

# **56<sup>th</sup> FISA WORLD COASTAL ROWING TOUR**

**Top of the South Island  
New Zealand**

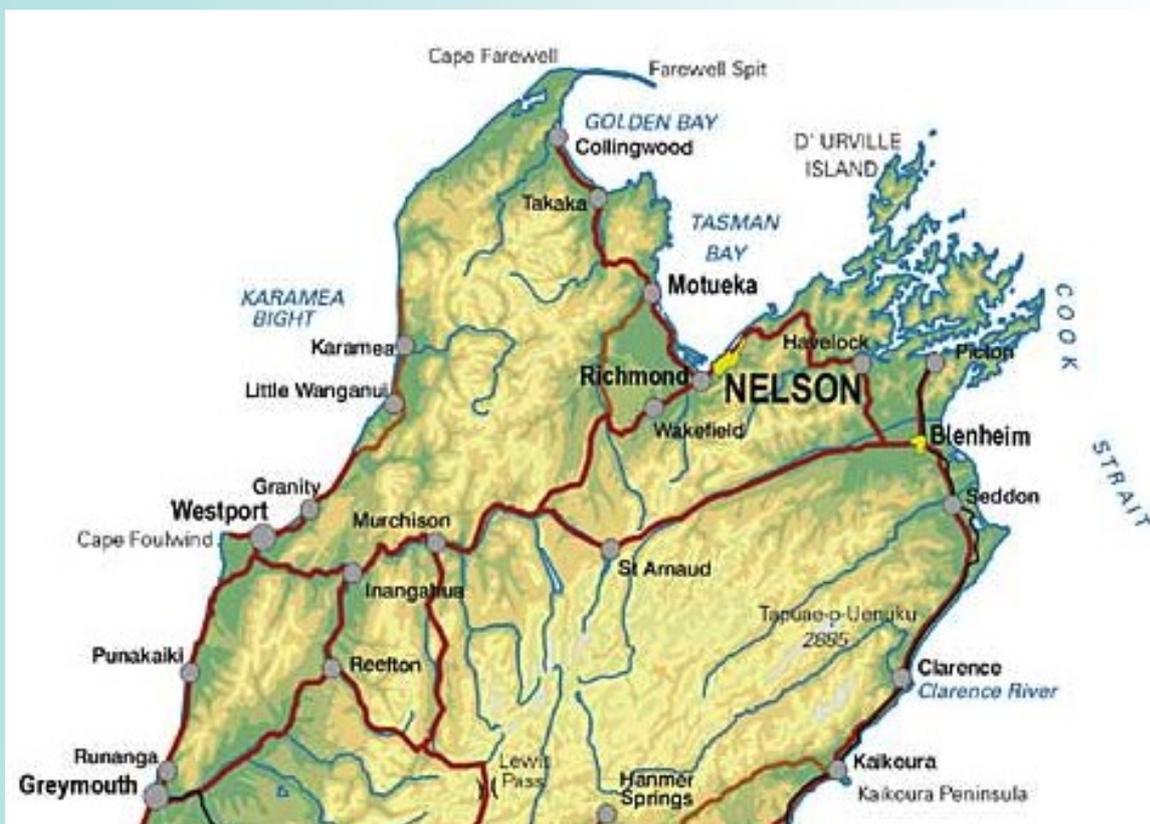
**9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019**



*In 2019 the FISA World Rowing Tour will take place in the Top of the South Island of New Zealand.*

*The Coastal Rowing tour will incorporate rowing journeys in the Marlborough Sounds, on an Alpine Lake in Nelson Lakes National Park, and on Tasman Bay in the Nelson region.*

*The tour will start in Picton on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, and conclude in Nelson on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of April.*



## Tour details:

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April     *Arrival day, Picton*

We welcome all our rowers to Picton, the gateway to the Marlborough Sounds.

A Maori welcome ceremony, called a “Powhiri” and the Official Opening Ceremony will be held at 4 pm on the Marae at Waikawa Bay, near the small town of Picton.



Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>     *Picton to Momorangi return*

This is a 19km row on the upper reaches of the picturesque Queen Charlotte Sound, launching from and returning to a small beach in front of the Picton Rowing Club, within walking distance of the hotel.

An afternoon of leisure. We suggest you explore some of the famous vineyards in the area – Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc is enjoyed all over the world, and there are a huge range of other wines produced in this area.

For dinner we will travel by coach to Brancott Estates, a ridge top winery restaurant with spectacular views over Marlborough.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>     *Picton to Bay of Many Coves*

Rowers will set off again from the beach near the Picton Rowing Club, this time rowing in an Easterly direction into the main part of the Sound, to the bush-clad Bay of Many Coves. There we will draw the boats up on to the beach, and have a leisurely lunch. We will leave the boats in the Bay of Many Coves, and return to Picton by water taxi. Evening of leisure.



Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

*Bay of Many Coves to Torea Bay*

Rowers check out of the Picton Yacht Club Hotel, and return to Bay of Many Coves by water taxi. Today we row about 13km in a Westerly direction along the northern edge of the Queen Charlotte Sound, to Torea Bay. There are small bays to explore along the way. (Luggage will be transported by water taxi).

From Torea Bay rowers walk about 1.5km on a country road, from Queen Charlotte Sound to Portage in the Kenepuru Sound. We have lunch at Portage Bay Resort, and settle in for a relaxing overnight stay (including dinner). The Queen Charlotte Track intersects with the Torea to Portage walk, and we recommend you walk an hour or two along this beautiful track.



Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

*Portage to Havelock*

We are now rowing in the Kenepuru Sound, an entirely different stretch of water. It is shallower, a different colour, and there is less marine traffic. A 26km row from Portage to Havelock, with a coffee stop at Raetihi Lodge.

Late lunch in Havelock, and then rowers will board a coach for the hour long drive to Nelson.

Check in to Rutherford Hotel, evening free in Nelson. There are lots of great restaurants within a few minutes walk of the hotel.



Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

*Alpine row, Lake Rotoiti*

We will be up early and on the coach to St Arnaud, about 1.5 hours away from Nelson. There we will row on Lake Rotoiti. This freshwater lake is in a National Park, surrounded by native bush with abundant bird life. We will feed the eels under this jetty! There may well be snow on the hills around the Lake.



On the way home we have a casual barbecue meal at a beef stud farm, Martin Farms, in Wakefield. These farmers are members of the Nelson Rowing Club, so you will have a good chance to talk to some locals who share your interest in rowing.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

*Nelson to Mapua*

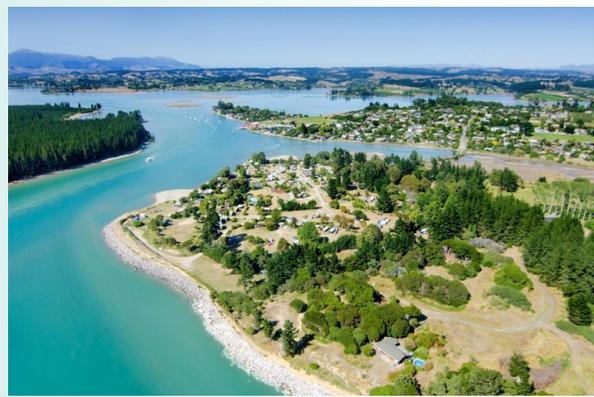
We row from the Port of Nelson across Tasman Bay and along the beach front of Rabbit Island. Row in to the Mapua Inlet, and land the boats at Grossi Point.

We will have lunch at Jellyfish Café, a waterfront restaurant.

Coach back to Nelson for an afternoon of leisure. We will hold the Farewell dinner at the Boathouse Restaurant, the original home of the Nelson Rowing Club.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

*After breakfast at the Rutherford Hotel, Rowers disperse*





## Getting here and away

Picton, the start point for the Coastal Tour, can be reached in several ways.

**By Air:** The nearest regional airport is Blenheim, with *Air New Zealand* flights from Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. *SoundsAir* also fly into Blenheim from Wellington and Christchurch. You can then get a shuttle or taxi from Blenheim airport to Picton, about 30 mins by road. *SoundsAir* also fly Wellington to Picton a few times each day. The tiny Picton airport (an adventure in itself!) is about 5km from the township, you can organise a shuttle transfer when you book your flight.

<http://www.airnewzealand.co.nz>

<http://www.soundsair.com>

**By Ferry:** If you are coming from Wellington, there are two ferry companies (*Interislander* and *Bluebridge*) that sail across Cook Strait, through the Marlborough Sounds, and right in to Picton Harbour. The ferry journey takes around 3.5 hours. You could then walk (about 10mins) from the Ferry terminal to the hotel, or taxi.

<https://www.greatjourneysfnz.co.nz/interislander/>

<https://www.bluebridge.co.nz>

**By Train:** The **Coastal Pacific Railway** departs from Christchurch at 7am and arrives in Picton at 1.15pm. This will bring you north along the very scenic Eastern coast of the South Island, with the railway running close to the sea along the Kaikoura Coast you will see all the new land that rose out of the sea during the earthquake two years ago. If you wish to go whalewatching, Kaikoura is the place to do it – website is at the bottom of the page.

<https://www.greatjourneysfnz.co.nz/coastal-pacific/>

**By Bus:** If you are coming from Nelson, the best public transport option to Picton is the bus, about 2 hours.

<https://www.intercity.co.nz>

**By Road:** There are numerous rental car companies in New Zealand. You can organise a one-way car hire, collecting a car in one location and returning it at another. You will not need a car for the 7 days of the Rowing Tour, so if you plan to rent a car, we suggest you do it before and/or after the tour. Remember that we drive on the left, and road travel often takes longer than it might appear by the distances.

<https://www.vroomvroomvroom.co.nz>

At the end of the tour, we hope you will stay and explore Nelson and Golden Bay. Once you are ready to depart Nelson, the best options are flights with Air New Zealand or SoundsAir (as per their websites listed above), bus transport, or driving. There are no train services in Nelson.

Finally, we include here a few other websites that may help you plan your New Zealand adventures.

<https://marlboroughnz.com/>

<https://www.nelsontasman.nz/>

<https://www.whalewatch.co.nz/>