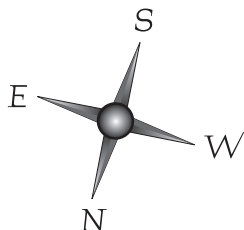




# CHRISTCHURCH WILDLIFE CRUISES



Route may vary depending on weather and sea conditions



## Welcome

**Welcome aboard the Canterbury Cat. Your cruise will take around 2 hours. The commentary will be in English; we hope this information sheet adds to the enjoyment of your cruise by providing a summary of the information given within the verbal interpretation. You have two crew members – a skipper and a deckhand – they welcome your questions and feedback. Please let them know if you have any special requirements.**

**We aim to interact with the world's rarest and smallest dolphin while cruising within a massive volcanic crater. We expect to experience the local wildlife, show you the landscape and inform you of the fascinating history this area boasts.**

## Safety Instructions

In case of an emergency, lifejackets are located under the seats in the front part of the main cabin; some are also stowed behind the wheelhouse. It is not necessary to wear lifejackets on this vessel unless there is an emergency. We have life rings on the front deck, back deck and upper deck. There are floatation rafts on the upper deck. We have a fire hose and fire extinguishers are positioned around the vessel in case of fire. A water pumping system is also fitted in case of flooding. Keep your feet on the deck at all times. Do not climb on or attempt to sit on safety rails. Be careful on the stairs between the upper and lower decks and hold onto the handrails provided. Be careful entering the main cabin, there is a step at each door. There are exits in the front and rear of the main cabin. In the unlikely event of an emergency please follow the crew's instructions carefully.

## General Advice

There are two toilets onboard – one on each side at the rear of the vessel on the lower deck. We also have a bar should you require drinks or snacks and we offer free tea or coffee. You are welcome to

wander around the vessel to find the best viewing spot. If you have children with you, please supervise them at all times. NO SMOKING is allowed onboard for safety and passenger comfort.



### 1. Lyttelton Harbour: A Volcanic Crater

Lyttelton is the crater of a former massive volcano. Before it erupted it stood high and proud – snow capped all year. Lyttelton and Akaroa Harbours are twin craters from a once volcanic island. This island was a huge, active and very violent volcano. Eventually it became part of the South Island. Today it extends off the mainland like the shape of your hand. One side of this crater has been eroded by the power of the ocean and has collapsed allowing the sea to flow in. We will see many examples of the volcanic origins during the cruise. Lyttelton is one of 37 bays or inlets around Banks Peninsula, which was first named Banks Island in 1770 by the famous explorer Captain James Cook. The port has come a long way since the days of trading muskets, gunpowder, blankets and tobacco in exchange for pigs and dressed flax. Today

it is a modern port co-ordinating vast import and export markets. Most imports are in the form of containers and if lined up end to end these would stretch from London to Athens! The major exports are timber and high quality coal. Lyttelton – Port of Christchurch is New Zealand's third largest commercial port. Early Maori arrived here 1200 years ago in waka (canoes) followed by the British in their tall ships in 1850. Both Maori and European have had a fascinating history here.



### 2. Timeball Station

You may notice a stone castle-like building on the hill above Lyttelton. It

was built in 1876 with the purpose of letting all the ships in the harbour know the exact time. A ball dropped from the mast to signal the time to ships in harbour enabling the captains to check the accuracy of their chronometers (clocks). The ball dropped at 1pm daily from 1876 until 1934 when it was superseded by radio. Refurbished in the 1980's, it is one of only five in the world still operating.



### 3. Battery Point

The threat of a Russian invasion in 1885 led to these defenses

being built. The original guns, 64 pounders, weighed 7 ton and fired a 7½-inch projectile. These guns were never fired in anger, however in 1939 a local fishing boat was accidentally sunk with the loss of one life.



### 4. Breeze Bay

This was the safest anchorage for tall sailing ships in the 1800's during the

gusty local wind the North Westerly. As the wind began to howl vessels would leave Lyttelton port to take shelter in this bay. Also the site of the shipwreck called 'The Breeze' – a vessel with a history of misfortune. The rusting bones of this ship can be clearly seen especially during lower tides.



### 5. Godley Head

A spectacular 120 metre sheer cliff rising out of the sea with commanding views across the harbour entrance and out to the

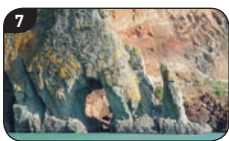
Pacific Ocean. On a clear day you can see forever. This is a popular recreation area for local people and is the site of the Godley lighthouse, marking the entrance to Lyttelton Harbour. The concrete gun emplacements and signal structures were built in 1939 as WW2 escalated. You can only reach the lower gun emplacement via an impressive 100m tunnel through volcanic rock.



### 6. Little Port Cooper – Whalers Bay

Hunting whales was a major industry in Lyttelton

Harbour during the 1880's as migration paths of Southern Right Whales close to the coast made life easy for whalers. A small settlement existed here, but the only building remaining today is the old school house. You will be able to spot the stone wall built by the whalers to stop boulders rolling down the hill into their huts. There may have been up to 5 vessels in here at any one time during the late 1800's. At one stage the Southern Right Whale population was so high the whalers would simply row their longboats out to harpoon them. Today New Zealand is against whaling with strong conservation values surrounding marine mammals.



### 7. Volcanic Outcrop

This is a stunning example of the volcanic origins of

Lyttelton Harbour. Each ledge clearly shows the different layers of lava, creating superb nesting and roosting sites.



### 8. Camp Bay

The arrival lounge of Lyttelton for the early settlers, Camp Bay was a

temporary home to those early arrivals on sailing ships. Immigrants were quarantined for a period before being permitted into the colony. Quarantine conditions were a hard reality after enduring the four month voyage out from Britain. Some 80 souls died and are buried here. A beautiful bay with tranquil beaches, it is the base today for the working sheep farm on this side of the harbour.



### 9. Ripapa Island

With its commanding outlook this island holds great

significance for both Maori and European. Ripapa meaning mooring reef was first inhabited by the Maori. The Ngai Tahu tribe built a fortified pa (or fort) here almost 1000 years ago, as the site was an ideal vantage point. This island is of special significance to Ngai Tahu as a place of memories and traditions associated with the ancestors who died there. Along with Aoraki (Mount Cook) and Kura Tawhiti (Castle Hill), Ripapa is recognised as one of the three most sacred sights in Canterbury. Initially developed by the British in 1872 as a quarantine station, in 1886 Fort Jervois was built here featuring very large disappearing guns. Then in 1918 it became a small prisoner of war camp the most famous P.O.W. being Count Von Luckner.



### 10. Diamond Harbour

A charming settlement dating back to 1850. It was

named because of the water sparkling like diamonds. Site of the historic Godley House dating back to 1880. A popular seaside settlement today linked to Lyttelton by a regular ferry service which Black Cat Group operates.



### 11. Quail Island

An island with a rich history including food gathering by

Maori and close associations to the early Antarctic explorers. Used by Robert Falcon Scott and Earnest Shackleton to train their ponies and husky dogs for their voyages to Antarctica. Also an early quarantine station for the first settlers and later a leprosy colony.

## THE WILDLIFE



### 12. Hector's Dolphin - Tutumairekurau

The Hector's or New Zealand

Dolphin is a native species and is one of the smallest dolphins in the world. They grow to about 1.2m (4 feet) roughly the size of a 5-year-old child. This is compared to the bottlenose dolphins, which grow up to 3 meters in length, roughly the length of a small family car. They are located all around the South Island but the harbours of Lyttelton and Akaroa are where they are seen most often. This is one of the world's rarest dolphins with its total population being around 7,000; fewer than any other marine dolphin, and categorises the species as endangered. A marine mammal sanctuary exists right around Banks Peninsula aimed at providing a safe habitat for the dolphins. No commercial set net fishing is allowed and recreation netting is allowed only during the winter. Here at Black Cat Cruises we have developed a Marine mammal code of conduct and are Department of Conservation authorised concessionaires. Part of each cruise fare goes direct to a research fund.



### 13. New Zealand Fur Seal – Kekenō

New Zealand or Southern Fur Seals live in colonies

usually on rocky shorelines or outcrops. They were hunted by Europeans during the early 1800s for fur, pelts and oil but are a fully protected species today. They can hold their breath for over 8 minutes and dive to great depths. Their population around New Zealand's coastline is now estimated at 50 – 60,000.



### 14. Little Blue Penguins - Korora

If you are lucky you may see the White Flipped

Blue Penguin, called Korora by Maori. These will be swimming in the water and at first you may think they're small ducks. They are one of the smallest and rarest penguins in the world. Their green-blue appearance keeps them well disguised from predators while at sea, but on land their white underbellies are a dead giveaway to their chief enemies – ferrets, stoats and cats. These predators have been responsible for decimating up to 70% of the penguin population. At sea, however, these penguins enjoy their freedom, literally flying through the water, their wings flapping like flippers, and feeding predominantly on zooplankton and small fish.



### 15. Cormorants - Kawaupaka

One of the most common bird groups around

Banks Peninsula are the Cormorants which are commonly known in New Zealand as Shags. There are many species and the family is made up of Spotted, Little, Pied, and Black Shags all of which you may see today. The most common around the peninsula is the Spotted. These large birds are easy to spot and we'll probably see them either fishing or drying their wings.



### 16. Sea Birds

You may also see Black Backed Seagulls, Red Bill Seagulls, Welcome

Swallows, Canadian Geese, Paradise Ducks, Mollymauks, White Fronted Terns and occasionally Gannets, Petrels and Albatross.

## Finally...

Why not purchase a small souvenir of your cruise for friends and family at home? In our shop located on the main street (where you received your boarding passes) we offer a variety of gift ideas. Here you can also book other excursions, for example the exceptional opportunity to swim with the Hector's Dolphins in nearby Akaroa Harbour.

Thank you for choosing to cruise with Black Cat Cruises. We hope you leave with a better understanding of our wildlife, environment and conservation values. We are proud to show you our part of New Zealand. Enjoy the rest of your stay in Canterbury and New Zealand. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.



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