

Signature | Captivating Coast Tour

Wellington to Christchurch – 6 Days

Captivating Coast is also offered as a Christchurch to Wellington tour. See the end of this itinerary for details.

Day 1

Wellington

Kia Ora!

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)

Meals Included

Dinner

Activities

Welcome Dinner

Day 2

Wellington to Marlborough

Crossing Cook Strait

This morning you will say poroporoaki ki te motu raki (good-bye to the North Island) as you sail to the South Island, crossing the Cook Strait on the Interislander Ferry. As the shores of the North Island slowly disappear, settle down in the comfy seats in the Premium Lounge. Treat yourself to a mimosa and enjoy a hearty seafaring

breakfast, but save some room for morning tea!

On your journey across Cook Strait you may spot pods of dolphins playing in the wake or, if you are very lucky, a whale. Don't spend all your time inside – as you enter the stunning Queen Charlotte Sound enjoy the views as you cruise past the remnants of whaling stations, remote working sheep farms, pristine native bush and mussel farms. Admire the beauty of this coastal paradise as you arrive into the gateway of the South Island, Picton. Step off the Interislander Ferry and join your next world-class experience aboard a Marlborough Wine Tour.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Interislander Ferry
Marlborough Wine Tour

Day 3

Marlborough to Kaikōura

The Coastal Pacific Scenic Train

Today you will be travelling into Kaikōura. But first, you will go on the Sky Omaka Aviation Museum Tour.

Relax as the train glides across remote beaches, between mountains and sea, on a timeless journey of breath-taking beauty. Keep an eye out for the fur seals lazing on the rocks!

Once in Kaikōura, the evening will be yours to enjoy some iconic kai moana (seafood) at one of the quaint restaurants before enjoying your luxurious ocean-front hotel.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Coastal Pacific Scenic Plus
Sky Omaka Aviation Museum Tour

Day 4

Kaikōura to Christchurch

Explore Kaikōura

Today will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience of whale watching! Enjoy today's thrill of an up-close encounter with wildlife.

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.

In the late afternoon, your highlight day will continue as you rejoin the Coastal Pacific Train en route to Christchurch. The spectacular scenery doesn't cease to amaze as you journey south through the rolling hills and extensive plains. Enjoy the relaxing journey with a glass of wine in hand as you indulge in a gourmet meal. 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

Activities

Whale Watch Experience
Coastal Pacific Scenic Plus

Day 5

Christchurch

Explore Christchurch

Christchurch, the hub for South Island exploration, is also a wonderful city that blends modern architecture and technology with the 19th-century Anglican 'gothic revival' architectural influence.

Often remembered for its earthquake in 2011, the city is rebuilding itself into a multicultural haven.

Today you are free to explore the museums, Riverside Markets, Punting on the Avon, Gondola and botanical gardens. There is also a multitude of delicious cafés tucked into quaint side streets we're sure you will love.

This evening, you will re-join your fellow travellers for a special dinner. Enjoy a wonderful meal while indulging in fantastic conversation and seasonal cuisine.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Hop on hop off tram

Day 6

Christchurch

Departing Christchurch

Your journey will end after enjoying a final breakfast at the hotel.

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

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfer to airport

Signature | Captivating Coast Tour

Christchurch to Wellington – 6 Days

Captivating Coast is also offered as a Wellington to Christchurch tour. See the start of this itinerary for details.

Day 1

Christchurch

Explore Christchurch

Christchurch, the hub for South Island exploration is also a wonderful city that blends modern architecture and technology with the existing 19th-century Anglican influence. Often remembered for its earthquake in 2011, the city is rebuilding itself into a multi-cultural haven.

Today you are free to explore the museums, Riverside Markets, Punting on the Avon, Gondola and botanical gardens. There is also a multitude of delicious cafes tucked into quaint side streets we're sure you will love.

This evening, you will re-join your fellow travellers for a special dinner. Enjoy a wonderful meal while indulging in fantastic conversation and seasonal cuisine.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Dinner

Activities

Hop on hop off tram

Day 2

Christchurch to Kaikōura

The Coastal Pacific Train to Kaikōura

An early departure from Christchurch, travel through vineyards, rolling hills and along the coastline to Kaikōura in the luxurious Scenic Plus service. Enjoy barista coffee and pastries, followed by a hot breakfast onboard. In a few short hours, you will step foot into marine wildlife paradise.

Enjoy today's thrill of an up-close encounter with the world's largest-toothed predator, the Giant Sperm Whale, who reside in Kaikōura's waters year-round.

Later, spend the afternoon at your leisure. Kaikōura is a beautiful small town with beaches and excellent fish and chips. We stay this evening at the luxurious Sudima Hotel Kaikōura; indulge in the views and amenities as you rest up for tomorrow's adventures.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Coastal Pacific Scenic Plus
Whale Watch Experience

Day 3

Kaikōura to Marlborough

The Coastal Pacific Train

After breakfast, your Tour Director will guide you back to the Kaikōura Railway Station to board the Coastal Pacific, again in Scenic Plus, for the next leg of your journey. Delight in a light lunch complemented by beverages, amidst breathtaking vistas.

Relax and let the train glide you across remote beaches, between mountains and sea, on a timeless journey of breath-taking beauty. Keep an eye out for the fur seals lazing on the rocks at Ōhau Point, and the salt production works at Lake Grassmere.

This afternoon, soak up the views and enjoy the tastings as you sip delicious wine amongst the vines. Listen to passionate wine makers

describe the history and processes of these flavorful grapes.

The evening is free for you to explore.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Light Lunch

Activities

Coastal Pacific Scenic Plus
Marlborough Wine Tour

Day 4

Marlborough to Wellington

Crossing Cook Strait

This morning you'll head off to the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre near Blenheim which offers a glimpse into New Zealand's role in World Wars I and II, featuring vintage aircraft and exhibits like 'Knights of the Sky' and 'Dangerous Skies,' complete with memorabilia and pilot stories.

After your insightful tour, embark on a journey from the South to North Island via the Interislander Ferry. Enjoy a lunch onboard as you cross Cook Strait, watching the South Island fade into the distance. The ferry offers stunning views through Queen Charlotte Sound and the Wellington Harbour before docking in the capital, where your North Island adventure begins.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Wellington)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Light Lunch

Activities

Sky Omaka Aviation Museum Tour
Interislander Ferry

Day 5

Wellington

Explore Wellington

The perfect day does exist – and it includes exploring Wellington!

Today is free for you to experience vibrant Wellington as you please. Start by joining a Te Papa Museum Introduction Tour and then head off to explore Cuba Street's cafes, bookstores, and eccentric shops. Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary is just around the corner where you can surround yourself by native birdlife and regenerating forest.

You won't get bored with the plethora of activities on offer. From coffee, culture, historic buildings botanic gardens and more, the list goes on! If you need any suggestions or recommendations, just reach out to your helpful Tour Director or our Travel Centre to pre-book an experience.

Dinner awaits as you join your fellow travellers once again to tell them about the exciting places you have discovered.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Wellington)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Te Papa Introduction Tour
Group Dinner

Day 6

Wellington

Departing Wellington

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

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

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfer to airport