

ASPECTS OF KAIKOURA

Kaikoura



Kaikoura

Approximately a three hour drive from Christchurch up the rugged east coast of the South Island, Kaikoura provides some of the best opportunities to view New Zealand's marine mammals and seabirds in their natural habitats. Gateway to the Southern Oceans Marine Mammal Sanctuary, it is one of the few places in the world where you can see such a range of wildlife (albatross, gannets, penguins, petrels, sperm whales and hector dolphins to name a few) so close to a populated coastline. Stop off along the main highway and watch seals basking in the sun, or take a boat trip out to see the whales and swim with the dolphins. A recent addition for the more adventurous is a shark diving tour!

Kaikoura was initially settled by the Moa Hunters 900 years ago and later by early European settlers when the whaling industry began in the 1800's. Today the township boasts a modest population of approximately 3,200 residents making it the perfect place to get away from it all. Many artists and craftspeople live in the area and their work which is exhibited at the local galleries is exported to collectors worldwide.

Located on a rocky peninsula, marine based activities such as fishing and reef diving are popular. Because Kaikoura is overlooked by mountains and surrounded by lush farmland, an excellent assortment of land-based activities are also available. Try 4WD motorbiking, rafting, horse trekking, skiing and scenic flights over the snow-capped mountains. Walkways are scattered throughout the area and range from relaxing thirty minute strolls, to half and full day treks for the more energetic. The Peninsula walkway is popular as it provides access to several New Zealand fur seal colonies.

In Maori, Kaikoura literally means "to eat crayfish". Abundant food sources make it a favourable site for food gathering for early Maori and today cuisine still plays an important part in the area. You can purchase crayfish hot and ready to eat from various seaside stalls or wander into town and take your pick from the variety of trendy bars, cafés and restaurants.



WHITE
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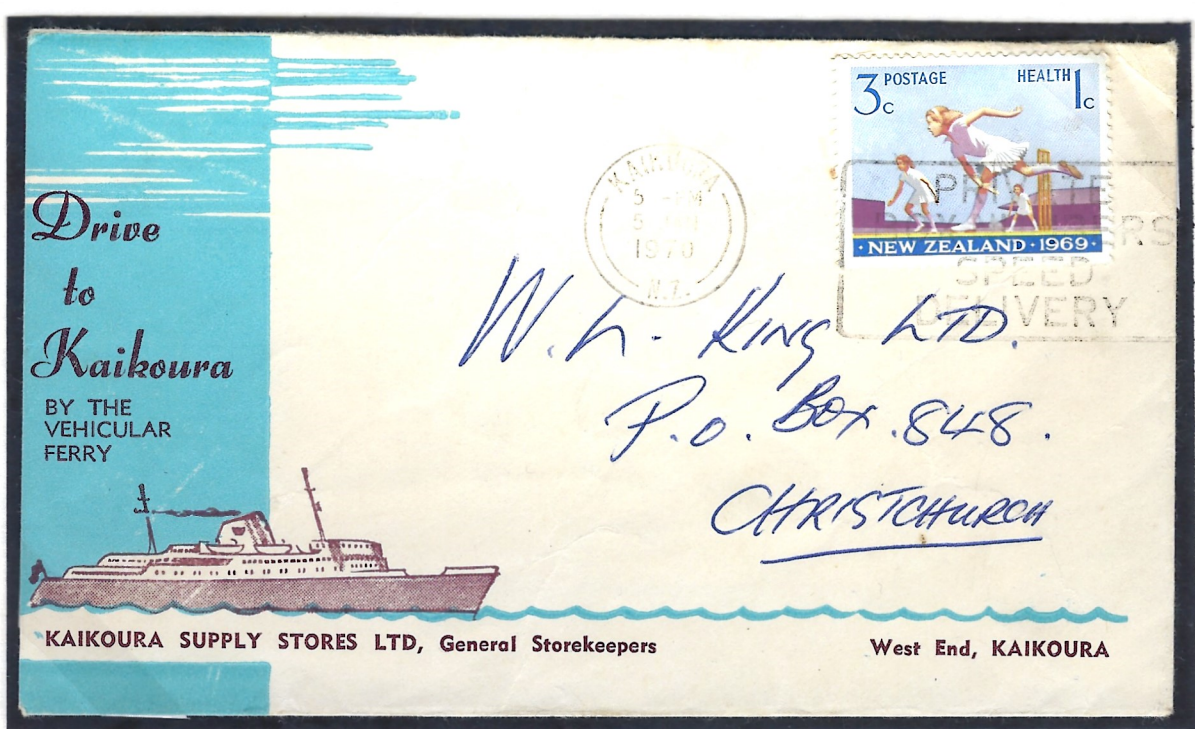
KAIKOURA COAST



KAIKOURA COASTLINE



BLACK EDGED
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Events

Kaikoura Seafest 7 OCTOBER

Kaikoura Trotting Cup 30 OCTOBER

A & P Show FEBRUARY

Art in the Dark MARCH
an annual exhibition of work by local artists
held in the Kaikoura Winery cellar



KAIKOURA

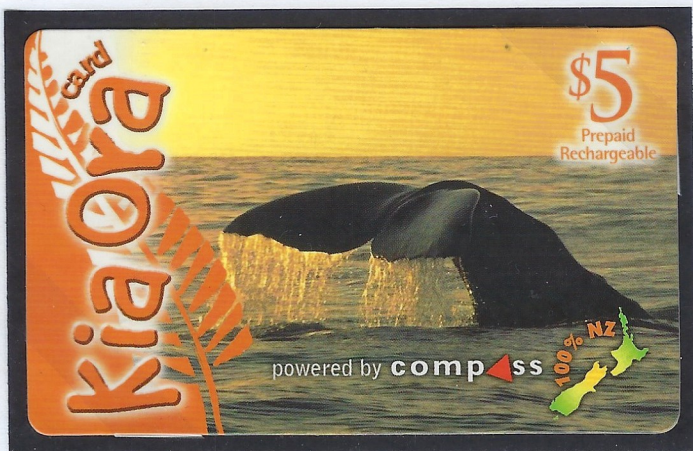
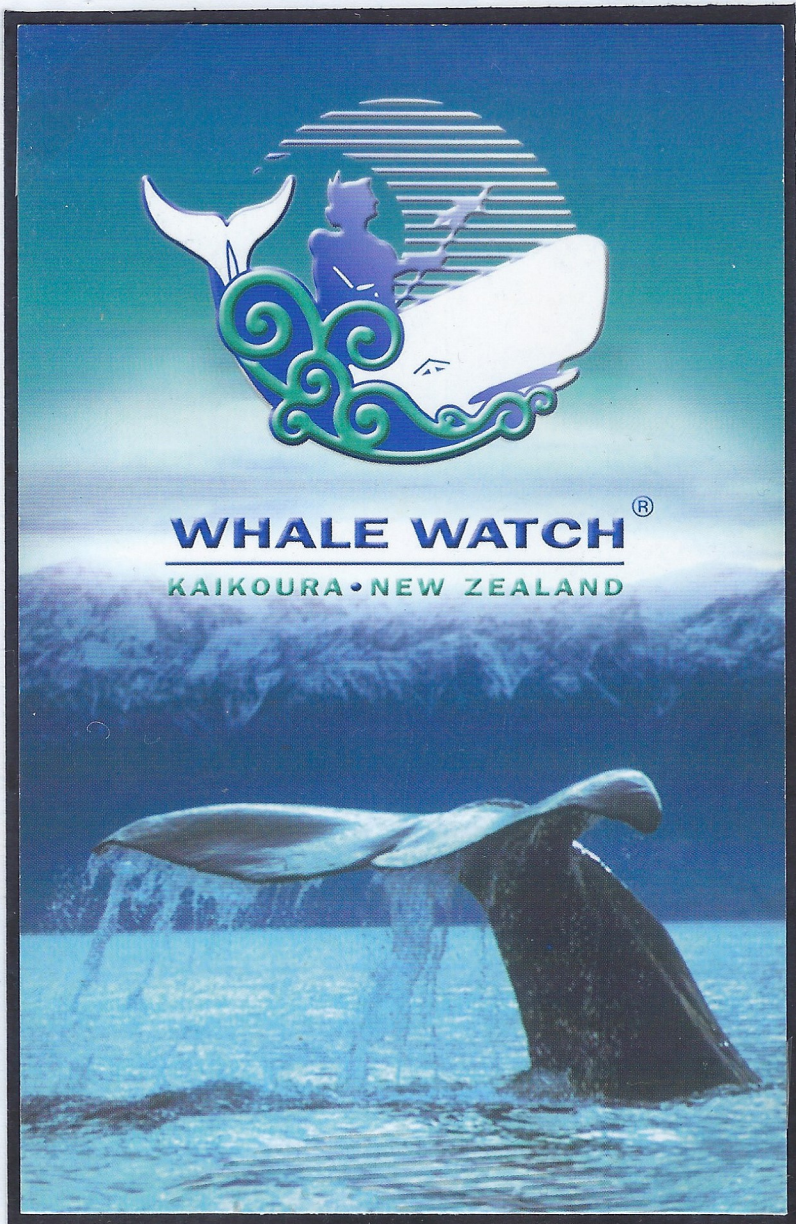




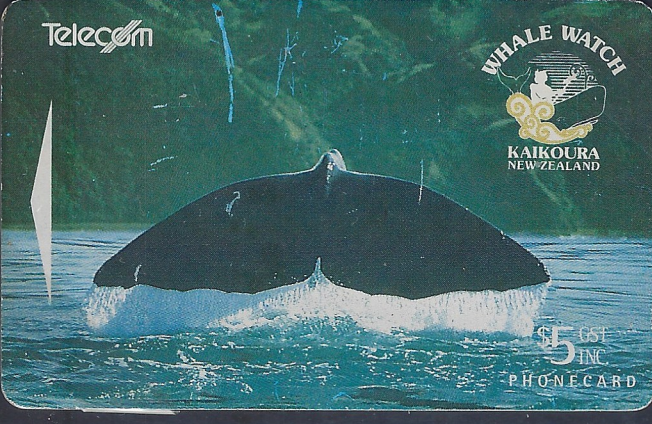
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Whale Watch[®] Kaikoura Ltd was established in 1987 and began operating tours full time in 1989. The company is situated in Kaikoura, which is located two and a half hours north of Christchurch and is an area steeped in Maori history and legend.

Off the coast of the village is a marine environment so rich in nutrients that it attracts some of the most magnificent creatures with which we share our planet. Amongst these is the Giant Sperm Whale which can grow up to 20 metres in length and although this is the highlight of the trip, a number of different species of whales may be seen, depending on the season, as they follow their migratory route.





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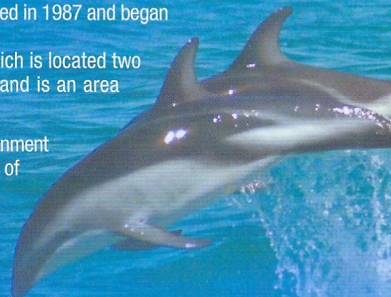
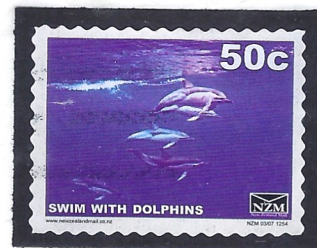


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KAIKOURA - NEW ZEALAND

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This unique marine experience also provides the opportunity to sight the high spirited displays of the Dusky Dolphins, the rare and endangered Hector's Dolphin, New Zealand Fur Seals and a wide variety of sea birds including the Royal Albatross.



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