



AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Take an overnight flight and wake up in paradise. New Zealand is a destination where everything's close – from dramatic natural scenery to vibrant cities. It will dazzle you with movie set good looks, adventures around every corner, and a warm, genuine hospitality that stays with you long after your flight home.

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.



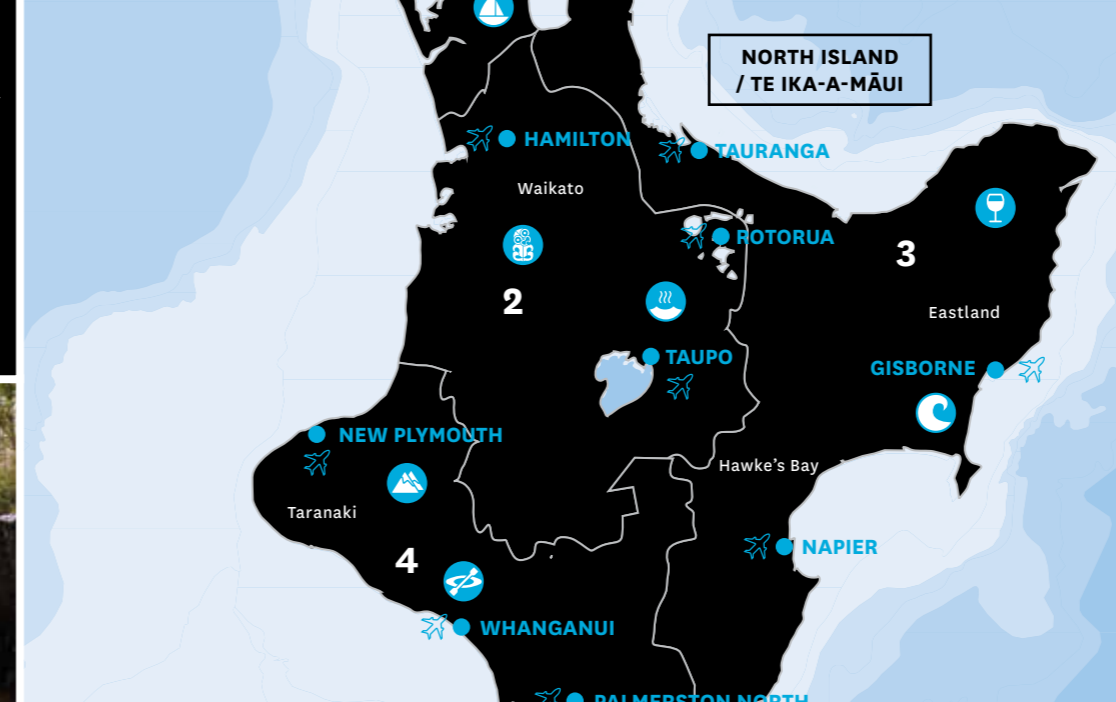
1. Northland and Auckland

As New Zealand's largest and most cosmopolitan city, Auckland sits on two sailboat-studded harbors, and offers buzzing nightlife, beautiful beaches, vineyards, wildlife cruises and more. Head to the top of the 1000-foot-tall Sky Tower for a horizon-spanning look over the city and the 50 islands that dot the waters. Hop on a ferry to one of the islands, like Waiheke, to enjoy a sunny day of food, wine and white sand beaches. Travel north to arrive in subtropical Northland, the spiritual home of New Zealand, rich in Māori culture, dense native forests, and golden beaches and bays to sail, swim and kayak through.



2. Thermal Explorer Highway

Drive through the center of the North Island and see the beating geothermal heart of the country, passing crater lakes and volcanic cones that are the remnants of past eruptions. Starting south of Auckland, the highway runs through Hamilton then on to Waikato; famous for its subterranean river rafting and glowworm caves. Step into movie history at Hobbiton near Matamata and tour the 'Shire' movie set from *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* trilogies. In Rotorua, witness geothermal geysers, bubbling mud pools and Māori cultural performances. Soak in thermal hot springs or mountain bike through redwood forests. Further south at Tongariro National Park you'll find snow-capped mountains, fantastic hiking trails and ski fields.



3. Pacific Coast Highway

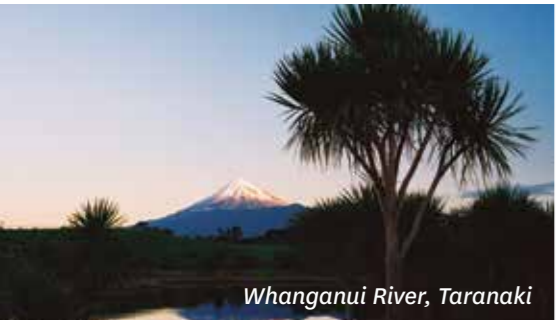
Follow this route from Auckland for a beach-infused road trip of spectacular coastlines, forests and seaside villages. Like in the Coromandel Peninsula. In Bay of Plenty, take a walk to the summit of Mount Maunganui for breathtaking views of the surrounding beaches, towns, nearby cafés and shops. Or take a trip across sparkling blue waters by boat or helicopter to New Zealand's most active volcano, White Island. Eastland's relaxed coastal life is popular with surfers and it offers authentic Māori cultural experiences. Travel south to Hawke's Bay for outstanding wines and art deco architecture in Napier.



Bridge to Nowhere, Whanganui National Park

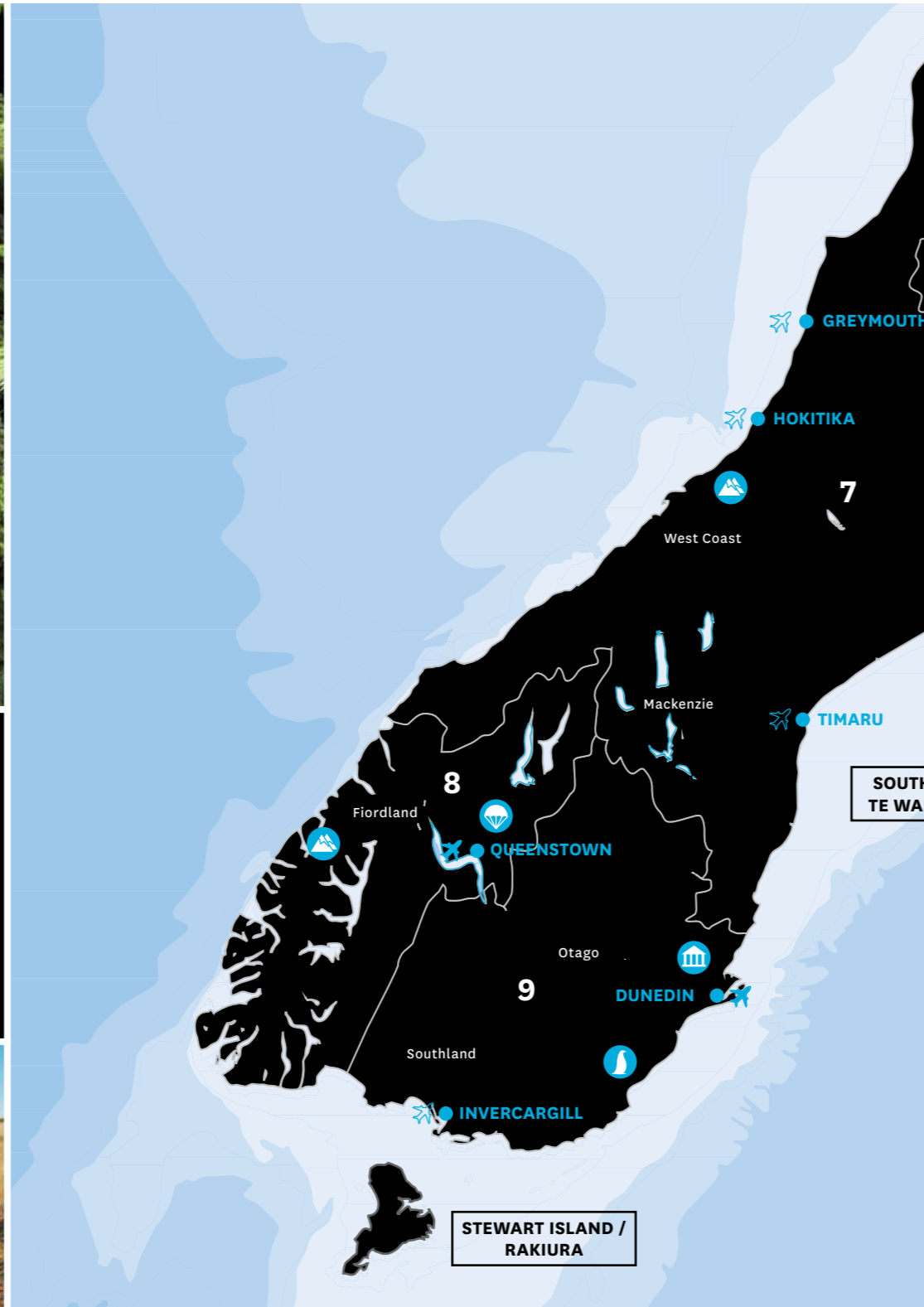
4. Western North Island

The Western North Island is thrilling in both winter and summer, with Egmont National Park home to the snow-capped Mount Taranaki, which provides excellent skiing in winter and wonderful hiking trails all the way to the mountain's peak. During summer the region boasts excellent surf beaches, great art galleries and always entertaining summer music festivals. To the east of the mountains, New Zealand's longest navigable waterway, Whanganui River, is perfect for a guided kayak safari, or if you're looking for something a little more exciting you can brave the rapids of the Rangitikei River on a rafting trip.



Whanganui River, Taranaki

Egmont National Park, Taranaki



Mount Victoria, Wellington

5. Wellington and Wairarapa

The lower North Island, which includes New Zealand's capital city of Wellington, is the country's creative hub. Indulge in fine wine, exquisite cuisine and coffee culture at a range of excellent eateries, or absorb some of New Zealand's art and culture at Wellington's many galleries and the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Film buffs will get a kick out of Weta Cave, which features props and behind the scenes stories from a range of films including *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* trilogies. Head north and you'll reach Wairarapa and the Kapiti Coast, which are home to wildlife sanctuaries, wineries, world-class golf courses and artisanal food producers.



Wellington



Castle Point, Wairarapa



Abel Tasman National Park

6. Nelson and Marlborough

Marlborough is the gateway to the South Island, with travelers ferrying across the Cook Strait and through the beautiful Marlborough Sounds to Picton. The area is renowned for its wineries, which are particularly noted for their world-class Sauvignon Blanc. Base yourself in Blenheim for vineyard tours and outstanding regional cuisine at on-site restaurants. Located just west of Marlborough, Nelson overlooks the stunning Tasman Bay and Abel Tasman National Park, replete with golden sand beaches and known for being one of the sunniest parts of New Zealand, it is perfect for hiking, cycling, kayaking, fishing or taking a relaxing cruise.



Marlborough Sounds, Marlborough



Yealands Estate Vineyard, Marlborough



Kaikoura

7. Canterbury and West Coast

Known for rolling green pastures, 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 creative energy as its residents rebuild in the wake of the 2011 earthquake. Drive north to Kaikoura for an up-close whale watching cruise any time of year, and to feast on delicious fresh crayfish. Don't miss stargazing at Aoraki Mount Cook National Park or taking a heli-hike of Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers on the West Coast.



Fox Glacier, West Coast



Lake Pukaki, Canterbury



Queenstown

8. Southern Lakes

Nestled in the heart of the Southern Alps where The Remarkables mountain range meets Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown is an adventurer's playground in every season. Bungy jump right where the activity was invented at Kawarau Bridge or jet boat down the Shotover River. Spend an autumn day enjoying the famous fall foliage in Arrowtown, take a trip to Wanaka for winter skiing or embark on a scenic helicopter flight over Mount Aspiring National Park. Explore the breathtaking natural wonders that are Milford and Doubtful Sounds, witnessing the fiords' spectacular beauty either on the water or with a hike along the Milford Track.



Cascade Creek, Fiordland



Milford Sound, Fiordland



Oban, Southland

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 lovers of historic architecture and rugged landscapes. Drop by Dunedin and visit the historic Speights Brewery or take a trip out to the majestic Larnach Castle. The coast is also a treasure trove of incredible geological and wildlife sights including the Moeraki Boulders, blue and yellow-eye penguin, albatross and fur seal colonies. At the bottom of New Zealand, Stewart Island is home to a wide range of rare native species, making it perfect for nature walks.



Penguin Place, Central Otago



Dunedin Railway Station



GETTING AROUND

Many destinations in New Zealand are just hours from each other. An extensive network of air, train and road services mean 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.

If you're going to drive around New Zealand, driving tips, licenses, road rules and general information as well as transport options can all be found on newzealand.com.

RECOMMENDED TRIPS

Whether you're visiting for a few days or a few months, you'll find ideas here to help plan your itinerary. newzealand.com/int/trips-and-driving-itineraries

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:** This route begins in Auckland and travels north, tracing both coasts to Cape Reinga and back. Driving is easy and interesting. Highlights include a procession of beautiful beaches, opportunities for fishing, surfing, diving and dolphin encounters; cultural experiences at Waitangi; forest hikes and craft shopping.
- Pacific Coast Highway:** Linking the Coromandel, Bay of Plenty and Eastland with Auckland in the north and Hawke's Bay in the south, the Pacific Coast Highway takes you to spectacular coastal scenery and beaches, forest wilderness and grape growing districts. The cities of Tauranga, Gisborne, Napier and Hastings will satisfy your urge to wine, dine and shop.
- Thermal Explorer Highway:** This route runs between Auckland and Hawke's Bay, traveling through the volcanic center of the island. You'll have the chance to discover the caves around Waitomo, geothermal areas in Rotorua and Lake Taupo, the amazing Tongariro National Park and Hawke's Bay Wine Country. Expect equal quantities of relaxation and adventure. When combined, the Pacific Coast Highway and Thermal Explorer are known as The Great New Zealand Touring Route.
- Forgotten World Highway:** While it's only 120 kilometres long, the Forgotten World Highway (otherwise known as State Highway 43) is a memorable driving journey. Built on 19th century bridle paths, the highway connects Taumaranui to Stratford. The route wriggles its way over four mountain saddles, through an eerie one-way tunnel and along a sinuous river gorge.
- Surf Highway 45:** The 100-kilometre highway that hugs the Taranaki coast is known as Surf Highway 45. One after another, magnificent surf beaches entice you to park the car and catch a wave. The most popular surfing spots have fascinating names - the Kumara Patch, Graveyards, Shark Pit, Secret Spot, Green Meadows and The Dump, just to mention a few.
- Classic New Zealand Wine Trail:** This route links the regions that produce 70% of New Zealand's wine - Hawke's Bay, Martinborough and Marlborough - with Wellington city as a cultural bonus. As well as wonderful wine, you'll enjoy innovative cuisine and all kinds of character accommodation. Art galleries, live theatre and museums provide food for thought.

SOUTH ISLAND

- The Island Scenic 72 Route:** The perfect road journey for travelers 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:** From Christchurch, this route follows State Highway 72 west across river plains before rising to traverse the Southern Alps 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.
- Alpine Pacific Triangle:** The Alpine Pacific Triangle takes you to the wine and food experiences of Waipara, the spa delights of Hamner Springs and the marine mammal encounters of Kaikoura. Between destinations, you'll enjoy beautiful country scenery.
- Southern Scenic Route:** Starting in the historic city of Dunedin, this route follows the wild southern coast to Invercargill, then continues west and north to Te Anau before ending at Queenstown. Highlights include wildlife encounters along the Catline coast, hiking the Tootapere Rump Ridge Track, cruising Fiordland and walking the Milford Track - one of New Zealand's 'Great Walks'.

OTHER SCENIC ROUTES

These routes are not specifically signposted.

NORTH ISLAND

- Western Bays Highway:** This peaceful route takes you through the heartland of the North Island, where traffic is scarce and the scenery is entrancing. From Turangi, the highway passes several lakeside settlements before skirting the Pureora Forest Park. It then crosses an amazing landscape of pine forest and hydro lakes along the Waikato River, ending at the forestry town of Tokoroa.
- Volcanic Loop:** From the trout town of Turangi, 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.

SOUTH ISLAND

- Treasured Pathway:** Enjoy a mix of history, hiking and hedonism as you discover heritage sites, vineyards, national parks and fabulous beaches. The Treasured Pathway runs across the top of the South Island, from the seaport town of Pictou to the sand dunes of Farewell Spit. The city of Nelson provides a dash of urban fun in the middle of the journey.
- Alpine Traverse:** From Christchurch you'll travel over Arthur's Pass and enjoy awe inspiring views all the way to the West Coast. Drive north to Reefton before taking the Lewis Pass up to the spa resorts of Maruia Springs and Hamner Springs. Journey back to Christchurch via Kaikoura, where the whales are waiting to meet you.
- West Coast Touring Route:** Between Haast in the south and Karamere in the north, the West Coast is one adventure after another. Watch the oceanic performance at Punakaiki's blow holes, shop for greenstone in Greymouth and Hokitika, explore old gold workings and hike over one of the massive glaciers. There's only one road to follow, so you can't get lost.
- Southern Heritage Route:** Head inland to Mount Hutt ski field, then travel south to Geraldine, passing at Lake Tekapo to see the beautiful Church of the Good Shepherd. Continue through Twizel, then on to Mount Cook Village for alpine adventures. Drive on to Wanaka or Queenstown, then loop back to see the heritage architecture of Dunedin.

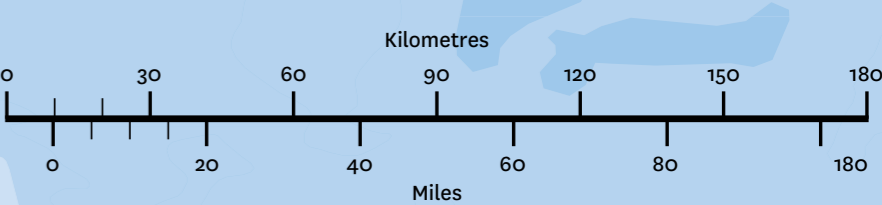


NORTH ISLAND / TE IKA-A-MĀUI

SOUTH ISLAND / TE WAIPOUNAMU

DRIVE TIMES (hours)

215	850	330	200	700	630	835	445	545	630	310	730	430	545	Whangarei	Westport
800	630	630	1200	400	400	330	545	445	630	700	530	835	445	Wellington	Wanaka
930	600	630	630	330	330	330	545	445	630	700	530	835	445	Whangarei	Te Anau
330	545	400	630	330	330	330	545	445	630	700	530	835	445	Whangarei	Queenstown
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Whangarei	Pictou
230	230	130	630	330	330	330	545	445	630	700	530	835	445	Whangarei	Nelson
330	400	500	715	800	330	330	545	445	630	700	530	835	445	Whangarei	Tauranga
245	230	130	645	200	400	400	545	445	630	700	530	835	445	Whangarei	Milford Sound
645	500	445	1000	215	300	400	545	445	630	700	530	835	445	Whangarei	Invercargill
430	700	200	810	815	300	300	545	445	630	700	530	835	445	Whangarei	Haast
330	245	330	330	330	330	330	545	445	630	700	530	835	445	Whangarei	Greymouth
445	1000	530	Kaitiaki	245	445	630	700	530	835	445	630	700	530	Whangarei	Francis Joseph
100	100	Hamilton	Dunedin	645	645	645	645	645	645	645	645	645	645	Whangarei	Dunedin
600	Gisborne	Christchurch	Blenheim	400	835	600	400	745	1100	1100	745	530	630	Whangarei	Christchurch
														Whangarei	Auckland



- State Highway
- Main Road
- Railway
- Ferry Route
- i-SITE
- Walks
- Golf Course
- Museum
- Vineyard
- Fishing
- Game Fishing
- Skiing

i-SITE

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Whether you're planning your New Zealand vacation or simply looking for things to do during your visit - newzealand.com has you covered every step of the way. There, you'll find comprehensive information on destinations, recommended itineraries, accommodation, tours, transportation and more.

You can also get up to the minute expert advice, traveler tips and exclusive stories about New Zealand daily by joining our social media communities. Find us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by searching 'purenewzealand' and start discovering.

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