



2020 Starling Nationals – What to do when you're not on the water!?



With 2 races a day scheduled, there could also be plenty of opportunity to get out and about and explore the Nelson area and there is no shortage of awesome things to do!

Add the weather forecast to the mix and we thought we should give you some ideas. We all know that hanging around all day at the club does no-one any favours, so we will aim to be proactive in postponing for a given duration where possible or deciding to abandon a day. With the unpredictable spring conditions it won't always be easy to make the right call, but we'll do our best!

Other activities

Our friends at the iSite are a great resource in planning anything around the region. Check out <https://www.nelsontasman.nz> and the local events guide is <https://itson.co.nz/>

Pic's Peanut Butter World

Of course, you shouldn't miss the opportunity to check out the Pic's factory and visitor centre in Stoke. <https://www.picspeanutbutter.com/tours/>

Eat and eat well!

You don't have to go far for delicious food. Most of these places are booked out in the evenings, so make sure you book ahead. NB. Some are also closed on Mondays.

[Nahm](#) upstairs at the yacht club is an absolute must, and mention that you are part of the Starling Nationals and you'll get a 10% discount! Legends.

[Styx Restaurant](#) is a short walk towards town on the edge of the Port and a great place for a drink or meal. They look after us well when we head there after our twilight series racing!

[The Boathouse](#), the [BoatShed Café](#) and the [Harbour Light Bistro](#) make up the other iconic waterfront venues in Nelson and are all fantastic places for a meal out.

That's just the waterfront covered. There are some great cafes and restaurants in town to check out too. Some of our favourites are, The [Indian Café](#), [Urban Eatery](#), [East St Café](#) (meat free and awesome) and [Nicola's Cantina](#).

Sublime Coffee Roasters

Loving the coffee? Head to our coffee sponsor Sublime's Roastery and Brew Bar on New Street. They're bloody good sorts and roast a mean bean!

Tahunanui Beach

As well as the beach there are heaps of attractions and things to do from trampoline parks, to go-karting

Blow Karting

Fancy capsizing on dry land instead? Check out <https://vortexwindkarting.co.nz/> in Richmond. Bookings essential outside of their weekend opening hours (1-6pm).

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Mountain biking & Cycling

Hire bikes (and get advice) from [Gravity Nelson](#), [Torpedo 7](#) etc... and check out some of the world class trails in the hills behind Nelson. Nelson's trails have a reputation of grading a level harder than elsewhere so you can go as gnarly as you like. Gravity and [Helibike Nelson](#) also organise shuttles by the half-day or full-day.

There are some great easy and intermediate trails too, all within riding distance from town. For a flatter, more gentle option, look into the Great Taste trail with [Trail Journeys](#). However, if we're blown off the water, you won't want to be grinding along the gravel into a headwind – so get dropped/picked-up for a downwinder!

Wine Tours & Brewery Tours

For parents, we are pretty spoilt for great local wineries and craft-beer breweries. From beer tasting at [The Freehouse](#) in town, [Eddyline](#) in Richmond, or heading out to one of the many wineries on the Waimea Plains, there are heaps of options.

Museums

The [Nelson Provincial Museum](#) has always got heaps of interesting exhibitions on. [Founders Heritage Park](#) is another great spot.

Walks

If you can get dropped at The Glen (Glenduan) and then picked up at the other end, the Cable Bay Walkway is a spectacular coastal hike – about 3hrs one way and pretty hilly so a good workout! Allow 4-5hrs including the drive. You can also just drive to Cable Bay and do the hike to the top of the hill there for fantastic views out to Tasman Bay.

For a short but steep climb with great views try the Grampians reserve, or the Centre of New Zealand walks on the edge of town.

Cable Bay Adventure Park

For NZ's longest skywire, mountain biking, quad bikes, horse trekking, paintball, archery and more head over to [Cable Bay Adventure Park](#)

Venturing further afield

Head over to Mapua and then task Wendy & Debbie from [Tall Poppy Real Estate](#) with finding you your dream Tasman home. There are more wineries in Upper Moutere, and a great craft and art scene with heaps of galleries dotted around the place.

Kaiteriteri and the Abel Tasman National park don't really need much introduction, and we're stoked to have [Abel Tasman Sea Shuttles](#), [Abel Tasman Kayaks](#) and [Abel Tasman Aquataxi](#) on board as sponsors providing some great vouchers for walking, kayaking and boat trips that we'll be giving away. There is also great mountain biking in the hills behind Kaiteriteri.