



2 day Kaikoura and Christchurch Tour

Take a quick trip across the Cook Strait from Wellington and head south with Thrifty Tours, stopping in Kaikoura for a magnificent whale-watching tour, before arriving in the garden city of Christchurch.

Starts in: Wellington
 Finishes in: Christchurch
 Length: 2days / 1nights
 Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
 Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
 Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
 Included activity: Interislander Ferry Wellington to Picton with Premium Plus Lounge
 Included activity: Picton to Kaikoura by Intercity Coach
 Included activity: Kaikoura Railway Station to Kaikoura Accommodation
 Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course
 Included activity: Kaikoura accommodation to Railway Station
 Included activity: Ocean's Cabin with Whale Watch Kaikōura
 Included activity: Kaikoura to Christchurch with Intercity
 Meals included: 1 breakfast

Day 1



Interislander Ferry Wellington to Picton with Premium Plus Lounge

The 92 km ferry journey between Wellington and Picton, taking around 3 hours, is hailed as one of the world's most beautiful ferry rides. Departing Wellington Harbour, you'll pass landmarks like Pencarrow Head with New Zealand's oldest lighthouse, Red Rocks; seal colony, and Oterangi Bay, famous for its record wind speed. From the Cook Strait, marvel at views of the Kaikōura Ranges and spot dolphins and seabirds. An hour of the trip winds through the stunning Marlborough Sounds, featuring bush-clad mountains, tranquil bays, and crystal-clear waters—a photographer's dream. The journey concludes in the charming town of Picton at the end of Queen Charlotte Sound. When not soaking up the views from the deck, relax in the Premium Plus lounge, offering complimentary drinks, snacks, internet, and luxurious seating for the most comfortable way to cross the Cook Strait.

Picton to Kaikoura by Intercity Coach

From Picton, you head south on State Highway 1 towards Blenheim which sits right at the heart of New Zealand's largest wine-producing region, Marlborough. Crossing the 'dry hills' of the Marlborough ranges you head towards one of the most spectacular coastlines of the South Island, the Kaikoura Coast. The road hugs the shore for around 50 kilometers and offers many chances to view the native wildlife such as seabirds and New Zealand fur seals. To the east are the turquoise waters of the South Pacific Ocean and to the west are the towering Kaikoura Ranges. Kaikoura Township is a bustling little place with many cafes, restaurants, and shops but the main reason for visiting here is the wildlife.

Kaikoura Railway Station to Kaikoura Accommodation

Today you will be met at Kaikoura railway station and transferred to your accommodation.

Your accommodation: Sudima Hotel Kaikōura

This state-of-the-art waterfront hotel in Kaikōura has a 4.5 star rating with an outstanding in-house restaurant, a bar and conference facilities.



Day 2



Kaikoura accommodation to Kaikoura Railway Station

You will be met at your accommodation by a representative from Kaikoura Shuttles and transported to your point of departure.

Ocean's Cabin with Whale Watch Kaikōura

Experience New Zealand's only marine-based whale-watching company. Whale Watch Kaikōura offers a once-in-a-lifetime, up-close encounter with the giant Sperm Whale. You are also likely to encounter New Zealand fur seals, dolphins, and albatross. Depending on the season you may also see Pilot, Blue, and Southern Right whales as well as migrating humpbacks. Often orcas can be spotted here and the world's smallest dolphin, the Hectors, occasionally makes an appearance.

Kaikoura to Christchurch with Intercity

The drive from Kaikoura to Christchurch continues to follow the spectacular coastline before heading inland and through North Canterbury's major wine region, the Waipara Valley. You are also introduced to the South Island's most numerous inhabitants, the sheep. Arriving in Christchurch City puts you close to the airport and the International Antarctic Centre and a visit is highly recommended. Here you can get as close to experiencing life on the frozen continent without actually visiting plus see New Zealand's little blue penguins and ride in a Haaglund Tracked vehicle.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Independant Bus & Coach
Starts: Wellington
Finishes: Christchurch
Tour length: 2
Accomodation: Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1 Sudima Hotel Kaikōura