



Abel Tasman National Park
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NELSON

Nelson Tasman is a picturesque region in the middle of New Zealand with a reputation for the arts and sunshine. It offers fantastic opportunities for conferences, exhibitions, festivals and other events. There are three exceptional national parks within 90 minutes' drive of the region's largest settlement, Nelson city, and some of the country's most inviting beaches are nearby.

ACCESS

Visitors flying to the region land at Nelson Airport, 8km from Nelson city centre. Domestic flights to and from major New Zealand centres are available through Air New Zealand and Jetstar, while regional centres are also served by Kiwi Regional Airlines and Originair, and air transfers from Wellington and the upper South Island are offered by Sounds Air, Air2There and Golden Bay Air. Ferries operate between Wellington and Picton, for those who prefer to arrive by sea. Onward coaches from Picton are easily arranged.

VENUES

The region offers a range of venues, from heritage hotels and modern sporting events centres to vineyards and purpose-built convention complexes.

Rutherford Hotel is Nelson's classic conference venue, conveniently located in the centre of the city. Of seven room options, the largest is the Maitai Room which can host 700 delegates in theatre layout or for cocktail events.

Just south of Nelson Airport, the distinctive and charming Grand Mercure Nelson Monaco is a premium convention complex including conference rooms, accommodation, a village hall (theatre capacity of 180), shops, a permanent marquee, a pool, an executive cottage which all provide the wow factor that brings life to a conference.

Nelson's biggest venue is Saxton Stadium, a multi-purpose sports and conference space perfect for large events. It is situated within an amazing 65 hectare sports complex and has theatre capacity for up to 700 delegates.

Petite Fleur is Seifried Estate Vineyard's specially designed conference centre and offers fine food and wine as well as corporate and team building packages and off-site catering. The main conference room seats 200 guests for a banquet or 300 in theatre layout.

The newest venue in the region is Mahana Estates, located on the Moutere Hills overlooking Tasman Bay, Nelson and the Southern Alps. The winery, art gallery, cellar door, accommodation villa and function spaces offer extraordinary bespoke experiences. Theatre and banquet capacity cater for 200 delegates.

Facts:

- Population: over 91,000 people
- 8 km Airport to City
- Accommodation: 800 rooms
- Venue capacity: 700 people

Claim to fame:

- Strong artisan community
- Boutique wineries and craft breweries
- Home to three spectacular national parks
- Tasman's Great Taste Cycle Trail
- Arts and culture: World of Wearable Arts and classic Cars Museum, Provincial Museum, NZ Classic Motorcycles, myriad galleries and working artist studios.



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GETTING AROUND

Nelson is a compact city and a pleasure to explore on foot. Nelson Coachlines transfers are easily arranged to transport groups between venues, accommodation and activities, while luxury vehicles, limousines and classic cars can be hired for those who want to travel in style. Shuttles, helicopters and water taxis provide alternative access throughout Tasman Bay. The local NBUS service provides easy transport to the suburban area, and Abel Tasman Coachlines services the towns of Motueka, Takaka, and Blenheim, which can all be reached in under two hours' drive.

ACCOMMODATION

A variety of quality accommodation is available in Nelson. The city and wider region offer premium boutique lodgings, international and award winning hotels, high quality motels and serviced apartments. Many of the local hotels and lodges provide both accommodation and conference facilities on site.

MEMORABLE INCENTIVE OPTIONS

SAMPLE some of the Nelson Tasman's top drops. Take a tour to some of the region's most renowned breweries and wineries and meet the passionate people who have helped make them famous.

EXPLORE the breathtaking Abel Tasman National Park from the comfort of a cruise boat or on a guided sea kayak or walking tour. See dolphins, New Zealand fur seals and many native birds, and stay overnight at boutique lodges serving delicious food and wine.

CYCLE the Tasman's Great Taste Trail. Eat, drink, shop and visit art galleries while absorbing the panoramic views of Tasman Bay, Waimea Estuary and the Western Ranges. The Ride includes a ferry ride from Mapua to beautiful Rabbit Island, which can be cycled as part of the trail route.

CHALLENGE yourself at Happy Valley Adventures near Nelson. The park offers a range of adventure and team building experiences including quad biking through native forest and the SkyWire – a magnificent 3km-long flying fox that zips high above the forest canopy.

LEAP from one of the top 10 greatest sky dive drop zones in the world with Skydive Abel Tasman. Enjoy the stunning views as you climb to 16,500ft, then feel the rush as you launch yourself over paradise.

VENTURE into the outdoors to explore the region's stunning forests, mountains, rivers and coast. Adventure tourism company Simply Wild Journeys specialises in bespoke outdoor experiences for incentive travel groups.

MEMORABLE PRE AND POST TOURING OPTIONS

CELEBRATE style at the World of WearableArt and Classic Cars Museum, a world class collection of classic cars alongside incredible wearable works of art from around the globe – or New Zealand Classic Motorcycles – a collection of some 300 beautifully restored motorcycles and associated vintage art.

VISIT the coastal town of Kaikoura on the South Island's east coast to see whales and dolphins from a boat, plane or helicopter. Kaikoura is renowned as one of the best places in the world to see these amazing sea creatures in their natural habitat.

EMBARK on an eco-tour to Farewell Spit to see the longest sandspit in New Zealand. Farewell Spit is a spectacular sight and is home to a wide range of seabirds and other wildlife.

JOURNEY along the rugged West Coast to see the Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki. These unusual limestone rock formations have been formed by natural forces over 30 million years and now appear layered like a giant stack of pancakes.

FLY by helicopter to remote locations in the region's three national parks. You won't be disappointed with Reid Helicopters high-end Food Source tour, which treats visitors to locally sourced delicacies from land and sea expertly prepared by a Michelin trained chef.

DISCOVER the beautiful Marlborough Sounds by sea kayak to see fascinating marine life including penguins, dolphins and New Zealand fur seals. For those who want to stay dry, walking or cycling the 70km Queen Charlotte Track is a great alternative.

