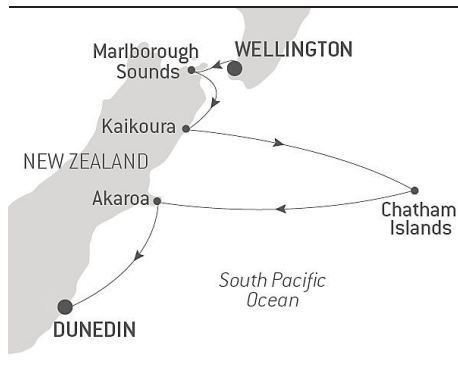


# New Zealand's South Island & Chatham Islands

From **25/11/2023**  
to **3/12/2023**

Ship: **LE LAPEROUSE**

From **Wellington**  
to **Dunedin**



In partnership with Relais & Châteaux and with the exceptional presence of the chef Norka Mella Munoz.

Board **Le Lapérouse** for a **brand-new 9-day expedition cruise** to explore the **east coast of New Zealand's South Island**, which offers wildlife and magical landscapes in one of the world's most unspoiled environments.

Your ship will depart from **Wellington**, the capital of New Zealand, and set sail for the impressive **Marlborough Sounds**. This vast network of submerged valleys, where 1,200 km (745 miles) of coastline form a maze of peninsulas and hilly islands, will offer you an experience suspended in time, between enchanting small bays and inlets flooded by the sea.

Your ship will then proceed to the east coast of the South Island. You will sail to the rocky peninsula of **Kaikoura** to admire the country's rich biodiversity.

Heading east, the **Chatham Islands** will appear to you, adding new breathtaking landscapes to your expedition, from isolated beaches to sheer ochre-coloured cliffs covered in verdant nature. The 80-million-years-old archipelago is comprised of 10 islands that boast various endemic species of birds and plant that you will be able to see, guided by your team of passionate expedition experts.

Then the **Banks Peninsula** will reveal wonderful landscapes of lush hills and rugged coasts during your calls in the bay of **Akaroa**, an ancient, flooded volcano crater. There you will experience a unique mix of **Māori**, French and European cultural heritage.

Disembarkation will be in **Dunedin**, along the stunning **Otago Peninsula**, which is rich with wildlife and picturesque hinterland.

*The wildlife encounters described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.*

# New Zealand's South Island & Chatham Islands

## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### WELLINGTON

Embarkation 25/11/2023 From 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 25/11/2023 at 7:00 pm

Crowned with gentle green hills, **Wellington Harbour** is located in the far south of the North Island. This city offers a charming mix of **traditional and modern cultures**, bestowing on the New Zealand capital, a unique atmosphere, both friendly and avant-gard. Where some sites, like the large **National Te Papa Tongarewa Museum**, reflect the city's Maori past, others, like the many cafés and restaurants, affirm the inhabitants' incredible lust for life.

### MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

Arrival 26/11/2023

Departure 26/11/2023

At the northern end of New Zealand's South Island, the **Marlborough Sounds** are a vast network of submerged valleys. These 1,200 km (745 miles) of coastline form a **maze of peninsulas and hilly islands**, in the curves of which nestle small bays and inlets drowned by the sea at the end of the most recent ice age. This **great wine-growing region** of New Zealand, highly renowned for its sauvignon blanc, boasts a temperate climate and very sunny weather. You will discover the untouched and wild beauty of the landscapes in this maritime park. They display an infinite palette of greens and blues set off by the glints of silver that appear as the sun's rays dance along the surface of the water.

### KAIKOURA

Arrival 27/11/2023

Departure 27/11/2023

Located on the **South Island** of **New Zealand**, the small town of **Kaikōura** stretches between the South Pacific and the snow-capped Kaikōura mountain chain, in the heart of a natural and preserved environment that is home to rich and varied wildlife. The peninsular has **spectacular limestone formations**, and many marine mammals, such as whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions, as well as sea birds can be found near its shores. Initially populated by the **original Maori inhabitants** for almost a thousand years, the rocky coastlines of Kaikōura then served as an observation post for whalers between the 18th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

### AT SEA

Arrival 28/11/2023

Departure 28/11/2023

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

## CHATHAM ISLANDS

Arrival 29/11/2023

Departure 30/11/2023

The remote **Chatham Islands** are renowned for their stunning scenery, intriguing history, flora, fauna and friendly hospitality. Located 800 kilometres to the east of the South Island, the archipelago consists of about ten islands within an approximate 60-kilometre radius, the largest of which are Chatham Island and Pitt Island. The islands were first inhabited by **Mori**, who named the islands 'Rekohu' – translated as 'misty skies' or 'misty sun'. European sealers and whalers were next to arrive, followed by **Mori** from New Zealand who named the islands 'Wharekauri'. Much of the natural character of the Chatham Islands is protected in a network of areas set aside for conservation including **Mangere and Rangatira** (South East Island). Rangatira has been described as **one of the world's premier bird islands** and is best known for the **endemic black robin** and the millions of storm petrels, sooty shearwaters and broad-billed prions that nest on the Island. Your ship will arrive at the Chatham Islands in the morning and will spend the day here. You will discover the unique Chathams with zodiac cruises (subject to weather conditions). In the evening the ship will set sail for the Bounty Islands.

## AT SEA

Arrival 1/12/2023

Departure 1/12/2023

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

## AKAROA

Arrival 2/12/2023

Departure 2/12/2023

Set on the east coast of **South Island, Christchurch** is New Zealand's second-biggest city. You can soak up its easy-going atmosphere in one of the many parks and gardens that give Christchurch its nickname "the garden city", or dally a while in **Cathedral Square** to see how the city is transforming itself after the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. Attractions such as the International Antarctic Centre and Christchurch Gondola ride are as popular as ever, while

pop-up cafes, the Cardboard Cathedral and community art projects showcase the citizens' resilience. The beautiful port of **Akaroa**, where **ships dock**, is about 90-minute drive from Christchurch on the **Banks Peninsula**.

## DUNEDIN

Arrival 3/12/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 3/12/2023 at 7:00 am

**Dunedin** is New Zealand's oldest city and is often referred to as the Edinburgh of New Zealand. This city of the south, wears its Scottish heritage with pride. The city contains some of the best preserved Victorian and Edwardian architecture in the Southern Hemisphere. The Silverpeaks hinterland to the North West provides a picturesque backdrop and **The Otago Peninsula**, which lies within the city boundaries, has internationally renowned wildlife reserves, including the only mainland breeding colony of Northern Royal Albatross.



[www.cruiseconnections.co.nz](http://www.cruiseconnections.co.nz)

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