



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL
Premiere Experiential Tourism



Southern Wonder Dive

Christchurch to Christchurch



Tour Highlights

- ▶ Seal Dive and Whale Watch
- ▶ Vineyard Cycling Tour
- ▶ Dive Mikhael Lermontov
- ▶ Dive Riwaka Caverns and Pupu Springs
- ▶ Abel Tasman Cruise & Walk
- ▶ Mountain Bike & Hot Springs
- ▶ Dolphin Swim
- ▶ Whale Watch Kaikoura

Regions Visited

- ▶ Canterbury
- ▶ Kaikoura
- ▶ Blenheim & Marlborough
- ▶ Nelson & Abel Tasman
- ▶ Hanmer Springs
- ▶ Akaroa

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7 Days Top of the South Dive Tour

Wine, wildlife and discovery of the top and central regions of the South Island of New Zealand. Dive with fur seals and explore the Mikhael Lermontov wreck, swim with Hector dolphins along the coast as well as discovering inland caves and fresh water springs.



▶ Day One Kaikoura

Dive with fur Seals and Whale Watching The undersea world of Kaikoura beholds a vast array of wonderful and unique marine creatures from the smallest invertebrate through to the giant sperm whales. The rich diversity of wildlife found means that every day is a chance to see something different and unique - and you will - from seabirds to cetaceans (whales and dolphins), seals, or even Orca. Enjoy the company of the cheeky and inquisitive New Zealand Fur Seals by joining them in the water and experience their antics in their world below the surface. The region offers great diving with excellent kelp beds, weeds, sponges, rich marine life and small crayfish. Shallow reefs with up to 12 metres visibility and 12 metres depth make for good photography

Chardonnay varieties. Visit a selection of Marlborough's famous vineyards, enjoy the tastes and soak up the atmosphere. Blenheim, the provincial capital, is located in the lower Wairau Valley and enjoys excellent sunny weather suitable for both outdoor activities and ripening grapes. Over 40 wineries can be explored by bike or by foot along quiet back roads, and all within a 10km radius. We will select a route that caters to the preferences of our group to partake in wine tasting, gourmet food, crafts or just cycling on these quiet country roads.

▶ Day Two Marlborough Wine Country

Vineyard Cycling Tour The Marlborough Region, is New Zealand's premier wine growing region and world famous for its Sauvignon Blanc and



▶ Day Three Marlborough Sounds Wreck

Dive the Mikhael Lermontov Spend the day exploring the leviathan known as the 'Red Giant'. On 16 February 1986 the 170 metre long Mikhael Lermontov, Russia's then most luxurious cruise liner, became one of the largest and most accessible diving wrecks of the modern era when she sunk under mysterious circumstances in the Marlborough Sounds. At her shallowest point she sits at 12 metres (38 ft) at an angle of 10 degrees bow up. Visibility varies greatly from 5-20 metres, but inside the wreck it is always clear. Very dark, but clear! Being a complete



When was the last time you did something for the first time?

WAIT - THERES MORE!

After experiencing this phenomenal journey you're sure to be wanting more of a good thing! Join our next Adventure Tour and explore the best of New Zealand

Northern Highlights 7 Days
Auckland to Auckland - departs first Monday of each month Oct - May
Highlights: Hibiscus Coast, Bay of Islands, Ninety Mile Beach, Puketi Kauri Forests, Cape Reinga, Poor Knights Islands

Central Discoverer 7 Days Auckland to Auckland - departs second Monday of each month Oct - May
Highlights: Coromandel, Rotorua, East Coast, White Island, Central Plateau, Taupo, Tongariro National Park, Waikato & Waitomo

Southern Divide - 7 Days
Christchurch to Queenstown - departs fourth Monday of each month Oct - May
Highlights: Tranz Alpine Train, West Coast, Franz Josef, Wanaka, Queenstown, Te Anau, Milford Sound

Grand Escapade - 28 Day Auckland to Queenstown departs first Monday of each month Oct - May
Highlights: Northern Highlights, Central Discoverer, Southern Wonder and Southern Divide all combined to make the best New Zealand Experience

**Book with your
Travel Agent Now!**

Southern Wonder - 7 Day Chch-Chch
3rd Monday of every month (Oct - May)

2005-2006 departure dates:

FLTSWD601 - 17 Oct - 23 Oct 2005
FLTSWD602 - 21 Nov - 27 Nov 2005
FLTSWD603 - 19 Dec - 25 Dec 2005
FLTSWD604 - 16 Jan - 22 Jan 2006
FLTSWD605 - 20 Feb - 26 Feb 2006
FLTSWD606 - 20 Mar - 26 Mar 2006
FLTSWD607 - 17 Apr - 23 April 2006
FLTSWD608 - 15 May - 21 May 2006

2006-2007 departure dates:

FLTSWD701 - 16 Oct - 22 Oct 2006
FLTSWD702 - 20 Nov - 26 Nov 2006
FLTSWD703 - 18 Dec - 24 Dec 2006
FLTSWD704 - 15 Jan - 21 Jan 2007
FLTSWD705 - 19 Feb - 25 Feb 2007
FLTSWD706 - 19 Mar - 25 Mar 2007
FLTSWD707 - 16 Apr - 22 Apr 2007
FLTSWD708 - 21 May - 27 May 2007

Tour price:

NZD\$1895 Multi Share
NZD\$2345 Twin
NZD\$2845 Single

Tour price includes transport, accommodation, and activities stated. Accommodation ranges from multi share to 3-4 Star Lodgings



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wreck, the Lermontov is a treasure trove of artefacts just waiting to be discovered. Everything from bottles of Russian vodka to a fully stocked library await you below decks. You may even come across a Russian doll! Divers with a keen sense of adventure will be spoilt for choice when they explore this unique underwater monument

► Day Four Nelson and Golden Bay Region

Dive Riwaka Caverns, Pupu Springs, and Fish Creek Drift Dive

The Riwaka Caverns are a very interesting yet relatively easy freshwater cave dive.

After a short bush walk that takes us to the top of a basin we enter the cave through a 3 metre sump. Following safety lines laid for the fairly short swims, we surface inside two different

caverns completely sealed from natural light. The highlight of the dive is the massive chamber at the end of the second sump. Here scuba equipment is removed and stalactite and stalagmite formations can be admired and explored. The sheer size of this chamber is totally unexpected - a magnificent waterfall of pink limestone cascades 10 metres or so down one side. After a fast drift dive in nearby Fish Creek we end at the famous Pupu Springs.

Waikoropupu Springs 'Pupu' is reputed to be the largest freshwater spring in the world. The basin containing the main spring is 42 metres across, and through a system of mirrors scientists have recorded the horizontal visibility at 62 metres, which is why the springs are thought to hold the clearest fresh water in the world. Millions of litres pour from the spring's eight main vents with enough force to make the covering rocks jiggle rhythmically with amazing colours and textures - it is like an underwater garden with rich growths of aquatic plant life everywhere. This is truly an awe-inspiring dive that will leave you breathless.

► Day Five Abel Tasman

Seals, Bush 'n' Beach A Day Walk Through Abel Tasman National Park. Offering the best of everything, this day walk starts with a cruise to Onetahuti via the Seal Colony. Then you walk the most picturesque section of the track to Torrent Bay. The Abel Tasman Coastal Track links a myriad of crescent-shaped coves of glittering golden sand, lapped by the crystal-clear waters of Tasman Bay. It could well be a tropical island setting but for the enigmatic presence of Southern Ocean fur seals lazing under rugged granite headlands. You will experience the park's intimate estuaries, golden sand beaches and forested headlands.

► Day Six Nelson Hanmer Springs

Hanmer Springs Thermal Resort is a beautiful



alpine village blessed with a unique style of its own. Located in an active thermal region, Hanmer Springs is famous for its Natural hot springs. Our day here includes a scenic mountain bike ride and pass into Hanmer Springs Thermal Reserve for a much deserved soak in the hot springs.

► Day Seven Akaroa - Christchurch

Swim with the dolphins Akaroa is an historic French settlement nestled in the heart of an ancient volcano. Relax amongst the incredible scenery and the charm of this old French town before taking a scenic cruise exploring the beautiful, sheltered harbours. You'll experience a rich variety of marine life including the unique and playful Hector's Dolphin and the rare Little Blue Penguin. The seascape is dominated by towering volcanic cliffs teeming with marine birdlife. If you wish, you have the opportunity to swim with these tiny rare dolphins. This is the only place in the world that you can swim with the Hector Dolphins.



Winner of Outside magazine's prestigious 'Trip of the Year' Oceania 2004!