



# Port Museum Tour

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The Port Museum, at Founders Heritage Park, comprises two buildings alongside a small jetty at the edge of a pond affectionately known as Lake Howey. On entering the first building there is a theatrette **1**. Pause to watch the film featuring the history of Port Nelson 1841-1980, and the making of the 'Cut' in 1906, a man-made passage between the Boulder Bank and Haulashore Island designed to ease entry to the port.

Awaroa, in Golden Bay, was one of the earliest sites for shipbuilding in the region. The largest vessel built there was the *Awaroa*, **2** a schooner built by David Gilberston in 1875.

The ship's wheel from the *Edwin Fox* **3** is one of the relics here from this immigrant ship built in 1853. The *Edwin Fox* made four voyages to New Zealand from 1873 carrying a total of 751 passengers to the new colony. The ship had various uses in its long lifetime, including carrying prisoners to Australia, British troops (and possibly Florence Nightingale) to the Crimean War and ferrying cargoes of alcohol and frozen sheep meat. The ship has been preserved and is able to be boarded in Picton.

See the wash stand from the *Janie Seddon*, **4** one of two submarine mine laying vessels brought out from England in 1903. The hulk of the ship remains on the beach at Motueka.

A splendidly painted figurehead, **5** who once led the way on the bow of the ship *Messenger*, is now on watch high on the museum wall. Her crew all made it safely to shore after the ship was wrecked off Farewell Spit in 1879.

The museum makes reference to Nelson's first European settlers with a life sized slab hut

interior scene **6** where the inhabitant cheers his solitary existence with a small piano accordion.

Exit Building One passing the seascape of the Nelson shoreline featuring Fifeshire Rock and the Boulder Bank. Continue along the jetty to the next building which holds a significant display of model ships of all sizes from the unique collection amassed by the Captain R J Ricketts family. See tiny creations in bottles to major models in cabinets. Several carboys have intricate groupings, such as the complete view of Nelson Harbour **7**, created in 1880.

Other scale models have been created by local artist Peta Raggett. See the *Lord Auckland* **8** and the *Fifeshire* **9**, two migrant ships that headed for Nelson in 1841. Another of Raggett's models is the *Mataura* **10**, used to transport frozen meat to England in 1882, and passengers to Nelson in 1873-5.

The *Mavis* **11** built by John Turner was a steamer used locally in the 1890s. See the chart of Tasman Bay **12** with ports, harbours and bays where coastal ships loaded cargoes.

This tour touches on a just a few of the displays in the museum. Take time to wander around and enjoy the display of rare coral, nautical flags and knot crafts. Of interest to collectors are dining settings for Anchor Shipping, Union, Interisland, Golden Bay Cement and Northern Steam Ship Co. Last, but not least, visitors can find Nelson's namesake represented in the museum through D N Frost's model of the *Victory*, complimented by a bust of Lord Nelson **13** on the floor underneath.