Wairau Lagoons

Features: From Blenheim town centre this walk is 7km. This is one of a few places along the eastern coast of the South Island where it is possible to enjoy the richness and unique beauty of a large estuary. Many species of birds nest here and a bird book and binoculars are useful additional equipment to take! At the lagoons’ main channel the rusting hulk of the Waverley sits in the mud. There is also an interesting human history of early moa-hunter activity, Maori food gathering and later coastal trading.

Where: Wairau Lagoons Reserve, 7km southeast of Blenheim.

Walking Time: Lagoon loop track from car park 3 hour circuit (8km) Plus side-track from “Waverley” wreck 45 minutes return (2km)

Grade: Walking track — virtually flat (not recommended after heavy rain as surface water can be ankle deep in places, nor in very hot or windy weather as this is an extremely exposed area).