

IF YOU SEEK WONDERS ON WATER



Franz Josef Wilderness Tours
Lake Mapourika

Prepare to get wet.

Leave dry land behind as you embark on water-based thrills, exploring Aotearoa New Zealand's coastal waters, pristine lakes, and mesmerising fiords. Feel the ocean air on your skin, swim alongside frolicking dolphins or paddle through calm waters reflecting mountain scenery. Marine adventures don't get much better than this!

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Take a cruise on the wild side

If what you seek is a connection between the marine world and humanity, come aboard a wildlife cruise and discover an appreciation for life below and above the waves. Crewed by expert skippers and often accompanied by insightful commentary, these cruises take you along the country's stunning coastline in search of rare and unique wildlife. From bottlenose dolphins and little blue penguins – the world's smallest penguin – in the Bay of Islands to Taiaroa Head at the tip of the Otago Peninsula, home to the only mainland colony of royal albatross on earth, you'll witness these marine creatures thriving in their natural habitat.

Time to set sail

Find the adventurer within when you take to the waters on a scenic sailing excursion, whether you desire to explore the remote Western Bays of Lake Taupō or to immerse yourself in the beauty of Abel Tasman National Park. One of the most environmentally friendly ways to travel, you'll combine water-based thrills with excellent local knowledge from the experienced crew, regardless if you're on-board for a few hours, a full day or even many days! Cool off in crystal-clear waters, test your nautical skills as you help hoist the sails or try your hand at the wheel, or simply sit back, relax, and take in the scenic surrounds.

Close encounters of the dolphin kind

Don wetsuit, flippers, and snorkel as you get up close with Kaikōura's wild dusky dolphins on an encounter that's sure to delight and amaze. Often found in large numbers within the coastal waters off Aotearoa's South Island, these are one of the most curious, social, and acrobatic species of dolphin. Swimming amongst these captivating creatures in their own environment is like being amongst friends due to their inquisitive nature – try humming a favourite song or making dolphin sounds through your snorkel to attract them to come right up to you.

Kayak through Jurassic rainforest

Ever wondered what's beyond the ice-cold beauty of the Franz Josef Glacier along the South Island's West Coast? Venture slightly further north within Westland Tai Poutini National Park and you'll come to Lake Mapourika, famed for its reflective waters and scenic backdrop of serene rainforest and dramatic mountain views in the distance. Discover a new perspective as you take to the waters on a guided kayaking excursion with Franz Josef Wilderness Tours, gliding along a hidden creek through the Okarito Kiwi Sanctuary. Or experience some of the best brown trout and salmon fishing in this part of the motu (country) during a dedicated fishing charter on the lake.

Wildlife, waterfalls and wondrous landscapes

With its dramatic sheer cliffs, inky-dark waters and cascading waterfalls, Milford Sound (or Piopiotahi in Te Reo Māori) is awe-inspiring and atmospheric no matter what the weather, but popular opinion says it's even more beautiful in the rain when the waterfalls are at their most impressive. Explore this remote part of Aotearoa New Zealand aboard a cruise, keeping your eyes peeled for bottlenose dolphins, fur seals basking on the rocks and the endangered Fiordland crested penguin. Just be sure to pack your raincoat – there's nothing quite like the joyous thrill of being sprayed by the famed Stirling Falls!



Albatross, Otago Peninsula



Mine Bay, Lake Taupō



Kaikōura, Canterbury



Milford Sound, Fiordland