



New Zealand Art Tour

Day 1 Nelson

Welcome to New Zealand and to Nelson situated in the north-west corner of the South Island. The Nelson region is known for its year-round sunshine, golden beaches, national parks, boutique wineries, and a large creative community of working artists. Add to this locally grown produce, freshly caught seafood, historical streetscapes and waterfront restaurants this is an ideal way to start your tour. You will be transferred to your hotel with the rest of the day at leisure until we all meet for a welcome dinner at one of the local restaurants. **(D)**



Day 2 Nelson

Nelson's famous outdoor market is not to be missed, with 200 stall holders the market attracts locals and tourists alike. The emphasis is on regional goods and fresh, seasonal and organic produce along with handcrafted items from some of Nelson's most accomplished craftspeople and artisans. We spend the morning here and this afternoon is free for you to explore. **(B)**



Day 3 Takaka

Today we begin our trip in earnest. Our first stop is Mapua wharf to meet some of the local artists before travelling over the Takaka Hill to stunning Golden Bay our home for the next 4 nights. This afternoon we go on a sketching excursion to limber up for the days ahead. **(B,D)**

Day 4 Takaka

Our drive today is to the edge of Abel Tasman National Park and Totaranui beach. We spend the day exploring and painting the golden sands and dense green bush and later cooling off in the clear salt water. **(B,L)**



Day 5 Takaka

Farewell Spit is a narrow sand spit at the northern end of Golden Bay. Known to the Māori as Tuhuroa, it runs eastwards from Cape Farewell, the island's northernmost point. It forms the northern side of Golden Bay and is the longest sand spit in New Zealand, stretching for about 26 km above sea level and another 6 km underwater. The area is an internationally renowned bird sanctuary and is home to over 90 species of birds, the rugged west coast beaches and a seal colony are also a highlight. **(B,L)**



Day 6 Takaka

The natural diversity of Kahurangi National Park makes it a perfect place to spend the day painting. It is New Zealand's second largest natural protected area with some of the country's oldest rocks, spectacular areas of limestone and marble sculptured into caves, arches and stunning outcrops by water. **(B,L)**



Day 7 St Arnaud (Nelson Lakes National Park)

We say goodbye to Golden Bay and travel to the mountain village of St Arnaud which sits on the edge of Lake Rotoiti and is our home for the next 3 nights. Two beautiful alpine lakes form the heart of this 102,000 hectare national park. Both are surrounded by steep mountains and fringed to the shore by native honeydew beech forests, which feed a variety of tuneful nectar-eating native birds. This afternoon is at leisure for you to explore the area **(B,L,D)**



Day 8 St Arnaud (Nelson Lakes National Park)

We go into the park to explore and find the best places to paint. **(B,L)**

Day 9 St Arnaud (Nelson Lakes National Park)

The Buller River leaves Lake Rotoiti and carves its way through uplifted mountain blocks, gorges and dense forest where 169 kms later it arrives on the west coast to create the port for the town of Westport. The Maori word for the river is Kawatiri meaning deep and swift. Today we once again explore places to paint and sketch. There is an optional Jetboat Ride on the river for those keen to take the thrilling ride through the gorge. **(B,L)**



Day 10 Marlborough Sounds



Today we make our way to Picton the gateway to both the South Island and the Marlborough Sounds. We trade our bus for a water taxi and head into the Sounds to Lochmara Wildlife Recovery and Arts centre situated on Queens Charlotte Sound. Time to explore the area before dinner tonight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 11 Marlborough Sounds

Your day is free to enjoy this beautiful place, walk, relax, paint, kayak the choice is yours. Later this afternoon we will use one of the art studios to work on some of your paintings **(B,L,D)**

Day 12 Marlborough Sounds

Another day to explore this unique area before a final meeting in the studio to talk about our walk. Tonight we have a farewell dinner with time to discuss our time in New Zealand **(B,L,D)**



Day 13 Depart

This morning we take the water taxi to Picton and transfer back to Nelson, where we say goodbye to our fellow travellers and to New Zealand.

Haere Ra from New Zealand