

CASTLE TO CRUISE TOUR

+ Penguin Place



Tour Times

Summer (Oct-Mar):

10:30am to 5:30pm

Winter (Apr-Sep):

11:30am to 6:00pm

Bus across the beautiful Otago Peninsula and discover it's wild history and natural wonders.

During a tour of Larnach Castle you'll see magnificent carved ceilings, antiques and painstakingly restored original features. Each room is filled with original artworks, clothing and furniture. Hear the scandalous and tragic history of the original owner, William Larnach who took his own life with a single shot to the head. Climb the spiral staircase to the rooftop tower for stunning 360° views of the Otago Peninsula. We highly recommend a short walk around the beautiful gardens, recognized to be of international significance.

Time is allowed to explore the grounds or take tea in the Ballroom Cafe. You'll then meet your guide back at the bus and continue the tour along the Peninsula.

All aboard an invigorating Wildlife Cruise around Taiaroa Head, home to the world's only mainland nesting place of royal albatross. Watch as these huge birds glide in from the ocean and soar high above their hillside nests. You'll cruise beneath a historic lighthouse, perched high above volcanic cliffs. Watch as fur seals play and swim around the rocky outcrops below. Then it's a short way out to sea to spot other species of albatross, cormorants, petrels and other rarely seen ocean birds. Occasionally we might spot blue penguins, dusky or hectors dolphins or sea lions.

The final stop is at a Yellow-eyed Penguin conservation reserve. Visit the on-site rehab centre before a tour of the reserve. You'll take trails through native bushland, walking through tunnels and trenches to different viewing hides scattered around the reserve. We hope to watch as the world's rarest penguins return ashore and interact around their nesting sites. The tour ends with a relaxed drive, following the harbour, back to Dunedin.



Tour check-in & departure point:

Guests can check-in 20 mins before departure at 20 Fryatt St, Dunedin (Monarch Wildlife Office).

Free all-day carparks are available around this location. Accommodation pickups available on request.

Cancellation Policy:

Monarch Wildlife Ltd will provide a refund (less our transaction fee) or credit for cancellations made more than 24 hours prior to your tour. We reserve the right to charge up to 100% for no-shows or bookings cancelled within 24 hours. We reserve the right to cancel or alter any cruise, service or price. If your trip is cancelled for any reason, such as extreme weather, We will attempt to reschedule your tour or provide a full refund.

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Operated by:

MONARCH
WILDLIFE CRUISES & TOURS



This tour departs from our office at 20 Fryatt Street, Dunedin. Please check-in fifteen minutes before your scheduled start time. All-day free carparks can be found around this location.



Complimentary pickups & dropoffs are available upon request. We pickup from central Dunedin hotels, motels, backpacker hostels and the iSite Visitor Centre (no private residences or AirBnB's).



Dress warm for the days forecast and bring a waterproof layer. The weather can be unpredictable at times and we highly recommend being ready for all conditions. Extra jackets are available.



We suggest wearing sturdy and comfortable footwear. If you decide to stand whilst on the boat always have a hand free to stabilise yourself on a rail. Take extra care when moving around the vessel.



This tour is not suitable for people with limited mobility or wheelchair users. Larnach Castle has multiple levels with several flights of stairs to climb and no handicap facilities.



Meals are not provided but time can be allowed to purchase something from the Ballroom Cafe at Larnach Castle. You are welcome to bring your own pre-packed food and drink on tour with you.



The area we cruise around is fairly sheltered from swell, however some wind and tide combinations can cause a little rock and roll. Don't worry if the forecast is for a cold, wet or windy day, the albatross love it. They won't stop for rain and neither do we. The best viewing often comes from the wilder days.



High quality binoculars and multi-language information sheets will be provided.



Wildlife viewing isn't guaranteed, but we'll always aim to provide the best possible experience.



Yellow-eyed Penguins are the rarest of all the world's penguin species. Unfortunately, numbers are currently in decline and viewing does vary. Your tour patronage supports the ongoing conservation work to help save these special birds.



Toilet and bathroom facilities are available during the Wildlife Cruise and Castle tour.



If you are concerned about potential sea sickness, a variety of preventative medications can be purchased at local pharmacies. Our crew can also provide pressure point wristbands and peppermint oil pads if you begin to feel queasy or uneasy (they really do help).



We love feedback and really appreciate it when our visitors leave a review at [tripadvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com) Share your photos with us at [facebook.com/monarchwildlife](https://www.facebook.com/monarchwildlife) and on instagram @monarchwildlife



Questions? Contact us via email monarch@wildlife.co.nz or phone +64 3 477 4276 or 0800 666 272.