

Destination Conservation Experience



Punakaiki West Coast, New Zealand

*Help protect Punakaiki's vulnerable seabird,
the Westland Petrel*



Located on the rugged and wild West Coast of New Zealand's South Island, Punakaiki is the gateway to the dramatic limestone country of the Paparoa National Park and the famous Pancake Rocks and blow holes. Volunteers will contribute to the Punakaiki Coastal Restoration Project, which aims to restore native forest habitat for the vulnerable seabird, the Westland Petrel. The Westland Petrel is one of New Zealand's unique bird species with its only breeding location confined to a 5km area in the foothills of the Paparoa Range. Westland Petrels return to their colonies to breed from April to October and can be viewed at dusk and dawn from the project site.

You will explore some of the most incredible scenery on offer in New Zealand, taking you along the Arthur's Pass alpine highway and the Coastal Road of the West Coast. You'll also experience two of the best short hikes inside National Parks in the country, visit a fur seal colony, explore the famous limestone formations of the Pancake Rocks and blow holes, and best of all, help to create and protect habitat for a vulnerable and incredible seabird species.

Make a difference as you travel



Highlights

- Exploring spectacular limestone karst formations and ancient temperate coastal rainforests of the rugged Paparoa National Park
- Helping to protect and restore habitat for vulnerable Westland Petrel colonies in Te Ara Tāiko Nature Reserve
- Experiencing the famous Pancake Rocks and Putai blow hole
- Visiting a fur seal colony in Tauranga Bay, Westport
- Traversing Arthur's Pass, the highest and most spectacular mountain pass across the Southern Alps

Program Details

Price	A\$860 per person
Duration	5 days / 4 nights - Monday to Friday
Departs	Christchurch (starting February 2019)
Meeting location	8:00 am, Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Ave, Central Christchurch
Return time	5:00pm, Central Christchurch

Conservation Impact

Since 2008, Conservation Volunteers New Zealand have managed the Punakaiki Coastal Restoration Project, which has focused on replanting 80 hectares of land just south of Punakaiki village and bordering the Westland Petrel colonies. The land has special ecological significance due to its proximity to Paparoa National Park and the only breeding colonies of the Westland Petrel that fly over the project site to reach their colonies inland. The vision is to develop an ecological corridor that spans from the mountains to sea, reflecting the rich biodiversity of the area that includes the only nesting ground of the vulnerable Westland Petrel, the natural habitat of the Blue Penguin and the nationally threatened sand plain forests bearing Nikau Palms and Rata trees that are many hundreds of years old.

During this trip you will play an active role in restoring the forest surrounding the Westland Petrel colonies on the Te Ara Tāiko Nature Reserve, which will include tree planting, weed control, seed collection and the propagation of native plant species in the onsite-nursery that grows all the plants for the project.

Bookings

Contact us to reserve your place. While there are regular departures throughout the year, spaces are limited to 9 volunteers per group. You can also combine this 5-day program with other Destination Conservation Experiences to volunteer and travel with us for 12 days or multiple weeks, with various options around Australia and New Zealand available.



INCLUSIONS

- Experienced Conservation Volunteers team leader
- Return transfers to Punakaiki from Christchurch
- 4 nights' in cabin accommodation at the Punakaiki Beach Camp
- Three meals a day from lunch day 1 to lunch day 5
- Conservation activities and equipment
- Paparoa National Park including Pancake Rocks and Putai blow hole, sight-seeing trip to the NZ fur seal colony in Westport, and guided walks along the Truman Track and to the Devil's Punchbowl Waterfall inside Arthur's Pass National Park
- Certificate of appreciation

EXCLUSIONS

- Travel to Christchurch city departure point
- Breakfast day 1 and dinner day 5
- Laundry, medical expenses, personal travel insurance and items of a personal nature
- Visa and passport charges
- Departure, airport and airline charges
- Souvenirs, any additional tours or activities

More Information

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