



# NATURE & WILDLIFE TOUR

14 DAY NEW ZEALAND NATURE & WILDLIFE TOUR



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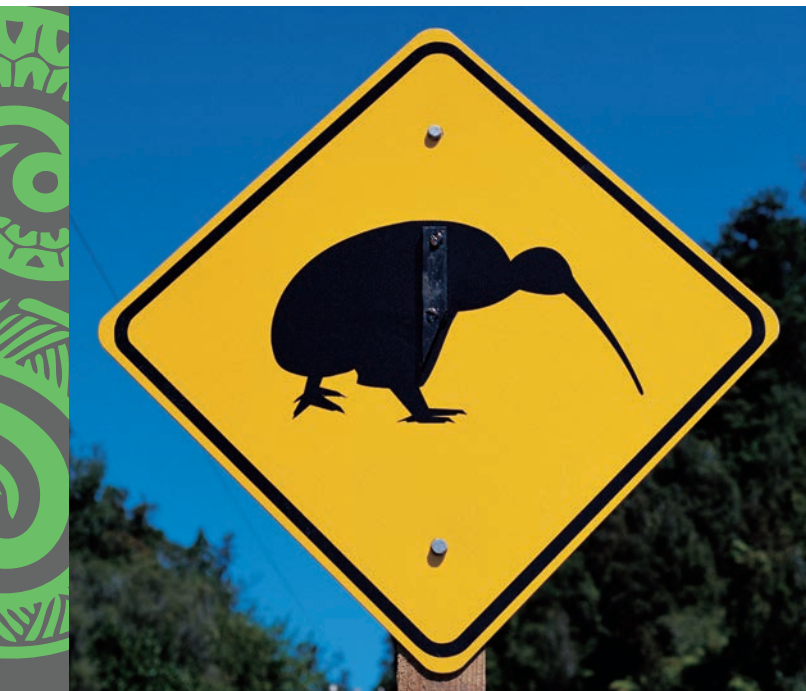
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**Silver Fern Holidays**

The New Zealand Specialists





## 14 DAYS NEW ZEALAND NATURE & WILDLIFE TOUR

PRICE FROM  
£1,995

### Day 1 Arrive Christchurch

We meet your flight and transfer you to your hotel: today is free for you to get your bearings.

### Day 2 Christchurch – Kaikoura

Board the Coastal Pacific Train and travel north along the rugged coastline to the town of Kaikoura, well known and loved for its abundant marine life.

In the afternoon enjoy a 3 ½ hour Whale Watch experience by purpose-built boat and see these magnificent creatures in their natural environment. The waters of the bay are rich in nutrients which attract a variety of marine life such as seals, dolphins and birds including the Wandering Albatross.

### Day 3 Kaikoura

This morning offers another chance to get up close to some of New Zealand's most fascinating sea life with a Dolphin Experience. Take to the waters and either swim with, or watch Dusky Dolphins resident in the coastal waters of Kaikoura, well known and loved for their acrobatic leaps and interactive behaviour. Continue by train and coach to Nelson.

### Day 4 Abel Tasman National Park

Travel by coach into this stunning National Park of rounded bays and golden lagoons.

Walk the most varied section of the Abel Tasman Coastal Track, along a path that weaves through Manuka groves and around the spectacular Torrent Bay estuary to the long, golden sands of Anchorage Beach. Return to Nelson for your overnight.

### Day 5 Nelson – Punakaiki

Collect your rental vehicle and drive inland towards Murchison, taking a scenic route through the Buller Gorge to Westport where you can take a stroll on the Cape Foulwind walkway – with viewing platforms to see the fur seal colony, shearwaters and penguins. Follow the rugged coast on to Punakaiki and the extraordinary blowholes at Dolomite Point. Don't miss the rocks that look like thousands of stacked pancakes that were formed over 30 million years ago.

### Day 6 Punakaiki – Franz Josef

Today it's an easy drive down the west coast to Franz Josef, keeping your eyes peeled for a glimpse of the graceful and rare Kotuku (white Heron) as you travel south.

On arrival into Franz Josef, visit the West Coast Wildlife Centre to see Rowi Kiwis – both fully grown and in a unique incubating and hatching programme the centre has pioneered. Here you will also learn more about the glaciers and incredible stories of New Zealand's pioneering past.

### Day 7 Franz Josef

This morning take a walk to see the glacier close up, or take a helicopter flight – and landing – on the ice itself! Drive over the Haast pass into Mount Aspiring National Park and on to Wanaka.



### **Day 8 Wanaka**

Take a boat cruise to the remote and beautiful Mou Wahu Island nature reserve. The Island is home to the rare and endangered Buff Weka which has been extinct on the mainland since 1920.

Enjoy a guided bush walk to enjoy the peace and serenity of the reserve- with native birdsong and breath-taking views of the Southern Alps to accompany you.

As part of your experience you can also plant a tree on the island – a unique opportunity to give back to the island and to New Zealand.

### **Day 9 Wanaka – Te Anau – Milford Sound**

This morning drive to Te Anau and board a coach for the unforgettable experience of an overnight trip on Milford Sound aboard the Milford Mariner.

Cruise the length of the Sound, with plenty of time to view the wildlife, waterfalls, rainforest and mountains and the chance to spot penguins, dolphins and seals.

Later anchor in a sheltered cove where you can absorb the beauty from the deck, or kayak closer to Milford's mystery.

### **Day 10 Te Anau – Dunedin**

Travel from Te Anau to Dunedin through the sheep farming heartland of the South Island. Arrive in Dunedin for afternoon sightseeing. We suggest a visit to the city's railway station to admire the elegant architecture.

### **Day 11 Otago Wildlife Excursion**

Head out to the Otago Peninsula to see the Royal Albatross at Tairua head; the only mainland nesting site for the magnificent birds in the world. Whilst on Allan's beach you may be lucky enough to see yellow-eyed penguins, fur seals and sea lions.

### **Day 12 Dunedin – Mount Cook**

Travel north along the coast road, pausing to look at the Moeraki Boulders, calcite formations 65 million years old. Turn inland to Mount Cook National Park where you can take a walk along the Hooker Valley for stunning views of the alpine panorama. When night falls take a star gazing tour with Big Sky Stargazing and explore the star clusters, planets, moons and distant planets with state of the art telescoped and binoculars.

### **Day 13 Mount Cook – Christchurch**

Today head back across the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. Stroll through the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park and enjoy learning about some of the regeneration projects in the city.

### **Day 14 Depart Christchurch**

After breakfast transfer to Christchurch International Airport to return your rental vehicle. Board your return flight home.