

BANKS TRACK, NZ

Your Next Escape
Fuel Your Wanderlust

7 to 12 October 2024

TRACK OVERVIEW



Hiking Highlights

The Banks Track is NZ's original private walking track, and has become one of the great NZ walks.

Located on the east coast of the South Island, the Banks Track is the only way you can explore this part of the coastline. Other than the wildlife - think penguins, seals, sheep, it's just us out on the track. Limited to only 16 per day, our group will be the only one out there!

The track combines forest, farm, coast and cliff walking, not to mention side tracks to waterfalls, hidden seal coves and penguin sanctuaries.



Accommodation

Group huts, single beds.
Each night's stay is comfortable, with hot showers and flushing toilets for luxury.
Varied, unique and quirky.



Brief

Duration: 31km over three days
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate (weather dependent)

Cost \$1,925pp



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CONTACT US

www.fightingfit.net.au/yournextescape/



Day 1

Depart Christchurch to Akaroa via the 9am shuttle, leave your bags at the luggage drop and explore this French-inspired town.

Enjoy a leisurely day visiting the Akaroa Museum, Lighthouse, numerous historical sites, or take a tour with Pohatu Penguins or Coast up Close before our transport arrives at 5.30pm.

Travel to Onuku via private transfer for your first night's accommodation in the purpose built trampers huts. Enjoy the spectacular views of the harbour below you.



Day 2

Onuku to Flea Bay, 11kms (5-7 hours)

You will climb from Onuku Trampers Hut, through farmland and sheep grazing areas to the highest point on the track, the Trig GG at 699 m.

Look out over the rim of this extinct volcano and down into Flea Bay through the Tutakakahikura Reserve.

A number of side tracks will lead you to stunning views and hidden waterfalls.

Continue down through farmland to arrive at Flea Bay Cottage. Sit on the deck and look out over the bay, just a stones throw from the Pohatu Marine Reserve and local penguin colony and breeding grounds.



Day 3

Flea Bay to Stony Bay, 8kms (3-5 hours)

From Flea Bay, walk along the coast through the Pohatu Marine Reserve, through the Little Blue Penguin breeding colony. These guys are too cute!

Following the headland, the views of the rugged coastline are jaw dropping.





Day 3 cont.

Catch glimpses of seals frolicking in the waters below and look out for Hector's dolphins swimming in the coves.

Pitstop at the trampers refuge and take a peek at the seal colony living in the cove nearby, where baby furseals are kept out of harms way.

The track leads us around the headland and down into Stony Bay. Get up close and personal with the local seals lounging on the warm stones, and enjoy watching them swim and feed in the bay as you arrive in the afternoon.

Our last nights accommodation on the track is at the quirky Stony Bay Cottages, where you can explore the creek bed, comb the beach and read all about the history of the land. Make sure your batteries are charged the night before, as there is no electricity here.



Day 4 & 5

Stony Bay to Akaroa, 12kms (5-7 hours)

Our track leads us away from the coastline, through Stony Bay Valley and into the Hinewai Reserve and red beech forest. Traverse over the rim of the extinct volcano, through dense rainforest and past flowing creeks.

Stop at the track shelter atop your climb and take in the view of your journey.

Continue along to the side track leading to Stony Bay Peak at 806m altitude, where you will have 360° degree views spanning from Akaroa below out to the Banks Peninsula. Appreciate from here, the past few days of hiking, before you traverse down to Akaroa township.

Travel back to Christchurch and check in to our accommodation. Share a group dinner.

The next day, leisurely explore the city of Christchurch, before we finish the trip with a farewell dinner.

