

## KAIKŌURA - AT A GLANCE

Located on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island, Kaikōura went from being a busy whaling town to dedicating its energies and resources to marine life conservation. Here, several different whale species can be seen at different times of the year, but almost always the gigantic sperm whale can be observed. Curious dusky dolphins and lounging fur seals join a variety of seabirds in rounding out the rich sea population.

Historic Kaikōura spreads across a rocky peninsula that intertwines with lush farmlands and leads up to a protective mountain range. Explore the region on wheels, on foot, on horseback, by boat or plane or jumping in for a swim with the dolphins. And since Kaikōura is Māori for "meal of crayfish", why not treat yourself to this popular local delicacy!

## KAIKŌURA - RICH IN HISTORY

Kaikōura has a rich history and culture. Maori heritage is reflected in the name, Kaikōura. Tama ki Te Rangi arrived in the area many hundreds of years ago and was tired and hungry. He found an abundance of crayfish and named the area "Te Ahi Kaikōura a Tama ki Te Rangi" - the fire that cooked the crayfish of Tama ki Te Rangi.

European history can be traced back to 1770. Captain Cook first discovered the Kaikōura peninsula, believing it to be an island. The first shore whaling station was established in 1843, located near where Fyffe House still stands today. Other whaling stations soon followed, and at one stage the industry employed over one hundred men in the Kaikōura district alone. Whale numbers steadily declined after 1850 and the exportation of them became un-economic, leading whalers to turn to alternative means of existence, such as farming. Whaling continued sporadically until as recently as 1964 when the last of NZ's whaling operations ceased.



**KAIKŌURA MEANS TO EAT CRAYFISH  
KAI - TO EAT & KŌURA - CRAYFISH**

