The background of the slide is a dark, artistic image. On the left, there is a torn piece of old, yellowed paper with faint, handwritten text in cursive. The rest of the background is a close-up of a person's face, focusing on the eyes and nose, with a soft, warm light illuminating the skin. A semi-transparent dark rectangle is overlaid on the right side of the face, containing the text.

201811-12 New Zealand (North and South Islands)

The first part of this holiday was mainly by bus (with Grand Pacific Tours) exploring parts of the North Island that we had missed on previous visits. The weather was not great but we enjoyed our tour and the nice group of people. The second part of the holiday was along the northern edge of the South Island, again somewhere we had not seen on previous trips. We did this by ourselves in a hire car with Anne doing all the driving. We really enjoyed this part of New Zealand and we have promised ourselves to return as soon as possible.



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201811-12 New Zealand (North and South Islands)

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▶



Wellington

The highlights of our short stay in Wellington included visiting our friends Jenny and John, an excellent tour around the WETA workshop (of Lord of the Rings...

22 images



Rotorua

Our drive north from Wellington was in heavy rain, so we saw only glimpses of the spectacular volcanic landscape. Our lunch stop was at Lake Taupo followed by a...

27 images



Bay of Islands

From Rotorua our drive took us to Auckland (where some of the tour people left us) and then north east towards Paihai, our stop in the Bay of Islands. Our...

21 images



Back to Auckland

Our trip back to Auckland took us to Whangarei, a lovely town we could have spent more time at, and then to the Kauri Museum at Matakohē. We also saw a Giant...

19 images



Farewell Spit and Golden Bay

From our base in Collingwood we took a bus tour along the fascinating Farewell Spit on the north-western tip of the South Island. The Spit separates the wild...

30 images



Picton and Queen Charlotte Sound

From Nelson we drove through the little town of Havelock to Picton, the main access point for goods and people from the North Island. We liked Picton as it is...

32 images



Blenheim and Wairau Valley

We returned to Nelson via Blenheim (centre of the Marlborough wine region) with its great coffee stop at the Wine Station. Then we headed west along the Wairau...

12 images



Abel Tasman cruise

A beautiful day cruising along the coast of the Abel Tasman National Park. Our start and end point was the beach at Kaiteriteri, west of Nelson. Our cruise boat...

25 images

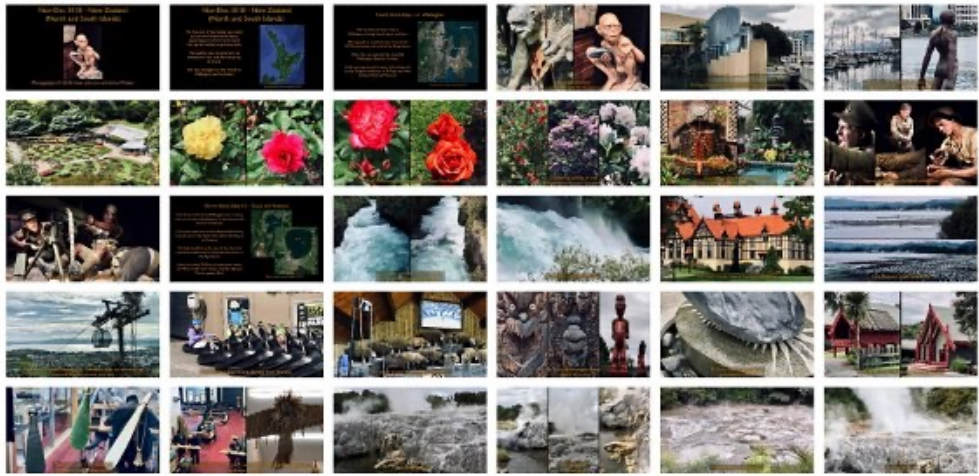


Nelson and Centre of New Zealand

The walk to the Centre of New Zealand starts in Nelson on the banks of the Maitai River at a great coffee stop. The first part is a gentle stroll along the...

13 images

201811-12 New Zealand (North and South Islands) Contact Sheet



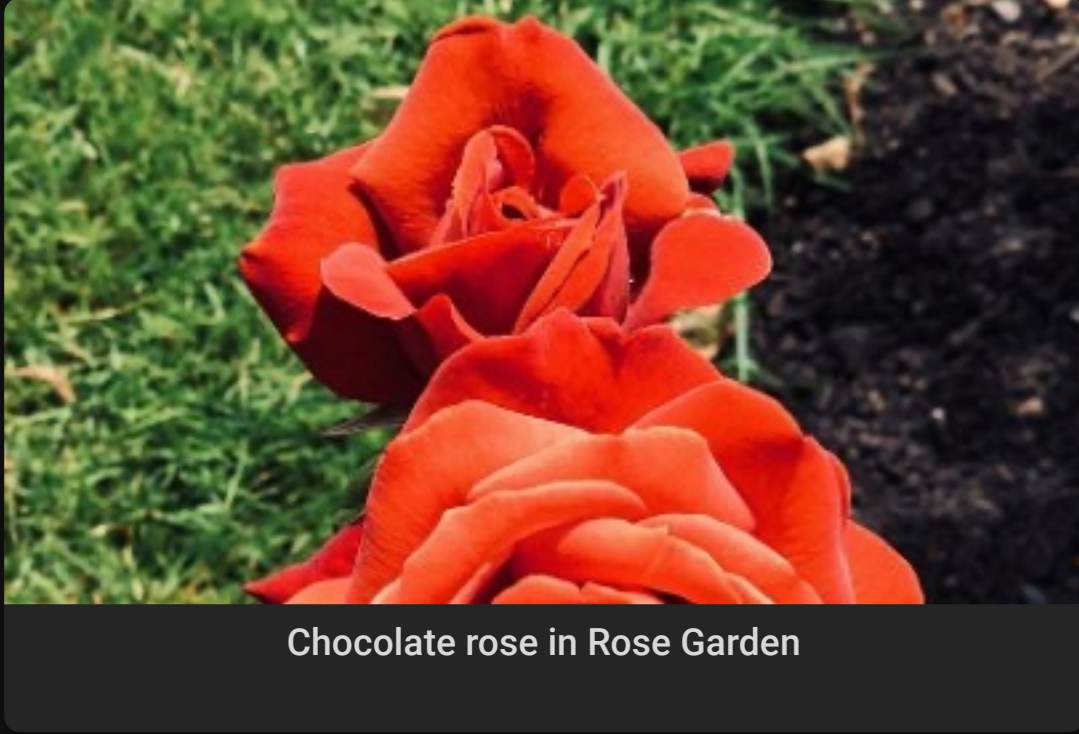
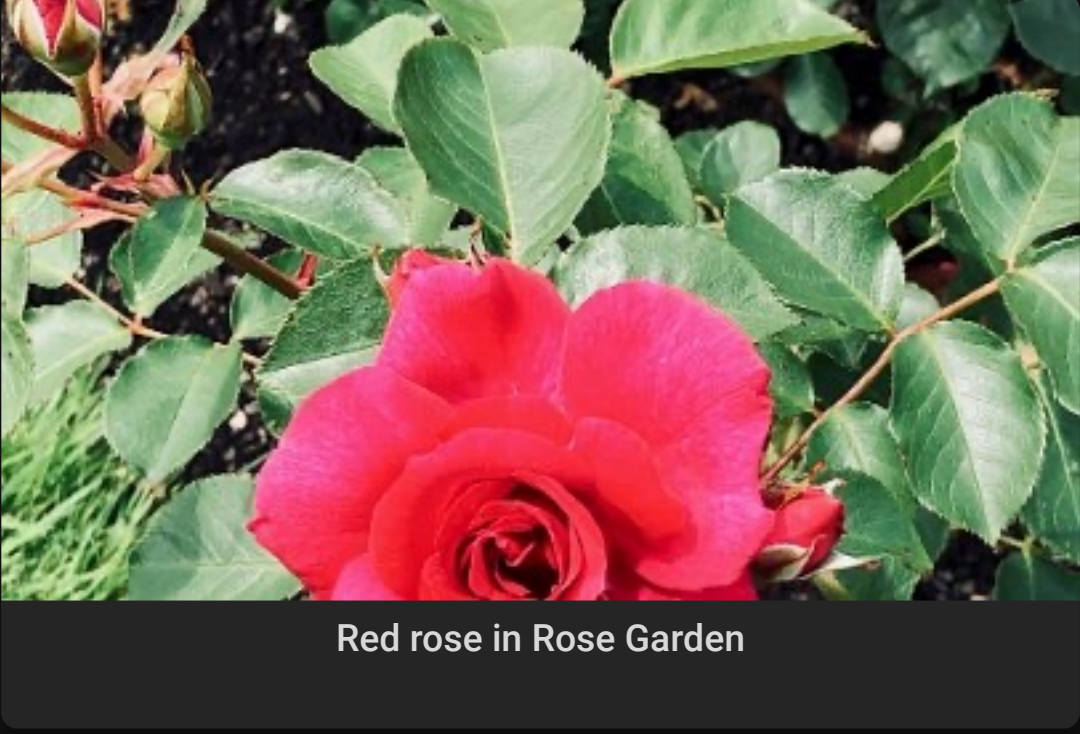
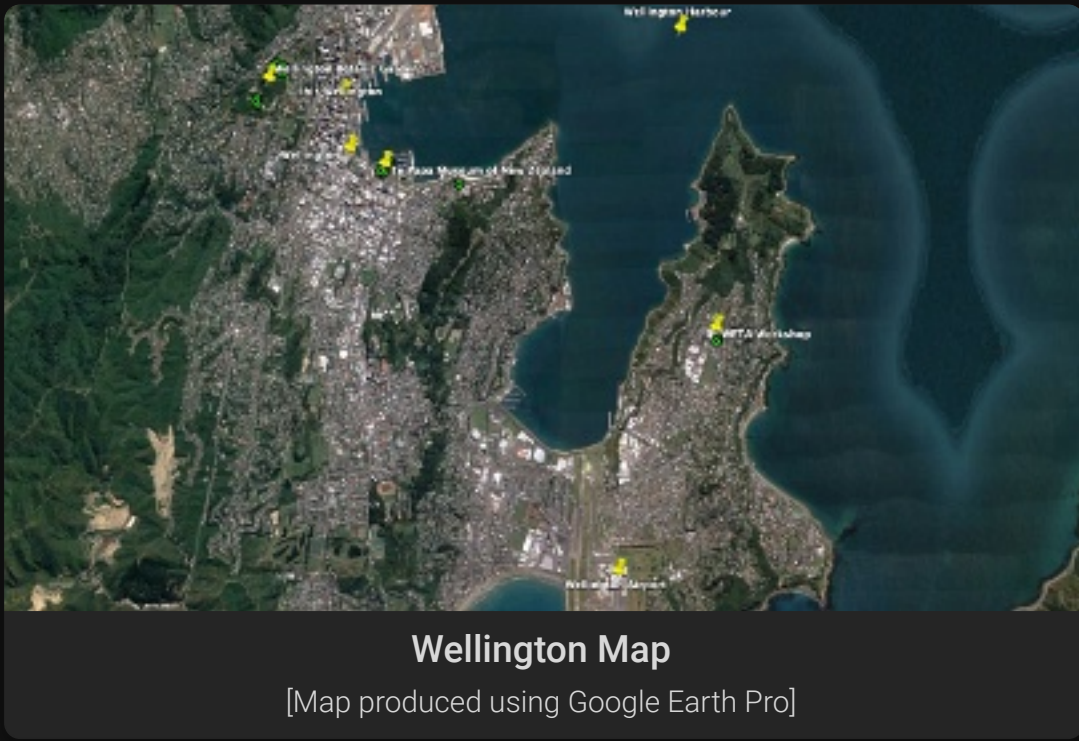
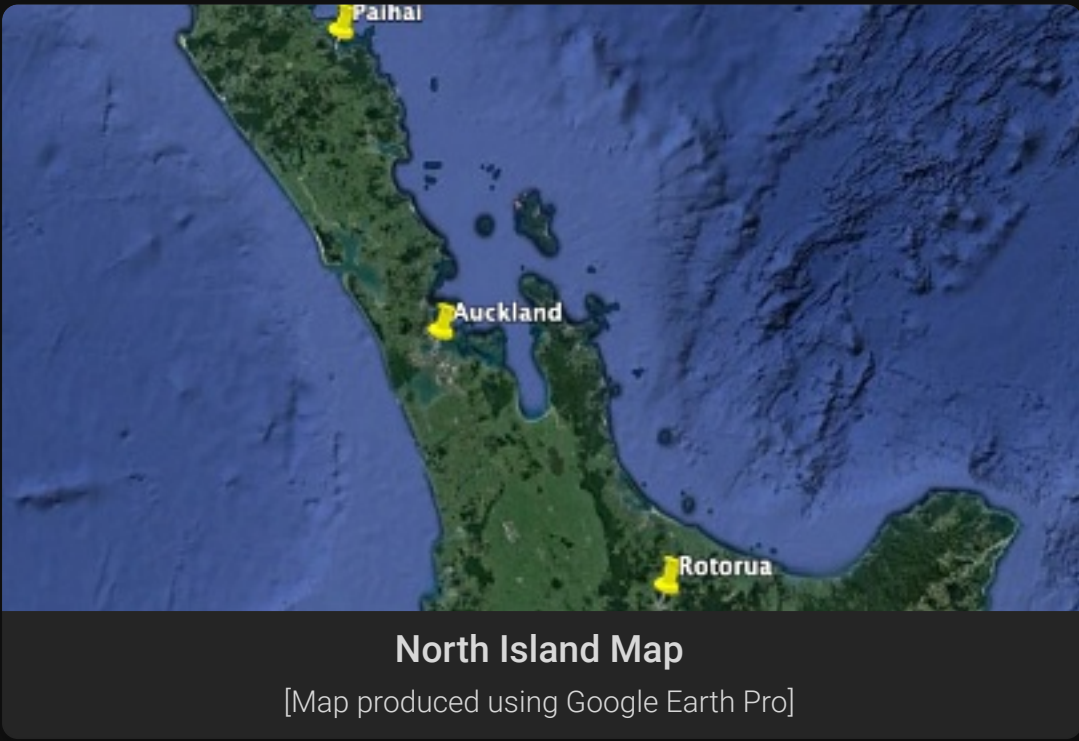
201811-12 New Zealand (North and South Islands) Contact Sheets

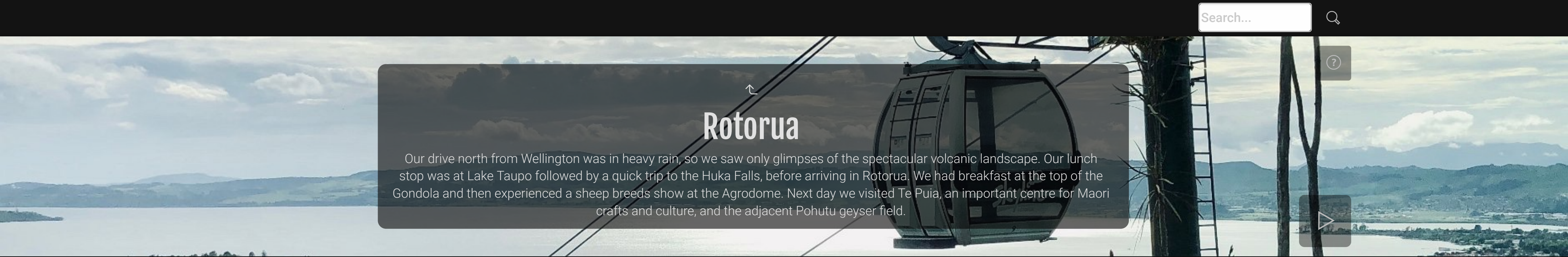
Thumbnail images of all slides in Fotomagico presentation.

4 images



Gollum at the WETA Workshop





Rotorua

Our drive north from Wellington was in heavy rain, so we saw only glimpses of the spectacular volcanic landscape. Our lunch stop was at Lake Taupo followed by a quick trip to the Huka Falls, before arriving in Rotorua. We had breakfast at the top of the Gondola and then experienced a sheep breeds show at the Agrodome. Next day we visited Te Puia, an important centre for Maori crafts and culture, and the adjacent Pohutu geyser field.



Taupo Map

[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



Rotorua Map

[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



Huka Falls near Lake Taupo



Huka Falls near Lake Taupo



Downstream from Huka Falls near Lake Taupo



Old bath house now a museum, Rotorua



Lake Rotorua in early evening



Birds at Lake Rotorua in early evening



View from Skyline Restaurant - Gondola cable car descending towards Rotorua town and lake



Our interpid luge riders starting their descent



The sheep breeds show at the Agrodome



The sheep breeds show at the Agrodome



Te Puia's Heketanga-a-Rangi - totem sculpture



Te Puia's Heketanga-a-Rangi - totem sculpture



Te Puia's Heketanga-a-Rangi - greenstone sculpture



Te Puia totem sculptures



Te Puia old marae (meeting house)



Te Aronui-a-rua marae (new meeting house)



Maori Arts and Craft Institute - sculpture student at work



Maori Arts and Craft Institute - wood carving students and teacher



Maori Arts and Craft Institute - kite sculptures



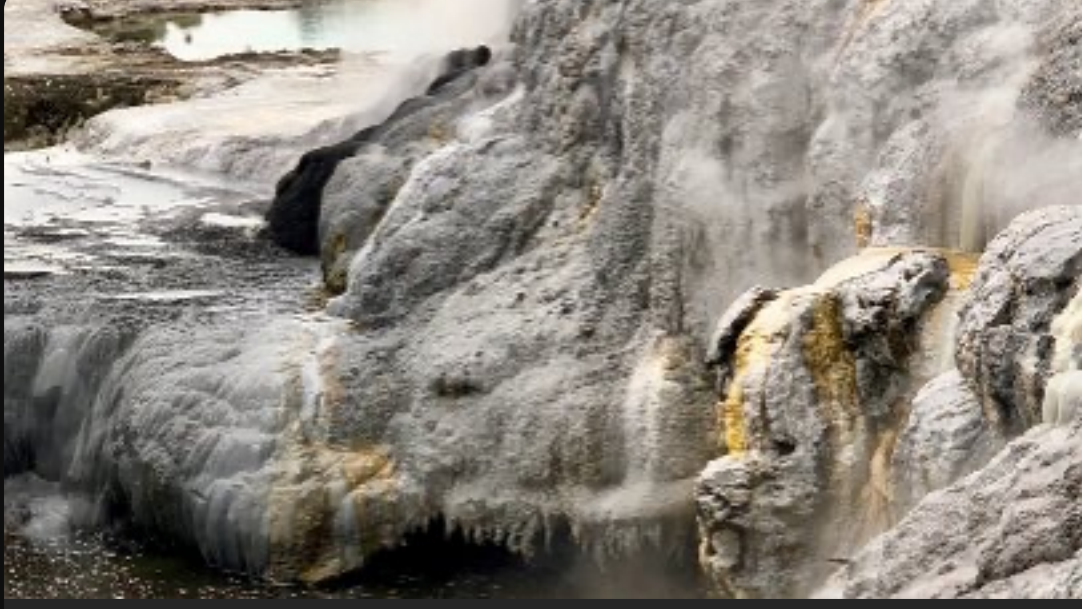
Pohutu geyser



Pohutu geyser



Pohutu geyser



Pohutu geyser hot pool



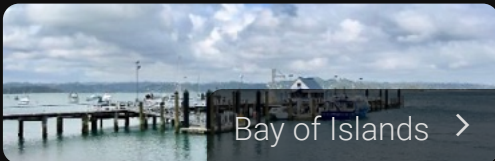
Purapurawhetu mud pool



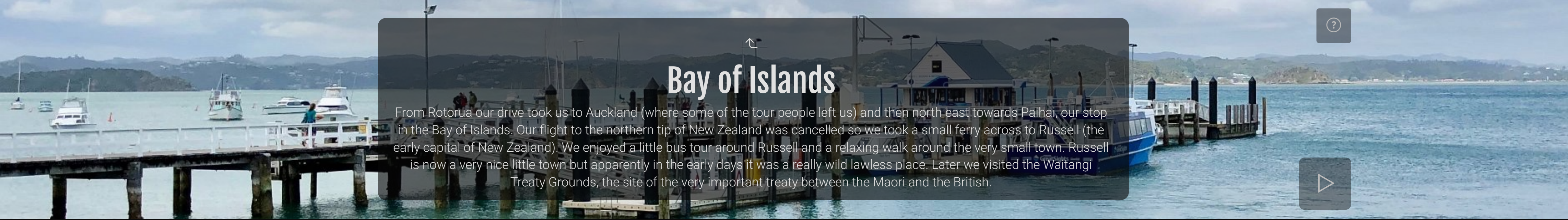
Pohutu geyser



< Wellington

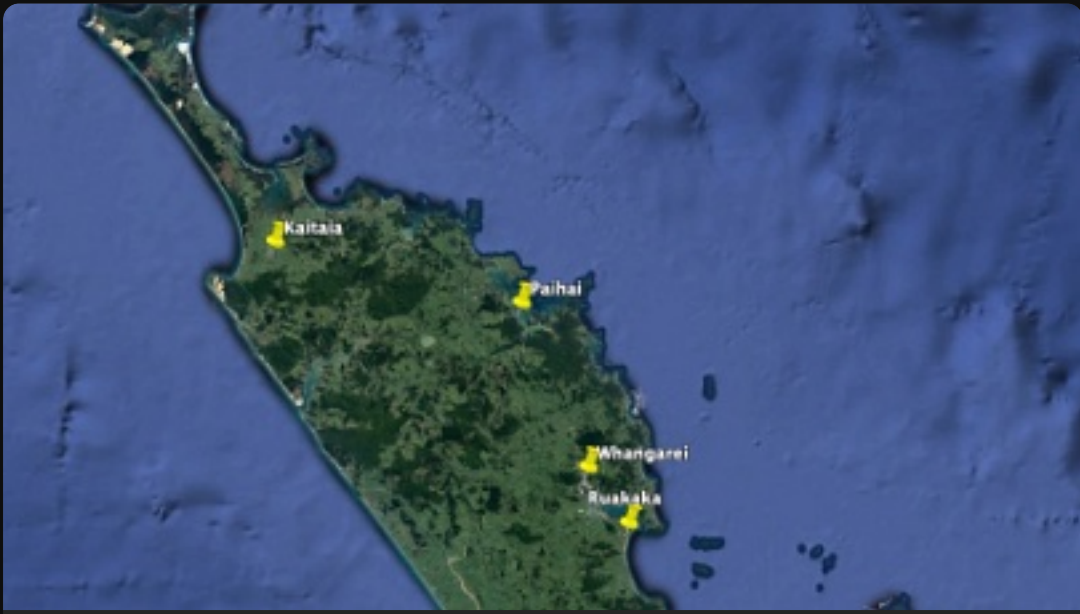


Bay of Islands >



Bay of Islands

From Rotorua our drive took us to Auckland (where some of the four people left us) and then north east towards Paihai, our stop in the Bay of Islands. Our flight to the northern tip of New Zealand was cancelled so we took a small ferry across to Russell (the early capital of New Zealand). We enjoyed a little bus tour around Russell and a relaxing walk around the very small town. Russell is now a very nice little town but apparently in the early days it was a really wild lawless place. Later we visited the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the site of the very important treaty between the Maori and the British.



Northland Map

[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



Bay of Islands Map

[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



Information dog, Tirau, Waikato, on road to Auckland



Volcanic Islands, Bream Bay, near Ruakaka



Back street of Russell, Bay of Islands



Garden Wall feature, Russell, Bay of Islands



Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell, Bay of Islands



Ferry Wharf at Russell, with Paihai on opposite shore



Old Moreton Bay Fig in front of the old Customs House, Russell, Bay of Islands



Pompallier Mission, Russell, Bay of Islands



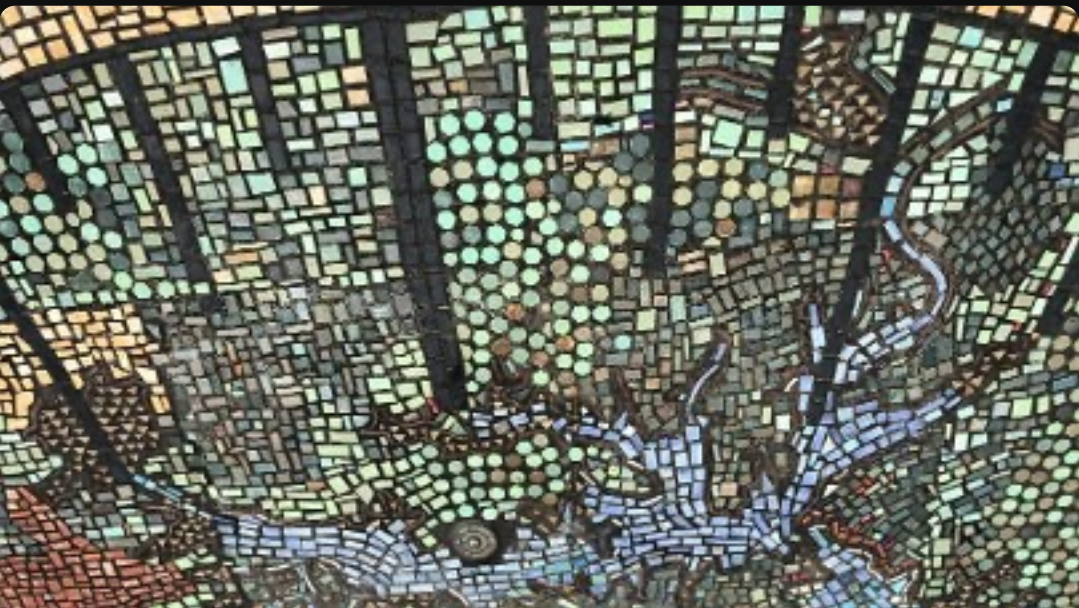
Christ Church, Russell, Bay of Islands (oldest church in NZ)



Beach near Russell, Bay of Islands



View of Russell from Flagstaff Hill, Russell, Bay of Islands



Sundial Mosaic on Flagstaff Hill, Russell, Bay of Islands



View from near Flagstaff Hill, Russell, Bay of Islands



Restored House, Russell, Bay of Islands



Ceremonial War Canoes at Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Bay of Islands



Ceremonial War Canoes at Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Bay of Islands



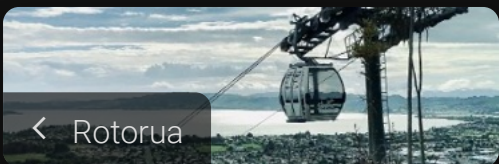
View from Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Bay of Islands



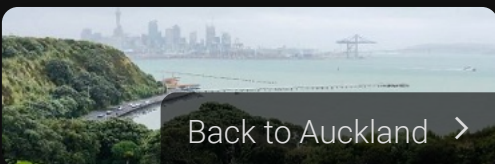
New Zealand, British and United Tribes Flags flying at Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Bay of Islands



Carved Meeting House at Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Bay of Islands



< Rotorua

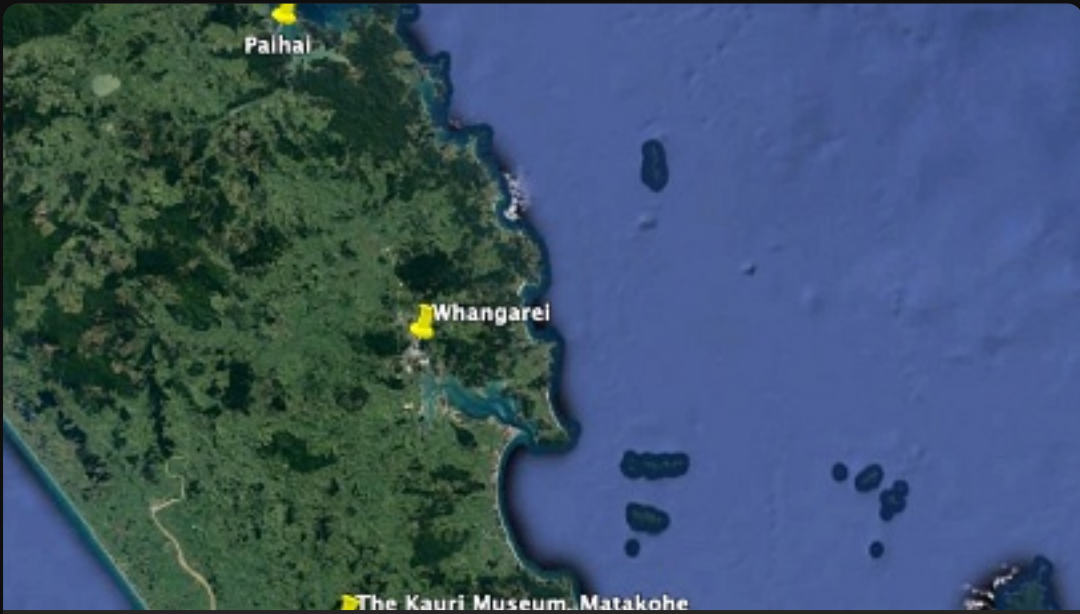


Back to Auckland >



Back to Auckland

Our trip back to Auckland took us to Whangarei, a lovely town we could have spent more time at, and then to the Kauri Museum at Matakoho. We also saw a Giant Kauri Tree at the Parry Kauri Park, near Warkworth. On arriving in Auckland we had a quick tour of the city ending up at the Michael Joseph Savage Memorial Park, at Orakei to the east of Auckland. As it was the last night of the bus tour we all enjoyed a Farewell Dinner in our hotel. While in Auckland we were able to catch up with our friends John and Rona at their retirement village and while sightseeing in the rain. Sadly John has since passed away and he will be greatly missed by friends and family.



Paihai to Auckland Map

[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



Auckland Map

[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



Bridge over Hatea River, Whangarei, Northland



Yachts on Hatea River, Whangarei, Northland



Sundial at Clock Museum, Whangarei, Northland



Kauri Museum at Matakoho, Northland



Kauri Museum with section of Kauri tree at Matakoho, Northland



Carving at Kauri Museum, Matakoho, Northland



Kauri Tree Roots at Matakoho, Northland



Giant Kauri Tree at Parry Kauri Park, Warkworth, Northland



Michael Joseph Savage Memorial Park, Orakei, near Auckland



Monument to Michael Joseph Savage, Orakei, near Auckland



Michael Joseph Savage Memorial Park, Orakei, near Auckland



View from Orakei (near Auckland) across Tamaki Strait to Rangitoto Island



View towards Auckland from Orakei



Farewell Dinner 1



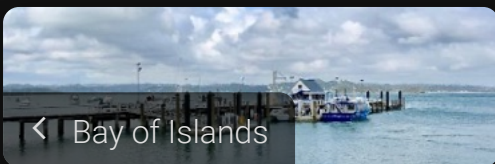
Farewell Dinner 2



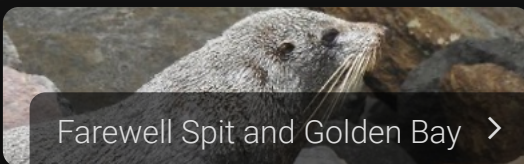
Farewell Dinner 3



Farewell Dinner 4



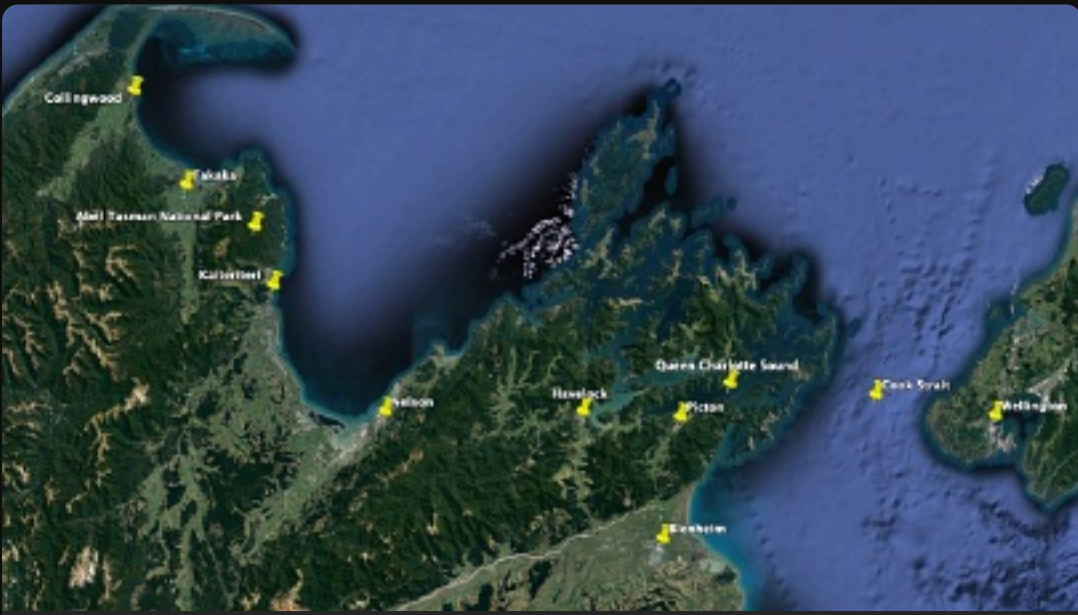
Bay of Islands



Farewell Spit and Golden Bay

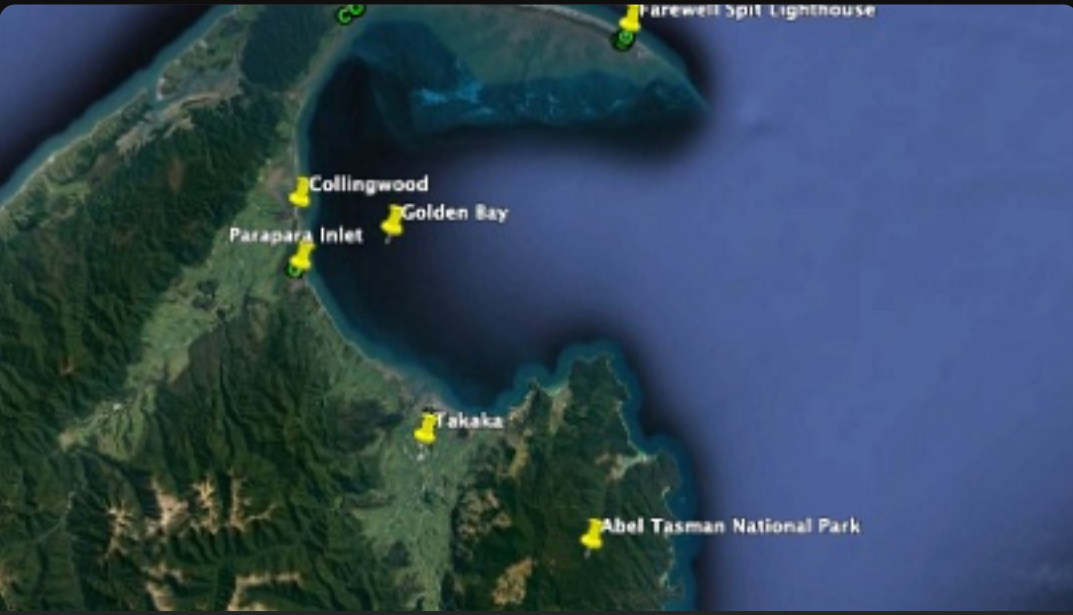
Farewell Spit and Golden Bay

From our base in Collingwood we took a bus tour along the fascinating Farewell Spit on the north-western tip of the South Island. The Spit separates the wild ocean to the west and north from the relative calm waters and tidal flats of Golden Bay to the east and south. Lots of birds and seals to see on the way to the Lighthouse near the end of Farewell Spit. We had very strong winds which really added to our experience. After leaving Collingwood, we headed east back over Takaka Hill on our way to Nelson and eventually to Picton.



South Island Map

[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



Golden Bay & Tasman Bay Map

[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



Bird on Golden Bay tidal flats



Remains of old coal wharf on Golden Bay



Puponga at western end of Golden Bay



Cape Farewell near Puponga



Seascape at Cape Farewell near Puponga



Bird on Golden Bay tidal flats



Birds on Golden Bay tidal flats



Bird on Golden Bay tidal flats



Bird on Golden Bay tidal flats



Seaward side of Farewell Spit - lots of wind and sea



Seal on the beach of Farewell Spit



Seal at Fossil Point on Farewell Spit



Fossils at Fossil Point on Farewell Spit



Vegetated dunes along Farewell Spit



Farewell Spit flotsam



Bird on the beach of Farewell Spit



Bird on the beach of Farewell Spit



Farewell Spit Lighthouse from a windy beach



Seaward side of Farewell Spit - lots of wind and sea



Farewell Spit Lighthouse with some of our group



Shell fragments in concrete path at Farewell Spit Lighthouse



Dolphin skeleton at Farewell Spit Lighthouse



Our bus at one of the lighthouse keepers' houses at Farewell Spit Lighthouse



Glimpse of Cape Farewell with split in the arch



Yacht moored in Parapara Inlet, Golden Bay



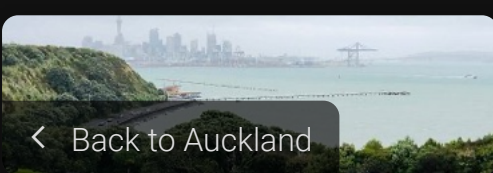
Bird drying out on old pier at Parapara Inlet, Golden Bay



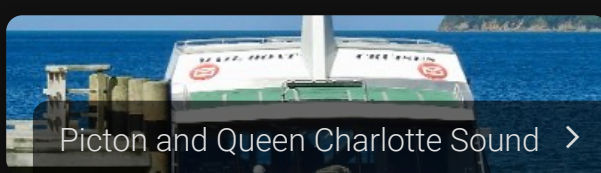
Takaka Hill with view to the east, across Tasman Bay towards Nelson



View to the east from Takaka Hill, across Tasman Bay towards Nelson



< Back to Auckland



Picton and Queen Charlotte Sound >

Picton and Queen Charlotte Sound

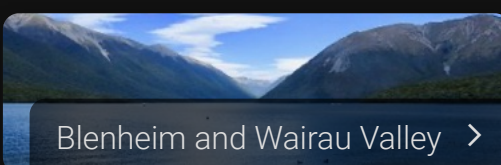
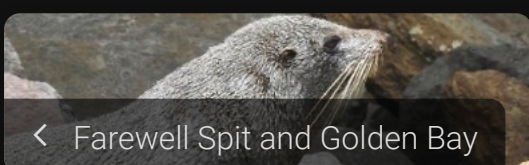
From Nelson we drove through the little town of Havelock to Pictou, the main access point for goods and people from the North Island. We liked Pictou as it is much more than a tourist town. The town is situated at the end of Queen Charlotte Sound which we managed to explore on the mail boat which visits many of the isolated settlements around the Sound. Back in Pictou we also explored the preserved remains of the Edwin Fox. This vessel is the 9th oldest ship in the world, the oldest surviving merchant ship, last surviving convict ship that took convicts to Australia and last wooden NZ immigrant ship. The metal cladding of the wooden hull, made from Indian Teak, certainly contributed to its remarkable state of preservation.



[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



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Blenheim and Wairau Valley

We returned to Nelson via Blenheim (centre of the Marlborough wine region) with its great coffee stop at the Wine Station. Then we headed west along the Wairau Valley with numerous examples of timber harvesting and vine growing. The climb up to St Arnaud was quite gradual but we soon reached skiing areas, alpine-style lodges and saw plenty of snowy peaks. Lake Rotoiti is very impressive and we even saw hardy swimmers enjoying the (presumably frigid) water. The route down to Nelson was again quite gradual from mountainous country through quite rich farming areas and eventually to the coastal plains.



Blenheim and Wairau Valley Map
[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



North side of Wairau valley with signs of timber harvesting



North side of Wairau valley with plantations of vines



The Wine Station at Blenheim, Marlborough



Anne at the Wine Station at Blenheim, Marlborough



Wairau River, Marlborough



Crossing the bridge over the Wairau River, Marlborough



Wide valley of the braided Wairau River



Snowy peaks to the south of St Arnaud, Wairau Valley



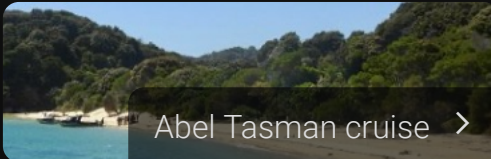
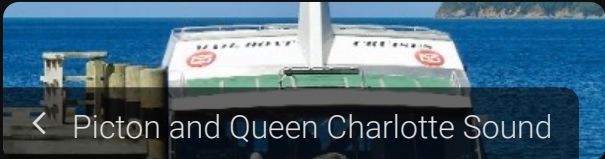
Lake Rotoiti near St Arnaud, Wairau Valley

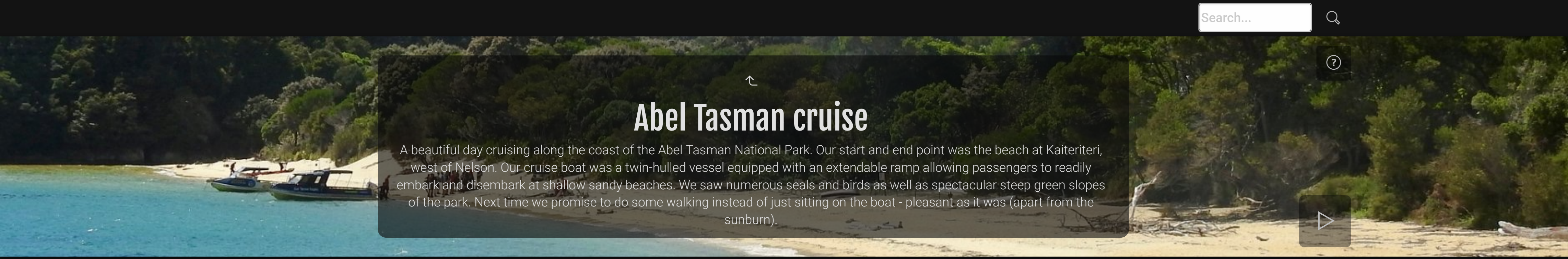


Mountains to the south of Lake Rotoiti near St Arnaud,
Wairau Valley



Distant views of western mountains from route down to
Nelson

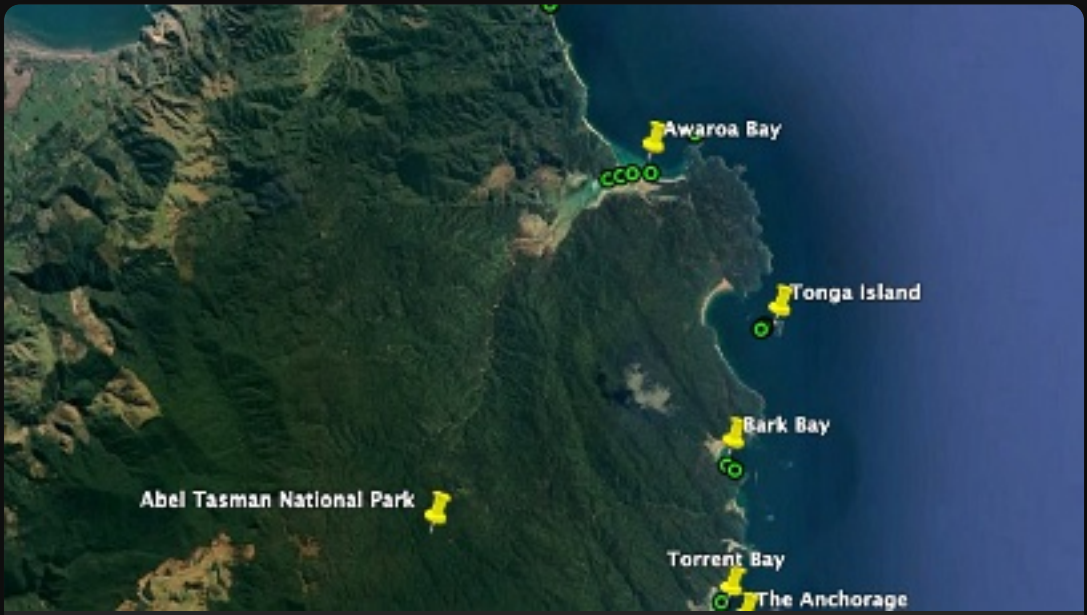




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Abel Tasman cruise

A beautiful day cruising along the coast of the Abel Tasman National Park. Our start and end point was the beach at Kaiteriteri, west of Nelson. Our cruise boat was a twin-hulled vessel equipped with an extendable ramp allowing passengers to readily embark and disembark at shallow sandy beaches. We saw numerous seals and birds as well as spectacular steep green slopes of the park. Next time we promise to do some walking instead of just sitting on the boat - pleasant as it was (apart from the sunburn).



Abel Tasman cruise Map
[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



The beach at Kaiteriteri - start and end point for our Abel Tasman cruise



The Vista II, our vessel for the Abel Tasman cruise, at Kaiteriteri - note the neat extendable ramp allowing for beach access



Leaving Kaiteriteri with views across Tasman Bay to the mountains east of Nelson



Split Apple Rock in Towers Bay, Abel Tasman



Sailing boat framed by Split Apple Rock in Towers Bay, Abel Tasman



Canoes and paddlers at Towers Bay, Abel Tasman



Shags on a rock, Towers Bay, Abel Tasman



Beach at Stilwell Bay, Abel Tasman



Sunbathers and flotsam sculpture, The Anchorage, Torrent Bay, Abel Tasman



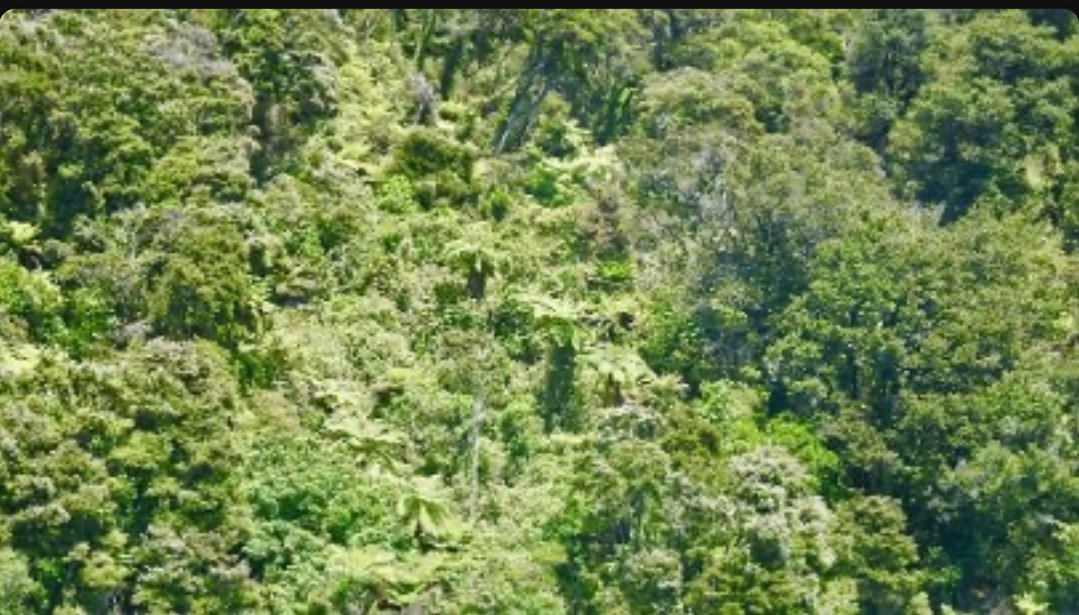
The beach at The Anchorage, Torrent Bay, Abel Tasman



Entrance to Torrent Bay, Abel Tasman



Bark Bay, Abel Tasman



Green wall at Bark Bay, Abel Tasman



Black-backed gull near Tonga Island, Abel Tasman



Seal on Tonga Island, Abel Tasman



Seals on Tonga Island, Abel Tasman



Coming in to Awaroa Bay, Abel Tasman



Entrance to Awaroa Bay, Abel Tasman



A few terns on the beach at Awaroa Bay, Abel Tasman



Shags on the beach at Awaroa Bay, Abel Tasman



Nests in tree at entrance to Awaroa Bay, Abel Tasman



Tataranui Beach, Abel Tasman



Swimmers at Tataranui Beach, Abel Tasman



Seal at Adele Island, Abel Tasman



Nelson and Centre of New Zealand

The walk to the Centre of New Zealand starts in Nelson on the banks of the Maitai River at a great coffee stop. The first part is a gentle stroll along the Maitai River Walk to the Botanic Sports Field - the site of New Zealand's first game of rugby. The walk continues on one of several steep paths to the top of Botanic Hill - the Centre of New Zealand. From the top there are excellent views (on a fine day) of Nelson and its surroundings as well as inland to the south and east. We were fortunate to see examples of flowering New Zealand Flax and Manuka on our walk.



Nelson Map

[Map produced using Google Earth Pro]



Gulls bathing in the Maitai River, Nelson



Flowering tree on Maitai River Walk, Nelson



Fruit bearing tree on Maitai River Walk, Nelson



The Botanic Sports Field - the site of New Zealand's first game of rugby



Ferns on the way up Botanic Hill, Nelson



On the way up Botanic Hill, Nelson



Kauri tree (planted 1951) on the way up Botanic Hill, Nelson



The Port of Nelson from top of Botanic Hill, Nelson



Flowering New Zealand Flax (Harakeke) near top of Botanic Hill, Nelson



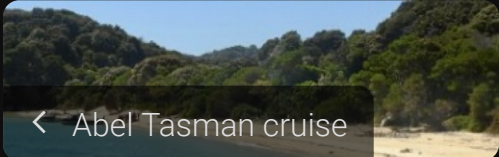
Maitai Valley view from top of Botanic Hill, Nelson



Flowering Manuka bushes near top of Botanic Hill, Nelson



Monument at Centre of New Zealand at the top of Botanic Hill, Nelson



Abel Tasman cruise



201811-12 New Zealand (North and South Islands) Contact Sheets



201811-12 New Zealand (North and South Islands) Contact Sheets

Thumbnail images of all slides in Fotomagico presentation.



< Nelson and Centre of New Zealand

201811-12 New Zealand (North and South Islands) Contact Sheet

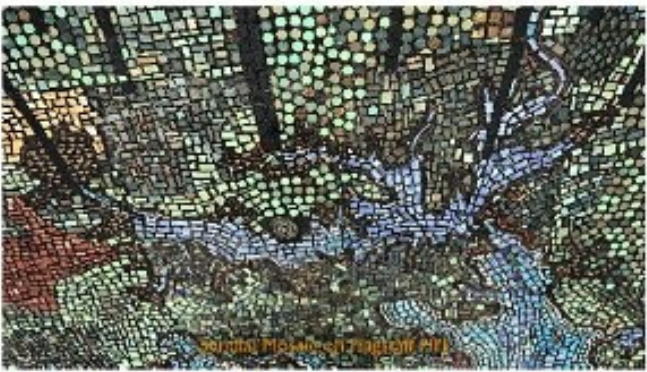
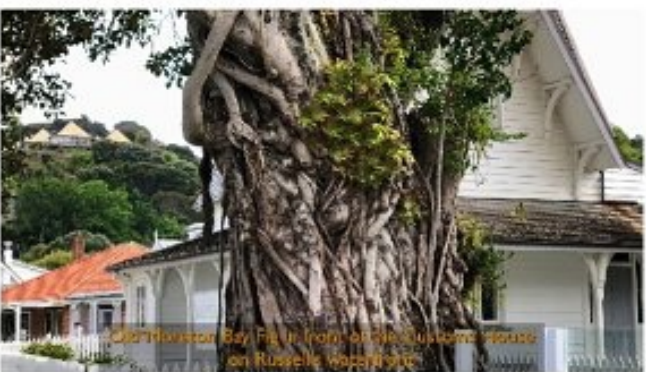
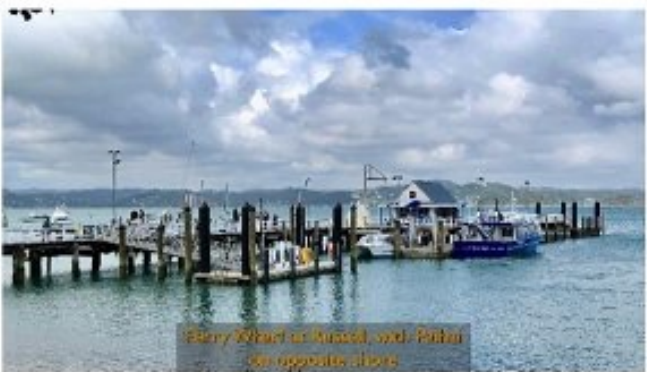


North Island Days 6-7 - Bay of Islands

From Rotorua our drive took us to Auckland before some of the tour people left us) and then northeast towards Pukekohe, our stop in the Bay of Islands.

Our flight to the northern tip of New Zealand was cancelled so we took a small ferry across to Russell (the early capital of New Zealand) We enjoyed a little bus tour around Russell and a relaxing walk around the very small town. Russell is now a very nice little town but apparently in the early days it was a very wild lawless place.

Later we visited the Whangarei Heads, the site of the very important treaty between the Maori and the British.



North Island Day 8 - Auckland

Our trip back to Auckland took us to Whangarei, a lovely town we could have spent more time at, and then to the South Islands in Pukekohe. We also saw a Giant Kauri Tree at the Pukekohe Park, near Whangarei.

On arriving in Auckland we had a quick tour of the city ending up at the Pukekohe Joseph Stanger Memorial Park, at Orakei to the east of Auckland.

As it was the last night of the bus tour we all enjoyed a Farewell Dinner in our hotel.

While in Auckland we were able to catch up with our friends John and Rose at their retirement village and while sightseeing in the rain. Sally John has once passed away and will be greatly missed by friends and family.



Nov-Dec 2018 - New Zealand (North & South Islands)

The second part of the holiday was along the western edge of the South Island, again somewhere we had not seen on previous trips.

We did this by ourselves in a big car with Anne doing all the driving.

We really enjoyed this part of New Zealand and we have promised ourselves to return as soon as possible.

South Island Days 1-2 - Farewell Spit and Golden Bay

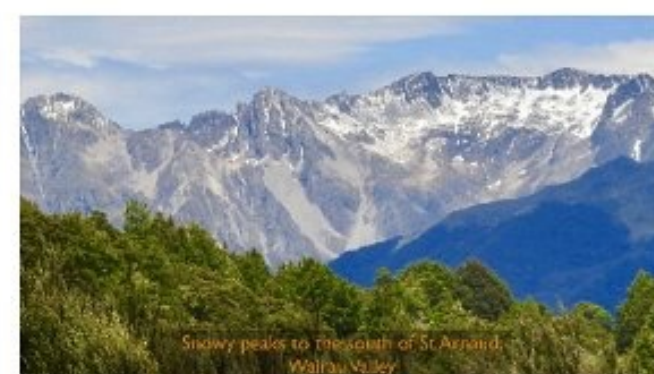
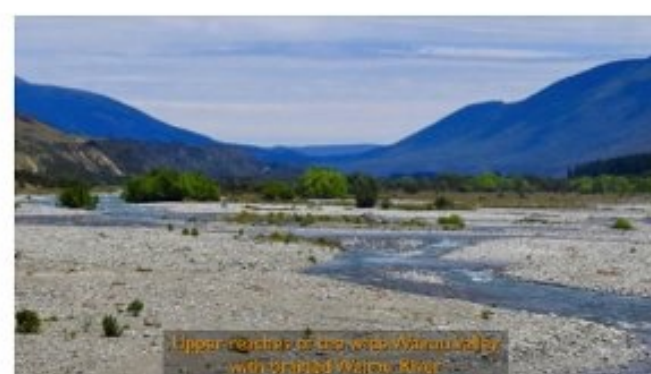
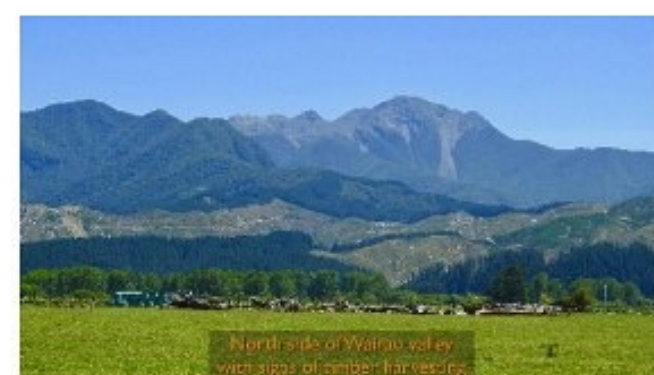
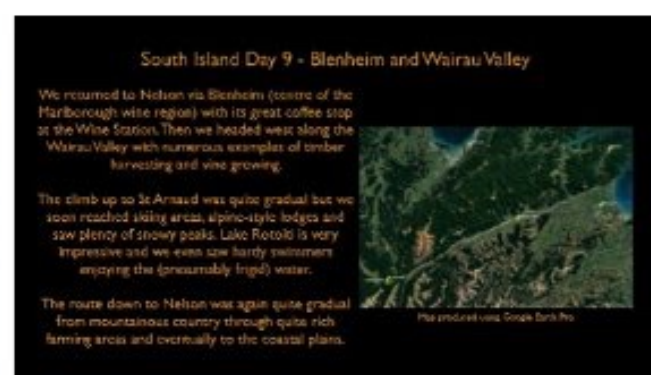
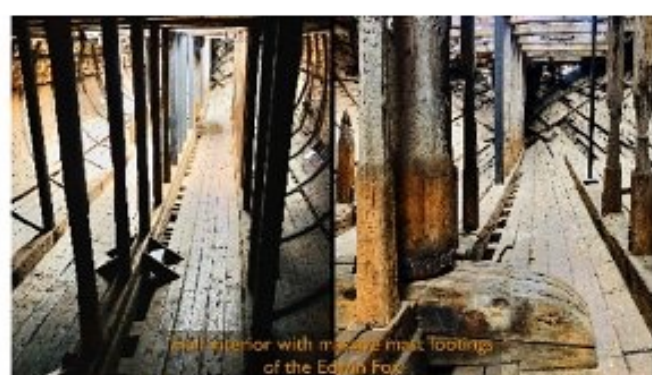
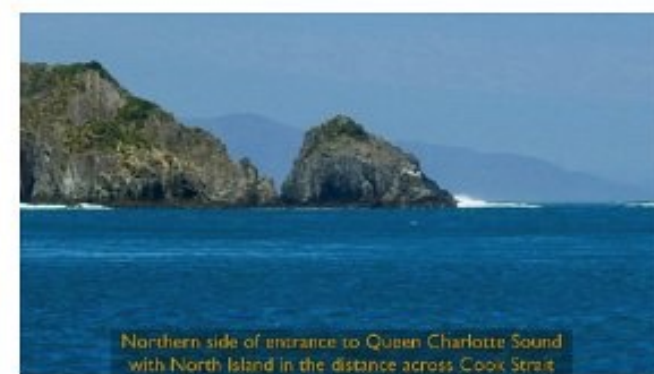
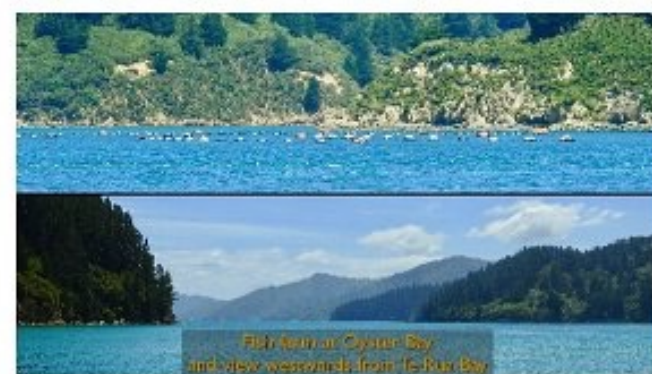
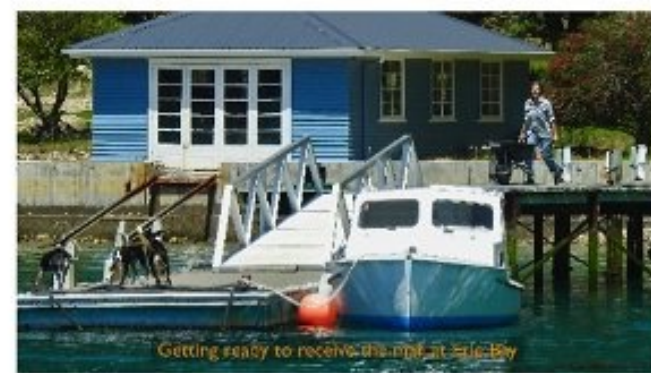
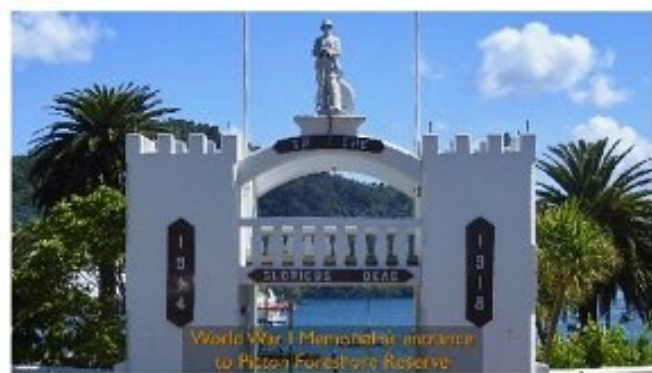
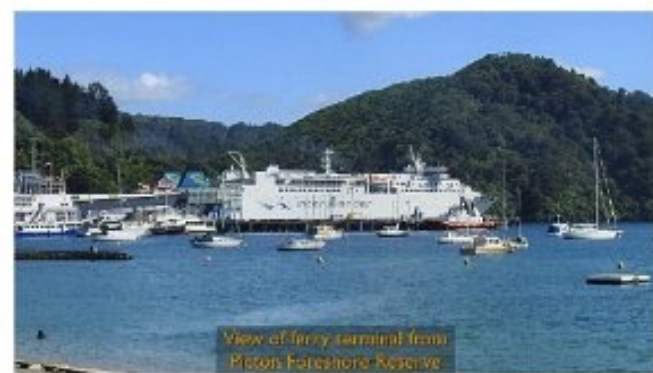
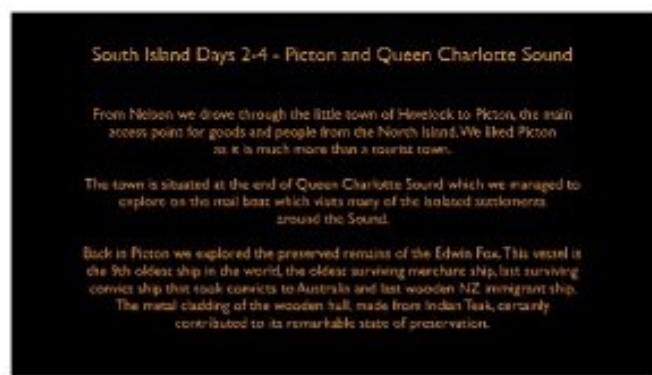
From our base in Collingwood we took a bus tour along the beautiful Farewell Spit on the north-western tip of the South Island.

The Spit separates the wild ocean to the west and north from the relative calm waters and tidal flats of Golden Bay to the east and south.

Lots of birds and seals to see on the way to the Lighthouse near the end of Farewell Spit. We had very strong winds which really added to our experience.

After leaving Collingwood we headed back over "Takaka Hill" on our way to Nelson and eventually to Picton.



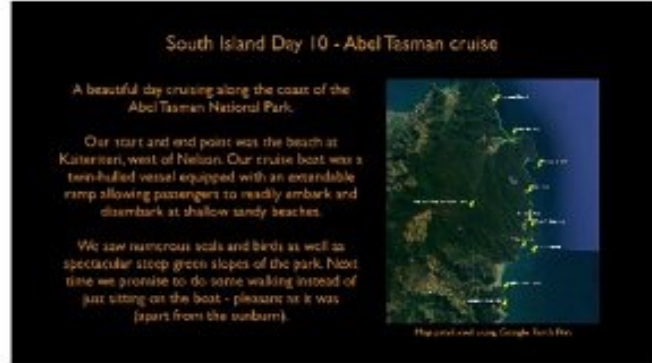




Marine life to the south of Lake Rotomā



Dramatic view of western mountains from ridge down to Nelson



Map of the Abel Tasman National Park showing the cruise route



Fishing boat on the beach at Kaiteraki, west of Nelson. The boat is a two-hulled vessel equipped with an accessible ramp allowing passengers to readily embark and disembark on shallow sandy beaches.



The beach at Kaiteraki, west of Nelson. The boat is a two-hulled vessel equipped with an accessible ramp allowing passengers to readily embark and disembark on shallow sandy beaches.



Leaving Kaiteraki with views across Tasman Bay to the mountains east of Nelson



Canoes and paddlers at Fowey Bay



Split Apple Rock at Fowey Bay



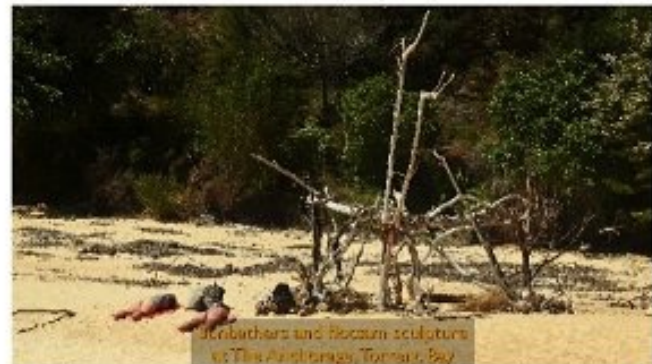
Sailing boat framed by Split Apple Rock



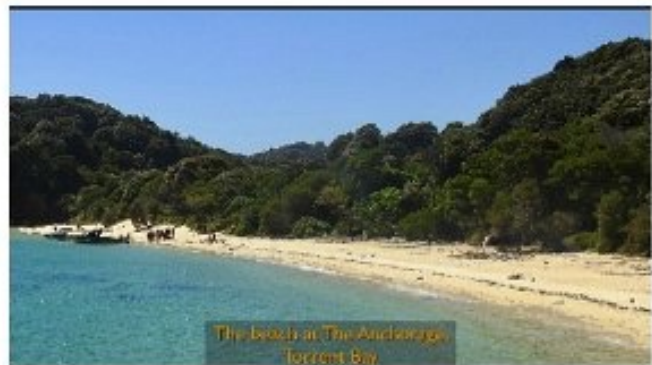
Shags on a rock at Towers Bay



Beach at Striwell Bay



Habitats are human solutions at The Rātūranga, Towers Bay



The beach at The Rātūranga, Fowey Bay



Entrance to Kaituma Bay



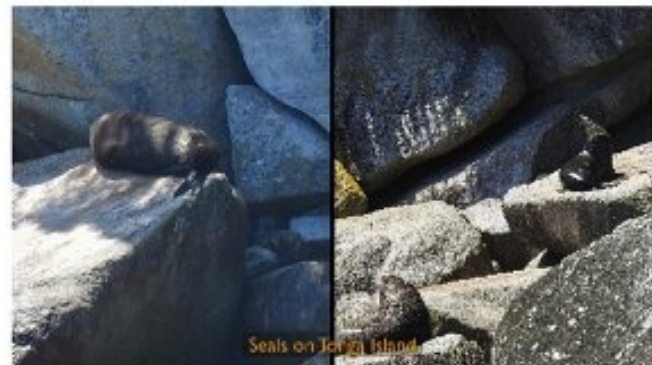
Barn Bay



Forest at Kaituma Bay



Shags on a rock at Kaituma Bay



Seals on Jorja Island



Going to Kaituma Bay



Entrance to Kaituma Bay



A few seals and some shags on the beach at Kaituma Bay



Hills in the distance at Kaituma Bay



Totorangi Beach



Mokoroa at Mokoroa Beach



A seal on a rock at Kaituma Bay



South Island Day 11 - Nelson and Centre of New Zealand

The walk to the Centre of New Zealand starts in Nelson on the banks of the Motu River at a grassy coffee stop.

The first part is a gentle stroll along the Motu River Walk to the Bowen Sports Field - the site of New Zealand's first game of rugby.

The walk continues on one of several steep paths to the top of Bowen Hill - the Centre of New Zealand.

From the top there are excellent views (on a fine day) of Nelson and its surroundings as well as inland to the south and east.

We were fortunate to see examples of flowering New Zealand Fox and Haraka on our walk.



South Island Day 11 - Nelson and Centre of New Zealand

Map showing the route from Nelson to the Centre of New Zealand.



A few seals and some shags on the beach at Kaituma Bay



Flowering New Zealand Fox and Haraka bushes near top of Bowen Hill



The Bowen Sports Field - the site of New Zealand's first game of rugby



A Kauri tree (planted 1951) on Bowen Hill



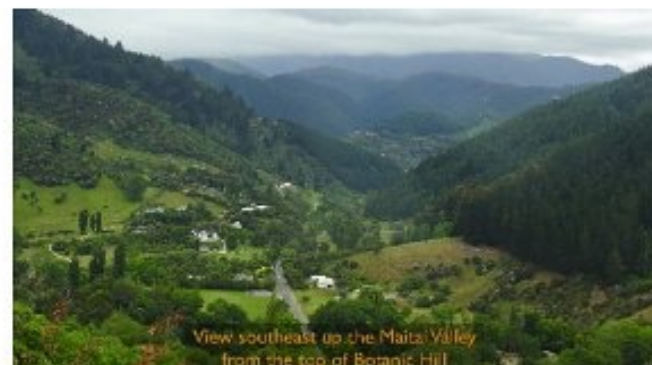
A Kauri tree (planted 1951) on Bowen Hill



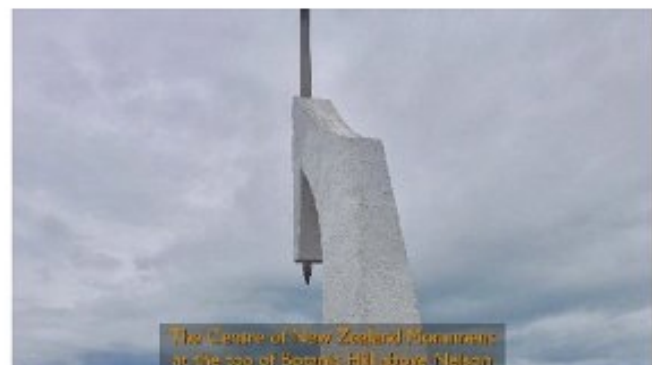
The Port of Nelson from the top of Bowen Hill



Flowering New Zealand Fox and Haraka bushes near top of Bowen Hill



View southeast up the Maitai Valley from the top of Bowen Hill



The tower of New Zealand's first game of rugby on the top of Bowen Hill, Nelson



Many thanks to Grand Pacific Tours for a great relaxing North Island holiday. Also to our hosts at the very comfortable South Island accommodations and the Farwell Spit and Abel Tasman tour operators. We enjoyed meeting people in our tour group and lots of great food and wine - all with lovely scenery and wildlife.



Many thanks also to the team at ForoMago.

