

BonVoyage
CRUISES & TRAVEL

EXPERIENCES



**MARLBOROUGH
WINE, FOOD & SOUNDS**

**8 NIGHT 9 DAY FLY-CRUISE
30 NOV – 08 DEC 2026 &
15 – 23 MAY 2027**



Heritage Expeditions



Bon Voyage Cruises & Travel is delighted to present our new in-depth discovery tours of the Marlborough Sounds, partnering with NZ's leading expedition cruise company, sailing on the delightful small-ship - *Heritage Explorer*.

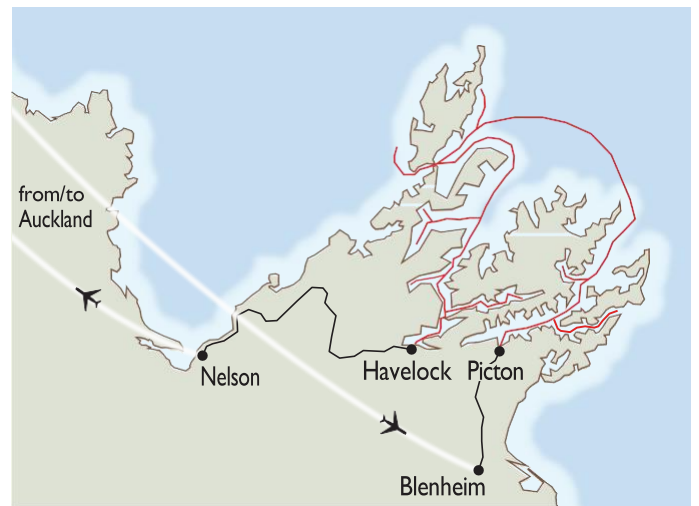
Discover the tranquil waterways, wildlife and rich history of New Zealand's Marlborough Sounds on an unforgettable 8-night 9-day cruise adventure, exploring Queen Charlotte and Pelorus Sounds, French Pass, and d'Urville Island.

Famed for the breath-taking beauty of their winding cobalt waterways, iconic landscapes, lush native forests, wildlife and remote coastlines these regions are also rich in early New Zealand history and the location of some of the country's most important conservation efforts.

Formed by a system of submerged valleys carved out following the last ice age around 10,000 years ago, the scenic playground of Marlborough Sounds encompasses some 1500 kilometers of forested coastline, sheltered inlets and bays awaiting exploration, many only accessible by sea. The union of three main bodies of water – Queen Charlotte, Kenepuru and Pelorus Sounds – Marlborough Sounds has more than 50 Department of Conservation managed reserves and several predator free wildlife sanctuaries.

Just 500 treacherous meters from the mainland, d'Urville Island was named after French admiral Jules Sebastian Cesar Dumont d'Urville and his ill-fated passage of the infamous French Pass in January 1827. After several near misses while seeking passage inside the island, he came close to losing his ship *Astrolabe* after hitting the reef. Now a possum, rat and weasel-free conservation reserve, d'Urville Island is one of the last strongholds of the critically endangered Long-tailed Bat and provides a respite for the world's rarest shag – the King Shag – and several other species of rare birds and geckos.

The chef on board prepares special daily menus featuring local Marlborough and NZ foods. Prior to the cruise we have a special Wine & Food stopover with special access to small boutique wineries, a unique wine tasting high tea and a wine matched Bon Voyage Dinner at Clos Henri's Sainte Solange Chapel.



8 Nights/9 Days – Wine, Food & Sounds Fly-Cruise ITINERARY

**Day 1: Monday 30 November or
Day 1: Saturday 15 May**

Fly with Air New Zealand departing from Auckland to Blenheim around midday. On arrival we meet our local guide, Denise. We will start with a casual lunch before visiting Peter Jackson's Otago Heritage Centre, NZ's world class WW1 & WW2 aviation museum, If aviation is not your thing, we have a couple of tasty alternatives! Later in the afternoon we transfer to our hotel for the next two nights.

**Hotel d'Urville,
52 Queen Street, Blenheim**
2 nights twin/double room
Breakfast at a local café (included)
First night dinner at a local restaurant (included)



**Day 2: Tuesday 01 December or
Day 2: Sunday 16 May
– Blenheim Wine Country**

We explore Blenheim and the beautiful surrounding Marlborough wine region. We'll stop at a high vantage point to view the whole Awatere Valley then head to Tipuani Wines where winemaker Olivia tells you about their wines and the stories of the area over a wine-tasting High Tea. We return to town mid-afternoon and head out again early in the evening to our Bon Voyage Dinner at Clos Henri's Sainte Solange Chapel.

**Day 3: Wednesday 02 December or
Day 3: Monday 17 May
– Blenheim to Picton**

Mid-morning we'll drive north to Picton with time for a light lunch before farewelling Dennise and joining Heritage Explorer this afternoon at the marina. The captain and expedition team will be waiting to welcome you aboard and show you to your cabin.

You will have the opportunity to familiarize yourself onboard then join the captain on the bridge or fellow travelers on deck as we set sail along Queen Charlotte Sound this afternoon.

**Day 4 & Day 5: Thursday 03 & Friday 04 December or
Day 4 & Day 5: Tuesday 18 May – Wednesday 19 May
– Queen Charlotte Sound**

First sighted in 1642 by Abel Janszoon Tasman while seeking shelter for his ships Heemskerck and Zeehaen from a storm near d'Urville Island, it was Captain James Cook who would first set foot here aboard the Endeavour during his five visits to Ship Cove, his New Zealand base between 1770 and 1777, in what he would call Queen Charlotte Sound.

We spend two full days exploring the waterways and islands of scenic Queen Charlotte Sound with opportunities to head ashore and walk a section of the Queen Charlotte Walkway as well as search for birdlife on the predator free islands. A visit to Tory Channel brings the whaling history of the Perano Whalers to life. We also plan to visit Ship Cove and learn of its history, exploring the region and visiting Captain Cook's memorial inaugurated in 1913.

Another conservation success story, Blumine Island has seen the translocation of several rare bird species including the once widespread Orange fronted Parakeet, now New Zealand's rarest parakeet, which were translocated to the island between 2011 and 2012. Also thriving on the island are South Island Saddleback, brought back from the brink of extinction last century from just 36 birds rescued in 1964, descendants of these birds were translocated to Blumine Island in 2009.

**Day 6: Saturday 05 December or
Day 6: Thursday 20 May
– d'Urville Island**

Today we sail through the iconic French Pass in the wake of French Explorer Dumont d'Urville and then explore the island named in his honor. The outermost island in the Marlborough Sounds, d'Urville Island features imposing sea cliffs along its west coast, a high mountainous backbone and the fastest moving tidal flows in New Zealand between the French Pass tempered by some of the country's finest peninsular scenery.

Dolphins and New Zealand Fur Seals are frequently seen in the waters surround the island and it was here that Pelorus Jack, the endearing Risso's Dolphin who famously stole the nation's heart, guided ships across the dangerous waters of Cook Strait between 1888 and 1912.

**Day 7 & Day 8: 06 & 07 December or
Day 7 & Day 8: 21 & 22 May
– Pelorus Sound**

The largest in the Marlborough Sounds, Pelorus Sound's main channel winds some picturesque 55 kilometers south between steep verdant hills from Cook Strait to Havelock. Boasting 380 kilometers of shoreline, the endless bays and sheltered coves of Pelorus Sound are perfect for exploration.

Venturing into Pelorus Sound we head to Ngawhakawhiti Bay where nature surrounds us and it's possible to get a glimpse of what the sounds would have been like before the native forest was cleared. The more active are able to enjoy the walking part of the Nydia Track before we explore Nydia Bay. On the final night we will enjoy a farewell dinner and celebrate our adventures.

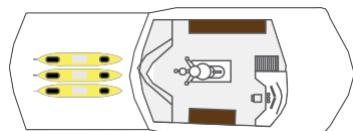
**Day 9: Tuesday 08 December or
Day 9: Sunday 23 May
– Havelock – Nelson – Auckland**

We arrive into the inner reaches of Pelorus Sound this morning. After a final breakfast and farewells, a Zodiac tender takes you ashore at Havelock, where Dennise and our driver will meet us and take us on a scenic transfer, across the hills to Nelson.

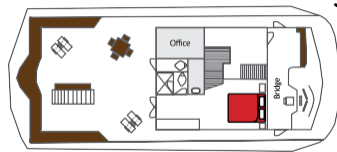
Dennise has planned a couple of special stops including a farewell lunch at The Boathouse before dropping us at Nelson airport for our Air New Zealand return flight home.



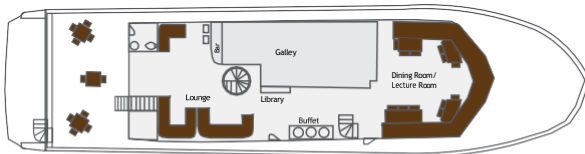
Deck plan and Cabins



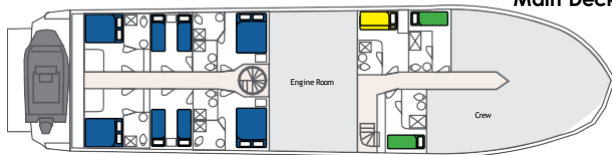
Sun Deck



Bridge Deck



Main Deck



Lower Deck

Royal (Queen bed)

Located on the Bridge Deck, our Master Suite features a spacious bedroom with a queen-sized bed, ample storage with wardrobe and drawers, mirror and washbasin, private en suite, personal climate control, TV, PABX satellite telephone, window and French doors opening out on to the covered Bridge Deck.

Salvin's (Double or twin beds)

Located on the Lower Deck, Salvin's cabins have the option of either a double bed or two lower berths. Both feature ample storage with wardrobe and drawers, TV, PABX satellite telephone, private en suite and a picture porthole.

Buller's (Twin beds)

Located on the Lower Deck, the Buller's cabin features one bunk (one upper and one lower berth), ample storage with wardrobe and drawers, TV, PABX satellite telephone, private en suite and a porthole.

Wandering (Single cabin)

Located on the Lower Deck, Wandering cabins feature one lower single berth, ample storage with wardrobe and drawers, TV, PABX satellite telephone, private en suite and a porthole.



MEET DENNISE

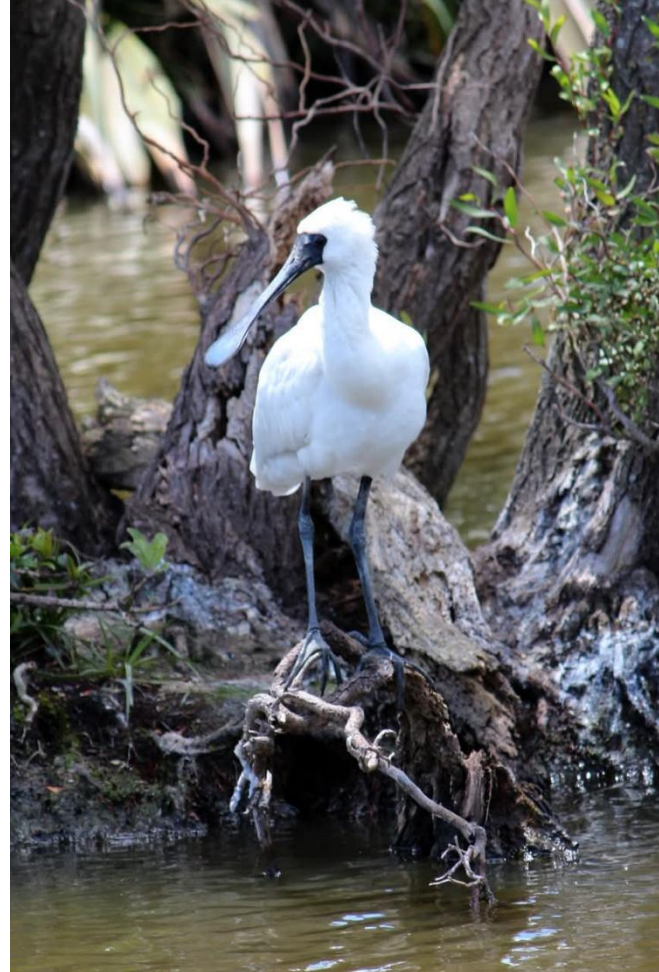
Meet your guide Dennise, a warm, friendly and highly experienced Marlborough local who can't wait to share her love for the Marlborough region with you. Dennise has more than 20 years of experience in the wine industry, including a decade at Cellar Door hosting one of the region's most prestigious wineries. From this she created Little Marlborough Wine Tours, where Dennise has been loving the business and having the chance to show clients around her corner of the world and taking them to some of Marlborough's best wineries to make great memories with amazing people!



HOTEL D'URVILLE

Welcome to Hotel d'Urville, a boutique hotel rich in character, history and genuine hospitality. Located in the heart of Blenheim, Hotel d'Urville is set within the beautifully restored 1920s Art Deco Public Trust Building, offering a unique blend of heritage charm and modern comfort. Original features including the buildings, historic vaults and impressive safe doors have been carefully preserved, creating a stay unlike any other in Marlborough. Hotel d'Urville offers an intimate and welcoming experience, with each room featuring its own distinctive personality, thoughtfully designed to reflect the character of the building while providing all the comforts of a boutique stay.





FLY-RUISE PRICES Cabin Type (Named after Albatross Species)	8 Night 9 Day – Wine, Food & Sounds 02 December 2026 & 15 May 2027
Buller’s Twin – Bunk Beds	\$7675
Salvin’s Double/Twin	\$8250
Wandering Single	\$8895
Royal Suite	\$9595



Price includes:

- Return Air New Zealand flights
- Two nights at boutique Hotel d’Urville
- Daily Breakfast
- Entry & Private tour of Omaka Aviation Museum
- Blenheim Wine Country Day tour with wine tasting high tea
- Special Wine-matched Bon Voyage Dinner experience
- 6 night Marlborough Sounds Discover cruise on Heritage Explorer
- All yacht cabins with private facilities
- Breakfast, Lunch and wine-matched Dinner daily on cruise
- Full beverage service onboard
- Daily briefings with expedition leader
- Shore-trips, excursions, walks and kayaking

Fares are in NZ\$ per person, sharing twin/double room/cabin, subject to minimum numbers. Non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per person. Balance of payment due 6 weeks prior to departure. Itinerary may be varied to weather conditions enroute. Special conditions apply.



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