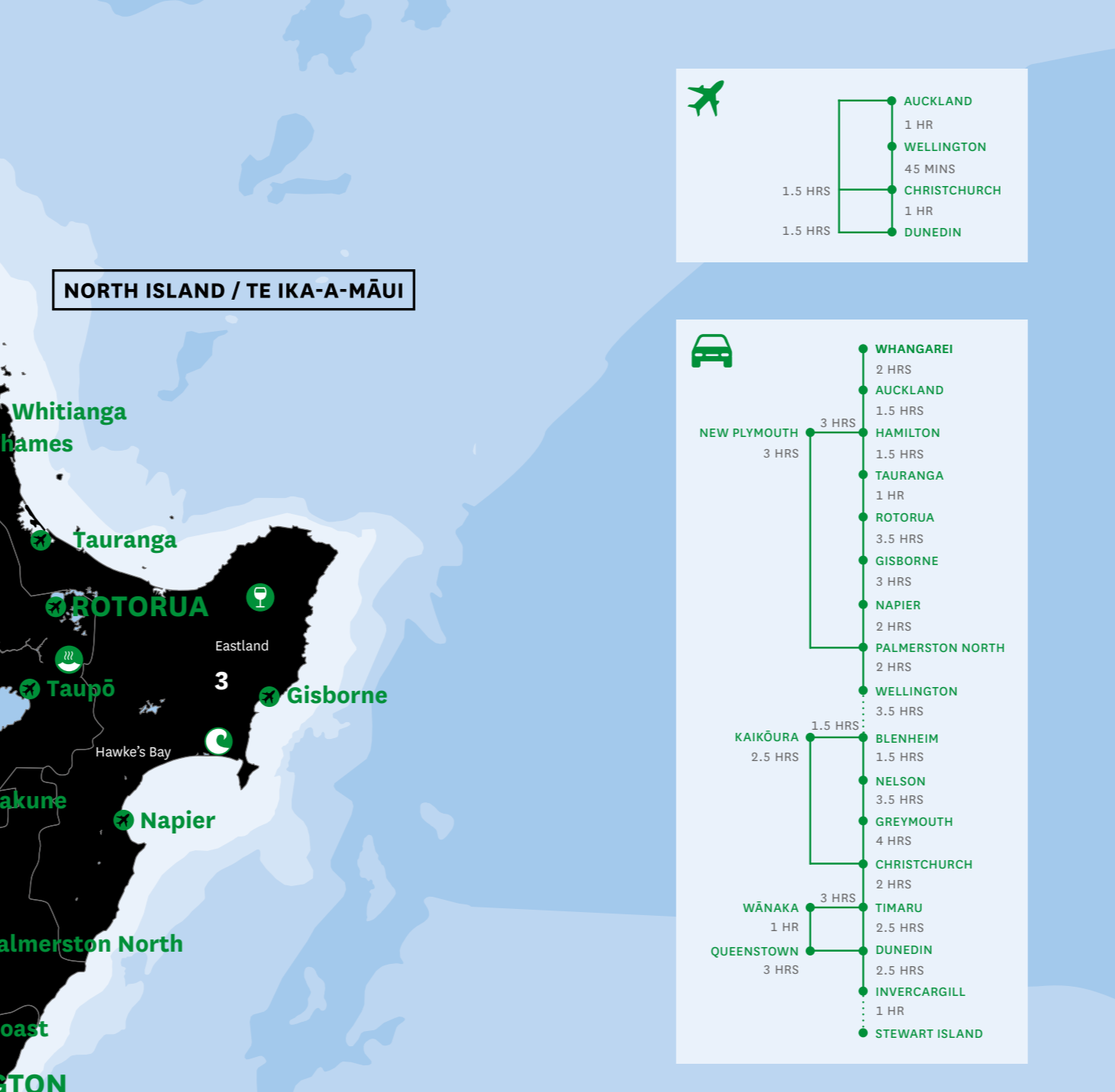


Aotearoa New Zealand

New Zealand has an amazing range of experiences that are all within arm's reach of everyone who visits. You'll find a unique embrace of people, culture and landscapes that will take you on your journey and create everlasting stories.

Aotearoa New Zealand is a destination for the curious ones – for those willing to seek. New Zealand offers everything, from dramatic natural scenery to rich Māori culture and vibrant cities. Its extraordinary geography offers a hugely diverse range of unique things to see and do.

Hike through lush rainforests near glaciers, soak in geothermal hot pools surrounded by snow-capped mountains, and relax on perfect white sand beaches that stretch for miles. Sail on turquoise waters dotted with picturesque islands, or cruise through towering fiords past cascading waterfalls. End each perfect day indulging in award-winning cuisine paired with wine from local vineyards that stretch through every region.



Viaduct Harbour, Auckland



1. Northland and Auckland

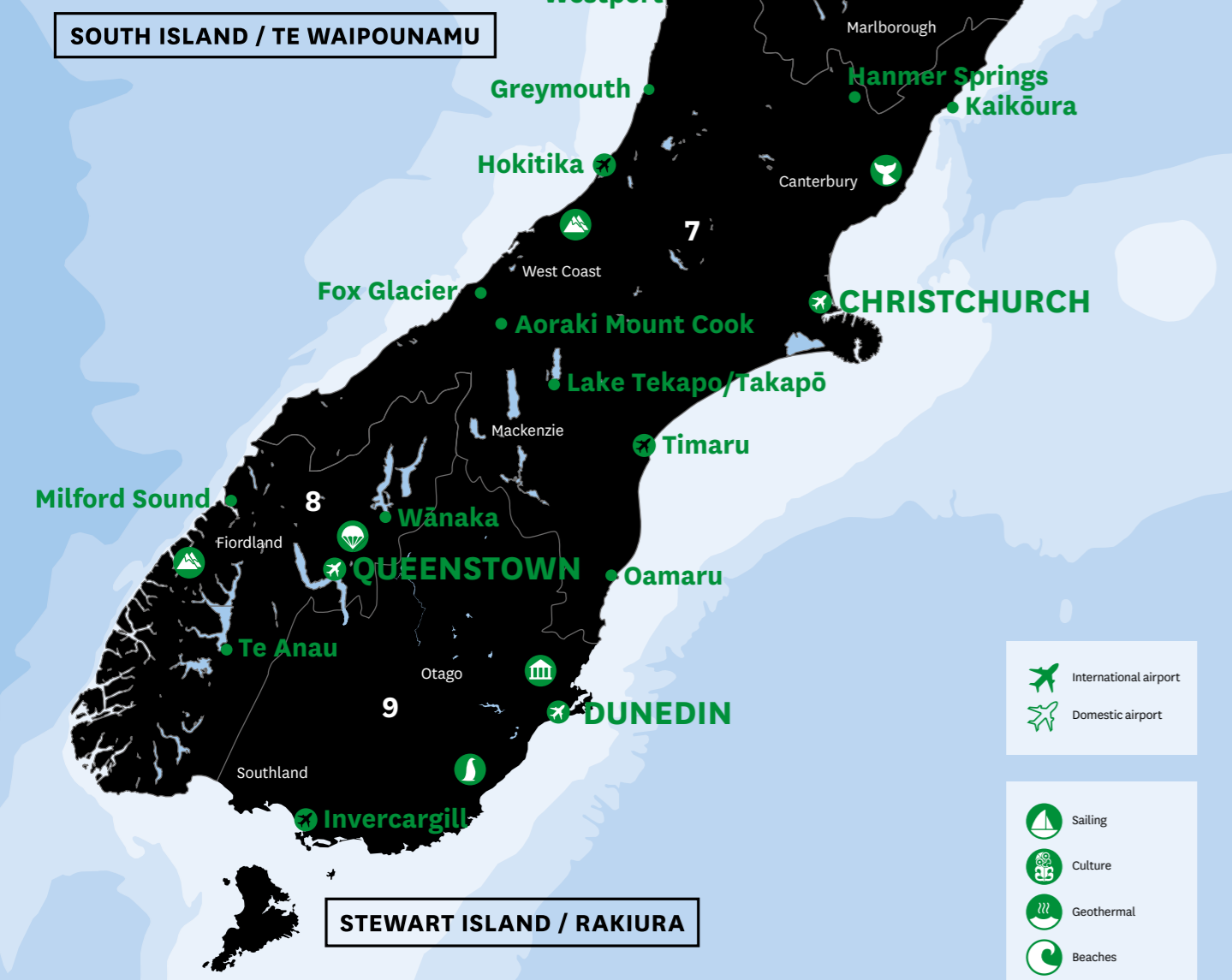
As New Zealand's largest and most cosmopolitan city, Auckland offers a wealth of cultural, artistic and dining attractions. Ride a glass-bottomed elevator to the observation deck of the 1000-foot-tall Sky Tower and take a horizon-spanning look over the city and the sail-studded Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Take a cruise across Auckland's harbour and walk beneath the pōhutukawa canopy on Rangitoto Island, or enjoy a sunny day of food, wine and white sandy beaches on Waikato Island. Travel north to arrive in winterless Northland, the spiritual home of New Zealand, and paddle a waka (Māori for boat) across the waters where Polynesian explorer Kupe first landed.



Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Northland



Waipoua Forest, Northland



Hobbiton™ Movie Set Tours, Matamata



Hot Water Beach, The Coromandel



Te Pūia, Rotorua



Waitomo Caves, Waitomo



Cathedral Cove, The Coromandel



Mt Maunganui, Bay of Plenty

3. Pacific Coast Highway

Follow this route from Auckland for a beach-infused road trip and take in the spectacular coastlines, forests and seaside villages of the Coromandel Peninsula. In Bay of Plenty, take a walk to the summit of Mauao Mt Maunganui for breath-taking views of the surrounding beaches, towns, nearby cafés and shops. Eastland's relaxed coastal life is popular with surfers and also offers authentic Māori cultural experiences. Travel south to Hawke's Bay for outstanding wines and art deco architecture in Napier.



Whanganui National Park



Kelburn Hill, Wellington



Abel Tasman National Park, Abel Tasman



Whanganui River, Taranaki



Mount Taranaki



Castlepoint, Wairarapa



The Great Taste Trail, Nelson



Marlborough Sounds, Marlborough



Hooker Valley Track, Aoraki Mount Cook National Park



Shotover River, Queenstown



Larnach Castle, Dunedin

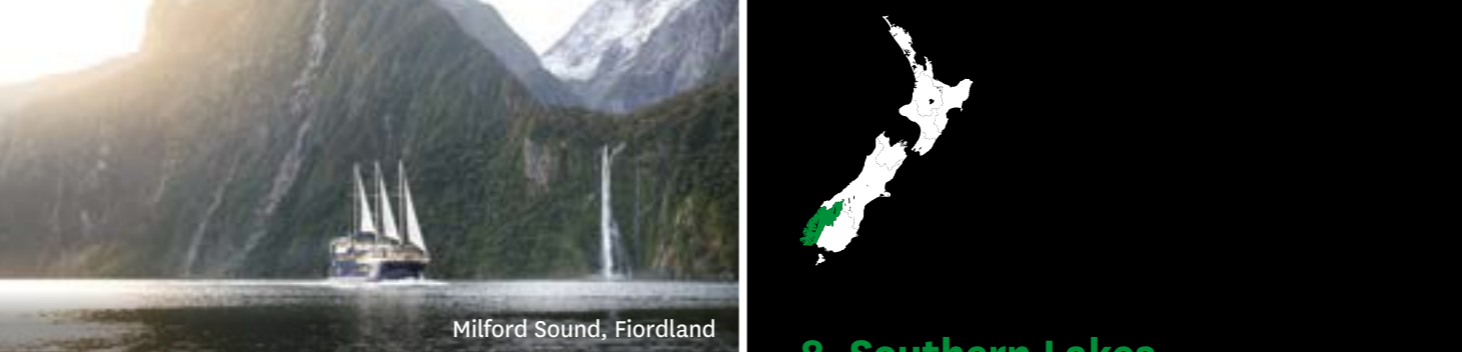


Christchurch, Canterbury



7. Canterbury and West Coast

Known for rolling green pastures, the jagged peaks of the Southern Alps and silvery beaches, Canterbury is home to world-class wildlife experiences, lush vineyards and pristine glacial lakes. Christchurch, the largest city and airport gateway in the South Island, is a place of intense creative energy as its residents rebuild in the wake of the 2011 earthquake. Drive north to Kaikōura to have an up-close whale watching experience any time of year, and to feast on delicious fresh crayfish. Head to Aoraki Mount Cook National Park and fly by helicopter, or hike to the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers.



Milford Sound, Fiordland



Otago Peninsula, Dunedin

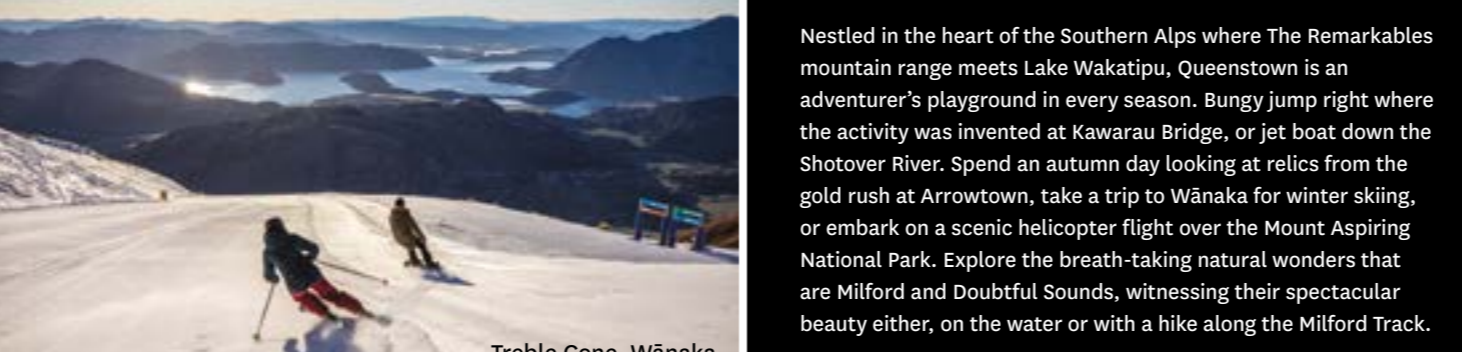


9. Pure Southern Land

Hosting a wide range of well-preserved Victorian and Edwardian buildings as well as spectacular rocky coasts, coastal Otago and Southland are the perfect place for those who appreciate historic architecture and rugged landscapes. When in Dunedin, visit the historic Speight's Brewery, or take a trip out to the majestic Larnach Castle. The coastline in this region is a treasure trove of incredible geological and wildlife sights, including the Moeraki Boulders, blue and yellow-eyed penguin, albatross and fur seal colonies. At the bottom of New Zealand, Rakiura Stewart Island is home to a many rare native species, making it perfect for nature walks.



Kaikōura, Canterbury



Treble Cone, Wānaka



Blue Penguin Colony, Oamaru

Getting Around

Aotearoa New Zealand is home to some of the most beautiful scenic drives, with many destinations being only hours away from one another.

With an extensive network of air, train and road services most places can be reached by public transport. Buses and coaches link up with rail and ferry operators to take you the length of the country, and air travel is also available to most destinations.

See the sights at your own pace and journey along New Zealand's themed highways that lead you to some of Aotearoa's most iconic landscapes and hidden gems. Most of these highways are signposted but detours are encouraged along the way and combining a few routes will ensure a varied experience.

THEMED HIGHWAYS

These routes are marked with distinctive brown road signs. For more information visit: newzealand.com/int/themed-highways

NORTH ISLAND

Twin Coast Discovery Highway: Recommend 6 Days
This easy drive begins in Auckland tracing both coastlines as you venture through New Zealand's warmest region, Northland, and up to the top of Cape Reinga and back. Highlights include beautiful beaches dotted with our native trees, epic fishing, surfing and snorkelling plus beautiful forests and hiking. Be sure to greet Tāne Mahuta - the world's largest living Kauri tree and explore the Waitangi Treaty Grounds - one of Aotearoa's most historically significant sites.

Pacific Coast Highway: Recommend 7 Days
Travelling from Auckland to Napier, explore the spectacular coastal scenery along the East Coast of the North Island. This route follows the Pōhūtukawa Coast, through Clevedon and around the Firth of Thames. As you journey along the Pacific Coast Highway you'll venture through the Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne and the Hawke's Bay. If you're seeking stunning beaches, untouched wilderness and incredible wineries this is the route for you. Be sure to check out some of the local hot spots like Mauao Mt Maunganui and hunt down some of the best surf breaks in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thermal Explorer Highway: Recommend 6 days
Delve into the volcanic heart of the North Island, as you journey from Auckland to the Hawke's Bay. Along the way you'll discover the Waitomo caves and their glittering glow worms in the Waikato region. Experience geothermal wonders and rich Māori culture throughout Rotorua and Lake Taupō and enjoy the breathtaking Tongariro National Park and Hawke's Bay Wine Country. When combined, the Pacific Coast Highway and Thermal Explorer are known as The Great New Zealand Touring Route.

Forgotten World Highway: Recommend 2 Days
New Zealand's oldest heritage trail, the 150km Forgotten World Highway (State Highway 43) is a remote journey that takes you through stunningly scenic untouched landscapes. Following ancient Māori trade routes and 19th century bridle paths, the highway connects Taumarunui, a town known for trout fishing, kayaking & jet boating to Stratford. The route wriggles its way over four mountain saddles, through an eerie one-way tunnel and along a sinuous river gorge, passing through the unique Republic of Whangamāmona.

Volcanic Loop: Recommend 5 Days
From the trout town of Tūrangi, you can circle the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park by following state highways 47, 4, 49 and 1. On a clear day, you'll enjoy spectacular views of the mountains and the volcanic terrain that surrounds them. The stretch known as the 'Desert Road', which cuts across the desolate Rangipo Desert, is particularly memorable.

Surf Highway 45: Recommend 2 Days
The 105km Highway that traces the Taranaki coast is known as Surf Highway 45 for the countless surf breaks that can be found at the end of almost every road that leads to the coast. The top surf spots have some quirky names, like the Kumara Patch, Graveyards, Secret Spot and Green Meadows to mention a few. Close by you can grab a bite at a cosy café, or browse the region's collection of galleries, and artists' studios.

Manawatu Scenic Route: Recommend 2 Days
A scenic alternative to State Highway One, embark on a journey through the heart of Aotearoa New Zealand's lower North Island. Explore hidden valleys, vast rolling farmland and ancient native forests as you visit the towns of Mangaweka, Apti and Ashhurst. Discover country cafés and pubs, heritage sites, galleries, and gardens, to scenic reserves, day walks, swimming holes, glow-worm caves, and camping spots. Experience the real Kiwi backcountry, meet the locals, and enjoy world-class scenery from the roadsides.

Classic New Zealand Wine Trail: Recommend 7 Days
Weaving through three major wine regions, the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail serves up unforgettable wine and food experiences along the 380km route, spanning the North and South Islands. This self-guided drive takes visitors through the Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, and Marlborough, home to some 230 wineries. At the heart of the trail lies Wellington, New Zealand's capital, the perfect place for a culinary and cultural stopover. Enjoy stunning scenery, beautiful forest parks, buzzing nightlife and indulgent food experiences along the way.

SOUTH ISLAND

Classic New Zealand Wine Trail: See details above.

Alpine Pacific Touring Route: The Alpine Pacific Touring Route takes you to the wine and food experiences of Waipara, the spa delights of Hamner Springs and the marine mammal encounters of Kaikōura. Between destinations, you'll enjoy beautiful country scenery.

The Inland Scenic 70 Route: The perfect road journey for travellers who like to get off the main highways and find real rural life. The route starts at Amberley, in the north of the Canterbury region, and runs to Winchester, where it links to State Highway 1. There are fabulous views of the Southern Alps on one side of the road, complemented by the green serenity of the Canterbury Plains on the other.

The Great Alpine Highway: This coast-to-coast route traverses the Southern Alps. From Christchurch, the 255-kilometre route follows State Highway 73 west across river plains before rising to traverse through Porters Pass and Arthur's Pass National Park. Highlights include the impressive Waimakariri and Otira River gorges, driving along the Otira Viaduct and exploring natural wonders like the Castle Hill Rocks and Cave Stream Reserve.

Great Coast Road: The Great Coast Road stretches from Westport down to Kumara. It meanders alongside the ancient limestone cliffs of Paparoa National Park, where the world's smallest penguin resides, through Charleston and down to Punakaiki, home to the famous Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. Driving it in one go only takes about 90 minutes, but it's best to slow down, enjoy the ride and explore some of New Zealand's small towns.

Glacier Highway: The Glacier Highway hugs the coastline from Kumara, through Hokitika and all the way down to Glacier Country. This 300-kilometre journey is surrounded with dense coastal scrub and West Coast rainforest, making it one of New Zealand's most scenic routes. It passes through a national park, seal colonies, beaches, lakes, and as its namesake states, mighty glaciers.

Central Otago Touring Route: This 341-kilometre journey follows scenic highways from Ōtāpoti Dunedin and the Pacific Ocean to the foot of the Southern Alps at Queenstown. It winds through the heart of Central Otago taking in characterful settlements such as Middlemarch, Ranfurly, Ōtūrehua and Clyde, as well as the larger towns of Alexandra, Cromwell, Arrowtown and Queenstown. Take the road less travelled and enjoy the memorable local hospitality of Otago.

Southern Scenic Route: Starting in the historic city of Dunedin, this route follows the wild west coast via Invercargill, then continues west and north to Te Anau, before ending at Queenstown. Highlights include wildlife encounters along the Catlins coast, the classic motors of Invercargill, cruising Fiordland, walking the Milford Track and the southern local delicacies found throughout.

