



Take a luxury, bespoke escape away from the crowds.



COMPANY BACKGROUND

Something special for Fiordland – be blown away by Fiordland Discovery's comfort, luxury and authentic Kiwi hospitality.

A Queenstown family with roots deeply entrenched in Fiordland have launched a new luxury cruise business with a custom-built 24m catamaran.

Husband and wife Rob Swale and Kate Rollason own and operate Fiordland Discovery, a tourism business offering unrivalled access to Milford Sound and Fiordland with the *Fiordland Jewel* catamaran that features a helipad, hot tub, private king suite and chef-prepared cuisine.

Guests can experience a range of trips from exploring Milford Sound overnight – a seven-day scenic cruise of Preservation Inlet and the surrounding Southern Fiords including Doubtful Sound, Dusky Sound and Stewart Island, or privately charter the boat for multi-day fishing, hunting and diving trips – while taking in New Zealand's largest national park in complete luxury.

The idea behind Fiordland Discovery and the Jewel is to offer visitors up-close-and-personal access to the stunning wilderness area through operators that have a genuine connection to the area.

Rob searched the globe to find a suitable boat, but after years of looking, he realised he needed to design and build it himself. A key aspect was to ensure there were large windows in the cabins and the lounge, and private cabins with ensuites to allow families and children to enjoy the area.

The end result is something special for Fiordland – and guests are blown away by Fiordland Discovery's comfort, luxury and authentic Kiwi hospitality.



FAST FACTS

Fiordland Discovery is Fiordland's only luxury cruise operator.

- The *Fiordland Jewel* is a 24m, three-deck catamaran with a high quality 5-star marine fit-out. Sleeps 20 passengers a night in nine climate-controlled cabins, each with their own ensuite bathroom.
- The Jewel was designed and built by Fiordland Discovery owner and skipper Rob Swale.
- Guests can enjoy kayaking or taking a trip on the Jewel's Zodiac tender boat.
- Launched in December 2016, Fiordland Discovery is a family-owned business with the owners having a lifelong connection to Fiordland.
- Well-equipped in case of emergency in remote locations: Boat has onboard satellite phone and defibrillator. Staff are also trained in first aid.
- Fiordland National Park was officially constituted in 1952. Today it covers over 1.2 million hectares and was declared a World Heritage Area in 1986.
- Fiordland/Te Wahipounamu was well known to the Maori, and many legends recount its formation and naming. Demigod Tuterakiwhanoa is said to have carved the rugged landscape from formless rock. Takiwai, a translucent greenstone, was sought from Anita Bay and elsewhere near the mouth of Milford Sound/Piopiotahi.
- Captain Cook and his crew were the first Europeans to visit Fiordland, and in 1773 spent five weeks in Dusky Sound.

THE JEWEL IS A PURPOSE-BUILT, ONE-OF-A-KIND CATAMARAN, EXCLUSIVE IN FIORDLAND BECAUSE OF ITS:

- Remote Operating Vehicle (ROV): The Jewel hosts Fiordland's first and only remote-operated vehicle, which provides high resolution live underwater footage.
- Helicopter pad.
- Top-deck hot tub.
- Onboard chef preparing top quality cuisine daily.
- Ability for private charters / exclusive boat use.

A FAMILY BUSINESS

Bio: Rob Swale – Fiordland Discovery owner/skipper

Rob is one of Fiordland's most experienced skippers, and Fiordland is in his blood. Rob's father John "Swaley" Swale was a commercial crayfisherman and Rob grew up surrounded by the sea and Fiordland, spending much of his childhood on his father's boat *Voska*.

Rob met Kate in Queenstown 28 years ago when she first arrived on her OE from England. Before having children, Kate even worked a stint as Rob's deckhand in Doubtful Sound until they eventually settled in Queenstown.

When his father retired, Rob took over operations, leased a crayfish quota and went on to commission the first ever commercial fishing boat built in Queenstown. In 2003 he upgraded to his first Jewel as a commercial fishing boat with a quota for blue cod. Over the years the demand for fishing charters increased, and Rob also operated charters for diving and hunting.

Rob noticed that people wanted more comfort while spending time in Milford Sound and Fiordland, so he tailored his charter trips and cruises accordingly – which ultimately led to establishing Fiordland Discovery.

He loves sharing Fiordland and Milford Sound with guests and his knowledge of the area is immense. Throughout his years as a commercial fisherman, Rob has extensively mapped the seafloor of Fiordland with state-of-the-art 3D Waasp technology.

The couple's passion has been passed on to their children, with sons Jack and Joe working on board as crew and completing their diving certificates, while daughter Luca wants to pursue a career in marine biology.

These days, Rob is an advocate for sustainable fishing practises and believes in catching enough fish to eat, rather than taking as much as a quota will allow. He actively encourages fishing charter companies to do the same, to help preserve and maintain Fiordland's precious marine wildlife.



MILFORD SOUND

OVERNIGHT CRUISE

DEPARTS QUEENSTOWN AND TE ANAU

OFF-PEAK

2019

1 - 30 September

Arrive onboard 2.30pm. Depart 3.00pm
Return approximately 9.30am

PEAK

2019/2020

1 October to 14 April 2020

Arrive onboard 4.00pm. Depart 4.20pm
Return approximately 9.00am



Spend a night in the 'eighth wonder of the world' on board the stunning *Fiordland Jewel* with Fiordland Discovery. Taking only 20 passengers a night, the Jewel features nine climate-controlled cabins all with ensuite bathrooms and majestic fiord and sea views.

DAY ONE

- Arrive at the Milford Sound terminal (if travelling by road) or land on the boat (if travelling by helicopter)
- Cruise down the southern side of the fiord, past Bowen Falls, Sinbad Gully, the world-renowned Mitre Peak, Mt Pembroke, Bridal Veil Falls and Fairy Falls.
- If weather permits, we cruise into the mouth of the fiord past Anita Bay, and head into the Tasman Sea for a glimpse of the West Coast, before returning into the sound.
- Venture up the north side of the fiord past Dale Point, the Piopiotahi Marine Reserve, Seal Rock, Stirling Falls, The Lion and the Cascade Range.
- After cruising, we anchor at Deepwater Basin for the night. There is the opportunity to explore nearby in the on-board sea kayaks and Zodiac tender boat, before returning to the Jewel for drinks (cash bar) and three-course meal (included)
- View underwater film footage captured by our Remote Operating Vehicle (ROV)
- Soak in the top-deck hot tub under the stars before retiring to your cabin for the night.

DAY TWO

- Dawn arrives at 6am in December, but can be as late as 8am in March. Watch the sunrise over continental breakfast, which is served 7am-8am, before returning to the terminal at 9-9.30am.
- Return to Queenstown or Te Anau.

MILFORD SOUND

HELI-LUNCH/CRUISE-HELI

DEPARTS QUEENSTOWN, GLENORCHY, WANAKA AND TE ANAU

PRICE ON APPLICATION

OFF-PEAK

2019/2020

1 - 30 September

Arrive onboard 11.30am. Depart 1.45pm
Duration 4 hours (approx.)

PEAK

2019/2020

1 October to 14 April 2020

Arrive onboard 11.30am. Depart 2pm
Duration 4 hours (approx.)

Your helicopter flight will descend through carved glacial valleys to Milford to land aboard the Jewel. You will be guided by expert crew who will share with you the incredible natural wilderness and local wildlife, which can include seals, dolphins, penguins and the rare black coral. Experience a lobster lunch and stunning scenery before being picked up by helicopter.

LUNCH FEATURES local seasonal fare, including crayfish/lobster, blue cod, NZ merino lamb and wild West Coast venison (when available).

Exclusive hire only. Due to variables and operational considerations this is a price and availability on application.



FIORDLAND | STEWART ISLAND

7-DAY CRUISES

DATES

2019/2020

Stewart Island 6-nights/7-days

1 August, out 7 August 2019
1 August, out 7 August 2020

From Oban.

Cabins (sleeps 2) from \$2,750 per person

Doubtful, Breaksea & Dusky Sounds, Preservation & Chalky Inlets 6-nights/7-days

6 May, out 12 May 2019
14 May, out 20 May 2019
2 June, out 8 June 2019
16 June, out 22 June 2019
21 August, out 27 August 2019

8 May, out 14 May 2020
16 May, out 22 May 2020
22 May, out 28 May 2020
30 May, out 5 June 2020
21 August, out 27 August 2020

From Te Anau or transport available from Queenstown at additional cost.

Cabins (sleeps 2) from \$3,025 per person. Includes heli onboard or off-board (one-way only).

All prices GST inclusive and in NZD

MAXIMUM

18 PASSENGERS

Fiordland Discovery offers multi-day scenic cruises in Doubtful, Breaksea and Dusky Sounds, and Preservation and Chalky Inlets and Stewart Island so you can see all that this scenic slice of paradise has to offer.

This is not a private whole-vessel charter, but a multi-day cruise where you book a cabin. These trips are tailored specifically for people who are interested in scenery, history and nature.

- Cruise Fiordland - Doubtful, Breaksea and Dusky Sounds, Preservation and Chalky Inlets or Stewart Island
- 7 Day Scenic, Nature and Historic Cruise with opportunities to fish
- Nine luxury cabins with private ensuites
- Bush, island and beach walks including the most south-westerly point of the South Island, Puysegur Point
- Visit historic Captain Cook and Gold Rush sites
- May see the Royal Albatross, Fiordland Crested Penguin, and rare native birds
- Explore under the water via a HD video camera mounted on a submarine drone
- Explore the fiords and bays of Stewart Island in a kayak, or in the Jewel's Zodiac tender boat
- Hot tub, and fully air-conditioned and heated cabins
- All activities are weather-dependent.

FIORDLAND | STEWART ISLAND

EXCLUSIVE CRUISES

PRICE ON APPLICATION

AVAILABLE DATES

2019/2020

Preservation Inlet, Dusky Sound to Doubtful Sound 6-nights/7-days - Helicopter in

20 May, out 26 May 2019

22 June, out 28 June 2019

24 April, out 30 April 2020

5 June, out 11 June 2020

19 June, out 25 June 2020

Preservation Inlet, Doubtful Sound to Dusky Sound 6-nights/7-days - Helicopter out

2 May, out 8 May 2020

13 June, out 19 June, 2020

Includes heli onboard or off-board (one-way only).

Stewart Island 7 days/6 nights - from Oban

8 August, out 14 August 2019 & 2020

All meals included

MAXIMUM

18 PASSENGERS

Fiordland Discovery offers bespoke, private multi-day scenic, fishing, hunting and diving charters in the fiords and the Tasman Sea. The journey can start in Doubtful Sound and travel down the coast to Dusky Sound or Preservation Inlet, or the reverse – from Te Anau to Dusky Sound, and travel up the coast to Doubtful Sound.

Stewart Island Cruises start from Oban. Plan A is to travel the distance around Stewart Island – approx. 130 to 160 kms. Plan B is to do as much as possible given the Skipper's judgement and weather conditions at the time.

FISHING CHARTERS

- The very latest in fishing technology, a 3D Wasp seafloor mapping system, is onboard. From years of commercial fishing, skipper Rob Swale has comprehensively mapped the fishing grounds of Fiordland and Stewart Island, enabling guests to make the most of their fishing time.
- Common species caught in Fiordland include blue cod, groper, tuna and trumpeter. A world-record tuna was caught off the coast of Greymouth from Fiordland Discovery's previous vessel, weighing in at a massive 325 kilograms.



FIORDLAND | STEWART ISLAND

EXCLUSIVE CRUISES (CONT'D)

DIVING CHARTERS

- The Fiordland underwater world is extraordinary in that many species, which are normally only discovered at great depths, are visible in shallower waters due to a light-absorbing freshwater layer.
- The water is relatively warm and remarkably clear, giving you access to flora and fauna which is usually well out of reach, such as black coral, saucer sponge, large tube anemone and spiny sea dragons, as well as 160 species of fish. Guests also have the chance to gather their own lobster for dinner.
- Although most parts of Fiordland are teeming with underwater life, there are five marine reserves available to dive in. Gaer Arm, the Gut and Elizabeth Island in Doubtful Sound, and Wet Jacket Arm in Dusky Sound, are all marine reserves with up to seven metres of rainfall floating on top of the seawater. It's also fantastic to dive in the Five Fingers Peninsula Marine Reserve, which is exposed to wave action and mixes fresh and saltwater together.
- Fiordland Discovery provides all dive tanks and weight belts and Fiordland Jewel has its own onboard compressor. Divers must have their dive ticket and this is to be brought onboard.

HUNTING CHARTERS

- Hunting for red deer in Fiordland is world-renowned and Fiordland Discovery offers hunting charters to cater for hunters keen to access the wilderness. Deer can occasionally be seen on land slips while cruising the fiords.
- Hunters must supply their own gun, and have their current gun licence and a valid hunting permit, from the Department of Conservation (DOC) aboard with them. Fiordland Discovery provides a VHF radio and arranges drop-offs and pick-ups to suit.

PRIVATE CHARTERS

Exclusive charters are available: Day, Overnight, and multi-day – upon request. Fiordland Discovery cruises are guided by expert crew, are fully catered, with all equipment supplied.



FROM ROB SWALE

All attributable to Fiordland Discovery
owner and skipper – Rob Swale

ON WHY FIORDLAND DISCOVERY EXISTS:

"We established Fiordland Discovery to give guests up-close-and-personal access to the phenomenal wilderness in a luxury setting. We are a family-operated business with a genuine connection to the area and we know Fiordland and Milford Sound inside and out. It's fantastic being able to share our knowledge and enthusiasm for this region with our guests so they can have the experience of a lifetime."

ON THE OFF-PEAK OVERNIGHT CRUISE

"The cooler months are ideal for exploring the fiords – it's a surreal feeling being able to enjoy the snowy peaks and captivating wildlife from the comfort of your own spacious cabin, or even from the top-deck hot tub with a wine in hand."

ON BUILDING THE FIORDLAND JEWEL

"We wanted a boat that gave Fiordland and the incredible scenery justice. We wanted our guests to be able to lie in bed in the morning and take in the scenery."

"I searched the globe to look for a suitable boat thinking it would be an easy task, but after years of looking, I realised I needed to design and build it myself. A key aspect was to ensure there were large windows in the cabins and the lounge, and we wanted private cabins with ensuites to allow families and children to enjoy the area."

"We're incredibly happy with the result and our guests have been blown away by the boat's comfort, luxury and our Kiwi hospitality."

IMAGE LIBRARY

Contact us to obtain images and short videos



For more information, or to arrange an interview
with owners Rob Swale or Kate Rollason, please contact:

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