



## Kaikoura Wilderness Walks

Fancy a walk in the heavens? Kaikoura Wilderness Walks traverses New Zealand's highest privately owned land, rising to nearly 2500m and overlooked by the highest visible peak, the aptly-named Te Ao Whekere ("World of the Gods").

Along with expert interpretation by local guides, this lofty journey through the untamed wilderness of the Seaward Kaikoura mountain range provides an extraordinary insight into the evolution and biodiversity of our world-famous landscapes.

Beginning at the foot of the Puhi Peaks, you climb through ancient beech, totara and podocarp forests into snowy alpine meadows dotted with mountain daisies.

The range of eco-systems boasts a diverse array of rare and endangered species. Listen for a menagerie of native birds (rifleman, warbler, tomtit, falcon, pipit, robin, silver-eye, fantail, kereru, kingfisher) and look out for larger fauna

like chamois, Arapawa sheep and red deer.

The area is also home to the black-eyed gecko and scree weta, as well as one of only two nesting colonies in the world of the Hutton's shearwater.

Total seclusion is guaranteed: Kaikoura Wilderness Walks operates on 1619 hectares of private land with a maximum of 12 guests (the guide ratio is one to six).

Expansive vistas from the mountain tops to the South Pacific are a constant feature of this stunning walk. On a clear day at Surveyor's Peak Lookout, 1522m above sea level, you can see as far south as Banks Peninsula and as far north as the eastern coast of the North Island.

There are also stunning views from every room at the luxurious Shearwater Lodge, a purpose-built, eco-friendly retreat nestled near the bush's edge in a spectacular alpine valley at 1000m. Relax and rejuvenate as you indulge in local cuisine and enjoy true Kiwi hospitality. This family-owned and operated business offers professionalism combined with

attention to detail, creature comforts and a commitment to making guests feel completely at home.

Kaikoura Wilderness Walks have been endorsed by Qualmark, New Zealand tourism's official quality agency – achieving an Enviro Gold standard in recognition of their sustainable practices and ongoing commitment to the environment (including protection of the endangered Hutton's shearwater).

Opt for a one- or two-night trek, both of which include a detour to the mesmerising, picture-postcard Beverley Falls. You need reasonable fitness to tackle the mountain tracks, but you'll have only your day-pack to carry. Scenic transfers to and from the walk ex-Kaikoura are part of this all-inclusive journey.

### Contact details

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