



www.takeiteasytours.nz



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New Zealand



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1st – 7th December 2024

Marlborough Sounds Cruise

Come explore the beautiful waterways of the Marlborough Sounds which make up one-fifth of New Zealand's coastline.

Cruise through the Marlborough, Pelorus & Kenepuru Sounds discovering secluded bays and historic sites. Visit marine reserves and precious island sanctuaries, home to an array of our native wildlife.

Spend time on d'Urville Island and fish for delicious meals of Blue Cod and enjoy spectacular walks such as the Queen Charlotte Track from Mistletoe Bay to Anakiwa.

The Affinity Vessel has undergone a nice facelift and features new, thoughtful and very caring staff. They are to be highly recommended. The stunning cuisine is hand made on-board by a french chef and all walks are completed alongside your Take it Easy guide.

A great way to discover this absolute gem of New Zealand.

DAY 1

Sun 1st Dec

Home - Picton



If departing from Whanganui meet at the Whanganui Racecourse for a 8am departure, and travel south to Levin for some home baked morning tea. From here it's straight into the **Interislander Ferry** terminal in plenty of time to board our 1pm sailing over to Picton. (Ferry time may alter)

Departing from another destination

For those departing from another destination you will fly into Wellington and be transferred to the Interislander Ferry Terminal to meet up with the group. All tickets and details will be provided in your personal information pack, sent prior to travel.

When we arrive, we collect our luggage and make our way to our ship **Affinity**, which is located at the wharf located next to the ferry terminal.

Once all passengers are onboard and we've had a briefing by the Captain then depart Picton and cruise leisurely through the waterways whilst indulging in some sunset nibbles. We will then anchor in a sheltered bay in the **Marlborough sounds** overnight and be served our first dinner of the cruise before resting our heads.

Accommodation: **Affinity (Vessel)**



DAY 2

Mon 2nd Dec

Cruising



After breakfast, you have the option to walk the last section of the **Queen Charlotte Track** from Mistletoe Bay to Anakiwa. This can be a challenging walk for some as the first 20 minutes is uphill then it is about 12km on an undulating track into Anakiwa. It is a very scenic walk through the stunning native beach forest but can be slippery if wet. If you prefer a more relaxed walk this morning you can stay on the boat and cruise around to Anakiwa then walk from there back on the track to some beautiful little bays, or simply relaxed amongst this peaceful setting.

Once back on board you have time for a hot shower before enjoying some lunch. We then cruise in and out of the beautiful bays and coves, also visiting a salmon farm which is a popular aquaculture industry for Marlborough. The process of salmon farming in the sounds will be explained then you have some time to relax, read a book, play some board games, or even go for a swim before dinner. We will anchor in a scenic sheltered bay for the night.

DAY 3

Tue 3rd Dec

Cruising



After a restful sleep and refreshing breakfast, we will visit Ship Cove and **Motuara Island**, which is a fantastic Bird Sanctuary Island where Robins, Tuis, Kiwis, Kakariki and Bellbirds live. Hear the birdsong and look out for the rare South Island Saddleback as you walk on this wonderful island. A true gem in the Marlborough Sounds.



We will also go ashore at **Ship Cove**, where English explorer Captain James Cook made his home in the early 1770's. Here you will find information panels explaining early Maori occupation and a monument to honor Captain Cook, with an optional short walk to a waterfall.

We then head off to the **Pelorus Sound**, cruising around Cape Jackson. On our way around our captain will talk about the Russian Cruise Liner 'Mikhail Lermontov' which now lies at the bottom of the sea. The luxury cruise ship sunk in 1986 and is now a popular diving site.

On arrival into the Pelorus Sound, you will also visit a King Shag colony. This rare bird is only found in the Marlborough Sounds and considered a prized bird amongst birdwatchers. After a fun filled day of wonderful activities and great food, we then anchor in a sheltered bay in the outer Pelorus for the night.

DAY 4

Wed 4th Dec

Cruising

After breakfast, we cruise further out and fish for the sounds favorite catch '**Blue Cod**' and yes, these will feature on the menu – there is nothing better than fresh seafood and it does not get any fresher than this.

We will then cruise towards **French Pass** and **d'Urville Island**. At French Pass, we pull up alongside the wharf where you are given the opportunity to take a walk up the road to look out over the pass and the turbulent waters (about 1 hour ashore). There are also interesting information panels that explain Admiral d'Urville's first transit through the Pass. On returning to Affinity, we cruise through the pass and back out again. You will enjoy this safe, picturesque and interesting passage.



We will then cruise into Catherine Cove, d'Urville Island, where you will have the opportunity to walk around the resort lawn and /or take the short walk up to the beautiful waterfall located in native bush. If you rather sit back and take it easy you can relax on the café deck and enjoy a drink soaking in the amazing views. We will then have dinner at the **Wilderness Resort** Café on d'Urville Island and then anchor in the cove for the night.

DAY 5

Thur 5th Dec

Cruising

After breakfast, we visit a local mussel farm (the other large aquaculture industry for Marlborough). The marine farming process will be explained, and you will be shown the product growing on the lines.

Affinity then cruises back into the Pelorus, to **Tennyson Inlet** en route to Elaine Bay where there is an optional walk to Penzance Bay. This is a 3-hour moderate undulating walk which can be slippery if wet. Or there are shorter walking options (1.1.5-hour walks). Of course, you are more than welcome to stay onboard and maybe have a short wander while you wait for the others at the end of your walk.

We will again seek out and anchor in a quiet sheltered bay for the night enjoying another lovely dinner.



DAY 6

Fri 6th Dec

Cruising

After breakfast, we cruise to **Jacobs Bay**, where you have the opportunity to go ashore and walk through regenerated native bush on the very peaceful Jacobs Bay to Fairy Bay Track, this walk takes about 1.5 hours to complete; people often consider this the nicest walk in the Pelorus Sounds but is a narrow track and slippery in places so sturdy footwear is highly recommended as with all the walks. Again, you can choose to stay onboard the ship and relax at the end of the track for the walkers just taking in the great views.

When back onboard we cruise into the **Kenepuru Sound** pass Raetihi Lodge, St Omer Guest House and the Portage Hotel. You will be told the interesting history and stories relating to these special locations. At the end of the day we head for a scenic anchorage for our last night out in the Sounds.

DAY 7

Sat 7th Dec

Havelock - Home

After breakfast we will cruise into Havelock and bid you farewell to our fabulous crew. We are then shuttled to Picton to catch our 11am ferry back to Wellington. There will be plenty of time to get yourself some lunch as we head over the strait. When arriving into Wellington those flying out will be transported to the airport and the others will make their way back to Wanganui. (Ferry time may alter)



Total cost

Departing from Whanganui:
\$3,695

\$1,000 deposit due by 30th August 2024.

Final payment due by 1st November 2024.

Payment methods

- ✓ Credit Card ✓ Cash
- ✓ Eftpos ✓ Online

Send online bank deposits to:
 BNZ 02-0792-0090015-00

Please use your name and trip name as code and reference.

What's included?



Transport

- All coach travel
- Interislander Ferry
- Affinity cruise



Accommodation

- Twin share accommodation
(single supplement available)



Food and drink

- 2 course dinner every night
- All lunches except on day 1 & 7
- Continental breakfasts
- Morning and afternoon teas
- Sunset nibbles



Activities

- All activities as stated in **bold** in the itinerary



How to book

Be in quick to secure your seats!



Call us

06 3447465

Freephone: 0508 482269



Email us

info@takeiteasytours.nz

Thank you,
The Take It Easy Team

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



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Take it Easy Tours

Please note:

- Due to the physical requirements of moving around the boat and getting on and off the tender craft etc you are required to have a decent level of mobility for this tour.
- Please make yourself familiar with the vessels layout and the twin share sleeping arrangements.
- All walks are optional, you may wish to stay onboard and relax or there may be a shorter walk option that would suit you better. Please understand you are responsible for your own safety and actions during these walks and appropriate footwear must be worn.



Terms and Conditions

Cancellation policy

If after your booking has been confirmed and you wish to cancel, the following cancellation fees will apply:

- For cancellations after 30th August 2024 – loss of deposit.
- For cancellations after 1st November 2024 – 75% of total fare will apply.
- For cancellations within 14 days hours prior to travel – 100% of total fare will apply.

Disclaimer

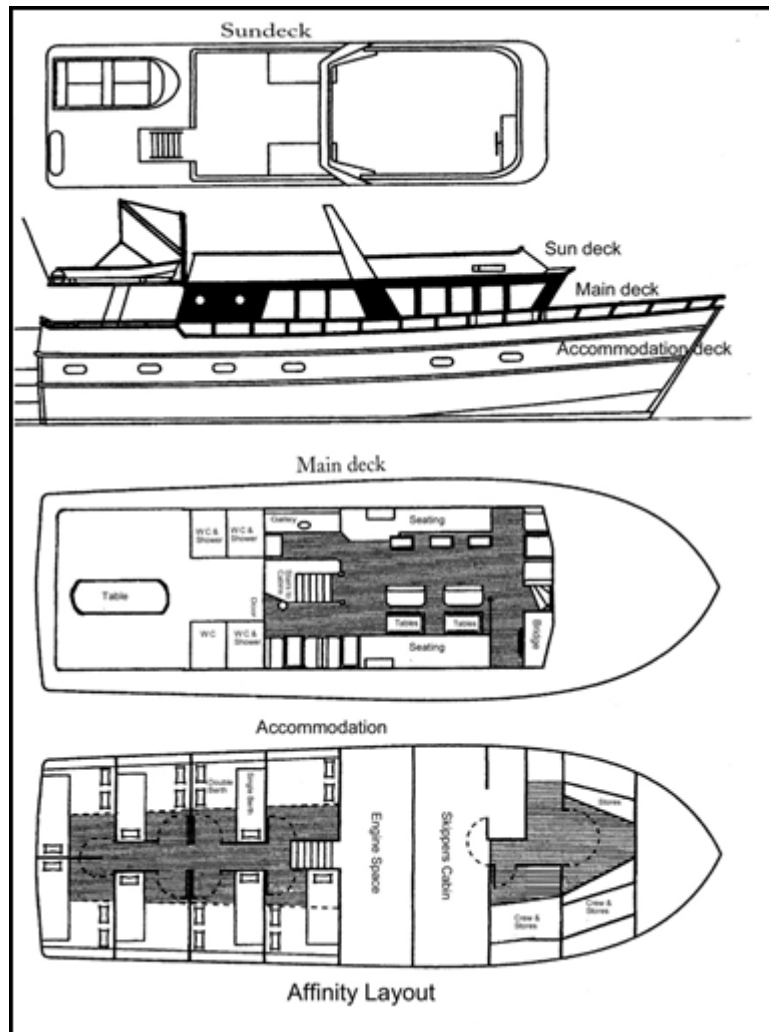
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Affinity Charter Ltd Disclaimer

Affinity Charters Ltd will not be held responsible for any delay or alteration to cruise due to "acts of God". Daily itinerary may be altered due to weather conditions and time available.



Vessel Layout and Details



Vessel Details

Year Built	1989
Registry	Nelson, New Zealand
Engine	12 lt Scania
Length	20 Metres
Beam	6 Metres
Tonnage	60 Tonne
Onboard Power	24 & 230 Volt
Tender	One
Air Compressor	Two

Vessel Details Cont.

Cabins (Twin Share or Double)	Eight
Bathroom Facilities	Three
Crew Size	Two - Three
Dress Code	Casual
Menu	Home Style
Dining Hours	Advised Onboard
Lounge / Dining Room	One
Library	Limited
Shop	Souvenirs

