

# Romantic Short Breaks

## Coastal Retreats



This perfect honeymoon itinerary includes the very best of the top of the South Island. Starting in Nelson and crossing to the West Coast where the mountains of the Southern Alps meet the crashing waves. From here, a scenic drive across the island to Christchurch. Head north to Kaikoura, famed for its whales, dolphins, seals and birds and great views. Stay at 3 romantic cottages and enjoy peaceful seclusion with a bit of pampering and some great day trips.



### At a glance

**Duration:** 9 days, 8 nights

**Connection points:**

Picton Ferry or Nelson Airport and Christchurch airport

**Activity level:** moderate

**Best season:** October-April

### Driving times

Motueka - Charleston: 3 1/2 hours

Charleston - Christchurch: 3 hours

Christchurch - Kaikoura: 2 1/2 hours

Kaikoura - Christchurch: 2 1/2 hours



### COASTAL RETREATS

## Cottages & beaches

### SOUTH ISLAND



### Day 1 - Abel Tasman, Nelson Region

Stay [The Resurgence](#)

Your first night's accommodation is at The Resurgence. Hike the trails, soak in the hot tub and sauna before aperitifs at 7pm.

You can dine with other guests or book a romantic candle-lit table for 2.

### Day 2 - Abel Tasman, Nelson Region

Do [Abel Tasman Charters | Abel Tasman Luxury Boat Cruise](#)

Stay [The Resurgence](#)

Your day on the Abel Tasman aboard a luxury catamaran will be a highlight - kayak, hike, fish, swim or just enjoy the passing marine life that comes to visit.

After dinner, sit out on your very private deck listening to the sounds of cicadas and morepork under the canopy of stars.

### Day 3 - near Punakaiki, West Coast

Stay [Birds Ferry Lodge](#)

Today's drive is very scenic, winding south through the Motueka Valley and the Buller Gorge and to the wild West Coast.

Ferryman's Cottage has privacy and views. Book dinner at the Lodge or a Cottage Dinner for a romantic dinner.

### Day 4 - near Punakaiki, West Coast

Stay [Birds Ferry Lodge](#)

Spend the day relaxing and exploring the grounds and organic gardens at Birds Ferry and go for a short walk amongst seals followed by lunch at Cape Foulwind's Bay House Cafe.

### Day 5 - Christchurch

Stay [The George](#)

A 4 hour drive across Arthur's Pass brings you to Christchurch. Stop at Punakaiki Rocks and Arthur's Pass.

On arrival in Christchurch head to The George and take a stroll in Hagley Park before picking a nearby restaurant for dinner.

### Day 6 - Kaikoura, Canterbury

Stay [The Factory](#)

Travel north along SH1. The Factory, is a lovingly restored 100 year old dairy sited a few minutes north of Kaikoura; a self-contained hide-away between mountains and the sea. Enjoy great views of the Pacific Ocean as you head south and watch out for seals on the rocks.

### Day 7 - Kaikoura, Canterbury

Do [Whale Watch Kaikoura | Whale Watch Cruise](#)

Stay [The Factory](#)

Take a morning trip with Whale Watch for a chance to see Sperm, Pilot, Humpback, Southern Right whales, Orca and even a mighty Blue Whale.

### Day 8 - Kaikoura, Canterbury

Do [Encounter Kaikoura](#) | [Dolphin Encounter](#)

Stay [The Factory](#)

A swim with the dolphins is one of those must-do experiences. Totally interactive these gentle creatures love to play with you. After fish and chips on the beach, take a hike on the Kaikoura peninsula which boasts some stunning ocean views.

### Day 9 - Journey's End

From Kaikoura, drive south back to Christchurch.