

# Civilised Adventures

Walking, Sea Kayaking & Beachfront Lodges  
Abel Tasman National Park, New Zealand



0800 223 582  
[www.abeltasman.co.nz](http://www.abeltasman.co.nz)

**Wilson's**  
ABEL TASMAN 






# Our Heritage

We're proud to be a family owned business connected with the Abel Tasman area for eight generations, welcoming guests since 1841.





Our story starts in the mid 1800s with pioneering farmers, sailors and builders, and continues today through our acclaimed adventure company anchored on responsible, sustainable tourism.

When John and Lynette Wilson launched their boat service in Abel Tasman National Park in 1977, they continued a legacy of coastal journeys and adventure dating back more than a century.

Back in 1841, Lynette Wilson's great-great-great grandparents – the Newths and the Snows – sailed

from England with the first British settlement fleet to Nelson. Young Amelia Newth is said to have waded ashore, impatient to make landfall ahead of the official landing party.

Lynette's great-grandparents, William and Adele Hadfield, were the first European farmers in the Awaroa inlet (now within the boundaries of Abel Tasman National Park).

Today, the Wilson family owns and operates Wilsons Abel Tasman, with three generations of the family involved in the award winning business.

**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".**



# Abel Tasman National Park

## A Unique Natural Heritage

Abel Tasman is New Zealand's smallest national park, perfectly formed for relaxation and civilised adventures.

With the Wilson family, you can explore this coastal paradise from land or water, and stay in comfortable accommodation each night.

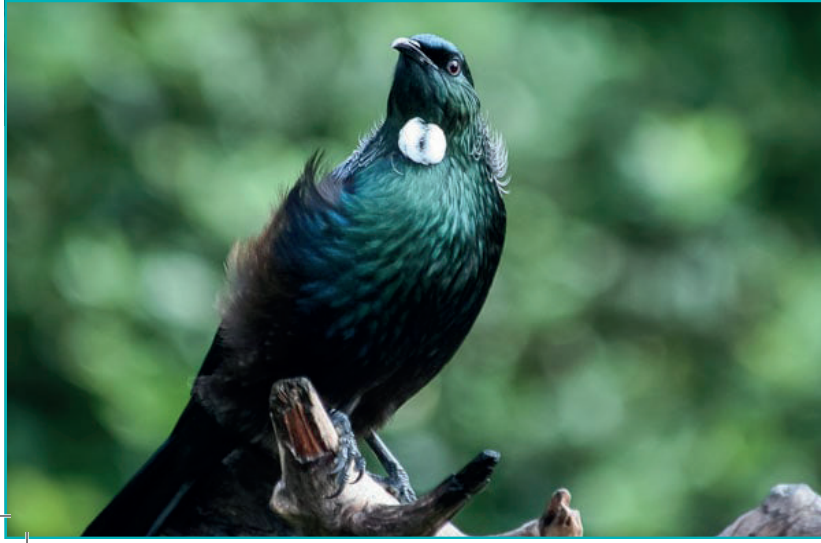
Inviting sandy beaches fill the spaces between forest and sea. Crystal streams tumble down mossy valleys. Sculpted granite headlands are cloaked in lush native forest, ringing with bird song.

Wilson's Abel Tasman were founding members of the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust in 2007. This charitable trust ensures that the forests and beaches of the national park are filled with birdsong to awaken and delight visitors.

Native ducks, the NZ robin and Kaka (the world's most charismatic parrot) are returning to the park. Penguins, seals and cormorants benefit from the improved environment. Dolphins sometimes choose to visit.









# Be Our Guest

Welcome to our two lodges located right on the beach in Abel Tasman National Park.

Hosting guests at our own private lodges within a New Zealand national park is a rare and special privilege, for which we can thank our forebears who first came to this remote and beautiful corner of Aotearoa. Both Torrent Bay Lodge and Meadowbank Homestead at Awaroa have their own special stories to tell.

Our rich heritage makes your Abel Tasman civilised adventure even more memorable. Genuine Kiwi hospitality welcomes you

with home comforts and delicious meals prepared by our chefs. Let us take care of the details so you have more time to switch off, revive and enjoy one of the world's most picturesque coast.

Our exclusive lodges are designed to host guests on our 3 and 5 day all-inclusive holidays. You can choose to join walkers or guided kayakers, or simply relax on the beach and take a Vista Cruise to the lodges.

*Haere mai ra, e te manuhiri tuarangi – welcome to all our guests.*



## A Rich History Meadowbank Homestead at Awaroa

Each room at Meadowbank features one of the Hadfield family who lived in the original homestead. Diary extracts, photos and treasured mementos tell each person's story.

The original Meadowbank Homestead was built in 1884 by William Hadfield. A home for his wife, Adele, and their children. He chose the 'finest site in Awaroa Bay' for its stunning panoramic views and all-year-round sun on the edge of the inlet.

More than a century later, William's great-granddaughter Lynette Wilson and her family built a replica homestead on the same site, allowing future generations and their guests to enjoy this special place. 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.

*"As the tides ebb and flow, so have people come and gone – each adding their thread to the story of Awaroa."*





## Beachfront Holiday Torrent Bay Lodge

Torrent Bay Lodge began as a small, simple cottage for family holidays – a classic Kiwi ‘bach’ that has evolved over the years to offer a very warm welcome in our slice of paradise.

Hot showers, delicious meals and of course, luxurious beds await! Styled in natural timbers, thirteen double/twin ensuite rooms are named after boats from the nautical history of the Abel Tasman coast.

Find time on your own or join fellow travellers in the informal atmosphere of the lounge and dining area, opening to a sundeck beside the beach.

You won’t want to leave – but there’s more Abel Tasman adventure to be discovered just around the corner...

*“Fantastic organisation. Outstanding, supportive, friendly staff. Excellent lodges. Wonderful food.”*



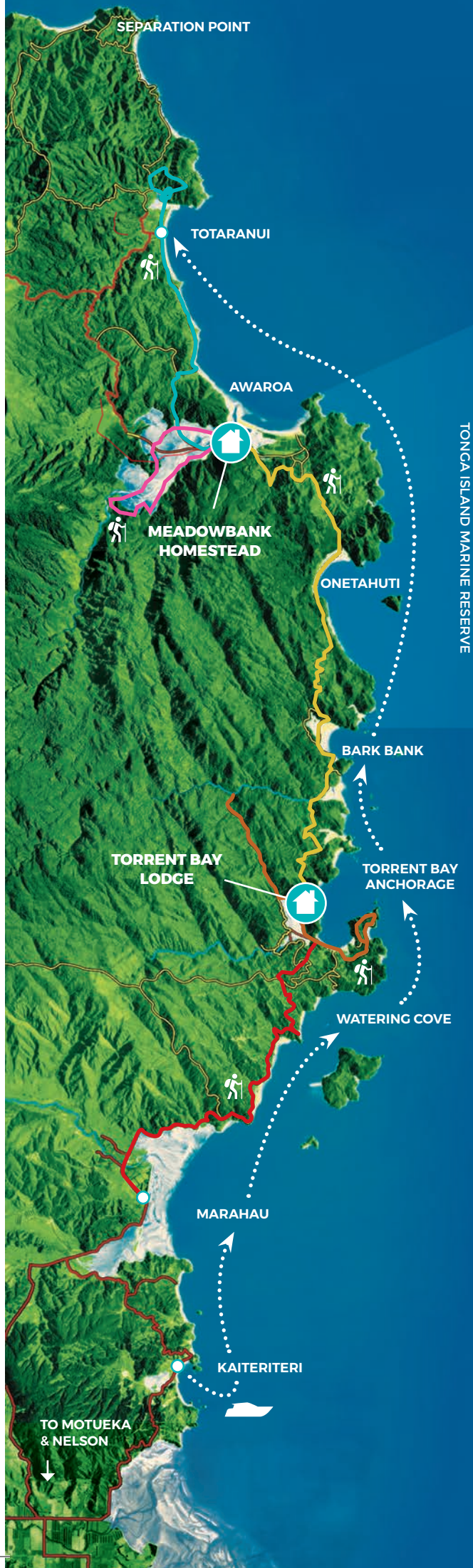




# Five Day Walk

Experience the Abel Tasman Coast between Tataranui and Kaiteriteri with plenty of time to relax, try some kayaking, and explore parts of the national park many visitors don't get to see.

Enjoy modern comforts with two nights at each of our unique beachfront lodges in Torrent Bay and Awaroa.



## 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 at 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 at Awaroa on the beach, surrounded by living history.

## Day 3 Awaroa to Torrent Bay

Maximum walking time approx. 6 hrs (17 kms), divided into three sections. Your guide will arrange boat transfers so you can choose how much walking suits you.

### Section one: Awaroa to Onetahuti and Tonga Quarry

- Walk over the forested Tonga Saddle to Onetahuti.
- Relax on the golden sand beach flanked by impressive granite headlands.
- Visit Tonga Quarry historic site.

### Section two: Tonga Quarry to Bark Bay

- Follow the forested track to your lunch stop at Bark Bay. Time to relax, explore, swim or sunbathe on the golden sand.

### Section three: Bark Bay to Torrent Bay

- 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 treelined 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) can be reduced with boating option.
- 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.



# Walk Abel Tasman Coast Track

The track is well formed with no point higher than 150m. It is mostly shaded by forest with short sections along the golden sands of tidal beaches.

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

## Three Day Guided Walk

Experience the beautiful Abel Tasman coast track from Totaranui to Kaiteriteri at your own walking pace with expert guides and boat back-up if you need it. Enjoy one night each at our wonderful beachfront lodges in Torrent Bay and Awaroa

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

Itinerary same as days one, three and five of the 5-Day Walk. May be reversed on some departures.

## Three Day Self-Guided Walk

Design your own adventure along the Abel Tasman Coast Track, following the same schedule as our guided walks.

Your hosts assist with track notes and advice on weather and tides. Ideal for groups experienced with tidal coastal conditions and want to be independent with the comfort of our beachfront lodges at day's end.

## Your Journey's Start and End

### First Day

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 available.

### 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).

### Departures

**5 Day Trips:** Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Fridays may be available on request.

**3 Day Trips:** Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

**2 and 4 Day Trips** can be customised for you, subject to availability.

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





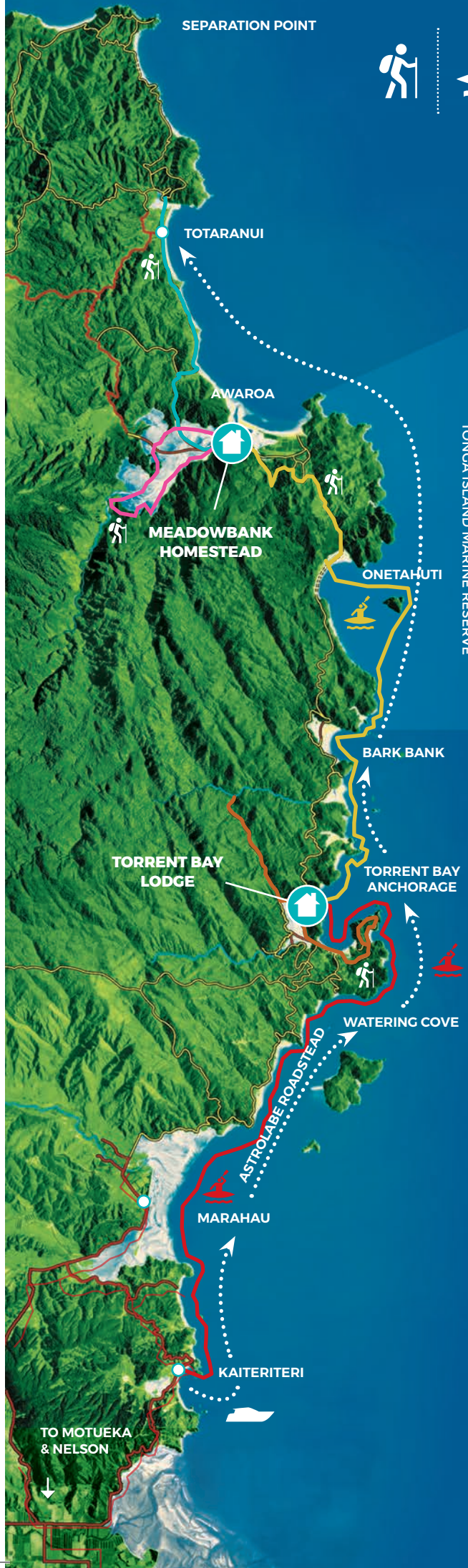
SEPARATION POINT



# Five Day Sea Kayak and Walk

The best combination of kayaking and walking to experience the Abel Tasman Coast. There is plenty of time to relax, or explore parts of the national park many visitors don't get to see. Kayak the sheltered southern bays between Kaiteriteri and Onetahuti. Walk the spectacular isolation of the northern beaches to Tataranui.

Enjoy modern comforts with two nights at each of our unique beachfront lodges in Torrent Bay and Awaroa.



TONGA ISLAND MARINE RESERVE

## 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 at 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 at 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 with full instructions.
- Sea Kayak from Onetahuti to Torrent Bay, stopping for lunch on a golden beach along the way (4 hrs / 10 kms).
- If conditions allow, kayak to the seal colony at Tonga Island.

## 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.

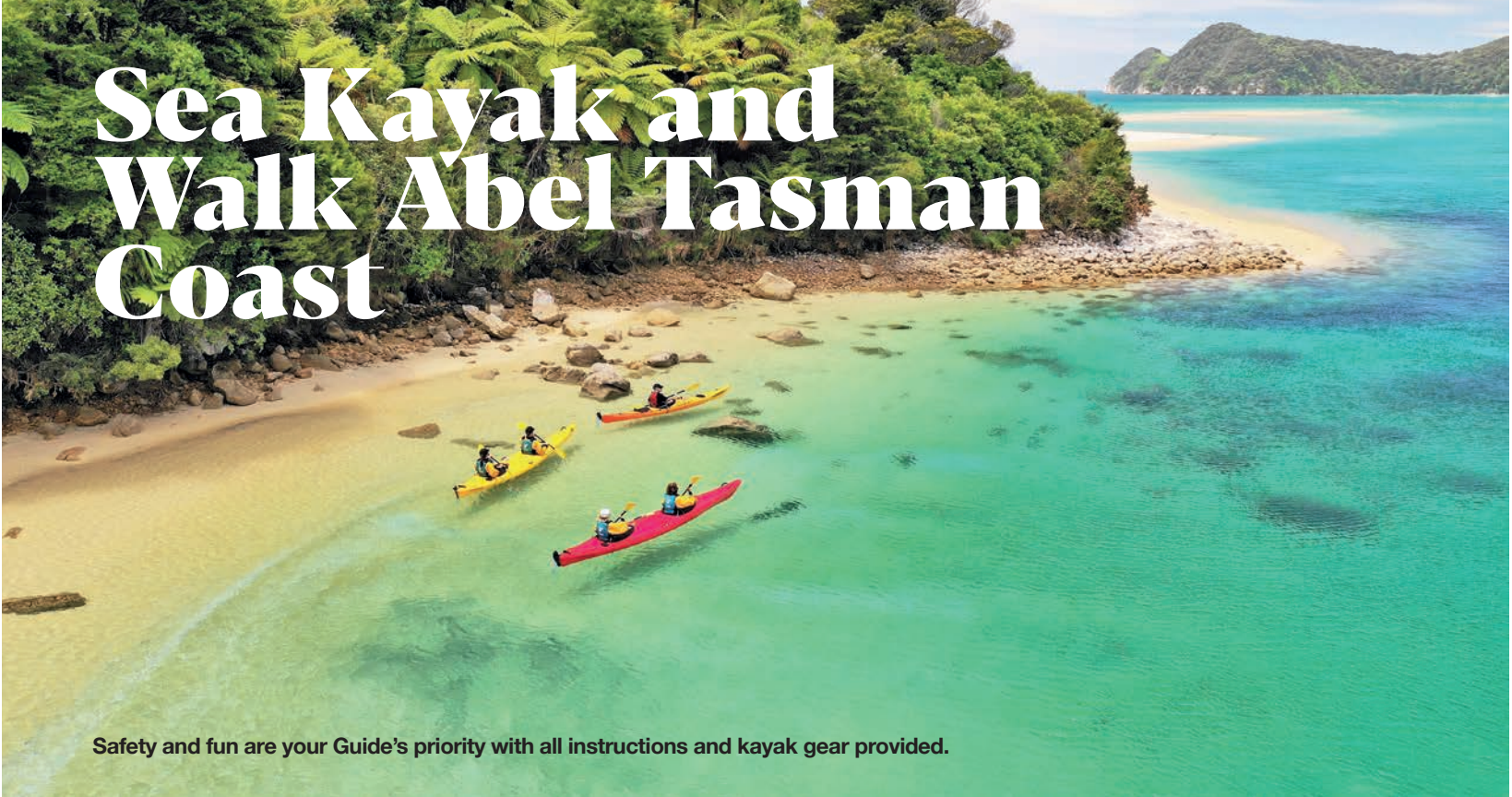
## Day 5 Torrent Bay to Motueka / Nelson

- 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.





# Sea Kayak and Walk Abel Tasman Coast



Safety and fun are your Guide's priority with all instructions and kayak gear provided.

## Three Day Sea Kayak and Walk

Choose how much kayaking and walking you want to do on this fabulous combo trip with one night at each of our beachfront lodges in Torrent Bay and Awaroa.

- Two days sea kayaking the protected Southern Bays.
- One day walking the spectacular isolation of the Northern beaches.
- 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.



## Your Journey's Start and End

### First Day

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 available.

### 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.)

### Departures

5 Day Trips: Every Tuesday. Special departures available on request.

3 Day Trips: Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

2 and 4 Day Trips can be customised for you, subject to availability.

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



# Why Travel With The Wilsons?



## Local knowledge and experience

The Wilson family 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.

## Flexible itineraries

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

Abel Tasman is renowned as the Park for All Seasons. We have the flexibility to create bespoke trips for special-interest groups, weddings, celebrations and team-building retreats.

## Guided or Self-Guided

All overnight trips include ensuite, share-twin accommodation at our beachfront lodges, meals and luggage transfers. Our friendly, professional guides add an extra layer of enjoyment, introducing a landscape full of stories and surprising you with freshly brewed coffee and hot drinks along the track. Safety and fun are their priorities, helping make the most of your day around weather and tides. All kayak trips are guided.

## Walking, Sea Kayaking or Relaxing

We help you design your ideal holiday with our range of boats, lodges, guided sea kayaking and walking options. Groups with varying ages, interests and abilities can book different options and meet up at day's end in the comfort of our lodges. Your guide adjusts the amount of activity to suit you. If you like, relax and take a scenic boat cruise to travel between lodges.







### 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. Cruise via the seal colonies on Tonga and Adele Islands. 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.
- Lodges powered by solar hybrid systems.
- Rubbish removal and bio-tech sewerage systems minimise impacts.
- Locally sourced ingredients to create inspired meals.

### The best endorsements come from our guests:

“I was concerned about being part of some kind of rigid formulaic ‘group tour’. Nothing could have been more different.”

“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.”

“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.”

“Thanks so much we loved the experience. The lovely warm comfortable beds, fluffy towels, beautiful food and friendly helpful staff. You have created a wonderful environment for the enjoyment of this gorgeous coastline.”





# Frequently Asked Questions

## What time do we start and finish?

Please check your confirmation documents for details or call us on 0800 223 582 to confirm.

## Coach pick up:

For most departures, pick up starts in Nelson at 10.15 am, travels via Nelson airport at 10.30 am with pick up in Motueka at 11.15 am.

## Self Drive:

Meet at our Motueka office 11.30 am (or 8.30 am for early departures).

## Early Departures:

Start with coach pick up in Nelson at 7.00 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 evenly through the year. Summer daily temperatures range around 13-25°C. Winter daily temperatures range from 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?

With its mantle of evergreen forest, Abel Tasman National Park is spectacular, year-round. Sea breezes in summer and sun in winter keep temperatures within a comfortable range.

## Should I book the Walk or Kayak & Walk Trip?

This is the place to try sea kayaking. If you are not sure about kayaking a good alternative is to book the 5 Day Walk. This includes optional sheltered water kayaking on days 2 and 4. If you find kayaking not to your liking, you can opt out and join the walkers or take the boat. Our 5 Day Walk 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 150 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.

## 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. You transfer your luggage into an overnight bag that we supply (sports bag 47cm x 35cm x 25cm).

At our Motueka office, 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?

Off street parking is available at our Motueka office.

## 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 is available to purchase by credit card at our Lodges.

## What To Bring

Items marked \* are available for purchase at our office

Bring quick-dry clothing, if possible: thermal fibres, polar fleece or wool. Avoid cotton, especially denim, for hiking or kayaking. Walking poles can be helpful walking up or down gradients.

## 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\* hand sanitiser\* and insect repellent\*
- Sunglasses
- Lunch (supplied by us)
- Water bottle\*
- Camera
- To reduce litter, no tissues or paper towels. Bring cotton handkerchiefs
- Thermal underwear (even in summer) is highly recommended Lodge

\* indicates available to buy at our office.

## 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, essential paperwork (travel documents, passports etc). Small items can be kept in a safe in our office. There are no cash facilities in the Park. You will need credit card details to run a bar tab, and for Wifi.

CELL PHONES & WiFi: Cellular voice and data is intermittent, depending on your service provider. Project Janszoon conservation trust has set up Wifi hotspots at our Lodges 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
- Hair dryers
- 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.

Cost is on a twin-share basis. Solo travellers might share a room with another person of the same gender. To guarantee a room to yourself, a single-supplement may be added.

### Cancellation Fees:

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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