



Encounter Kaikoura originated as Dolphin Encounter in 1989 and has developed over the years to include the Albatross Encounter tour, a conference facility and Café Encounter.

## Dolphin Encounter

A dream for many of us is to swim with or watch dolphins in the wild! Since the summer of 1989 Dolphin Encounter has operated tours to the dusky dolphins found traditionally quite close to shore at Kaikoura. Whether you choose to view from the boat or swim in the dolphin's natural environment, you will have a unique experience that will stay with you for a lifetime!

Dolphin Encounter's point of difference is the fact that we have the highest success rate for locating the marine mammals and swimming with dolphins than anywhere in New Zealand. Numbers of dusky dolphins vary depending on the time of year and weather conditions, but generally pods from 100 dolphins to 1000 dolphins can be found off the Kaikoura Coast.

The Dolphin Encounter tour is an **open ocean experience** and for maximum enjoyment participants who choose to swim need to have a reasonable level of snorkelling experience. Swimming with the Dolphins demands a reasonable level of physical fitness for those wishing to participate. All clients need to have swimming ability and a good degree of water confidence. The entire tour is approximately three and a half hours in duration and very often we observe other marine life on the tours such as the New Zealand Fur Seal, Albatross and occasionally Orca.

All snorkelling equipment as well as wetsuits are provided for swimmers on the tour. You will need to bring a swimsuit, towel, warm clothing, daypack and a camera.



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**The key unique qualities of the Dolphin Encounter tour are:**

- **We have the highest success rate in New Zealand of not just locating dolphins but actually swimming with them**
- **Numbers of dolphins vary daily from 150 – 1000 dolphins**
- **We swim with dusky dolphins – the most acrobatic and interactive dolphin in the world**

## Albatross Encounter

Experience the sensation of getting incredibly close to the mighty wandering albatross, the largest wingspan in the world. Peter Langlands, an authority on seabirds, writes "Kaikoura has one of the largest numbers of different types of seabirds within a small area than anywhere along the New Zealand coastline."

The Albatross Encounter tour involves feeding and observing the large pelagic birds of the Kaikoura coastline which include the Northern and Southern Albatross, Petrels and occasionally varieties of Penguins. Kaikoura has one of the largest numbers of different types of seabirds within a small area than anywhere along the New Zealand coastline and this breathtaking tour will leave you speechless.

No specialised equipment is necessary however we do recommend passengers bring warm clothing and sensible foot wear. Don't forget the camera!



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The key unique qualities of the Albatross Encounter tour are:

- We have a 100% success rate of locating albatross
- A massive variety of pelagic birds (with up to 12 species of albatross observed)
- Travel time to observe the birds is just five minutes from the shore
- Due to the small size of the vessel, clients get within 1 metre of the birds