



Moa Tours

Small group escapes for mature travellers

Christmas in Marlborough

Saturday 23 December to Thursday 28 December 2023

5 nights/ 6 days



Christchurch – Arthur’s Pass – Punakaiki – Nelson – Queen Charlotte Sound – Picton –
Blenheim – Kaikoura – Christchurch

Stunning landscapes are a highlight, from the alpine scenery of Arthur’s Pass to the wild coastlines of Punakaiki and Kaikoura. Celebrate Christmas cruising out on Queen Charlotte Sound to lunch at Furneaux Lodge. Visit Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre in Blenheim and stay the final night in Kaikoura.

Tour Highlights

- *Special lunches: Christmas lunch Furneaux Lodge, Queen Charlotte Sound; Wither Hills Vineyard, Blenheim; Waipara Springs Winery*
- *Special dinner: Cruising Queen Charlotte Sound*
- *Stroll out to the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks*
- *Take the rainforest train to Nile River Canyon*
- *Cruise by launch through the Sounds to Furneaux Lodge on Christmas Day*
- *Visit Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre Exhibitions*
- *Check out the “Edwin Fox” in the dry dock at Picton*
- *Drive the dramatic Kaikoura Coast*
- *Visit Kaikoura’s excellent museum*
- *Visit historic Fyffe House and Kaikoura’s seal colony*

Day 1: Saturday 23 December: Fly to Christchurch – Arthur’s Pass – Punakaiki

From Christchurch airport we drive to Arthur’s Pass and through magnificent alpine and river scenery. At the Otira Viaduct lookout we stop for the views before continuing to the coast and on to Punakaiki. We dine at our hotel on the edge of the Tasman Sea.

Scenic Hotel Punakaiki, 4237 State Highway 6, Punakaiki: Ph 03 731 1168

Day 2: Sunday 24 December: Punakaiki – Charleston – Tauranga Bay – Nelson

We stroll out to see the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and at Charleston we hop on the rainforest train to Nile River Canyon in Paparoa National Park. After lunch we walk out to the fur seal colony at Tauranga Bay near Cape Foulwind then drive up the Buller Gorge on our way to stay and dine in at the Tides Hotel in Nelson.

Tides Hotel, 66 Trafalgar Street, The Wood, Nelson: Ph 03 548 7049

Day 3: Monday 25 December: Nelson – Picton – Furneaux Lodge – Picton – Blenheim

From Nelson we head to Picton to cruise down Queen Charlotte Sound to Endeavour Inlet for Christmas lunch at Furneaux Lodge reached only by water and the Queen Charlotte Track. We cruise back to Picton in the mid-afternoon and drive into Blenheim to stay two nights at the Scenic Hotel Marlborough and dine in tonight.

Scenic Hotel Marlborough, 65 Alfred Street, Blenheim: Ph 03 520 6187

Day 4: Tuesday 26 December: Blenheim – Havelock – Picton – Dinner cruise - Blenheim

We visit the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, then drive over to Havelock for lunch. We take the Queen Charlotte drive back to Picton to see the barque “Edwin Fox” built in 1853. You will get an idea of what life was like on board when we visit this massive restoration project on the Picton waterfront. We finish the day with a dinner cruise out on Queen Charlotte Sound and return to Blenheim in the mid evening.

Day 5: Wednesday 27 December: Blenheim – Kekerengu – Kaikoura

Enjoy lunch and wine tasting at the Wither Hills vineyard. We head down the dramatically changed Kaikoura coastline and visit the museum where the story of the earthquake is told. We stay at The White Morph Inn and dine at The Pier this evening.

The White Morph Inn, 92 Esplanade, Kaikoura: Ph 03 319 5014

Day 6: Thursday 28 December Kaikoura – Waipara – Christchurch – Return flight

See Kaikoura’s seal colony and visit historic Fyffe House dating back to the whaling days of the 1840s. We continue down the coast, stopping for lunch at Waipara Springs Winery & Café, before continuing over the Canterbury Plains and on to Christchurch Airport.



Punakaiki Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki on the West Coast