

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 of New Zealand's most...
- **Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway** — A dramatic cliff-top trail with views of the ocean, fur seals on the rocks below, seabirds nesting on ledges, and snow-capped peaks behind.
- **Albatross & Seabird Encounter** — A short boat trip to encounter royal albatrosses, giant petrels, and shearwaters feeding just offshore — a must for birders and incredible for anyone.
- **Scenic Whale Watch Flight** — Air Kaikoura offers 30-minute fixed-wing flights over the coast — spot sperm whales from above, framed by the Seaward Kaikoura Range.

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 the peninsula.
- **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 calls, they sell out months in advance — book as soon as your itinerary is confirmed.
- Plan a wildlife backup. Boat tours can be canceled with little warning due to swells. The Peninsula Walkway, Point Kean seals, and a crayfish lunch are a genuinely great fallback day.
- Eat crayfish. Kaikoura literally means 'to eat crayfish' in Māori. The roadside Kaikoura Seafood BBQ near Point Kean serves fresh grilled crayfish, scallops, and whitebait at picnic tables — a quintessential local experience.
- Layer up. Even on sunny summer days, cold wind off the Southern Ocean or the mountains can chill quickly. Bring a windproof jacket regardless of the forecast.
- Cards everywhere, no tips needed. NZD is the currency; credit/debit cards are accepted at virtually every business including food stalls. Tipping is not customary in New Zealand.
- Use the shuttle. South Bay Marina to town is a flat ~45-minute walk, but most ships run a tender-side shuttle. Save the walk energy for the Peninsula Walkway or the seal colony.

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 | | | |