're lucky, a whale surfacing nearby. As you enter the stunning Queen Charlotte Sound, step outside and breathe in the fresh sea air while you cruise past native bush, mussel farms, and secluded coves.

Arriving into the picturesque port town of Picton, you'll journey into the heart of Marlborough for a gourmet customised experience. Enjoy a three-course lunch at Allan Scott Wines Bistro, complete with a glass of paired Marlborough wine. Afterward, visit two boutique wineries for tastings and stop at the Makana Chocolate Boutique for a sweet finish on this wine tour exclusive to Great Journeys New Zealand.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night in Blenheim)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

Interislander Ferry
Marlborough Wine Tour

Day 3

Marlborough

Aviation, Art & Arrival in the Sounds

After breakfast, take a short trip to the world-renowned Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre—home to one of the most significant private collections of WWI and WWII aircraft and memorabilia. The museum's immersive exhibits, brought to life with the help of Weta Workshop, make this a must-see experience for history and aviation enthusiasts alike.

In the afternoon, board a scenic water taxi into the Marlborough Sounds, where your accommodation awaits nestled in the natural serenity of a Marlborough Sounds resort. After check-in, enjoy free time to explore—relax in a hammock, take a walk-through native bush, or kayak in the calm waters of the bay. As the sun sets over the Sounds, settle in for a delicious dinner, included with your stay.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Morning Tea, Dinner

Activities

Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre

Water Taxi Transfer

Resort Leisure Time

Day 4

Marlborough to Kaikōura

The Coastal Pacific Scenic Train

This morning, set off on a scenic 45-minute boat ride deeper into the Sounds for an exclusive Pāua Pearl Farm Tour. Begin with morning tea, followed by a guided visit to the hatchery and growing tanks where these shimmering gems of the sea are cultivated. Learn the unique process of pāua pearl farming and enjoy a tasting of fresh, locally harvested pāua—an ocean delicacy.

After the tour, return to Picton where you'll board the Coastal Pacific Scenic Train for one of the world's most beautiful rail journeys. Relax as the train winds its way between sea and mountains, past rocky coastlines, and through rolling vineyards. Keep an eye out for fur seals basking on the rocks as you make your way to Kaikōura.

On arrival, your evening is free to stroll the waterfront and enjoy fresh *kai moana* (seafood) at one of Kaikōura's inviting restaurants.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night in Kaikōura)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Morning Tea, Afternoon tea

Activities

Pāua Pearl Farm Tour

Coastal Pacific Scenic Train

Day 5

Kaikōura to Christchurch

Explore Kaikōura

Set out on an unforgettable Dolphin Encounter in Kaikōura, where the ocean comes alive with the playful energy of wild dusky dolphins. Cruise along the stunning coastline as knowledgeable guides share insights into these intelligent marine mammals. Watch as pods leap, spin, and interact in their natural habitat—or elevate your adventure with the option to upgrade and swim alongside them for a truly immersive and exhilarating experience.

After this outstanding experience, we're sure you will be feeling peckish. Head to the beach to sample some iconic New Zealand food - you can't go wrong with the humble Kiwiana fish and chips. Work off the deep-fried delights by wandering through the wonderful array of local artisan stores and souvenir shops.

Gather again for the next leg of your journey. Late afternoon, board the Coastal Pacific for the Scenic Plus experience, treating yourself to unparalleled vistas as you glide along the coastline. Revel in dinner and drinks, included with your Scenic Plus package, as you unwind and soak in the breathtaking scenery.

Relax for the remainder of the evening before hitting the town the following day.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner, Dessert

Activities

Dolphin Encounter Experience
Coastal Pacific Scenic Plus

Day 6

Christchurch

Explore Christchurch

Christchurch, the gateway to South Island exploration, beautifully blends cutting-edge innovation with 19th-century Anglican Gothic Revival architecture. While the city is often remembered for the 2011 earthquake, today it stands as a vibrant, multicultural hub with a strong sense of renewal and creativity.

Your day begins with the convenience of the Hop-On Hop-Off Tram, a charming way to navigate the central city and discover its highlights at your own pace. Enjoy a custom walking tour with your Great Journeys New Zealand guide, who will bring the city's stories, landmarks, and hidden gems to life. Explore must-see attractions like the Riverside Markets, Punting on the Avon, the Gondola, and the tranquil Botanical Gardens. Along the way, uncover a variety of boutique cafés tucked into laneways and side streets.

This evening, unwind and reflect on your discoveries over a beautifully curated dinner at Earl, one of Christchurch's most acclaimed dining spots, known for its relaxed elegance and refined seasonal cuisine.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Hop on Hop off Tram

Custom Walking tour with GJNZ Guide

Dinner at Earl

Day 6

Christchurch

Departing Christchurch

Your journey will end after enjoying a final breakfast with your fellow travellers.

Not ready to leave Christchurch? Reach out to our Travel Centre to pre-organise your extended stay.

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfer to airport