

MONARCH WILDLIFE CRUISE

from Wellers Rock Wharf



Tour Times

Summer (Oct-Mar):

1:30pm - 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Winter (Apr-Sep):

2:30pm

Sit back and enjoy the scenery as our sturdy boat explores the stunningly beautiful and rugged coastline near the entrance of the Otago Harbour. Our crew will give you a full commentary during your cruise about our local wildlife, history and geology.

The trip will travel past the beautiful Aramoana Beach and its tidal sandflats. We often spot sea lions here, sprawled out, basking in the sun. These impressive animals can weigh almost half a tonne. After nearly being wiped out by early settlers they have recently started returning to the sandy beaches around the southern coastline of New Zealand. The sea lion population is now growing steadily.

Across the other side of the harbour channel you'll see remnants of the areas military history. Several lookout posts and gun emplacements were built in to the rocky hill, connected by tunnels. They are now a popular spot for local fisherman.

You'll see uninterrupted views of the world's only mainland colony of royal albatross. We want to get you close to the albatrosses as they soar and glide on their huge three metre wingspans. Watch as they fly in low from the ocean, then use updrafts from the hillside to get up high and land at their nest.

Enjoy postcard views of the lighthouse, perched high above the volcanic cliffs of Taiaroa Head. This historic lighthouse was the first one built on the South Island of NZ, back in 1864. Your expert skipper will get you up-close to rocky outcrops that stretch out to the ocean. This is where we find a large New Zealand fur seal colony. Watch them sleep, fight and play on the rocks and swim in the water around this breeding rookery.

We then cruise a short way out into the Pacific Ocean. Here you can spot rarely seen ocean birds including other smaller albatross species, cormorants and petrels. We also sometimes see blue penguins, dusky and hectors dolphins and other marine mammals.



Tour check-in & departure point:

Check-in 15 mins before departure at Wellers Rock Wharf (813 Harington Point Road).







Free all-day carpark are available around this location. Allow 45-60 mins when travelling from Dunedin city.

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Operated by:

MONARCH
WILDLIFE CRUISES & TOURS

-  The cruise departs from Wellers Rock Wharf on the Otago Peninsula (813 Harington Point Rd, Otakou). Please check-in fifteen minutes before your scheduled start time. Free carparks available.
-  Allow 45-60 minutes travel time when driving from central Dunedin. You are responsible for your own transport to the wharf. If you need transport, have a look at our other tour options.
-  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 if needed.
-  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 suitable for people with limited mobility or wheelchair users. If a wheelchair ramp is required please let us know in advance of your trip.
-  Meals are not provided on this tour. You are welcome to bring your own food and drink on the boat.
-  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.
-  Toilet and bathroom facilities are available during the Wildlife Cruise.
-  Wildlife viewing is never guaranteed, but we'll always aim to give the best possible experience.
-  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](https://www.instagram.com/monarchwildlife)
-  Questions? Contact us via email monarch@wildlife.co.nz or phone +64 3 477 4276 or 0800 666 272.

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.