

***“New Zealand is a pocket edition of the world.”***



***Brian Lucas, a Kiwi born in the wrong country, with partner Paula Sinclair.***

## **NZ is a world in miniature, clients told**

NEW Zealand is a pocket edition of the world, Brian Lucas tells clients who take tours with his company Christchurch-based Wildsouth Discovery.

“New Zealand has nearly every type of landscape,” he tells *IT*, explaining his company covers the South Island, while household name and Whangamata-based Kiwi Dundee Adventures provides complementary nature walks and tours in the North Island.

Mr Lucas launched Canterbury Trails in 1994 and sold it in 2010 to semi-retire. But he missed meeting overseas visitors so he and his partner Paula Sinclair started Wildsouth Discovery. They now offer more bespoke safari-style tours.

The company has a two-seater luxury vehicle and a six-seater with all extras that Mr Lucas drives, accompanied by partner and guide host Ms Sinclair.

“The vehicles are modified 4WDs - not that we are serious 4WDers, but we do take guests on roads less travelled such as the high road to Akaroa. That’s not the way coaches or campervans go. We may be 4WD but we certainly don’t bush bash.”

Both vehicles are fitted with everything from fridges, to binoculars, reference books and maps to equipment for picnics.

“On one trip I pulled out the picnic goodies, someone said ‘I suppose you have a candelabra in there’ and I did. So I pulled that out and we now carry it with us on every trip.”

Asked about his London accent, Mr Lucas blushed slightly and explained: “I am a Kiwi born in the wrong country.”

Clients tend to be North American, UK and Europe professionals or semi-professionals, retired or semi-retired and in their mid- to late-40s.

“They tend to be discerning travellers wanting to get up close to our unique nature and the diverse landscapes the South Island has to offer. In the North Island we leave it up to Kiwi Dundee Doug Johansen and his partner Jan Poole.”

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