

# Hiking in Three of New Zealand's National Parks



## Highlights

Spend three days exploring three of the best National Parks on New Zealand's South Island. This is a unique chance to see some of the best bits in a short period of time, accompanied by a friendly guide and gourmet food!

New Zealand's National Parks offer some of the most spectacular landscape and astonishing variety in the world, and knowing where or which one to start in is nigh on impossible. From glacial landscapes to ancient Podocarp forests, to high peaks and large lakes, there is more to see than you could manage in a lifetime. This tour gives you the best of three worlds, as you will have the chance to see not just the historic Kahurangi National Park or the lakes in Nelson Lakes, but also the magnificent Abel Tasman Park as well.

The tour takes you to some of the absolute highlights of three of the parks in just three days: From the far-stretching beaches in Abel Tasman, the rivers, lakes and beech forests by Lake Rotoiti in Nelson Lakes, to the diverse, untouched nature in Kahurangi National Park - the second biggest on the islands - you will not be disappointed. With experienced guides and hotel accommodation, this is a no-fuss journey through a truly unique landscape, as you walk with no worries and all the time in the world.

## Is it for me?

This is a very relaxed tour, designed for you to get the most out of the parks without feeling hasty. If you enjoy hiking, and strolling along beaches, through forests, and up mountainsides, but also like to have time to enjoy your surroundings, you will find this an ideal package. If you would rather test your strength against the natural forces of the environment, a camping tour might be more suitable. Hotel accommodation and gourmet food are integral parts of the comfort factor of this trip, which is suitable for both solo and group travellers alike.

## Accommodation

Hotel accommodation is included in the package, but the level of luxury depends on your investments: The Rutherford Hotel in the standard package is a comfortable, spacious hotel where all you need is included, whereas the more expensive option will mean a dazzling Bed and Breakfast that is bound to satisfy you.

What really sets this walk apart, is the food. Your guide ensures a gourmet food experience even in the wilderness. With local fresh ingredients a gourmet lunch is whipped up in no time by your guide in some amazing settings. The menus have been designed by real foodies so if you have any allergies or specific diet requirements, have no fear - they will make sure you have healthy, nourishing meals no matter what.

## Itinerary

**Day 1:** Pick up from accommodation at 7am. You will be driven to Marahau, from where you will travel by water taxi to Torrent Bay, and a dolphin or two may even be spotted on the way! A walk along the Bay, with possibility of swimming and a gourmet lunch at Bark Bay, before heading to Tonga Bay, where you will be picked up again. Transport to accommodation and relaxation in the hotel.

**Day 2:** Today you have two options to decide between.

Prices from

**734** GBP (3 days) per person

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**Option 1:** The next day is spent in Nelson National Park, on a longer or shorter walk, depending on group preferences and weather conditions. If on the longer walk, the majestic Travers Valley and swing bridge awaits you, before the Head Hut and (shorter option) beech forests on your way down. You end up by St Arnaud, accompanied by birdsong and a view of Lake Rotoiti.

**Option 2:** Another alternative is making your way to the top of Mount Robert, starting from St Arnaud village. The car park is halfway up the hill, so the view reveals itself almost immediately, and at Bushline Hut, just above the tree line, you will stop for lunch in one of the most picturesque locations in the park. On your way home, you will traverse moss-grown areas and beech forests that the trail weaves through.

**Day 3:** Kahurangi National Park is the last stop, and a true gem also in New Zealand terms. Experience the diversity in Flora Valley, as you have lunch under a natural rock shelter before returning to Nelson at the destination of your choice.

## Details

### Getting there

Fly to Nelson. The tour operator will pick you up from your accommodation on the first day of the tour.

### Price includes

Price quoted is per person based on 2 people sharing a standard room. For two sharing a deluxe room the price is NZ\$1995, optional single supplements for NZ\$200 (standard) or NZ\$600 (deluxe)

Door to door transport, guide, all meals.

### Typical Duration

3 days

### Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

### Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed