Kaikōura Coast Track

Your optional activities in Kaikōura

The Kaikōura region is famous for its beautiful landscapes, abundant wildlife and its sperm whale population. A great appetizer is the Kaikōura Peninsula Walkway, which winds from the town centre to lookout points with views that will make you swoon. From towering mountains to breathtaking coastline, graciously populated by New Zealand fur seals – this region combines some of New Zealand's best attributes.

Before we embark on the Kaikōura Coast Track you have the opportunity to do whatever you might still have on your activities bucket list – how about seeing majestic whales or playful dolphins in their natural habitat? Maybe you would like to swim with them or join them in a sea-kayak? Or maybe you fancy a scenic flight over this amazing coastline to get a unique perspective and fascinating angle on the resident marine wildlife.

We can help you make any of those scenarios a reality.
To make sure you don't miss out, we would like to book your optional activities as early as possible, so have included them in our tour booking form.

These are your options that require pre-booking:

- **Whale Watch Tour**
- **Dolphin Encounter**
- **Albatross Encounter**
- **Sea-Kayak Tour**
- **Scenic Whale Watch Flight**

Please note - prices can vary depending on the booking period and incur a $10 booking fee if booked through us

Whale Watch Tour



Around 80% of the world's whale and dolphin species migrate past the Kaikōura coastline. Enjoy an exciting up-close encounter with the world's largest toothed predator, the Giant Sperm Whale in their natural environment. There is a 95% success rate and a guaranteed 80% refund if your tour does not see a whale (meaning all species commonly known as whales; this includes baleen whales, sperm whales, beaked whales, killer whales and pilot whales). You might also see other marine mammals such as a variety of dolphins, Elephant Seals and Leopard Seals.

- Time spent on the water is just over 2 hours. Including check-in time, safety briefing and bus transfers you should allow 3 hours 15 minutes in total.
- Cruise on board a modern catamaran designed specifically for whale watching, equipped with engines that minimise underwater noise and toilets that never pollute the sea.
- The main passenger cabin is enclosed and large outside decks offer great viewing and photo opportunities.
- Passenger numbers for each tour are kept well below the vessel carrying capacity to ensure your tour experience remains a personal one.

Check-in at 12:45, return time ~ 4:00 pm.

Operated by Whale Watch Kaikōura

Price per person: ~ $185

Dolphin Encounter




Dolphin Encounter Swim and Watch (~ $295):

Kaikōura is one of the best places in the world to encounter dolphins in their natural environment. It's just you, the open ocean... and Kaikōura's wild Dusky Dolphins. One of the most interactive and acrobatic species of dolphin, they're thrilling to watch and magical to interact with. Here the encounter is all on their terms. With one of the highest success rates in the world, this bucket list experience is one you will never forget!

- You will be provided with good quality thick wetsuits to keep you comfortable, and the boat will have deck showers available to help you warm up when you have finished swimming.
- You will also be provided with a hood, mask snorkel and fins.
- You will need to bring a swimsuit, towel, warm clothing such as a jacket and a hat, and a small bag which is able to accommodate your clothing on board the boat.

Dolphin Encounter Watch Only (~ $170):

If you prefer to stay dry, watching the dolphins and the people swimming with them has an appeal all of its own. The curious Dusky Dolphins are often as interested in the boat and those swimming as we are in them! Our purpose-built vessels allow ample space to take in the spectacle. It is not unusual to see large numbers of dolphins; their antics above and below the water create one of the best wildlife shows you can see anywhere!

- This tour is an open ocean experience and sea sickness is often experienced. We recommend taking medication to combat this prior to your tour.
- Make sure you bring warm clothing.
- Don’t forget to bring your camera/phone!

Departure 12:30, return ~4:30 pm

Operated by Dolphin Encounter Kaikōura

Albatross Encounter




Meet nature's most extraordinary seabirds close-up on Kaikōura's wild coastline. A short boat ride and you're in an entirely new world, where you'll discover a large variety of pelagic birds including albatross, shearwaters, petrels, penguins, gannets, skuas, terns and more.

You're on-board a boat designed just for this experience, giving you the best perspectives to watch and take photos. With a maximum of only 11 others on the tour, it's an intimate and special experience that brings you as close to wildlife as possible. For photographers it's a dream come true!

- It's typically just a 15-20 minute ride out to encounter the birdlife, during which you'll be treated to spectacular views of the stunning Kaikoura Coast. The whole tour is about 2.5 hours long.
- The skippers know their stuff and are keen to share their knowledge about all the seabirds you'll encounter. They can also cater the tour to what you and others on the boat want, making it a great choice for both the general wildlife enthusiast and the avid birder.
- They carry frozen 'chum' (fishy bits) on the boat, sourced naturally from local commercial fishers, that helps to bring the birds in close allowing very close viewing and photography opportunities.
- This tour is an open ocean experience and sea sickness is often experienced. We recommend taking medication to combat this prior to your tour.

Departure 1:00 pm, return ~3:30 pm.

Operated by Dolphin Encounter Kaikōura

Price per person: ~ $200

Sea-Kayak Tour




Experience the kayaking adventure of a lifetime amongst a multitude of marine life! Experience the excitement of watching seals ducking, weaving and diving around your kayak.
This adventure around the beautiful coastal waters 100% guarantees seal viewing and takes in the breath-taking views of sheer cliff faces, craggy rocks and mountain ranges while searching for chance encounters with dusky dolphins, blue penguins and albatross.

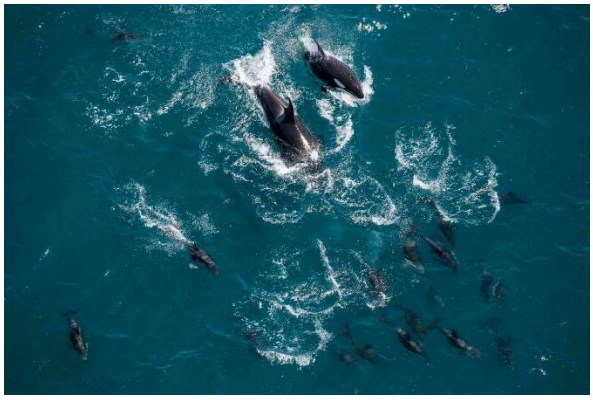
- Doesn't require any previous kayaking experience. Safety & paddle instruction included.
- You will stay warm and dry in enclosed stable sea kayaks with all equipment provided, including jackets, wetsuit booties for your feet and dry bags for cameras.
- These professionally guided award-winning wildlife kayaking tours are one of the most popular activity tours in Kaikōura.

Departure 12:30, return ~3:30 pm.

Operated by Kaikōura Kayaks

Price per person: ~ $165

Scenic Whale Watch Flight




Gain an aerial perspective on the World of whales and dolphins in Kaikōura's stunning marine environment on a 30-minute whale-watching and scenic flight experience. From the comfort of a high-winged aircraft passengers can experience the true magnitude of the world's largest mammal, the whale, and view a plethora of other marine wildlife.

- The high-winged aircraft allows each person their own window seat and optimal, unobstructed viewing.
- All whale watching flights are carried out in accordance with Department of Conservation Marine Mammal Regulations.

Departure 2:00 pm, return ~2:30 pm.

Operated by Wings Over Whales

Price per person: ~ $265

Self-booking option:

Tour Kaikōura EcoZip Experience




Your 3.5-hour eco-tourism adventure starts in the centre of town at EcoZip's homebase. After a 15-minute scenic shuttle ride south you'll be transferred to a custom-built Unimog 4X4 that will carry you through the intertwined freshwater streams of the Kahutara river, then onto Rakanui Station. Then, get set to zip! Clip into 2.2km of high-flying fun across five giant ziplines, where you'll enjoy bird's-eye views of the mountains and the ocean.

- You will be escorted by two expert, local guides who will describe the history of the region, share stories of the local people and explain how your participation in the EcoZip experience is helping to restore sections of Rakanui Station's farmland back to native forest.
- Twin lines make this side-by-side adventure an exhilarating, shared experience
- Allow about 4h for this experience and make sure you are back by 5pm please
- Operated by Ecozip Adventures
- Price per person: $ 199

More info and booking: https://www.ecozipadventures.co.nz/kaikoura or call the provider on +64 (0) 3 662 0999.

Other options at no cost and with no need to pre-book:

- Walking on the Kaikōura Peninsula Walkway

- Exploring the shops and cafes of Kaikōura township

Your tour guide can give you more info about these options.