

Fiordland

With Helicopter Flight From The Fiords



When you travel to Fiordland, you are visiting the most dramatic and beautiful part of New Zealand!



tour highlights

- Pristine panoramas
 - Tranquility
- Fantastic meals
- Ancient forests
- Great company

tour cost

2019 / 2020

Starting in Te Anau : NZD\$3254

tour dates

2019 / 2020

9th to 15th June 2019



the tour

The extraordinary beauty of Fiordland was recognised by the United Nations in 1986 when it was made a World Heritage Area.

The Fiordland National Park was described as having “superlative natural phenomena” and “outstanding examples of... the earth’s evolutionary history”.

Fiordland’s west coast is deeply indented by 14 fiords spanning 215 kilometres of coastline.

We focus our cruises further south than the more visited Milford Sound. Doubtful Sound (also known as the “sound of silence”) is the second largest and 3 times longer than Milford. We also cruise Dusky Sound which is the largest at 40 kilometres long and eight kilometres wide.

Captain Cook noted its entrance during his first voyage to New Zealand in 1770. On his second visit he established workshops and an observatory which we visit.

Fiordland National Park is the largest in New Zealand, at almost 10,000 square kilometres. Its Jurassic pristine glacial carved valleys are breathtakingly majestic, during this unique cruise you are highly likely to see fur seals, crested penguin’s, dolphins and maybe even whales.

The top 3 metres of the water is fresh due to rain and melting snow. With the salt underneath, it’s crystal clear. Rain washes through the leaf litter on the forest floors and into the fiords, staining the surface water a dark tea colour. Some say the environment below the water is as unique as the landscape above. This vast remote deep wilderness enclosed by giant moss-covered gnarled trees, towering waterfalls and steep cliff faces just cannot be put into words.

Surrounded by ancient native bush, the area is uninhabited... and let’s not forget the world-class fishing.

All walks are optional – you may wish to just stay on board and relax. Our vessel Affinity is ideally suited for getting up close to waterfalls and shore lines, providing guests with world-class photo opportunities. We serve hearty Kiwi-style meals for our small groups, often supplemented with freshly caught seafood. You will enjoy a cosy cabin to retreat to at the end of your adventure packed days.



Activities: Walking
Accommodation: Ship: Affinity
Trip Duration: 7 Days, 6 Nights
Grade : Easy



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frequently asked questions

Q. How long have you been operating?
A. Affinity Cruises have been operating since 1996.

Q. What are the cabins like?
A. Seven cabins can be either double (double bed on the bottom with a single bed above the foot) or twin share (two single bunk style beds with the second bed above the foot of the bottom bed). One cabin is either just a single or double, does not have bed across the foot of the other bed.

Q. What bedding / linen is provided?
A. Each bed is made ready for your arrival with sheets and duvets. You are allocated two towels for a seven day cruise, this is to reduce the effect on the environment.

Q. What if I have special dietary requirements?
A. There is a place on the booking form that covers your requirements. We will do our very best to accommodate your requirements but in some cases we may ask you to bring along some of your favourites.

Q. What is there to buy in your on board shop?
A. Items such as T-Shirts, hats, coasters, drink bottles, key rings etc...

Q. I often suffer from seasickness - what can you suggest to help me?
A. Ginger is known to contain properties to alleviate nausea. There is also other options from pharmacies and supermarkets (sea legs tablets, pressure bands etc...) If you are feeling unwell talk to one of the crew as soon as possible.

Q. Am I limited to the amount of luggage I can bring?
A. As there is limited room onboard we recommend 1 medium sized bag per person.

There are no laundry facilities available. Small items can be hand washed.

what's included

Accommodation (See next page for layout)
Accommodation is onboard the vessel in eight cabins (twin share – bed and bunk or double bed)

3 bathroom facilities, separate ladies and men's, with a good supply of hot water and these are found on the main deck

- Air conditioning
- Spacious vessel both inside and out, including a comfortable lounge area

Food

- Continental Breakfasts – Cereals, fruit, yoghurt, toast and spreads.
- Lunches – these are packed hikers lunches if you are walking on the track, or if you prefer a rest (non-walking) day, lunch will be served onboard.
- Pre-Dinner nibbles – Selection of cheese, crackers, chips, dips & dried fruit
- Dinners – these are generally home style meals of meat and seasonal vegetables, sauces and gravies. Meats are generally; Roasted chicken quarters, baked salmon, steak, corn silverside, tasty casseroles.
- Desserts – These range from pavlova, apple sponge, fruit salad and ice cream, trifle etc...

Tea, Coffee and Juice are available as well.

If you have any dietary issues or food allergies, we are happy to cater for these, please advise the office of details when you make your booking.

All meals are included in your tour cost. Wine and other beverages are available to be purchased during dinners.

Tour Kit Bag - Exclusive to Tuatara Tours

To ensure you get the very best out of your journey with the least of fuss, we provide you with a calico kit bag full of useful goodies.

This will be given to you at the start of your tour.

Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation

NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)





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Pre and Post Cruise information

Due to the early departure and late return times of our Fiordland Cruises we recommend you overnight for one night before and one night after your cruise in Te Anau.

Driving to Te Anau:

Most accommodation providers will allow you to leave your vehicle at their property while you are on your cruise. Please double check when booking.

Flying to Te Anau:

Fly Air New Zealand to either Invercargill or Queenstown. If you want to visit Queenstown, the safest way is to fly into Invercargill and out Queenstown.

Presently coaches depart both airports for Te Anau at 1 pm, with a 12:30 pm check in.

Check coach departure times prior to booking your airfares.

Coach Transfers to Te Anau:

- Tracknet 0800 483 262 www.tracknet.co.nz
Departs Invercargill or Queenstown to Te Anau and return
- Intercity
Phone your local info centre or local intercity branch www.intercity.co.nz

Accommodation in Te Anau:

- Distinction Luxmore Hotel, Ph 03 249 7526, They have a locked compound at night for vehicles. Restaurant in house.
www.distinctionhotelsluxmore.co.nz
Be aware that there are two Distinction Hotels in Te Anau, and multiple holiday parks with similar names.
- The Village Inn, Ph 03 249 7911, www.thevillageinn.co.nz
Restaurant in house

Check their websites for winter deals. They are both centrally located

Safer Parking:

- Alarmed electric fencing, security lighting, and caretaker living on premises. Accommodates buses. saferparkingteanau@msn.com
Ph 03 249 7198 or 027 260 9032

If you require assistance with organising your accommodation or transfers pre and post cruise, we are very happy to book this and pass the cost on to you.





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frequently asked questions

How fit do I need to be?

The main purpose of a guided tour is to enjoy your surroundings and learn from your local guide, it's not a race, however the more you can prepare for a tour, the better the experience will be for you. As a general guideline we suggest the following activity level guide for our tours.

Easy: An average level of fitness, Walk 7km, Bike 15km on well-formed tracks and roads with very little incline.

Mild: An average level of fitness, Walk 12km, Bike 25km on well-formed tracks and roads with average incline.

Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

Challenging: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20+ km , Bike 50+km on partially formed tracks and roads, some off-road , some steep inclines, some easy river and creek crossings.

Some tips for training:

Undertake your training using the clothing and footwear you intend to complete the tour in, this will give you the opportunity to make sure they will be suitable for the purpose and to break in your foot wear so as to avoid any discomfort. Train with your pack or day pack on so you get used to bearing the weight and include a variety of terrain in your training including hills and off road. As much as we'd like to we can't guarantee fine weather on your tour so don't hesitate to get outdoors and train on the rainy days as well.

itinerary

Day 1 Te Anau to Doubtful Sound

Your adventure starts from your overnight accommodation in Te Anau.

At approximately 0830, Real Journeys will pick you up and bring you to the vessel Affinity.

The trip includes a coach to the Manapouri wharf then a cruise across Lake Manapouri where at the other side you will board another coach for the trip over the Wilmot Pass and down into Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound where Affinity will be waiting for you.

You arrive at Deep Cove about 1200. As soon as you are settled and after a briefing on the safety aspects, we will depart and cruise down and explore Doubtful Sound.

Day 2 Doubtful Sound to Dusky Sound

We will leave Doubtful Sound today and cruise down the coast to Breaksea Sound in time for lunch.

After lunch we will cruise through the Acheron Passage to Dusky Sound too start exploring this wonderful area.

We may have time to catch some blue cod as well.

Days 3, 4 & 5 Dusky Sound

Over the next three days you will discover the following (the order in which these are done will be determined by the weather and time and at the Captains discretion).

- Sportsman Cove an area for some great photographic shots as the reflections on a calm day are unbelievable.
- Visit Astronomers Point where Cook and his team of astronomers cut down some trees and set up camp to enable them to take measurements of the planet Venus
- Visit Luncheon Cove, where the first house was built in New Zealand and the first wooden ship built in NZ
- Walk through virgin native bush
- Fish for Blue Cod and Groper
- Visit Facile Harbour, where you will see the site of New Zealand's first official ship wreck





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What will the weather be like?

New Zealand is known to have four seasons in a day so you should always be prepared for sudden changes in weather or temperature and have the appropriate gear with you at all times. Rain can be expected at any time throughout the year.

Spring (September-November) and Autumn (March-May) are generally cooler months for experiencing the outdoors with temperatures averaging 15-25 degrees during the day.

Summer (December-February) is usually warmer with averages of 20-30 degrees and longer sunshine hours due to daylight saving. As New Zealand has very little air pollution, UV rays are strong during the summer months and a good sunscreen and a hat are recommended for outdoor activities during the heat of the day.

itinerary continued

Day 6 Acheron Passage to Breaksea Sound

After breakfast we will cruise through the Acheron Passage to Breaksea Sound where we will cruise and discover Vancouver Sound to its head.

This is a spectacular part of Fiordland with steep mountains and sheer cliffs, great for photography on calm clear days as the reflections leave you wondering which way up the photo should be.

Day 7 Breaksea Sound to Te Anau

Today we say goodbye as you depart from your cruise in this World Heritage Park.

After breakfast we prepare for the arrival of the first helicopter.

The crew take you to the helipad for the helicopter ride of a lifetime when you fly over the World Heritage National Park to the helipad in Te Anau; you will then be transferred by coach back to your accommodation in Te Anau.

Please note the timing of arrival back into Te Anau is weather dependant but you should arrive back in Te Anau mid-morning to lunchtime.

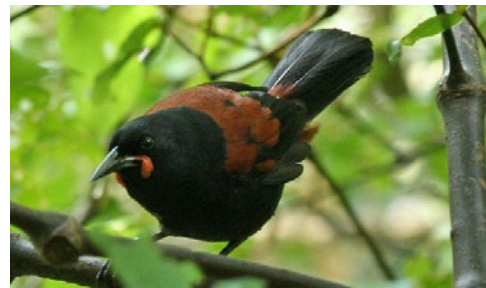




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responsible travel

None of us could deny the benefits of travel in broadening our horizons and our way of thinking about the world we all share; travel breaks down barriers and provides valuable insights into other ways of life, it challenges us to step outside our comfort zone and to learn from those around us.

Our responsibility as participants in this journey is to acknowledge our impact on the environment and the communities in which we travel and to consider our individual contribution now and for the benefit of future generations.

We are Qualmark endorsed; New Zealand tourism's official benchmark for environmental standards and quality control. Wherever possible our company utilises local products and services, we support conservation efforts to preserve our natural and cultural heritage and we respect and care for the unique environment we travel in. Make your commitment to responsible travel with us.

trip grading

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors.

These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip.

The Fiordland Tour is graded easy. An average level of fitness, Walk 7km, Bike 15km on well-formed tracks and roads with very little incline

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise.

If you are uncertain about your suitability for this tour, speak with us and we can help guide you in the right direction



pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation we can help

Contact us at

- ▶ New Zealand: 0800 377 378
- ▶ Australia: 1 800 044 633
- ▶ World: +64 3 962 3280
- ▶ Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz
- ▶ Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz

what's not included

- pre and post tour accommodation
- alcoholic drinks with meals
- personal expenses
- gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service

custom tours

▶ We Can Customise Existing Tours To Suit.

You may want to spend an extra day or you may want to add another element to your tour!

▶ We Can Design A New Tour Just For You.

We have years of experience in creating custom-made tours for groups, so if you are planning a tour for your friends, family, club, corporate workplace.... contact us now.





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have you considered?

New Zealand Walking Tours

The Akaroa Walk
The Franz Josef Trail
The Mesopotamia High Country Walk
The Queen Charlotte Walk
The West Coast Trail
The Hump Ridge Track Walk
The Coromandel Explorer Walk
The Tongariro Crossing Walk
The Lake Waikaremoana Walk
The Abel Tasman Walk - 3 Days
The Abel Tasman Walk - 5 Days
The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 3 Days
The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 5 Days
Bucket List Walk
The Old Ghost Road
Fiordland With Helicopter Flight From The Fiords
Fiordland Southwestern Tour with 2 Helicopter
Flights
Fiordland Scenic Journey
Fiordland Southern Discovery Experience
Queen Charlotte Walk and Boat Stay

New Zealand Hiking Tours

The Heaphy Track
The Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk
The Stewart Island Track
The Tongariro Crossing Walk

New Zealand Cycling Tours

Around The Mountains Cycle trail
The Tekapo Canal Trail
The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
The Molesworth Cycle Trail
The Westland Wilderness Cycle Trail
The Otago Rail Trail
The Tasman Great Taste Trail

Bhutan Tours

Japan Walking Tours

Australia Walking Tours

All of these tours and more available at
www.tuataratours.co.nz



pre tour checklist

Please ensure you have the following compulsory items for your walk:
Gear will be checked prior to departure.

- Medium size day pack with waterproof liner
- Waterproof rain jacket with hood
- Boots or sturdy walking shoes, preferably with ankle support
- Woollen (merino) or polypro thermals (top and bottom)
- Polar fleece jacket or top
- Warm hat and gloves-fleece or woollen
- Pair of shorts / long trousers (preferably quick-dry fabric, no jeans)
- Woollen or thermal socks-three or four pairs

The following are highly recommended but not compulsory:

- Walking poles
- Waterproof over trousers
- Gaiters
- Swimsuit
- Sun hat and sun glasses
- Spare boot laces
- Pair of light shoes or sandals for the evening
- A change of clothing for the evening
- Sunscreen, insect repellent
- Personal first aid items-including blister block or foot fleece
- Personal toiletries
- Small torch
- Camera
- Water bottle (we supply you with one bottle, but you may wish to bring another.)

We do not recommend you walk in cotton garments, jeans or silk. These fabrics take much longer to dry after perspiration or wet weather and you may feel damp and cold, even inside the best raincoat.

Plan around three layers of clothing, your inner or core layer which should be wool (merino) or polypro to trap warmth against the skin, a middle layer, and a top waterproof layer to protect from rain and wind.





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Tuatara Tours - experienced and innovative!

Tuatara Tours is an experienced and innovative walking and cycling adventure company, based in the South Island of New Zealand. The vision at Tuatara Tours is to encourage as many people as possible to be involved in fun, adventure and the outdoors. We ourselves walk, run, mountain bike, road bike and occasionally participate in multi-sport adventure races... to the best of our ability. We are not champions – but we are out there! We understand the outdoors and we revel in the country, people and climate that we work with

our team is here to provide the best experience

We only have one world and we have to share it with each other. Much of the attraction for our clients is to experience unspoiled and un-crowded landscapes. It is our challenge to ensure that in this sharing of the experience, we minimise where possible, the impact of our business.

Through the introduction of strict environmental guidelines, we minimise our impact on the environment we live and work in.

subscribe to our newsletter

Our newsletter will be emailed to you monthly on the first working day of every month.

- latest trips
- travel advice
- events & attractions
- and more!

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz and click the free subscription button.

how to book

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz, click the enquiry button and submit your booking request using the form provided.

We enjoy talking to people about their travel interests. So feel free to contact us directly if you'd rather not fill out a form.

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Tuatara Conservation

Tuatara Tours are proud to be actively involved in Tuatara Conservation.

Tuatara Tours has formally adopted "BP" a male juvenile tuatara who resides at Orana Park in Christchurch and is part of the conservation programme to ensure the safe future of these amazing reptiles.



country information

Culture

New Zealand has a diverse multi-cultural population, the majority of whom are of British descent. New Zealand's indigenous Maori make up around 14 percent of the population. The culture of its indigenous Maori people affects the language, the arts, and even the accents of all New Zealanders. New Zealanders embrace new technology and culture, but they also have a background of quiet but rugged individualism, self-reliance and a passion for invention. Many New Zealanders travel extensively and thrive on learning and experiencing other cultures. They are renowned for their openness, ingenuity and "easy-going" nature.

Environment

Fourteen spectacular national parks preserve New Zealand's natural heritage enshrining a huge variety of landscapes, vegetation and wildlife, New Zealand encompasses rich farmland, mountains, rivers and unsurpassed scenery. The country is slightly bigger than the UK in size. Three-quarters of the population live in the North Island with more than a third of New Zealand's population living in the largest city, Auckland.

The South Island - with its lakes, fiords and spectacular outdoor scenery is the most popular destination for tourists. The gateway to the South Island is Christchurch - a city of approximately 340,000 people.

Recreation

New Zealand's stunning landscapes, lush forests, amazing wildlife and pleasant climate make it a haven for many outdoor activities, and a great place to relax and enjoy life. New Zealanders love the outdoors, especially tramping, camping, skiing and snowboarding. Sailing, surfing and swimming are also favourite pursuits. New Zealand's sports and recreation facilities are inexpensive, abundant and very accessible.

