

MOLESWORTH/ABEL TASMAN & FAREWELL SPIT

HOME – HANMER SPRINGS – MOLESWORTH STATION – RAINBOW/MARUIA STOCK TRACK
– NELSON – COLLINGWOOD/FAREWELL SPIT – NELSON – HOME

22 November 2023



8 Day Fully Hosted Tour





MOLESWORTH/ABEL TASMAN & FAREWELL SPIT

22 November to 29 November 2023

WED 22 Home - Hanmer Springs (D)

This morning is an early start as we head to Wellington and Interislander for our cruise across the Cook Strait and through New Zealand's only true sounds, the picturesque Queen Charlotte Sound into Picton.

Passing through the grape growing region on Marlborough, we travel down the thin ledge of land between the Pacific and the Kaikoura Ranges and then inland to our home for the next two nights in Hanmer Springs, Best known for its natural hot pools and stunning landscapes. Welcome Dinner at our hotel.

THU 23 Hanmer/Molesworth Station/Hanmer (B) (L) (D)

This morning we are met by our local Molesworth tour guide and board their purpose-built vehicle, for our adventure today through Molesworth Station.

Our tour takes us on the 238 km route over Taylors Pass (the original stock track) to the Awatere Valley and on up to Molesworth, passing numerous famous high country runs on the way, calling into one of these farms for morning tea. This often-missed part of the Molesworth journey is a scenic delight with the colourful and swift Awatere river snaking its way down to the East Coast and the high narrow country road wending its way up through idyllic rural life scenes, stock, narrow gorges, rough country and the incredible early pioneer history and tales all explained to us by our experienced and friendly guide, who has operated these tours now for over 35 years.

After a picnic lunch we then continue travelling through the Molesworth to the Acheron River and down to the famous old Acheron house for a break. Crossing over the Clarence River and on into the Clarence Valley, we finally descend down the historic Jollies Pass stock track back into the tranquil Alpine Village of Hanmer Springs, with plenty of time to take a long soak in the hot pools as tonight is at leisure.

FRI 24 Hanmer Springs - Rainbow/Mauria Stock Track - Nelson (B) (L) (D)

This morning our Molesworth adventure continues as we depart Hanmer Springs, climbing over Jacks Pass to the Clarence River valley and on up past St. James to Lake Tennyson for a cuppa and then onto the Molesworth/Tarndale lakes country before entering into the rugged Rainbow Station. With plenty of time to explore and take a stroll to view the native flora and fauna in this true wilderness area, one can only "experience" it as words are difficult to describe the absolute beauty, grandeur, and mystique of this Alpine delight. By traversing the Southern Alps to the Wairau Valley through Hells Gates we travel on to Lake Rotoiti for a Picnic lunch. Here at Lake Rotoiti, we re-join our YOURTours coach and travel onwards to Nelson. Dinner this evening at our hotel.

FRI 25 Nelson - Abel Tasman - Collingwood (B) (D)

This morning we travel out to Kaiteriteri, for our half day cruise from Kaiteriteri to Totaranui and return, calling in to popular beaches along the coast and pausing for photographic opportunities at famous Split Apple Rock, view sea birds and seals at Tonga and Adele Islands.

Following time our cruise and with time purchase lunch in Kaiteriteri, we then head over the scenic Takaka Hill to Golden Bay, stopping to visit Te Waikoropupu Spring (Pupu) before travelling on and arriving at our home for the next 2 nights in Collingwood. Tonight, we dine together at the locally famous Old School Café.



Trip Highlights

- MOLESWORTH STATION TOUR
- HANMER SPRINGS THERMAL HOT POOLS
- RAINBOW STATION TOUR
- MARUIA STOCK TRACK
- LAKE ROTOITI, ST ARNAUD
- NELSON & TASMAN CRAFTS & ARTISANS
- MORNING CRUISE ABEL TASMAN CRUISE
 - SPLIT APPLE ROCK
 - TONGA & ADELE ISLANDS
- TE WAIKOROPUPŪ SPRINGS (PUPU SPRINGS)
- FAREWELL SPIT ECO TOUR
- HISTORIC LANGFORD STORE
- MAPUA SEASIDE VILLAGE & LUNCH

Molesworth / Abel Tasman & Farewell Spit

We begin our 8-day adventure travelling south to Hanmer Springs and onto Molesworth Station. This vast landscape contains scree-scarred mountains, wide river valleys and tussock slopes and is New Zealand's largest high-country station.

After our stop in Hanmer Springs, we then head towards Nelson, via Rainbow Station on the Maruia Stock Track with magnificent pristine beauty the South Island has to offer. Mountain ranges for as far as the eye can see, clear rivers that flow through the centre of the valley, hidden waterfalls created by the melting snow and the beauty of all things New Zealand is known and loved for.

During our time in Nelson, we enjoy a morning cruise of Abel Tasman National Park, before heading over the Takaka Hill to Farewell Spit, With open sea on one side and sheltered waters on the other, this massive sandspit has two entirely different faces and at 34kms long, makes it one of the world's largest sandspits and a wetland of international importance. Following our adventuring days from Molesworth to Farewell Spit, we allow for some down time in Nelson for a rest and relax, before we begin our journey towards home, after what has surely been a touring highlight.

SAT 26 Farewell Spit Tour

(B) (D)

This morning is yours at leisure.

Early this afternoon regather and board a specially built 4 Wheel Drive Coach for our Farewell Spit Eco Tour departing at 1:30pm. Cape Farewell is the northernmost point of the South Island, and the cliff-top views are spectacular. These dramatic coastal cliffs are sliced through with fault-lines (vertically walled slashes) where streams strangely run inland rather than to sea. Fossil Point, at the base of the Spit, a popular hauling out place for NZ fur seals. Fossilised shells and wormcasts emerge from blocks of mudstone at the base of the cliffs and sea life abounds in rock pools nearby.

Thirty kms along the ocean beach we stop at the Lighthouse reserve, where we pause to check out the lighthouse and pouwhenua and discover the connection between the local Iwi and Onetahua (Farewell Spit). Here we also enjoy refreshments in the lighthouse keepers' cottage and soak up some local history before climbing a sand dune at Mullet Channel for panoramic views of the ocean beach. It's a spectacular sight, gazing over the dunes along the centre of the spit and out to the inter-tidal plain where the migrant waders from the arctic circle feed during our NZ spring, summer, and autumn. The wind-blown sand creates beautiful designs along the dunes, their colours changing as the sun rises or sets, depending on the time of day. Our local guide is passionate about the history, ecology and wildlife of the Spit and committed to ensuring we get the most from your trip.

Tonight, after what is sure to be a fascinating day out together, we dine at a local restaurant in Collingwood.



SUN 27 Collingwood - Nelson

(B) (D)

This morning, before leaving Golden Bay behind, we head out to the historic Langford Store, nestled in the heart of the Aorere valley, 15 minutes inland from Collingwood on the way to the Heaphy track. This general store and post office has been providing essentials to the Bainham community and travellers since 1928. Here we enjoy morning tea, served with sublime sweet treats. Following our morning tea stop, we stop and take time for a wander around Takaka, before our leisurely drive back to Nelson, via Motueka and artisan village of Upper Moutere and seaside village of Mapua. Dinner tonight is in our hotel

MON 28 Nelson

(B) (D)

Today is a free day for you to rest and relax or perhaps explore more of Nelson. Tonight, we re-gather to hear about everyone's day out and enjoy for our Farewell Dinner together.

TUE 29 Nelson - Kapiti

(B)

This morning after our adventure together, we depart Nelson driving over the Whangamoia Saddle between Nelson & Marlborough, before stopping picturesque Havelock for morning tea. We then continue on heading for Picton in time to reboard our afternoon Interislander Ferry, for our homeward journey. This sailing will be a great time to reflect on our amazing adventure together and swap contact details with new friends made and no doubt leaving you with many happy memories of your tour.





MOLESWORTH / ABEL TASMAN & FAREWELL SPIT

8 Day Tour Includes

Fully hosted by a YOURTours Host

Quality Accommodation & Touring Coach

Sightseeing and Entrance Fees as indicated on itinerary

Home Pickup & drop off *

Meals as per itinerary

Departs 22 November 2023

Price \$5,395 pp twin share

Price \$6,530 pp single

* T&Cs apply

You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be reassured that your Tour Host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Team Members, ensuring you can just sit back and relax on your holiday, as everything is taken care of from start to finish

NOTE: Map above may not be to scale or entirely accurate due to the off-road components through Molesworth and Rainbow Station/Maruia Stock Track.

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