

# *Abel Tasman National Park*

*Nelson, New Zealand*

## *Civilised Adventures*

*Walking  
Sea Kayaking  
Beachfront Lodges*



*A family business  
Welcoming visitors since 1841*

**Wilson's** KAYAK, WALK, BOATS & LODGES  
ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK



## Be Our Guest...

The Wilson family has been welcoming visitors to this beautiful corner of New Zealand since 1841. We invite you to share our eight generations of experience, with a real Kiwi welcome, and a promise to make your Abel Tasman experience truly memorable.

Choose how adventurous or relaxed you want your holiday to be. Walking, sea kayaking and boat cruise options are all included. No heavy packs to carry and the comfort of Beachfront, ensuite accommodation at day's end.

The best endorsements come from our Guests. Read highlights from recent TripAdvisor.com reviews:

*"It was a great adventure but the professionalism of the staff made it feel safe as well as exciting!"*

*"If you don't want to walk for the whole there's the option of walking a couple of hours then being picked up by the ferry....They really make an effort to cater to individual needs and preferences."*

*"Well worth it for the convenience of having someone transport all our gear, the excellent accommodation, and food."*

*"The scenery takes your breath away but the additional things you learn along the way from a knowledgeable and experienced guide add even more value to the trip."*

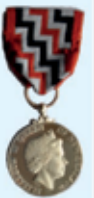
Your Guide has extensive local knowledge to help you design each day around the tides, weather conditions and boat schedules, so groups of different ages, abilities and interests can enjoy a wonderful holiday together.

*"We are both in our early 60s and this was our first kayaking experience but found our guides...very knowledgeable and supportive... We were part of a group of 24 ranging in age from teens to 70 and thoroughly enjoyed their company."*

Find time for yourself, or make new friends.

*"Our guide was really informative and very attentive to each of us... catering for all abilities, but also allowing enough freedom so we didn't feel like we were 'on a tour'"*

In 2008, company co-founder John Wilson was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for services to tourism. From the 2008 NZ Minister for Tourism, Damien O'Connor, "You, your family and staff have been able to set a precedent in tourism quality and environmental responsibility that I know will be an inspiration to other operators in the tourism industry".



Foundation Supporters of the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust  
 ... "So the forests and beaches of Abel Tasman are filled with birdsong"

## History Comes Alive

When you visit Abel Tasman National Park, there is a wealth of colourful human history to be revealed. We show you hidden traces of Maori and European exploration and settlement, with informative anecdotes to bring the stories alive.

We trace our ancestry back to the first European settlers to the Nelson region in 1841. Guests stay at *Meadowbank Homestead* – *Awaroa*, a re-creation of Lynette Wilson's great-grandparents' home. From her grandfather's collections, Lynette has preserved many personal records and photographs of the early Awaroa settlers. Many of these artefacts are on display for guests at *Meadowbank*.

Covering seven generations of her own family's personal stories, Lynette Wilson has captured the romance and hardship of early European settlement in her book "Awaroa Legacy". Copies are available to read in our Lodges and can be purchased from our office or website.

*"This is the expression of a family's pride in their own past and the work that has been done to preserve their stories and life experiences for future generations. The judges (Tasman District Council Cultural Heritage Award 2003) would like to congratulate the Wilson family for the dedication they have shown to preserving the cultural heritage of the area."*

## A Unique Natural Heritage

Let us introduce you to a diverse native forest, ranging from ancient fern-filled grottos to sunny groves of Kanuka showing the remarkable regenerative powers of our forests recovering from historic farming practices. Explore from golden, tree-lined beaches protected by startling granite headlands, to mountain streams cascading through untouched Beech and Podocarp forest.

The diverse habitats of the area provide shelter for many of New Zealand's native forest, estuarine and sea birds. A highlight on the coast is watching the antics of seal pups in the Fur Seal colony at Tonga Island. Another special treat is the possibility of spotting a Little Blue penguin or a school of Bottlenose or Dusky dolphins.

In small groups, following strict Department of Conservation guidelines and keeping environmental impact to a minimum, our team will reveal the hidden wonders of the Park to you.



## Our Beachfront Lodges

On our all-inclusive holidays, nights are spent staying in our lodges right on the beach within the boundaries of the Park, ideally located to explore the length of the spectacular Tasman Bay coast.

Not many people are able to indulge in the comforts of modern living right in the heart of the National Park. We take care of the details so you have more time to switch off and enjoy one of the world's most diverse and picturesque coasts.

Genuine Kiwi hospitality welcomes you at the end of the day with a hot shower in your twin/double ensuite room, fine food freshly prepared and a selection of drinks from the in-house bar.

Share stories with fellow travellers or take a moonlit stroll along the beach to gaze at the stars. Be lulled to sleep by the tides, then awake to birdsong and breakfast served overlooking the gardens by the sea.

Built as eco lodges from sustainable and recycled wood sources, using the latest technologies for efficient power generation and water use, enjoy guilt-free indulgence with modern facilities. Central heating and open fires ensure year-round comfort.

We take care of the details so you can switch off and enjoy.

*"A truly stunning location, and spacious, spotless and very comfortable accommodation. We arrived damp and tired following a day's walking to be welcomed with hot drinks, clothes drying facilities, an open fire and delicious food."*

*We felt we were house guests rather than simply paying customers. It doesn't get much better than this."*

*Independent review on Trip Advisor*



## The Torrent Bay Lodge experience:

Sitting just above the tideline, Torrent Bay Lodge retains all the charm of our family's relaxed holiday home on the edge of a golden beach.

Extended and refurbished, mellowed with natural timbers and tastefully decorated with a nautical theme the Lodge now includes thirteen twin/double ensuite guest rooms and casual dining/living room with French doors opening out to a sundeck on the beach.

The Lodge captures stories of sea faring adventures with each room named after a ship that is part of the nautical heritage of the coast.

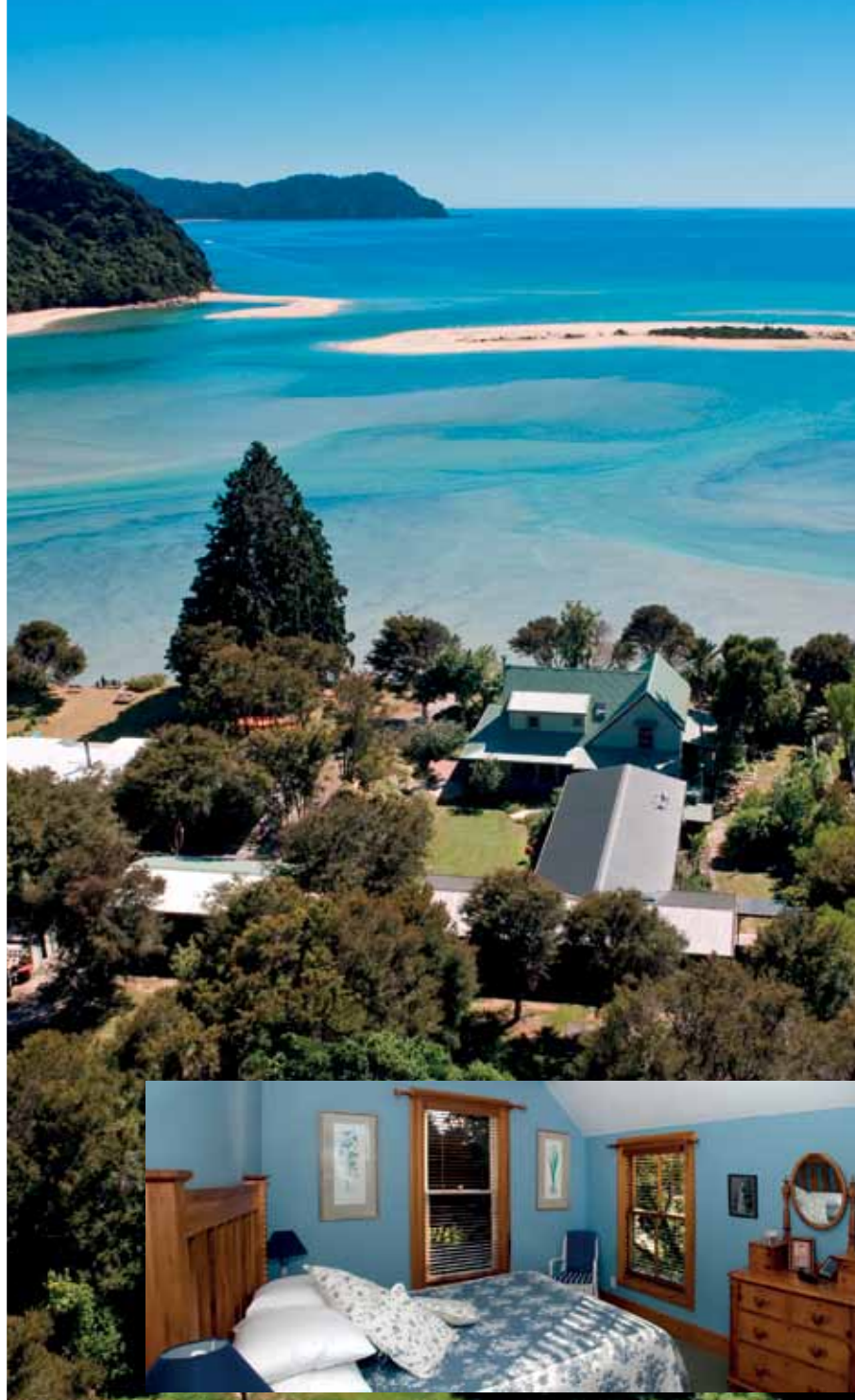
Three generations of our family have been helping visitors explore the fascinating Torrent Bay inlet from our beach house for over 40 years. Welcome to our favourite place.

## Meadowbank Homestead - Awaroa

Originally built in 1884 by William and Adele Hadfield, Meadowbank was the envy of early European settlers, located on the "finest site in Awaroa Bay" to capture the stunning panoramic views and year-round sun on the edge of the inlet.

Over a century later, the Hadfield's great-granddaughter, Lynette Wilson and her family, rebuilt Meadowbank using period windows, doors and timbers to capture the essence of the stately original home. Thirteen twin/double ensuite guest rooms include all the comforts of modern living, set in the original homestead gardens of native trees and English flowers.

Each room is named after a member of William and Adele Hadfield's family who lived in the original homestead. The rooms are decorated with treasured mementos and photographs relevant to each family member.



## Walk Abel Tasman Coastal Track

### All trips

**Day 1:** Coach transfer from Nelson or Motueka. Time for last-minute luggage organisation at our office. Day packs available to borrow or buy. Safe storage for excess baggage and valuables. Off-street parking.

**Final Day:** Our coach meets you at Marahau or Kaiteriteri to transfer you to our Motueka office, then to the airport or your accommodation in Motueka or Nelson. (See Frequently Asked Questions for times)

**Walking each day is optional.** If you don't wish to walk you are welcome to travel on any of our scheduled boat services.

### Five Day Walk It's all here waiting

- Five days to walk the length of the Abel Tasman Coastal Track between Marahau to Totoranui.
- Includes two days to explore further into the National Park, experience an introduction to sea kayaking or simply relax on the beach.
- Two nights at each of our two Beachfront Lodges.

#### Day 1

*Nelson / Motueka to Awaroa via Totoranui*

- Cruise the azure waters of the coast, Kaiteriteri to Totoranui (2 hrs).
- Walk through isolated northern forest and along spectacular beaches to historic *Meadowbank Homestead - Awaroa* (2½ hrs / 7kms).

#### Day 2

*Explore Awaroa*

- Walk up to 4 hrs (8 kms) or sheltered water kayaking (tides permitting).
- Relax or explore the largest tidal estuary in the Park.
- Visit early European and pre-European historical sites.
- Enjoy the comforts of *Meadowbank Homestead - Awaroa* on the beach, surrounded by living history.

#### Day 3

*Awaroa to Torrent Bay*

- Total walking time approx. 6 hrs (17 kms).
- Walk from Awaroa over the Tonga Saddle to Onetahuti.
- Relax on the golden sand beach flanked by impressive granite headlands.
- Visit Tonga Quarry historic site.
- Stop for lunch at Bark Bay with time to relax, explore, swim or sunbathe on the golden sand.
- In the afternoon, enjoy a succession of magnificent views of headlands, estuaries and beaches, framed by native forest.
- Cross the swing bridge at Falls River then continue on the tree-lined track to Torrent Bay Lodge.



## Day 4

### Explore Torrent Bay

- Walk up to 5 hrs (10 kms) or canoe (tides permitting). Options include:
- Walk through breathtaking first generation forest, up to the waterfalls on Falls River;
  - Canoe in the estuary or walk to tranquil Cleopatra's Pool;
  - Walk to the protected golden beaches of Anchorage & Te Pukatea and visit historic Maori sites at Pitt Head;
  - Relax and enjoy the beach-side character of Torrent Bay Lodge.

## Day 5

### Torrent Bay to Motueka / Nelson

- Total walking time approx. 4-5 hrs (13-16 kms).
- Well graded final section of track with spectacular views across Tasman Bay to Nelson and the Marlborough Sounds.
- Stop for lunch at a protected golden beach with views to Adele and Fisherman's Islands.
- Our bus awaits at Marahau: the end of the coastal track.

## Three Day Walk

### If time is short

- Three days to walk the length of the Coastal Track between Marahau to Totaranui.
- One night at each of our two Beachfront Lodges.

Guided and Self-Guided options available. Itinerary same as days one, three and five of the 5-Day Walk.

May be reversed on some departures.

## Two Day Walk

### For those on a tight schedule

We would strongly recommend that you join us for a minimum of 2 nights to truly experience the Park. Two-day/one-night Walks are available on request. We will discuss your requirements and suggest the best itinerary based on interests and available date.

### Departures:

5 Day Trips:..... Every Tuesday. Friday departures on request.

3 Day Trips:..... Mon, Fri, Sat & Sunday (Southbound)

..... Wednesday (Northbound)

2, 4 & 5 Day Trips

Departure dates can be customised, subject to availability

*Please note direction of travel may be reversed for some departures.*

*"I was concerned about being part of some kind of rigid formulaic 'group tour'. Nothing could have been more different."*

*"I was a little unsure about taking a guided trip. Well, not only did I find all the details taken care of, I experienced a whole new dimension and context that I would have missed hiking alone."*



## Sea Kayak and Walk Abel Tasman Coast

### The Sea Kayaking Experience

When sea and weather conditions are calm, sea kayaking is easy. Abel Tasman is renowned for its protected coast but it is impossible to guarantee conditions. It might be necessary to paddle against the wind to the nearest beach. Our guides provide full training. If their instructions are followed, kayaking is safe and fun. Double kayaks are used for stability and the advantage of having two people sharing the paddling effort. If you are not enjoying the experience you are welcome to join the guided walk or travel on one of our boats. Your guide can plan each day to suit.

#### All trips

**Day 1:** Coach transfer from Nelson or Motueka. Time for last-minute luggage organisation at our office. Day packs available to buy or borrow. Safe storage for excess baggage and valuables. Off-street parking.

**Final Day:** Our coach meets you to transfer you to our Motueka office, then to the airport or your accommodation in Motueka or Nelson. (See Frequently Asked Questions for times)

## Five Day Sea Kayak and Walk The best of everything

- Two days sea kayaking the protected Southern Bays.
- One day walking the spectacular isolation of the Northern beaches.
- Two days to explore further into the National Park, or relax and enjoy the comforts of our Beachfront Lodges.
- Two nights at each of our two Beachfront Lodges.

#### Day 1

*Nelson / Motueka to Awaroa via Tataranui*

- Cruise the azure waters of the coast, Kaiteriteri to Tataranui (2 hrs).
- Walk through isolated northern forest and along spectacular beaches to historic *Meadowbank Homestead - Awaroa* (2½ hrs / 7 kms).

#### Day 2

*Explore Awaroa*

- Walk up to 4 hrs (8 kms) or sheltered kayaking.
- Relax or explore the largest tidal estuary in the Park.
- Visit early European and pre-European historical sites.
- Enjoy the comforts of *Meadowbank Homestead - Awaroa* on the beach, surrounded by living history.

#### Day 3

*Awaroa to Torrent Bay*

- Walk over the Tonga Saddle to Onetahuti (1½ hrs / 5 kms) where your guide will settle you into your kayaks for a full training session.
- Sea Kayak from Onetahuti to Torrent Bay, stopping for lunch on a golden beach along the way (4 hrs / 10 kms).
- If conditions allow, visit the seal colony at Tonga Island.



**Day 1**  
 Walk - Tataranui to Awaroa 2½ hrs (7 kms)

**Day 2** - Explore Awaroa  
 Up to 4 hrs (8 kms)

**Day 3** - Walk Awaroa to Onetahuti  
 1½ hrs (5 kms)

**Day 3** - Kayak Onetahuti to Torrent Bay  
 4 hrs (10 kms)

**Day 4** - Explore Torrent Bay  
 up to 5 hrs / 10 kms

**Day 5** - Kayak Torrent Bay to Kaiteriteri  
 4½ hrs (12 kms)

**Day 1**  
 Cruise Kaiteriteri to Tataranui - 2 hrs

- Sealed Roads
- Other walking Tracks
- Rivers



## Day 4

### Explore Torrent Bay

Walk up to 5 hrs (10 kms) or canoe (tides permitting). Options include:

- Walk through breathtaking first generation forest, up to the waterfalls on Falls River;
- Canoe in the estuary or walk to tranquil Cleopatra's Pool;
- Walk to the protected golden beaches of Anchorage and Te Pukatea and visit historic Maori sites at Pitt Head;
- Relax and enjoy the beach-side character of Torrent Bay Lodge.

## Day 5

### Torrent Bay to Motueka / Nelson

- Beach-hop from Torrent Bay to Kaiteriteri or Marahau depending on tides and weather conditions (4 hrs / 12 kms).
- Visit offshore islands and explore hidden coves.
- Your bus awaits for transport to Motueka or Nelson.

## Three Day Sea Kayak and Walk

### If time is short

- Two days sea kayaking the protected Southern Bays.
- One day walking the spectacular isolation of the Northern beaches.
- One night at each of our Beachfront Lodges.

Itinerary is the same as days one, three and five of the 5-day Sea Kayak and Walk, and may be reversed on some departures.

## Two Day Sea Kayak

### For those on a tight schedule

- Sea kayak the protected Southern bays between Onetahuti and Kaiteriteri.
- One night to enjoy the comfort of Torrent Bay Lodge on the beachfront.
- Launch cruise Onetahuti - Kaiteriteri.

### Departures:

5 Day Trips:..... Every Tuesday. Friday departures on request.

3 Day Trips:..... Mon, Fri, Sat & Sunday (Southbound)

..... Wednesday (Northbound)

2, 4 & 5 Day Trips

Departure dates can be customised, subject to availability

*Please note direction of travel may be reversed for some departures.*

*"From the beginning we were all made to feel special...always felt we were in very capable hands. The pace and length of each day was bang on"*

*"What a fantastic breakaway. Total relaxation, fantastic scenery, wonderful guides and hospitality at the Lodges. What more could you want!"*



## Frequently Asked Questions

**What time do we start and finish?** Please call 0800 223 582 to confirm pick up point and time.

**Coach pick up:** Nelson 10.15 - 11.00 am, Nelson Airport 10.45 am or Motueka 11.30 am. Meet at our Motueka Office 11.30 am.

**Wednesday Departures Only:** Nelson pick up 7.15 - 7.45 am. Motueka meeting 8.15 am.

**Final Day:** Return to Motueka by 4.30 pm and Nelson by 5.30 - 6.00 pm. If these times do not suit, please contact us to personalise your start/finish times.

### What's the weather like?

The Abel Tasman region enjoys New Zealand's highest number of sunshine hours. Rainfall is low and spread through the year. Summer daily temperatures range around 13-25°C. Winter daily temperatures range 4-15°C and are usually very calm, sunny, crisp and clear – ideal for both walking and kayaking.

**When is the best time to visit the National Park?** Abel Tasman National Park is accessible year round. The coast is always at its best. Most native trees are evergreens, so all seasons are colourful. Sea breezes in summer and sun in winter keep temperatures within a comfortable range.

**Should I book the Walk or Kayak and Walk Trip?** If you're going to try kayaking, this is the place to do it. There is the ability to opt out along the way and join the walk if you find kayaking not to your liking. Sea kayaking requires specialist guides and equipment so must be booked at least 24 hours in advance. If unsure – book our 5 Day Walk as this includes optional sheltered water kayaking on days 2 & 4.

**How hard will it be?** Abel Tasman National Park Coast Track is well formed and well graded - no point higher than 200 metres. For Sea Kayaking, average upper body strength but no experience is necessary. Your guide provides comprehensive training. We can adjust the amount of walking or kayaking that you do each day. Perhaps a few training walks or paddles would be helpful if you are out of practise.

**Do I have to carry a pack?** No need to carry heavy packs. You carry only lunch, water and personal requirements in your own day pack or borrow/buy one from us on the morning of departure.

**What happens to my luggage?** Your overnight luggage is transported to our lodges by boat. Therefore, we do require you to re-pack your luggage into an overnight bag that we supply (sports bag 47cm x 35cm x 25cm). Please line these bags with plastic before you pack them. *If we know where you are staying the night before your trip with us, bag and liner will be delivered to your accommodation.* On the first day of your trip at our Motueka office, you will be fully briefed and there is time for last-minute luggage organisation. We have a lock-up for excess luggage, and a safe for small valuables.

**What happens to my car?** We will direct you to off-street parking from our Motueka office on the first day of your trip.

**What meals are included?** From morning tea on Day 1 to lunch on your final day: full breakfast, morning and afternoon tea, packed lunch and 3-course dinners are created by your host to include as much organic and free-range produce as possible. Fresh fruit available at all times. A selection of regional wines and beer can be purchased at each Lodge. We run a bar tab for you, so there is no need to carry money.



# Why Travel With The Wilsons?

## **Local knowledge and experience**

We are direct descendants of the first European settlers to this region. With eight generations of experience, we have a commitment to showing you the best of Abel Tasman National Park whilst preserving its unique beauty for future generations.

## **Variety and flexibility**

Can't find your ideal itinerary in our brochure? We can personalise a holiday to suit your interests, abilities and schedules. Please contact us to discuss.

## **We operate year round**

Some of our best trips and itineraries for special-interest groups, weddings, parties and team-building retreats take place in the quieter months, April to September.

## **Guided or Self-Guided**

All kayaking is guided and most walking trips are accompanied by a Guide. We recommend the added security and fun provided by our professional Guides. If you would like more independence, book our 3-Day Self-Guided Walk.

## **Walking, Sea Kayaking or Relaxing**

As the only company in Abel Tasman National Park operating Beachfront Lodges, Vista Cruise, Vigour Water Taxis, Guided Sea Kayaking and Walking we can design the perfect holiday for you. If you are part of a group, you can each book the option that suits your interests and abilities, either our Walking or Sea Kayak and Walk Trip. Your Guide can adjust the amount of kayaking or walking to help you make the most of each day. There is always the choice to simply relax on the beach and catch one of our scheduled boat services to all meet up at day's end.

## **All trips include a boat cruise**

View this spectacular granite coast from another dimension. Your trip starts (Southbound) or finishes (Northbound) with a boat cruise, including full commentary. Travel past spectacularly sculptured headlands and offshore islands with views across Tasman Bay to Nelson and D'Urville Island. Visit the seal colony on Tonga Island. Watch out for sea birds. If you are lucky, you might see penguins and dolphins. Aboard the Vista Cruise there are hot drinks, covered or open deck areas and bathroom facilities.

## **Environmental Awareness**

We have a strict environmental policy, aiding Department of Conservation and local communities to preserve the unique cultural and natural features of our special coast.

- We are founding members of the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust - set up to remove pest species and encourage bird breeding to fill the park with birdsong.
- Small groups ensure minimal impact on the wilderness environment.
- Vista Cruise, state of the art catamaran designed to minimise effects on the national park environment.
- Eco Lodges, built from recycled timber and wood from renewable forests, use less power to provide modern comforts.
- Solar assisted power generation.
- Rubbish removal and bio-tech sewerage systems minimise waste.
- Locally sourced ingredients to create inspired meals.



## What To Bring

Items marked \* are available to buy at our office

Bring quick-dry clothing, if possible: thermal fibres, polar fleece or wool. Avoid cotton, especially denim, for hiking or kayaking.

### Day Pack\*

- Essential personal medication
- Sandshoes or sports sandals for tidal crossings (they will get wet). Jandals (flip-flops, scuffs, thongs etc.) are NOT suitable
- Comfortable sports/hiking shoes
- Waterproof parka with hood (disposable rain coat\*)
- Warm sweater or polar fleece
- Kayakers will need a change of clothing
- Swim wear and towel (optional)
- Sun hat\*, sunscreen\* and insect repellent\*
- Sunglasses
- Lunch and water bottle (supplied by us)
- Camera
- To reduce litter, no tissues or paper towels. Bring cotton handkerchiefs
- Thermal underwear (even in summer) is highly recommended

### Lodge Luggage Bag

- Underwear, including socks and sleepwear
- Spare set of hiking clothes
- Casual evening clothes, including a warm layer for cool evenings
- Light lodge shoes (slippers)
- Personal toiletries
- Flashlight/torch\*

Electrical appliances (eg. hair dryers, battery chargers, razors, sleep apnoea machines) can be used with our off-grid power system.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE INTO THE PARK valuable jewellery, wallets, essential paperwork (travel documents, passports etc). Small items can be kept in a safe in our office.

CELL PHONES & WiFi: Cellular voice and data is intermittent, depending on your service provider. There is no cellular coverage north of Awaroa. Project Janszoon conservation trust has set up Wifi hotspots at our Lodge and at main beaches. Access to this Wifi requires a NZ\$5 donation to the Trust, payable by credit card.

### We Supply

As well as a wonderful holiday experience, with skilled, friendly guides, chefs and boat crew, we supply:

- ALL food (see Frequently Asked Questions)
- Share twin/double accommodation with ensuite bathroom
- Bedding and towels at lodges
- Lodge luggage bag (yours to keep) and luggage transfers
- Use of a Day Pack
- Boat cruise
- Bus transfers to and from Motueka or Nelson
- For kayakers, all technical and safety equipment is provided, including stable double kayaks, water resistant paddling tops, buoyancy vests, dry bags.

## Payment and Conditions

**Deposit** - \$100 deposit required to secure reservation.

**Final Payment** - Due 60 days prior to tour departure date.

### Cancellations:

- 91+ days prior to departure – no cancellation fee
- 90-60 days prior to departure - NZD100.00 per person
- 59-30 days prior to departure - 30% of total package cost
- 29-10 days prior to departure - 50% of total package cost
- 9-0 days prior to departure - 100% of total package cost
- After tour commencement - no refund available

Once your trip has commenced there is no refund available for any portion due to any circumstances.

Any decision regarding any exception to the stated policy above will be made entirely at the sole discretion of the Operator.

**Conditions** - All departures are subject to a minimum of 4 people. Prices are subject to tariff increase. The operators reserve the right to alter, amend or cancel any tour should weather or any other situation demand this. Wilsons Abel Tasman finalise all tour arrangements upon the express condition that they will not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, either by reason of weather, or any defect in vehicle, vessel or aircraft or through the acts or defaults of any company or persons engaged in conveying passengers or in carrying out the arrangements of the tours.

**Travel insurance is strongly advised.**

**Wilsons Abel Tasman - the trading name of Wilsons Abel Tasman National Park Ltd.**



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