

M.V. **Affinity**
Cruises



'Stimulating & Relaxing Holidays - Where Discovery is a Real Adventure'



Cruising the waters of

Marlborough Sounds

Spring & Summer

Stewart Island

Autumn

Fiordland

Winter

Top of the South Cruise 2012

Cruising: Nelson / Able Tasman Bays / Golden Bay / Marlborough Sounds

10 nights / 11 days

**Departing from Nelson, 15th March 2012 at 12 noon and
Finishing in Picton, 25th March 2012 at 12 noon.**

Price \$4,477.00 per person twin share + transfers if required

Trip Highlights

- Sit back, relax and cruise the scenic waterways of the captivating Abel Tasman National Park. This area is well known for its golden beaches, sculptured cliffs, and world-famous Abel Tasman Coast Track.
- Kick your shoes off and walk along the beautiful sandy beaches of Golden Bay, or take a swim in the pristine waters of this extraordinary area of New Zealand.
- Cruise along the inside of Farewell Spit and see it from a unique perspective. The spit is around 35km long and access is more strictly protected than a national park, so cruising the area on Affinity is an amazing way to view this secluded coastline.
- Cruise through all 3 Marlborough Sounds – Queen Charlotte, Kenepuru & Pelorus Sounds. You will experience something different when visiting each one, whether it be the species of fish, history or incredible scenery.
- Go ashore at d'Urville Island, and indulge in a sumptuous dinner at The Wilderness Resort Café.
- Cast your rod for Blue Cod, Groper, Snapper & other species in this pristine area. There's nothing like eating fresh fish caught by your own hands.
- Travel through the exciting waters of French Pass and take a walk through the village up to the lighthouse which was first built in the late 1880's.

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- Enjoy a wonderful day excursion; to Puppu Springs - New Zealand's largest springs, renowned for their beauty and water clarity; four wheel drive journey to the lighthouse on Farewell Spit, the South Islands northern most point - home of a bird sanctuary and wetland of international importance; then round off our day with a visit to Heathcroft Studio where fascinating and entertaining artist Geoff Heath paints and resides.
- Walk sections of the award winning Queen Charlotte Track, including a section of the track from Portage to Te Mahia, which features regenerated native bush with Giant Rimu, Nikau, Beech trees and tree ferns.
- Visit the Sound's first commercial winery and vineyard to taste their lovely unique wines. It is also a working farm, incorporating a red deer farm and alpaca stud in a secluded and picturesque setting.
- We will visit a salmon farm and explain the process of salmon farming and also visit a King Shag colony. The King Shag can only be found in this remote part of NZ.
- Hear the story of the Russian Cruise Liner 'Mikhail Lermontov' and see the area where she now lies at the bottom of the sea.
- Visit Motuara Island – a Bird Sanctuary Island where Robins, Tuis, Kiwis, Bellbirds, Kakariki and Saddleback live. Hear the birdsong and look out for the rare South Island Saddleback as you walk along.
- Go ashore at Ship Cove where English explorer Captain James Cook made his home in the early 1770's. Here you will find information panels explaining early Maori occupation and a monument to honour Captain Cook.

***For those who join us on board, they'll truly be able to say
" we've done the top of the South"***

All walks are optional, you may wish to stay onboard and relax or there may be a shorter walk option that would suit you better. *Please understand you are responsible for your own safety and actions during these unguided walks.*

- *Memorable trip, great food and fishing, excellent crew – G & A Craig*
- *Great crew, great travel mates and a real trip of a lifetime – A & J Graham*
- *Amazing scenery, good fishing and great company. Perfect weather and many happy memories. Thank you all – E & P Redfern*

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