

**KAIKŌURA
KAYAKS**

Kaikoura's Original Kayak Operator
Established 1998



QUALMARK

GOLD

RATED
LIGHT
FOOTPRINT
SUSTAINABLE

RATED
SAFE
& SOUND
SAFE

RATED
WARM
WELCOME
WELCOMING





Kia Ora

Matt Foy- CEO

In 1996, I ventured to New Zealand's South Island in search of uncrowded surf breaks and the crisp, dry snow of the Southern Alps. After completing my studies in Adventure Tourism at Tongariro National Park, I began exploring opportunities to start my own sea kayaking operation.

An article in New Zealand Surfer magazine about Kaikōura piqued my interest, and I decided this coastline could be the perfect location to establish Kaikōura Kayaks. While Kaikōura already had a thriving tourism industry with operators like Whale Watch Kaikōura, Dolphin Encounter, and Kaikōura Helicopters, there were no kayaking companies at the time.

Cycling along the Kaikōura Peninsula, I was instantly captivated by the abundance of marine life, breathtaking scenery, and dramatic coastline. I knew Kaikōura was the ideal place to launch my business and call home.

In 1998, after two years of planning, saving, obtaining a marine mammal viewing permit, and building up a fleet of kayaks, Kaikōura Kayaks became a reality as the first licensed kayak operator in the region. We pioneered the popular half-day guided sea kayaking tour and later introduced a family-friendly tour with guaranteed fur seal sightings and opportunities to encounter dusky dolphins and blue penguins.

Over the past 26 years, Kaikōura Kayaks has successfully showcased the region, leaving lasting memories for countless visitors. Remaining a family-operated business with my wife Kim and daughters, along with a dedicated and passionate crew, Kaikōura Kayaks continues to thrive.

Our Location

17 Killarney Street
Kaikōura



Driving Times:

Blenheim 1hr & 40 min
Picton 2hr & 10 min
Christchurch 2hr & 40 min

Kaikōura Kayaks walking distance to:

Township 10 min
Sudima Hotel 5 min
Intercity 10 min
Seal Colony..... 50 min

Our departure points:

North side 5 min drive
South side 5 min drive



New Base

Our newly purpose-built, streamlined office boasts a spacious open-concept layout, creating a warm and welcoming environment for our customers. With seamless indoor-outdoor flow, visitors can enjoy a relaxed atmosphere, and convenient onsite parking makes every visit easy



Opened December 2024



The Eco Niizh 565

This tandem kayak is purpose-built for commercial use, offering exceptional comfort for clients. Its dual-seat design allows paddlers to share the unique experience and joy of being out on the water.



- Equipped with a hydrodynamic rudder system that allows for easy steering
- Offers ample storage space for both paddlers
- Features a large plastic storage pod in the centre hatch
- Two heavy-duty plastic seats with foam seat pads to ensure both comfort and durability on the water
- Centre hatch also allows smaller children to sit comfortably in the middle while the parents do the paddling

Ready to go..

All essential kayaking gear is provided to keep required to keep clients warm, dry and looking great on the water!



We provide:

- Paddle jacket
- Spray skirt
- Life jacket (PFD)
- Dive booties
- Drybags
- Dry pants & gloves (Winter)

Ensure clients are prepared with:

- Active wear (no jeans)
- Light fleece/thermal
- Bottle of water
- Camera/ phone
- Sunglasses and/or cap



Wildlife Tours

Witness Kaikōura's captivating marine life in their natural habitat, led by expert guides who will share their passion for conservation. This unparalleled opportunity is perfect for nature enthusiasts and adventure-seekers alike.

- Our most popular tour for a reason!
- Marine mammal permit for seal, dolphin & whale viewing.
- Guaranteed NZ Fur Seal sightings on every tour.
- Chance encounters with Dusky & Hector's Dolphins, Humpback Whales (June-Sept), Blue Penguins, Albatross and more..
- Comfortable enclosed tandem kayaks, fitted with spray decks and foam seats.
- Small group sizes ensure a personalized journey with expert guidance.
- Professionally guided for safety while sharing knowledge of the region.



Family Kayaking

Families can enjoy a leisurely paddle through Kaikōura's aquatic wonderland, accompanied by a professional guide. From the comfort of watertight kayaks, they'll admire the dramatic mountain vistas, craggy rocks, and sheer cliffs, observing the playful New Zealand fur seals up close.



- Family tours automatically have their own professional guide.
- Tailored to suit specific family needs and ages (3-12 years).
- Morning tours can offer calmer conditions
- The centre hatch can be equipped with a specialised seat for younger children to sit comfortably while the parents paddle!
- All necessary equipment provided with sizing for both children and adults.

Sunset Tours

For over 26 years, our Sunset Evening Classic tour has captivated visitors from around the world with its unparalleled natural beauty.



- Experience Kaikōura's famous sunsets against its iconic backdrop.
- Encounter seals diving around the kayak, as hunting for octopus and feeding increases closer to dusk.
- All equipment and extra layers are provided to keep warm as the sun sinks behind the Seaward Kaikōura Mountains.
- Perfect for nature lovers, photographers, and anyone seeking a truly breathtaking experience.
- 4:30pm Sept - March only.
- 3.30pm April (from end of Daylight Savings).

Private Tours

The perfect solution for clients looking to celebrate a special occasion or simply enjoy a tour their way.

- Excellent for clients that prefer not to be in a shared activity.
- Customise with a private guide and get personalised suggestions.
- Suitable for singles, couples, families, and special interest travellers.
- Catered to all levels of experience and desire for leisure, luxury or adventure.
- Maximise wildlife encounters.
- Available all year.
- Flexible times may be arranged.





Guided Tour Specifications

- Guaranteed Fur Seal sightings on every tour.
- Chance encounters with Dusky & Hector’s Dolphins, Humpback Whales (June-Sept), Blue Penguins, Albatross and more.
- Comfortable enclosed tandem kayaks, fitted with spray skirts and foam seats.
- All paddling equipment provided.
- Small group sizes ensure a personalized journey with expert guidance.
- Professionally guided for safety while sharing knowledge of the region.
- Transport provided using certified passenger minivans operated by licensed drivers.

Tour times	October - April 8:30am, 12:30 & 4:30pm May - September 8:30am & 12:30pm
Licence to operate	Marine mammal permit for seal, dolphin & whale viewing
Duration	Approx 1.5 hours on the water Allow 3 hours total
Group size	Max 24 pax per tour, split up into 3+ groups
Guide ratio	1:8 Group 1:4 Family
Age	3 year+
Kayaking experience	Not required
Swimming ability	Not required

What to bring	Active wear clothing like shorts or light pants e.g., quick dry (no jeans), sunglasses, cap, drinking water and camera or phone.
We provide	Jackets, spray skirts, buoyancy aids, wetsuit booties, and dry bags. Transport to departure points, safety and paddle instruction.
Where to meet	17 Killarney Street, 15 minutes prior to departure
Cancellation policy	Cancellations within 48 hours of scheduled tour will not be eligible for any refund.
Sea sickness	Sea sickness is often experienced, and even in slight seas some customers can become ill. We recommend taking medication to combat this prior to the tour. We also sell Sea Sickness bands.

Winter Kayaking

Crisp, calm days and majestic views greet our paddler's in Winter. It's the best time of year to really appreciate how close the Seaward Kaikōura Range is to our marine playground.

- Clients stay warm and dry in enclosed stable sea kayaks.
- All equipment provided including GORE-TEX dry pants, jackets, wetsuit booties for their feet, gloves and dry bags for camera's.
- Chance encounters with Humpback Whales on their annual migration (June-September).
- Departs 8:30am & 12:30pm, 3:30pm(May only).
- May-August.





Sustainable
Dolphin and Whale
Watching



Annual Humpback Migration

Autumn and Winter are the best time of year for viewing Humpback Whales as they migrate along the East coast of the South Island.

- These gentle giants spend their summers in the waters of the Antarctic, feeding on krill and schooling fish.
- We are lucky enough to encounter them on their migration to and from their mating grounds in the Tropics.
- We are the only kayak company in Kaikōura with a permit to view Humpbacks.



Christmas Day

Most attractions in Kaikōura are closed on the 25th of December so we are delighted to be able to offer two tour options.

- Departs: 8:30am & 12:30pm only.
- Look out for seals hunting for their favourite feed of Octopus (Christmas dinner).
- Special rates apply.
- Limited numbers.
- 1.5 to 2 hours on the water - allow 3 hours.



- The journey starts with spotting the Christmas trees around Kaikōura. The Pōhutukawa is the Kiwis own special Christmas tree.
- It can grow to be very large and has bright red flowers which are popular decorations and feature on Christmas cards. It has been associated with Christmas since the mid-1800s.
- The Pōhutukawa has great importance in Māori culture.

EXPERIENCE KAIKŌURA

Kayak & Fly

Combine a breathtaking 30-minute whale-watching flight with a guided wildlife kayak tour, showcasing Kaikōura's incredible marine life from the sea to the air.

Kayak & Zip

Explore Kaikōura's diverse wildlife and stunning nature—paddle alongside the marine locals, then soar over regenerative farmland and native forest on five exhilarating zip lines.



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WINGS 
OVER WHALES
K A I K O U R A N Z

E **ECOZIP**
ADVENTURES \\ NZ

Making Trax

Believing in total inclusion & integration through adventure.

Makingtrax Foundation is the Benchmark of Inclusive Tourism Aotearoa New Zealand, for those who find it difficult to sit without support, a harness seat supplied by Makingtrax provides a safe, comfortable experience.

Kaikoura Kayak's has "The seal of approval" having capability and willingness to provide a quality tailored and adaptive experience for different abilities providing the highest visitor experience possible. Making dreams come alive!





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