

Kaikoura, Canterbury, New Zealand

Where the Southern Alps plunge straight into a whale-rich ocean canyon. Kaikoura delivers world-class wildlife encounters and some of New Zealand's most dramatic coastal scenery — all within a few hours ashore.

-  Tender port (South Bay Marina)
-  Typical call: 7–9 hrs
-  NZD — cards accepted everywhere
-  English / Te Reo Māori
-  Wildlife destination

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:	Arrive:	All aboard:
Excursion:	Notes:	

GETTING ASHORE

- Docking:** Tender — ships anchor offshore; tenders to South Bay Marina (~2.5 km from town)
- Best For:** Whale watching, dolphin swims, fur seals, dramatic coastal walks
- Walk to Town:** ~45 min on flat road from South Bay Marina, or take the free/cheap cruise shuttle
- Don't Miss:** Fresh crayfish at the roadside Kaikoura Seafood BBQ near Point Kean

 Getting around:  Taxi  Contact for quote ·  Rideshare  Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Sperm Whale Watching by Boat** — Whale Watch Kaikoura runs 3-hour catamaran trips over the Hikurangi Trench, where giant sperm whales feed year-round.
- Swim with Dusky Dolphins** — Dolphin Encounter takes small groups out to swim alongside pods of hundreds of dusky dolphins in the open ocean — one...
- Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway** — A dramatic cliff-top trail with views of the ocean, fur seals on the rocks below, seabirds nesting on ledges, and...
- Albatross & Seabird Encounter** — A short boat trip to encounter royal albatrosses, giant petrels, and shearwaters feeding just offshore — a must for...
- Scenic Whale Watch Flight** — Air Kaikoura offers 30-minute fixed-wing flights over the coast — spot sperm whales from above, framed by the Seaward...

BEST WALKS

- Town to Point Kean Seal Colony** 4 km one-way · ~50 min · flat · free — A flat, scenic walkway along the waterfront from the town center past Fyffe House to the Point Kean seal colony at the eastern tip of...
- Peninsula Walkway Clifftop Loop (South Bay section)** 2 km · 45 min · easy-moderate · free — From South Bay Marina, follow the Peninsula Walkway up onto the clifftops for sweeping ocean and mountain views.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:56AM–5:53PM · Jun 7:53AM–4:58PM · Aug 7:18AM–5:41PM · Sep 6:27AM–6:14PM · Oct 6:35AM–7:47PM	
Apr	62°	49°	12d		
Jun	54°	42°	11d		
Aug	53°	40°	11d		
Sep	56°	43°	12d		
Oct	60°	46°	12d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book marine tours before you cruise. Whale Watch Kaikoura and Dolphin Encounter have very limited capacity. When a large ship

Kaikoura, Canterbury, New Zealand — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Kaikoura Visitor Information Centre | Get maps, brochures, and local advice here. | 2 Kaikoura Llama Trekking | Walk with llamas through scenic Kaikoura landscapes. |
| 3 Fyffe House | Visit Kaikoura's oldest surviving house, a whaling cottage. | 4 Mt Fyffe Carpark | Starting point for scenic hikes up Mt Fyffe. |
| 5 Kaikoura Beach | Stroll the stony beach, spot seals and seabirds. | 6 Daves' Diving Kaikoura | Go diving or snorkeling to explore marine life. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |