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Kaikoura

NEW ZEALAND

PRODUCT DIRECTORY



www.kaikoura.co.nz



contact information

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Kaikoura

between the mountains
and the sea

Kaikoura enjoys one of the most breathtaking locations of any town in New Zealand, situated on a rugged peninsula thrusting into the Pacific Ocean from the edge of spectacular mountains, snow-capped much of the year.

Mt Fyffe and the Kaikoura Ranges tower above the town but are so close to the coast they appear to rise directly from the sea, providing a powerful natural environment for a range of exciting sea and land adventures and attractions.

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great location, so easy to visit

By road

Kaikoura is part of the Canterbury region on the Pacific Coast of New Zealand's South Island. Kaikoura is an exciting holiday destination conveniently located on State Highway 1 - an ideal location for both north and south bound travellers. Kaikoura is a comfortable 2.5 hours drive from Christchurch, 1.5 hours from Marlborough - New Zealand's premier wine region and only 2 hours from Picton - gateway to Wellington and the North Island.

By air

Daily flights are available between Wellington and Kaikoura airport (45 minutes). The airport is 5 minutes drive south of Kaikoura township.

By train

The daily Tranz Coastal rail service provides a scenic and relaxing way to reach Kaikoura from Picton or Christchurch.

marine playground

Close to the Kaikoura coast, lies the Hikurangi Trench reaching down to 2000m in places, which provides a fertile feeding ground for an abundance of marine life. Kaikoura is one of the only places in the world where sperm whales can be seen almost every day of the year. Orca, humpback, pilot and blue whales also visit the area throughout the year.

In addition to whales, the ocean is home to numerous species of marine life including Dusky dolphins and New Zealand Fur Seals, as well as remarkable and unusual wildlife such as Hector dolphins - the world's smallest and rarest dolphins.

Kaikoura boasts the widest variety and greatest number of seabirds anywhere around New Zealand's mainland. Numerous varieties of albatross and petrel can be seen and Kaikoura provides the world's only nesting ground for the Hutton shearwater.

nature up close

Visitors can view this amazing range of marine wildlife in its natural habitat from land or by boat, by plane and helicopter, and can get even closer by swimming with the dolphins or seals in their ocean environment.

Along the Kaikoura coastline, there are many opportunities to see New Zealand fur seals. One of the best and most accessible locations is the Seal Colony at the tip of the Kaikoura peninsula.

Seals can be seen most times of the day but low tide is the best time to visit when they can be found at very close quarters basking around on the rocks right next to the car park.

Experience the undersea world on a scuba dive or kayak around the ruggedly beautiful peninsula.

Kaikoura also has some of the most consistent surf breaks in New Zealand.

Originally an early pioneering whaling town, Kaikoura is home port to a small fishing fleet, and fishing charters are available.



walks

As well as guided 2 and 3 day walks there are numerous self-guided walks including The Kaikoura Peninsula Walk – a stunning circular walk around the Peninsula either along the cliff top or along the coast. Walkers experience panoramic views of the sea, mountains and the township as well as South Bay with its marina, a part of Kaikoura many people miss.

There are several interesting bush walks which enable the visitor to see native bush and wildlife close up, including the Fyffe Palmer Bush walk, the Hinau Bush walk and the Puhī Reserve Bush Walk.

arts & crafts

Kaikoura is home to many artists and craftspeople who are inspired by the stunning natural environment which is reflected in their work. There are several galleries displaying local work which includes gold gilding, pottery, paintings and prints, jewellery, wood turning, knitted garments and more. The Kaikoura Art Trail begins at the i-SITE Visitor Centre and provides the opportunity to see artists and craftspeople at work in their studios and workshops.

history

Archaeological remains indicate that Mōa Hunters inhabited the Kaikoura peninsula 900 years ago. The Maori name Kaikoura translates to 'meal of crayfish' (Kai - food, koura - crayfish), and it is crayfish for which the region is famous. The area's abundant food sources attracted Maori settlement, and the remains of several pa sites can still be seen on the peninsula.

In 1770 Captain Cook mapped the Kaikoura Peninsula on his exploration of New Zealand. The first shore whaling station was established in 1843 and today, visitors can learn more about the early days of settlement by visiting Kaikoura Museum and also exploring Fyffe House (administered by NZ Historic Places Trust) which was the first whalers cottage in Kaikoura, built from native timbers with its foundations made from whalebones.



allow plenty of time

We recommend a minimum two nights stay to allow time to discover and experience more of what Kaikoura has to offer.

An important point to consider when planning a stay in Kaikoura is that many of the attractions are marine based and adverse weather conditions may occur which could result in postponement of some trips. A minimum two nights stay enables more flexibility within each itinerary and gives the visitor the ability to reschedule a postponed trip, resulting in 100% satisfaction.

For more details with trip planning and itinerary development, check the Trade & Media section of www.kaikoura.co.nz

visitor highlights

- Alpine & coastal walks
- Arts & crafts
- Cave tours
- Fishing charters
- Golf
- Horse treks
- Kayaking
- Maori heritage
- Marine birdlife
- Mountain biking
- Scenic flights
- Seafest
- Seal colony
- Swimming with dolphins
- Whale watching
- Winery
- 4WD bike tours



*Kaikoura
seafest*

Seafest is Kaikoura's annual celebration of the sea and its importance to the community. This festival takes place on the first Saturday of October and has become one of New Zealand's premier food and wine festivals.

For further details:

Freephone (NZ only) 0800 4 SEAFEST
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Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa

alpine pacific triangle

Kaikoura is the northern gateway to the Alpine Pacific Triangle touring route, a relaxing and easy drive covering 370 km of the North Canterbury region. The route links Kaikoura with the stunning alpine village of Hanmer Springs (only 90 minutes drive from Kaikoura) and the flourishing vineyards of the Waipara Valley (under 2 hours from Kaikoura).

Hanmer Springs is a year round destination offering a myriad of activities in an amazing alpine location. The natural thermal pools at its core offer something for everyone – open air, sulphur and private pools, a family pool with waterslides and luxury spa facilities. Winner of Best Visitor Attraction at 2004 and 2005 New Zealand Tourism Awards is proof of the outstanding facilities of Hanmer Pools & Spa. Hanmer Springs also offers forest walks, jet-boating, skiing, fishing, bungy, golf, mountain biking and more!

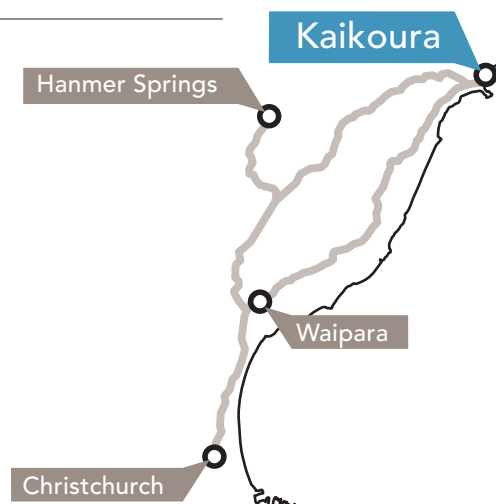
The Waipara Valley is one of New Zealand's fastest growing wine regions with 19 vineyards currently operating. Many are open to the public for tours and tastings. Several wineries feature restaurants offering delicious local cuisine matched with world-class wines.



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green globe certification



Such a unique environment deserves special care and protection. Kaikoura district has a population of just 4500 but attracts around 1 million visitors each year. Protecting this special environment for both residents and for visitors is vitally important.

Following the 1992 UN Earth Summit, the international environmental programme known as Green Globe 21 was created. This programme encourages businesses and organisations in the travel and tourism industry to reduce their global environmental impact.

In 2004 Kaikoura became the first local authority in the world to achieve Green Globe 21 certification. To achieve this, Kaikoura District Council measured the impact that the entire community, including visitors, was having on the environment. These Benchmarks were calculated per person and involved 12 indicators such as water use, energy use and green house gas emissions.

Through Green Globe 21, the environmental impacts of both residents and visitors is measured on an annual basis and measures have been put in place to reduce the environmental impact made by the whole community.

While visitors are in Kaikoura, they are requested to respect this commitment, whether visiting for a few hours or a few days. Remember . . .

Reduce – switch off lights when leaving the motel room, hire a bike or walk

Re-use – re-use plastic bags when shopping or buy a green eco-bag (Four Square supermarket, West End and New World supermarket, Beach Road)

Re-cycle – separate waste and use our recycling bins or take recyclable materials to the Resource Recovery Centre on Scarborough Street.



Green Globe Benchmarking

As well as Kaikoura District Council undertaking this process to achieve certification, a number of businesses have also become committed to Green Globe - Kaikoura Coast Track, Kaikoura Winery, Wings over Whales. In addition, Dolphin Encounter has become only the second tour operator in New Zealand to achieve Green Globe certification.



Zero Waste (www.zerowaste.co.nz) –

To reach the target of zero waste to landfill by 2015, residents have a Council funded recycling collection.



Trees for Travellers – Visitors may participate in the “Trees for Travellers” programme (www.treesfortravellers.co.nz) - to offset carbon emissions from visitors and residents, locally sourced native plants can be purchased and are planted throughout the district.

Significant Natural Areas Programme – Private landowners in the district are encouraged to rejuvenate and protect areas that contain natural areas.

Communities for Climate Protection – (CCP New Zealand) – CCP is an international programme which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from council operations and communities. This is implemented by developing measures that will, for example, save energy, promote renewable energy and increase sustainable transport options.