



Latitude 42°S

Departs Blenheim
October 22 2021



Day 1

Blackbirch Peak

Towering above the Awaterere Valley stands little known Blackbirch. If the plants do not take your breath away the unrivalled panoramic views into the South island's heartland are sure to! There is no better place to study alpine scree and rock outcrop vegetation. Here giant vegetable sheep abound amidst a dry cushion flora. Scree plants, rock outcrop species, herb field daisies and cushion plants feature. Mid-afternoon return again to sea level to stay Picton two nights.

Day 2

Marlborough Sounds, Blumine Island

The waters and inlets of the Marlborough Sounds are our focus this morning. A charter vessel will carry us through Queen Charlotte Sound to small rocky islets, where a small colony of the rare King Shag roost. We'll explore the outer sound and call in at predator-free Blumine Island. Here the endangered Orange-fronted Kakariki/Parakeet is finding a safe haven.



Day 3

Pelorus Sound, Maud Island Sanctuary

Join a specially permitted trip to visit Maud Island in Pelorus Sound. Maud Island is a key site in managing and protecting threatened and endangered species in Aotearoa. Some are indigenous and other rarities have been introduced and require varying degrees of management. DoC staff will present to visitors a number of species which include: skinks, geckos, rare insect species, the Maud Is. frog, land snails, scarab beetles; flax weevils; the click beetle and the Giant Weta unique to Cook Strait. There is time to further explore the island by foot, before returning to our vessel. Continue to Nelson for the night. This evening learn of the Pelorus bat project from Debs Martin, our F&B Top of the South conservation advocate



Day 4

Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville Island, French Pass

Travel to French Pass and ferry across to little visited, fascinating d'Urville Island. Stay one night.

Day 5

d'Urville Island, Takaka

The morning will be spent further exploring the island, before ferrying back across French Pass. Drive around Tasman Bay and over Takaka Hill to stay in Takaka three nights.

Day 6

Kahurangi National Park – Cobb Valley

The Cobb Valley is one of the floristically most diverse regions in Aotearoa. The region is full of stunning landscapes and ever-varying geology. Today we hike from the head of the lake through lush red beech forests towards Peel Ridge. A hugely diverse alpine flora awaits once we emerge from the fascinating beech forests that surround the lake.



Day 7

Kahurangi National Park, Wharariki Beach, Knuckle Peak

The far western edge of Golden Bay holds hidden treasures that will enthrall us today. From Cape Farewell you can walk along spectacular cliff tops to the magnificent seascapes of Wharariki Beach. Beyond lies the little-known Westhaven Inlet. Rising above the inlet is Knuckle Peak with its stunning diversity of lowland forest species, including giant northern rata, then stunted pakihi vegetation on the summit region.

Day 8

Abel Tasman National Park.

Travel from Takaka to the northern edge of Abel Tasman National Park. Hop on board our water taxi and cruise the shore of this delightfully scenic park, with time for a 2 hour walk on one of the coastal trails, before arriving at the southern entrance to the park at Marahau. Complete trip to Nelson



Departs from Blenheim and terminates in Nelson.

Inclusions :

Services of tour naturalist leader
All tour travel
All accommodation in quality hotels and lodges
Three meals daily excepting one night in Takaka
Information booklet with background ecological information
Contribution to Forest & Bird Goods and Services Tax of 15%
Admission fees where applicable

Cost per Person -NZ\$2745.00 twin-share

Single room rate add \$NZ560.00 per person