



Driftwood TOURS

Chatham Islands – D’Urville Island – Molesworth & Rainbow Stations
Mt White Station – Golden Bay – Kaikōura – St Arnaud – West Coast



Beyond where most travel, with the people who know it best



The Driftwood difference

Our unique tours set us apart from the rest

We go to places that are challenging to reach independently

Just getting there is an adventure in itself. Whether travelling over long, remote gravel roads, across the waters of French Pass, or over the Pacific Ocean, when you get there, you'll be glad it was us taking care of the journey. Our destinations are deep in the rural heartland of New Zealand, where visitors often need permission, as well as a helping hand from the locals, just to access these special places.

Providing experiences you just can't arrange yourself

Safely at the destination, you might get to stay at the local Mayor's guest house, get a guided tour of a bird sanctuary from the lead research scientist, or be there right when the shepherds bring thousands of sheep back to the yard. We've got the connections and relationships to show you something special, everywhere we go.

And help you meet the locals who make rural New Zealand so special

Behind the magnificent landscapes, flora and fauna, are the fascinating stories and warm hospitality of the locals. Sharing a chat during the day, or over a drink and home-cooked meal, adds a genuine feeling of connection to these unique destinations.

Everything taken care of, so you can simply enjoy the experience

Travel in comfort, in private, modern, air-conditioned, 4WD vehicles, exclusive charter vessels and local aircraft.

Very small groups, of only 6-8 guests (12 for Chathams) allowing flexibility for your interests and local weather conditions.

Professional, friendly guides with local knowledge to help you get the most out of your tour.

Locally sourced and prepared meals, including high country honey, beef & lamb plus farm grown produce.



St James Horse Sale

4-day tour

- Biennial event in January
- Meet farmers, horses & horse lovers from all over NZ
- Authentic farm experiences



D'Urville Island

6-day tour

- Boat across French Pass
- Fishing & birdwatching
- Scenic flight
- Exclusive local access



Molesworth fly-in

4-day tour

- Return private flights ex Kāpiti
- Arrive directly into a high country station.
- 4WD farm tours, scenic walks



Mt White & Canterbury High Country

5-day tour

- Stay at Mt White Station
- Station tour by 4WD
- Hands-on beekeeping
- Scenic flight over the Station



Molesworth & Rainbow High Country

6-day tour

- Visit NZ's largest farm
- 4WD farm tours
- Drive the iconic Rainbow Road
- Scenic walks & side trips



Chatham Islands

8-day tour

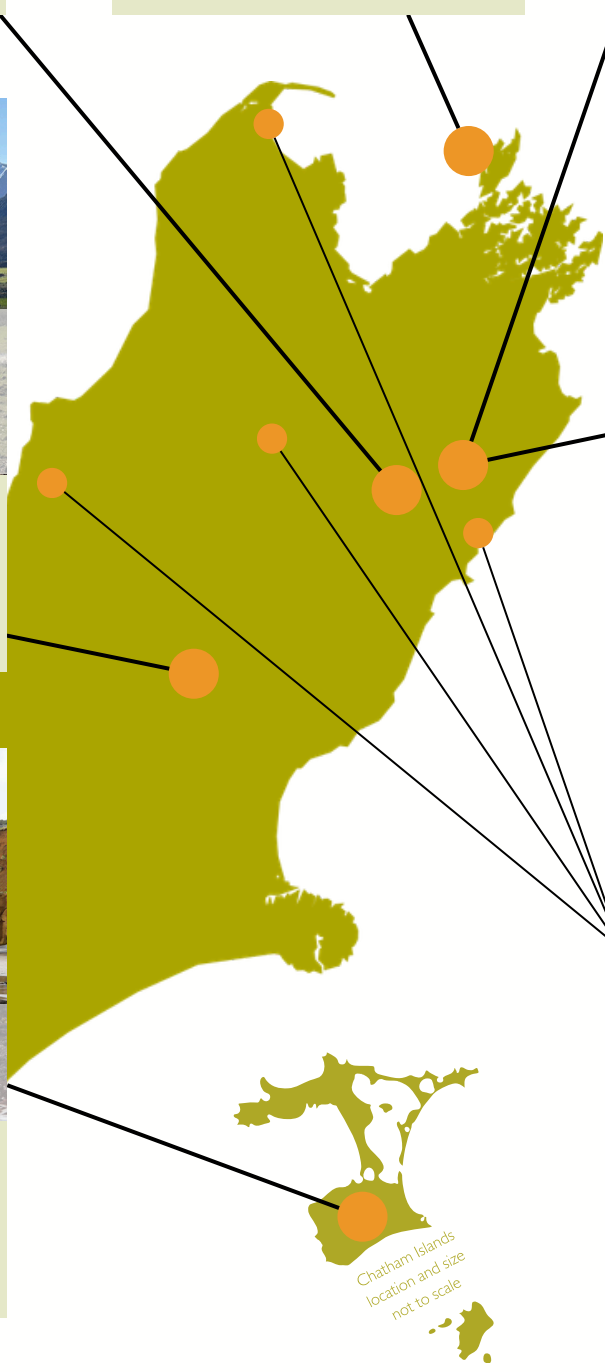
- Return flights ex Wellington
- Fishing & Birdwatching
- Charter boat to Pitt Island
- Exclusive access locations



Other Destinations

4 to 8 day tours

- Golden Bay
- Kaikōura
- St Arnaud
- West Coast



021 399 137



driftwoodecotours.co.nz



Driftwood
TOURS

We're always improving our tours - visit our website for the latest itineraries and prices



Chatham Islands

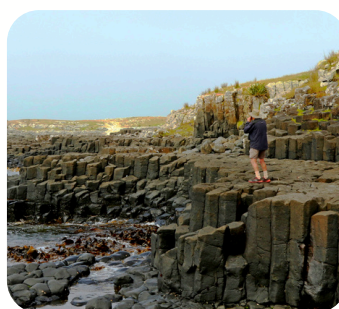
8-day tour

Rēkohu/Wharekauri, or Chatham Islands, are one of the most intriguing and hauntingly beautiful archipelagos in the South Pacific

Explore the island and its lagoon system, experience the weather and remoteness, and learn about the fateful history that has shaped the lives of all who live there. From rugged landscapes to fascinating cultural history, these remote islands offer a one-of-a-kind experience.

Known to the indigenous Moriori people as 'The Misty Sun,' this remote archipelago offers a rare glimpse into a seldom visited world, filled with birdlife, classic kiwi characters and incredible history. During our 8-day small group guided journey we'll discover the breathtaking natural landscapes, uncover the island's fascinating history, and listen to captivating stories shared by locals.

Relax at a comfortable lodge and enjoy a seamless, stress-free experience as our friendly and knowledgeable local guides take care of every detail, creating a welcoming atmosphere with like-minded travellers who share your interests.



Quick facts

Group size: Min 10 / Max 12

Starts and ends at: Wellington Airport

Destinations: Chatham Island and Pitt Island

Visit our website for pricing & departures.
Standard terms, conditions and exclusions apply.



Tour inclusions

- Return flights with Air Chathams ex Wellington
- Airport check-in assistance with a Driftwood representative
- 7 nights in a private lodge, twin-share with ensuite
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners (home-cooked)
- Full day tour to Pitt Island
- Guided vehicle tours and a boat charter for fishing and birdwatching with a local expert
- Exclusive access to private properties and lesser-known attractions

WE DONATE
\$1,000
PER TOUR TO THE
CHATHAM ISLANDS
LANDSCAPE
RESTORATION TRUST

Spaces are limited, get in touch today!



D'Urville Island

6-day tour

One of New Zealand's most interesting and remote corners, with rich history, remarkable conservation efforts, stunning scenery and local characters

Although just off the tip of the Marlborough Sounds, D'Urville Island is a challenge to access. Guarded by the famously turbulent waters of French Pass, those who make the effort are rewarded by rugged scenery, abundant wildlife, fascinating history and genuine connections with the locals.

You'll stay on a remote coastal farm, where your accommodation is set in the very location that inspired the book *Angelina: From Stromboli to D'Urville*. It's a place with its own stories, and a fitting base for exploring the island.

During your time here, you'll meet locals, hear stories of the island's past, and experience the natural environment up close. There's the chance to try blue cod fishing, spot dolphins and rare birdlife, and take in the island from above on a scenic flight. Join us on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to D'Urville Island and be guided around one of New Zealand's most fascinating and difficult to access islands.



Quick facts

Group size: Min 6 / Max 8

Starts and ends at: Havelock

Nelson pick-up and drop-off available

Destinations: Havelock, Okiwi Bay, French Pass and D'Urville Island

Visit our website for pricing & departures.
Standard terms, conditions and exclusions apply.



Tour inclusions

- Pick-up and drop-off from Nelson available on request (set times)
- 5 nights twin-share accommodation (shared facilities)
- All transport throughout the tour
- 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- All activities as described, including scenic flight and fishing
- Access to private properties and remote areas

WE DONATE
\$800
PER TOUR TO THE
D'URVILLE ISLAND
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION



Molesworth & Rainbow High Country

6-day tour

Travel through the heart of rural New Zealand, along back roads, into remote valleys, to experience places most travellers never reach

Experience the high country of the upper South Island – from the wide open landscapes of Molesworth Station to the remote alpine tracks of the Rainbow Road. Stay at a high country station and spend time with the people who live and work there. Hear their stories firsthand and get to know the places that most simply pass through.

Your journey is led by a guide who grew up in this region, with local knowledge and personal stories from a lifetime spent here.

Travelling in a small group, we take our time – with plenty of opportunities for short walks, photo stops, and simply enjoying the scenery along the way. You'll explore historic sites, experience life on a working station, and enjoy a private boat trip across Lake Rotoiti.

This fully hosted journey begins and ends in Blenheim, and is suited to those who enjoy travelling a little differently – with comfort, good company, and experiences that feel genuine and unhurried.



Quick facts

Group size: Min 6 / Max 8

Starts and ends at: Blenheim

Destinations: Blenheim, Awatere Valley, Molesworth, Hanmer, Lake Tennyson, Rainbow Road and Lake Rotoiti

Visit our website for pricing & departures.
Standard terms, conditions and exclusions apply.



Tour inclusions

- Airport or nearby pick-up from Blenheim (on request)
- 5 nights accommodation
- All transport throughout the tour in a comfortable 4WD vehicle
- 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- All listed activities, including farm tour, boat cruise, and guided walks
- Exclusive access to private properties and lesser-known locations

WE DONATE

\$800

PER TOUR TO
FRIENDS OF
ROTOITI



Kāpiti to Molesworth High Country Fly-in Tour

4-day tour

A scenic flight takes you from the Kāpiti coast into the heart of the high country. In under 50 minutes, you'll go from sea level to wide open valleys

You'll land on a working merino high country station, where you'll stay for the next three nights. From the moment you land, you're surrounded by wide open spaces, mountains and braided rivers.

Over the following days, we explore this remote region by 4WD, travelling across high country stations including Molesworth – New Zealand's largest high country station. The landscapes are vast, the roads are gravel, and there is little to no cell coverage.

We travel through remote valleys, along riverbeds, and into places that few people reach, guided by someone who knows the country well. Along the way, you'll meet locals, hear their stories, and gain an insight into life in these remote places.

We take care of all the logistics – flights, accommodation, meals and transport – so you can simply enjoy the experience.



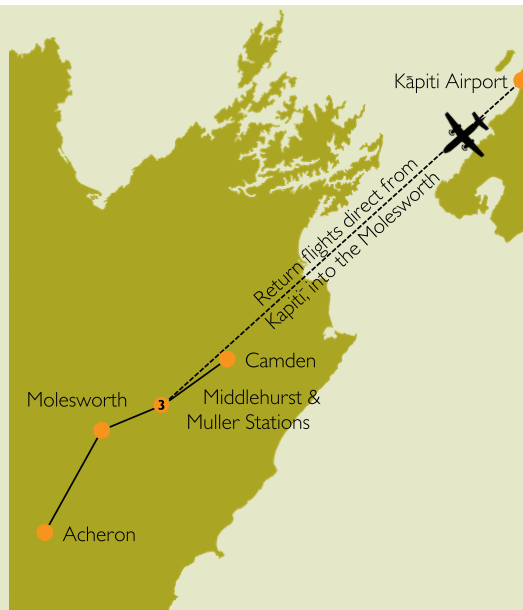
Quick facts

Group size: Min 6 / Max 8

Starts and ends at: Kāpiti Airport, Paraparaumu

Destinations: Awatere Valley, Molesworth and Middlehurst Station

Visit our website for pricing & departures. Standard terms, conditions and exclusions apply.



Tour inclusions

- Return private flights from Kāpiti Airport to a high country station
- 3 nights accommodation in modern shearer's quarters
- All transport throughout the tour in a comfortable 4WD vehicle
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Exclusive access to private properties and lesser-known attractions

WE DONATE
\$800
PER TOUR TO
A LOCAL
COMMUNITY GROUP



Mt White & Canterbury High Country

5-day tour

Go beyond the main roads, to explore the vast alpine valleys and towering peaks of one of New Zealand's largest and least-visited High Country farms

Mt White is a 40,000-hectare sheep and beef station in the Southern Alps / Ka Tiritiri o te Moana, and public access is limited. It's a place of real scale, and one that needs to be seen to be fully appreciated. Staying on the station for three nights allows you to experience it properly.

During your stay, you'll explore the station by 4WD, scenic flight and on foot, through wide valleys, braided rivers, and rugged mountain ranges – where farming, history, and the land are closely connected.

Walk through remote valleys to alpine tarns, visit historic musterers' huts, and see how this country has been worked over generations.

You'll also have the chance to see the station from the air on a scenic flight, helping you appreciate just how vast this landscape is. The tour gives you time in the high country, in a way most people don't get to experience.



Quick facts

Group size: Min 6 / Max 8

Starts and ends at: Christchurch City

Destinations: Christchurch, Lake Coleridge and Mount White Station

Visit our website for pricing & departures.
Standard terms, conditions and exclusions apply.

Spaces are limited, get in touch today!



Tour inclusions

- Airport pick-up and drop-off in Christchurch on arrival and departure days
- 4 nights twin-share accommodation (3 nights with shared facilities)
- Travel throughout in a comfortable 4WD vehicle
- 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Scenic flight from Mt White Station
- Exclusive access to private high country properties

WE DONATE
\$800
PER TOUR TO
LOCAL COMMUNITY
GROUPS



St James Wild Horse Sale

5-day tour

Every two years, horse lovers gather at the Wild Horse Sale at St James Station, North Canterbury. This is your chance to be part of this iconic event

Held deep in the South Island high country, just getting to the sale is part of the experience! Join us on a 5-day expedition through the vast, remote valleys of the Molesworth and Rainbow Stations, where you'll immerse yourself in the lands and stories surrounding this iconic sale.

At the sale itself, you'll be part of a genuine local event – mingling with local high country farmers, or those who have worked or come to buy these powerful, good natured wild horses.

We take care of the details, with accommodation, transport and meals all arranged, so you can simply enjoy the experience.

Only one departure every two years, so contact us early to secure your spot on this rare experience.



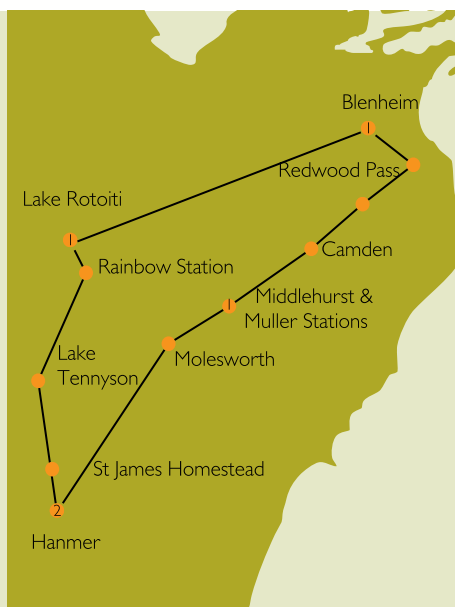
Quick facts

Group size: Min 6 / Max 8

Starts and ends at: Blenheim

Destinations: Blenheim, Molesworth, St James, Hanmer and St Arnaud

Visit our website for pricing & departures.
Standard terms, conditions and exclusions apply.



Tour inclusions

- Pick-up from Blenheim accommodation or airport (on request)
- 4 nights twin-share accommodation (3 nights with ensuite, 1 night with shared facilities)
- 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Experienced local guides to take care of the back-road driving, in a comfortable air-conditioned 4WD vehicle
- Access permits to the Rainbow and Molesworth Stations

WE DONATE
\$800
PER TOUR TO
FRIENDS OF ROTOITI



Golden Bay

Our guides are multigenerational Golden Bay farmers. You will learn about the rich history from longtime locals and discover the nooks and crannies of this diverse area.



St Arnaud

Our home base is in this stunning part of the South Island, Te Waipounamu. We will introduce you to fascinating locals, gain access to private property and explore the back country together.

Every season we are developing and introducing new tours

These are places that we have a close connection to. Keep an eye on our website or subscribe to our newsletter and be first to know about new tours: driftwoodecotours.co.nz/subscribe



Kaikōura

We support a QEII conservation area nearby, offsetting our carbon footprint to that reserve. This is set on the highest altitude private land in NZ, which is also home to the alpine nesting and nationally vulnerable Hutton's shearwater.



West Coast

After living on the West Coast for many years, we have strong connections in this area. This enables us to have special access to private properties, enjoy unique experiences and meet colourful locals that bring this area to life.



Meet the owners

Maree Carson and Julian Tovey

The local relationships we've built are the foundation that gives our guests exclusive access and unique experiences in hard-to-reach destinations

Maree draws on her lifelong love of the outdoors and extensive travel industry experience to craft seamless, inclusive and well-organised trips.

Julian's diverse background, from glacier guiding to coordinating search and rescue operations, gives him a wealth of experience that makes him an exceptional tour guide.

Together, they blend warmth, professionalism, and a deep respect for the locals to ensure every tour is thoughtful, enjoyable, and accessible for all. They can't wait to welcome you on your next tour.

Our community engagement

We know that if you respect the locals and support their community, they will in turn support you.

In every region we operate, we've talked to community leaders to find out where our support could be best applied. For every tour, a portion of the tour price goes to local projects, enhancing communities, biodiversity and local infrastructure.

WE DONATE
\$800+
PER TOUR TO
COMMUNITY
GROUPS



Put yourself in the picture

Get in touch with the team at Driftwood to book your tour today

