

Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound New Zealand Cruises

Milford Sound

Milford Sound is a world-renowned natural wonder. Nowhere else in Fiordland do the mountains stand so tall, straight out of the sea. Rainforest clings to sheer rock walls and waterfalls tumble hundreds of metres to the sea below.

In Maori legend, this landscape was created by Tu Te Raki Whanoa, a godly figure who carved the fiords with a magical adze. Without doubt, Milford Sound (Piopiotahi) is his finest creation.

Cruise Milford Sound on an extended and relaxed Nature Cruise.

With specialist nature guides on board, Real Journeys Nature Cruises offer a close-up experience of Milford Sound's rainforest, soaring rock walls, and wildlife. Throughout the cruise, the guides share stories of the fiord's history and are happy to answer your questions.

Nature Cruises have a flexible itinerary that allows plenty of time to enjoy the scenery and to pause to view highlights. Cruise so close to waterfalls that water soaks the foredeck, or drift gently while watching out for dolphins, seals and penguins.

Duration 2hrs 30mins (2 hrs in winter)

Picnic and lunch options available

Specialist Nature guides provide commentary (English only)

Milford Sound Discovery Centre (underwater observatory) option (extra cost)

Luxury coach connections from Queenstown and Te Anau plus fly out options from Milford Sound

Suitable for all ages

Milford Sound Overnight Cruises

When the day visitors depart a silence descends.

An overnight cruise on the Milford Mariner is the ultimate dinner, bed and breakfast experience.

Depart from the Milford Sound wharf in the late afternoon and cruise the full length of Milford Sound to the Tasman Sea accompanied by a specialist nature guide. The cruise style is relaxed, allowing plenty of time to view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife.

The Milford Mariner then anchors in a sheltered cove, where you can join the nature guide and explore in the vessel's tender craft (small boat) and kayaks. Or, if you prefer, you can simply relax on deck.

As evening falls, enjoy a lavish buffet in the dining saloon. Then relax in the company of fellow travelers or indulge in some star-gazing before retiring to your private cabin.

- ▶ Spacious viewing decks, dining saloon/fully licensed bar and observation lounge
- ▶ Accommodation is in private cabins with ensuite bathrooms (twin, double or single occupancy)

- ▶ Three course evening buffet meal and cooked breakfast
- ▶ Capacity – sleeps 60
- ▶ Kayaking and tender craft (small boat) activities included
- ▶ Specialist nature guide on board
- ▶ Milford Sound Discovery Center option for self drive customers only (extra cost)
- ▶ Coach connections from Queenstown and Te Anau (extra cost)
- ▶ Fly out option, Milford to Queenstown (weather permitting - not advisable for customers with connecting flights or other restricted travel arrangements)
- ▶ Suitable for all ages

Doubtful Sound

Doubtful Sound is a massive wilderness area of rugged peaks, rainforest and twisting, hidden inlets - all deep in the heart of Fiordland National Park.

Known for its pristine beauty and wildlife, Doubtful Sound is the second largest of the 14 fiords in Fiordland National Park and is three times longer and 10 times larger than Milford Sound. It is home to bottlenose dolphins and fur seals - both of which are often seen. In season, you may also catch a glimpse of the rare Fiordland Crested Penguin.

In Maori legend, this colossal fiord was created by the godly figure Tu Te Raki Whanoa. Four young sea gods assisted him by carving the fiord's long, sheltered arms.

Today, Doubtful Sound remains an unspoiled wilderness of many moods; one minute clear blue and sun-drenched, the next mysterious and mist-cloaked.

On arrival in Doubtful Sound, board our spacious catamaran Patea Explorer for a three-hour cruise through some of the fiord's most stunning scenery. Throughout the cruise, a specialist nature guide provides commentary, answers questions and points out highlights.

Wildlife sightings are common in Doubtful Sound. Fur seals bask on rocky outcrops and the fiord's resident pod of bottlenose dolphins are often seen roving through the deep, dark waters.

A day excursion to Doubtful Sound also includes a visit to one of New Zealand's major sources of sustainable hydro-power – the Manapouri Underground Power Station.

Duration 8 hours, Delicious Picnic lunch options (must be pre-ordered). Sandwiches and snacks are also available on board. Visit to Manapouri Underground Power Station, Queenstown and Te Anau coach connections available.

Immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty of Doubtful Sound on an overnight cruise.

Your excursion begins with a short cruise across island-studded Lake Manapouri and a coach trip over Wilmot Pass. You will then descend to Doubtful Sound to meet the crew of the Fiordland Navigator awaiting you in Deep Cove.

The Fiordland Navigator is designed along the lines of a traditional sailing vessel, combining the charm of a bygone era with all modern comforts including spacious viewing decks, a dining saloon/fully licensed bar and an observation lounge.

During the afternoon, you will cruise the full length of the fiord, weaving through hidden coves and waterways. Bottlenose dolphins are often encountered, fur seals bask on the rocks and, at times, rare penguins can be seen.

As evening draws near, the crew will drop anchor in a sheltered cove, allowing you to explore the shoreline by kayak or tender craft (small boat) with a nature guide. For the more adventurous, there's even a chance to go swimming.

In the evening, enjoy a delicious meal prepared by our onboard chef and relax in the saloon before retiring to your cosy bed.

- ▶ All activities (kayaking and tendercraft/small boat), meals and accommodation included
- ▶ Three-course buffet dinner & cooked breakfast
- ▶ Sleeps 70
- ▶ 18 private cabins with ensuite bathrooms and 8 quad share bunk -style compartments
- ▶ Picnic lunch options can be pre-ordered (day 1)
- ▶ Queenstown and Te Anau coach connections with courtesy transfers from most accommodation
- ▶ Suitable for all ages with exception of infants in quad share