

Explore Marlborough and the Sounds



BAY of MANY COVES
NEW ZEALAND

We have a delightful range of activities within our diverse region, both on and off the water.

This first section outlines complimentary activities on offer directly from the Bay of Many Coves, right on your door-step and within our close environs.

Kayaking – from Bay of Many Coves

Kayak from our own fleet of sea kayaks. A great way to explore the sheltered bays and beautiful Sounds' coastline. Head up into the head of the Bay to see the 'many coves', see the picturesque holiday homes dotted around the hills and on the foreshore, look out for little blue penguins and dolphins, birds, and seals basking on the rocks at Clay Point opposite the Bay. There are doubles and single kayaks, sea-kayaks & 'sit-on-top' kayaks. Guided kayaking is also available.



Paddle Boarding – from Bay of Many Coves

Try one of our paddle boards, another great way to explore the bays. Stand Up Paddle boarding (SUP) is a sport that everyone can enjoy, regardless of age, ability or size. The perfect whole body and core workout, SUP or "walking on water" is a very peaceful way to get out and experience nature while you're exercising. It improves balance, co-ordination, strength & endurance, it is stress-reducing, invigorating plus it invites adventure and exploration.



Clinker Dinghy – our row-boat

Take a row in the restored clinker dinghy is another quaint way to explore the Bay and get a good view of the property and it's surrounds while you enjoy a little exercise. Check out the birds – cormorants (or shags) nesting on the rocks just to the left of Arthur's Bay.



Native Flora and Fauna – our grounds

Take a stroll through the grounds and you will see many native trees, shrubs, plants and bird life. The cheeky Weka will be rustling in the bushes, the wood-pigeons (or Kereru) will swoop overhead, the bellbirds will be tweeting and the fantails busy flitting about. We have over 11,000 native plants in our 52 hectares, some common and some rare or unique to our location. Ask a staff member to guide you if you wish.



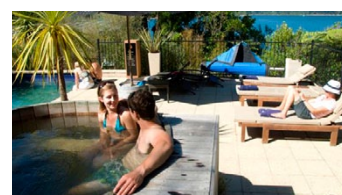
A boat ride in the Bay – on our 'tender'

Let one of our team take you out on our small boat to explore the greater Bay of Many Coves, and you will see how appropriately it was named! There are many interesting properties in the different inlets, high up on the hillsides, and right down on the coastline. There are bird colonies and often marine mammals such as little blue penguins, dolphins and seals. This service runs 'on-demand' at your leisure.



Relax poolside – with views overlooking the Bay

A swim in the outdoor pool (heated to around 22 degrees) is refreshing, along with a dip in the Cedar Hot Tub, which is blissfully around 38 degrees (wonderful for star-gazing in the evenings). Unwind with a book or game on the loungers beside the pool; the staff will deliver a cold beverage or ice-cream, maybe even a light snack if you get hungry. A great spot to waste away a pleasant hour or two.



Our environs

Our 52 hectares of native bush is a paradise for trekking or a casual walk. Follow the signs to the waterfall, the loop track, the lookout (elevation 386m, 1.9kms from the resort), or do a loop walk right up to the Queen Charlotte Track (4.3kms from the resort in one direction). Take the base track up into the Bay of Many Coves and explore the holiday homes, the bird life and the stunning vegetation. Longer or shorter walking options are available



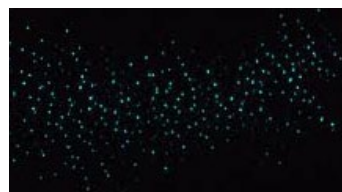
Our Waterfall

A stroll through the native bush takes you to our beautiful little waterfall, streaming delightfully down a 7 metre drop in the middle of native bush. It takes around 15 minutes to walk to the falls and you can enjoy the sounds of bellbirds and tuis as you go. It's an easy walk but we will provide a complimentary walking pole in case it's a little slippery.



Glow-worms – our little night lights

When it's dark and only the owls are out and about, take the torch from your room and journey into the darkness just 5-6 minutes walk away across the bay and along the track, you will see the banks are lit up with tiny lights. Turn your torches off as soon as you see the lights and enjoy our resident glow-worms. A glowworm is actually the larvae of an insect that glows with bioluminescence. A staff member can guide you if you wish.



Sauvignon Blanc Grapes – the Marlborough Icon

Enjoy wine tasting with fellow guests in the evening, sample some of the best Marlborough has to offer. Taste Reserve Sauvignon Blanc wines from Villa Maria Estate, a vineyard which has proven itself internationally since it's first vintage over 50 years ago. Learn about how different soil, terrain and temperature effect the grapes. Informative, social, delicious.



Sea Creatures – scan the shoreline

Fish feeding is a daily activity. The Bight Café is right on the waterfront and from here we feed our 'pet' Blue Cod and other fish ('spotties', Kahawai, leather jackets and others). You can also see Kina (sea urchins), different types of starfish, mussels and sea cucumbers. Down on the beach are shells and small crabs. This is our tame pet blue cod, 'Bluey' (pictured).



ON THE WATER...

R & R Cruises – Exclusive to the Bay of Many Coves Resort

Cruise the beautiful bays of the Marlborough Sounds aboard 'Lady Karen', a classic 43' Kauri twin engine launch built in 1957. Your Captain and Host, Gordon, will ensure a journey that combines entertainment, knowledge and fine local hospitality.

Highlights:

- fishing or scallop dredging
- kayaking
- wining and dining
- exploring the bays and inlets
- viewing the seabirds and marine life
- visiting the salmon farm
- skeet shooting.

From \$545 (1 – 8 persons), half or full day cruises



R & R Cruises – Tory Channel Showcase – see the real New Zealand

Highlights:

- Ruakaka Bay Salmon Farm
- Tio Point Oyster and Mussel Farms
- Perano Whaling Station
- Whekenui Paua Farm

Departs the Resort at 10.00am – full day returning around 5.00pm Subject to favourable weather conditions.

Price subject to number of passengers, 24 hrs notice required



FAITH

One of the last from the golden era of pleasure motor yachts, Faith has been meticulously maintained and carefully upgraded to combine the best modern facilities with classic craftsmanship and materials no longer seen on modern vessels. Her facilities comfortably cater for up to 20 people for day and evening cruises – perfect for exploring the bays, inlets and coves within the Marlborough Sounds.

Hire from \$300

Beviamo Yacht Charters

Take the helm for yourself or relax and enjoy the ride. Imagine yourself cruising around the 4,000 square kms of idyllic scenery that make up the beautiful Marlborough Sounds. Pristine waters and bush clad hills provide a serenity rarely found in our busy lives. Beviamo is a 42 foot (12.9 metre) German built luxury yacht with a very experienced local skipper.

From 1 – 8 persons. Rates vary for half or full day charter.

Voila Yacht Charters

Sailing yacht VOILA is a crewed Beneteau Oceanis 54 with interior layout and design by Nauta. VOILA was delivered in 2012 and is available for luxury yacht charters. Pure luxury on the water and a very memorable sailing experience.

From 1 – 10 persons. Rates vary for half or full day charter.

Fishing Charters

Experience the Sounds on the MV Tory with an expert local skipper. The main fish species we catch in the Queen Charlotte Sound are Cod and Terakihi, but there are plenty of other varieties to keep your day interesting. Suitable for novices and experienced fisher-folk.

The Chefs love cooking up your fresh catch – pan fried, sashimi'd, battered, as you wish, it is our pleasure – from the sea to the plate.

Prices for up to 6 people, vary from \$530 to \$1,500

Myths and Legends Eco Tour

Experience New Zealand cultural tourism at its best and learn about the environment, wildlife and Maori history, particularly as it relates to this historically rich and diverse area. Pete, Tane and Takutai are knowledgeable locals with a passion for story-telling!

Half Day or full day options. Either private or shared trips.

Swim with dolphins (or just watch!)

Swimming with dolphins and viewing them in their underwater world is the adventure experience of a lifetime! This is an opportunity to get into the water with dolphins or, if you prefer, take a dolphin viewing cruise in the sheltered calm waters of the Sounds. You will seek out dusky, bottlenose, common and even the rare Hector's dolphins that frequent this amazing area.

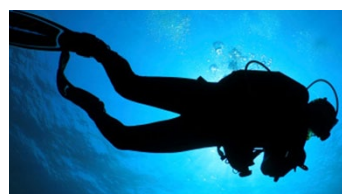
Half Day (morning) from Picton, wet suits provided.

The Mail Boat MV Tiri Cat – Beachcomber Cruises

Join the Beachcomber mail boat skipper as he delivers the mail and groceries to families that live in remote and beautiful places around the Sounds. Say 'Kia Ora' to the kids waiting on the wharf for their incoming schoolwork or greet the many animals that come down with their owners to collect the paper. Beachcomber are the only officially licensed operators in the Queen Charlotte Sound that deliver the mail for Royal New Zealand Post. Hundreds of bays and inlets are visited on route with plenty of opportunities to see marine wildlife.

Scuba Diving

Two dive operations are based in Picton and will collect you from the Resort for a day's diving in the Marlborough Sounds. The most famous dive is the wreck in Port Gore – the Mikhail Lermontov – the jewel of NZ ship wrecks and one of the biggest diveable ship wrecks in the world. Other options include – a one day guided dive in the outer Sounds, the Double Cove fish feeding snorkel tour, diving for crayfish or scallops, or the Koi wreck and Long Island Marine Reserve.



Seafood Odyssey Cruise

Departs from Picton Marina at 1.30pm daily for an afternoon scenic cruise on board the Marlborough Travel launch. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the area and a commentary from your local skipper about the region. The Marlborough Sounds are a stunning area to cruise with seemingly endless bays and coves to explore and different scenery around every corner.

Highlights – The King Salmon Farm and Green Shell Mussel Farm



Marine Wildlife and Eco Tour – Motuara Island & Surrounds (Afternoons)

This half-day trip is a nature experience with fantastic scenery, wonderful wildlife, and great guides. Outstanding commentary along with open viewing areas allow you to enjoy dolphins (90% encounter rate), fur seals and numerous seabirds. Land on Motuara Island (nature reserve) for a 1 hour walk; spot resident blue penguins, rare saddleback, melodic bellbirds, cheeky robins, native pigeons and yellow-crowned parakeets. The birds are fearless, plentiful and very vocal. The view from the Cook Strait lookout is spectacular!

Departs Picton daily (summer) from 1.30pm.



Bird Watching – Motuara Island Eco Tour (Mornings)

Guarding the entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound, this island features regenerating forest and is predator-free, making it a unique and fantastic wildlife refuge. Birds found at Motuara Island are as above.

From \$85pp return – guided options available. Departs resort at 8.30am (summer only). Additional afternoon activities can be added.



Marlborough Icons Tour (Full Day)

Sample Marlborough's classics – Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, the Marlborough Sounds and Marlborough Greenshell Mussels. Enjoy the fine wines of Marlborough in the morning and the stunning Kenepuru Sound in the afternoon.

Available November to April.

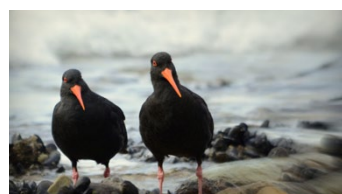
Around \$200pp



ON THE LAND..

Historic Ship's Cove – 'Meretoto'

This site is internationally recognised as Captain James Cook's favourite base during his three wide-ranging voyages to NZ on the Endeavour. The cove was already valued by Maori as a place of shelter at the edge of the open sea. He spent 170 days at this anchorage between his first visit (Jan 1770) and final departure (Feb 1777). Cook found it provided a central and secure anchorage with good timber, water and fishing to provision his ships and restore his crews. There is an informative display at the site reflecting the cultural themes and interpretation covering the maori and Captain Cook stories.



Queen Charlotte Track

Explore the 71 kilometre track, hike a chosen section, set your own pace. This stunning coastal track winds through towering native forest and regenerating bush, over ridges and into beautiful coves. Venture out from Bay of Many Coves Resort for a round-trip walk or, for longer excursions, allow us to arrange a pick up service from any of the several entry and exit points. Both freedom and guided walking options are available.

From \$75pp return – picnic lunches available.



Wineries of Marlborough tour

Half or full day tours of New Zealand's largest wine growing area. With over 40 cellar doors in Marlborough, you'll be pleased to have a personal guide. Visit the vineyards of your desire; be driven, be informed, enjoy the tastings, and learn about Marlborough's famous Sauvignon Blanc and the many other grape varieties produced in the region. Start from Picton, personal tour or small group options. Can be combined with other tours.



In the Saddle

Horse trekking at the head of the Kenepuru Sound, just over the hill from the Resort. The Bridevale Trek will have you atop your sure-footed and good natured steed for approximately two and a half hours. Your hosts will provide snacks and a bottle of local wine – a very civilized way to soak up the scenery of the Sounds. Watertaxi transfers will be arranged for this activity.



Rates per person, per hour plus water taxis available on request

Mountain biking – ride on the Queen Charlotte Track

Hire a mountain bike for a day or two and enjoy the thrill of one of New Zealand’s best single track rides with a variety of terrain. This 71km walking track has been purpose-built to cater to both walkers and cyclists. It is a clay-based track that is hard and fast in dry conditions, but can be slippery when wet. The track is open all year round, although the section from Ship Cove to Punga Cove is closed to cyclists from 1 Dec to 28 Feb annually. Recommended for intermediate level mountain bikers.



Two companies rent bikes and a “bike fitting” prior to hiring is recommended. Price on application – depending on bike specification.

Scenic Flights by float plane

Capturing the Sounds from the air is a stunning way to appreciate the intricate coastline. Take off and land on the sea! Scenic float plane flights are available from the Resort.

20 min – view from the air Ship Cove/ Queen Charlotte Track/ Tory Channel

40 min – fly over French Pass/ Durville Island/ Pelorus Sound



Price on application

Scenic Flights – by Helicopter

It is a real buzz to take a scenic flight in a helicopter. Drop into exotic bays and coves, and see the area in a whole different way. You can also take a helicopter into the wine region and explore the vineyards and purchase wines from various cellar doors.

Operators are available from Nelson, Marlborough & Wellington **POA**



IN THE REGION...

Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre

See a display like no other – and you don’t have to be an aviation buff to enjoy it! Human stories from the Great War come to life in a theatrical treatment that is innovative and visually stunning. Captivating scenes depict the aircraft in context, some recreating actual incidents. The rare memorabilia is worthy of any national collection and ranges from beautifully crafted ‘trench art’ through to personal items belonging to the famous Red Baron himself. Conceived and produced by Lord of the Rings film-maker, Peter Jackson.



Gardens and arts

Gardening enthusiasts the world over know this region for its annual gardening festival, ‘Hunter’s Garden Marlborough’. You will be introduced to the Marlborough landscape in an informative and relaxed way on this tour. Private owners open their doors for you to enjoy their diverse and colourful gardens. Amongst the gardens are many arts studios as scenic Marlborough is home to talented painters, sculptors, weavers and potters.



Shopping and local delicacies

Let our local guide show you around the Marlborough region, including the towns of Picton and Blenheim. With lovely boutiques, specialist food shops, wine and gourmet outlets with local delicacies. Depending on the season you’ll enjoy fruits and olives, cherries, strawberries and more. Fudge, embroidery, quilting, olives, honey, merino, micro breweries, are also waiting to be discovered.



MAORI Experiences Marlborough

Omaka Marae Experience

Morning tour – 9.30am daily, approx 3 hours

Experience a traditional maori welcome, sample contemporary maori food, learn the significance of the carved meeting house and listen to fascinating story-telling and local legends. Participate in an interactive cultural activity such as flax weaving, playing maori musical instruments, or using traditional maori weapons.



Aroha Marlborough

Afternoon tour – 1.00pm daily, approx 4 hours

View the Wairau Bar exhibition at the Marlborough Museum, visit sites of significance to local Maori, learn about the Moa Hunters, sample award-winning Te Pa wine, and experience beautiful native bush and bird life to learn how Maori interacted with the natural environment.



GREATER MARLBOROUGH...

When you depart from the Sounds, there is still so much more to explore in our Region

Molesworth Station – New Zealand’s largest high-country station

Marlborough’s high country history is not to be missed and the best way to see it is to sit back and enjoy an escorted tour. The heritage and heart of New Zealand’s largest and most iconic high country farm, Molesworth Station, will come to life as you relax in your comfortable air conditioned vehicle. See some of the most dramatic and remote outback scenery in New Zealand, with lakes, river terraces, mountains, and sweeping open expanses under deep blue skies. Guided tours include areas not usually accessible to the public and meeting some of the people who call the high country home. Stay, tour, experience.

Molesworth Station is located behind the Inland Kaikoura Mountain range in the Marlborough district. It is New Zealand’s largest farm at over 1,800 km² and supports the country’s largest herd of cattle



Rainbow Ski Field & St Arnaud Lakes

Winter is stunning in the Sounds and not far away is the Rainbow Ski Field. Operating hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm daily from mid July until mid October. The mountain car-park elevation is 1540m (5,052 feet), lift accessed vertical 218m (715 feet). Terrain ratings: Beginners 25%, Intermediate 55%, Advanced 20%. Facilities include a Café, ski and snowboarding equipment rental, shop for accessories, clothing and rainbow branded souvenirs, ski and board school. SMI snow-making facilities include two Kassbohrer Pisten Bully snow groomers.

Saint Arnaud is a small alpine village located in the north of New Zealand’s South Island. It lies west of the Saint Arnaud range and 90 kilometres southwest of Nelson along the Wairau Valley road from Marlborough. A beautiful lake area, pristine, peaceful and great for fishing.



Seddon & Ward

If you are driving south towards Kaikoura, through the Marlborough vineyards that continue down the coast, there are worthwhile stops at YEALANDS Winery and other vineyards in the Awatere valley region. You will also pass the large SALT farm at Lake Grassmere.

Omaka Classic Cars

Situated next to the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre on the outskirts of Blenheim, and showcasing almost 60 vehicles from the 1950s to the 1980s, this collection of classic cars offers a special insight into both Marlborough and New Zealand motoring history. Covering the period between the pioneering vintage car era and the cars of today, every vehicle on display is totally original and, with minimal work, would happily motor the length of the country at the national speed limit. From Austins to Fords, Holdens, Jaguars, and more, the range is extensive and will change every two months or so to include more of the complete collection. Omaka Classic Cars is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Parking and entry tokens available from Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, Aerodrome Road, Omaka, Blenheim.

Waterways Boating Safaris (Kenepuru sound)

Enjoy fun, freedom and scenery on a self-drive boating safari. Learning to handle the boat is quick and easy for the first timer. You will soon set off to explore the sheltered waterways of the Marlborough Sounds whilst enjoying the thrill of driving your own boat. Experience an area of unsurpassed beauty in an ever changing landscape of native forest, ferns and hidden bays where the mountains and waterways form a stunning backdrop for every scene.

Moa Brewing and Renaissance

It's not all about wine here – but there are boutique breweries including the world-renowned Moa Brewery. Talk to us and get an up to date list and travel instructions if you wish to sample these wonderful brews.



Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve

If you're driving towards Nelson, you can stop off and swim, kayak, fish, walk or picnic at this popular spot on SH6 just 18km from Havelock. Walks range from 30 minute wheelchair accessible forest and riverside walks to a 3 hour return hike to Trig K (417m). The nationwide Te Araroa Trail also passes through Pelorus Bridge and continues up the Pelorus Track providing an alternative route to Nelson on foot (2 – 3 days).

Cycle the vines

Many companies offer bicycles to cycle the vineyards. A wonderful way to go in the fresh air!

Driftwood Eco Tours

These kayaking tours are based at the Opawa River, 10 minutes east of Blenheim. Photograph birds such as the magnificent Royal Spoonbill close up and learn about the early history that boasts the earliest recorded site of human occupation in New Zealand. Other tours include mountain biking or the 'Port Underwood Eco Tour'.



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