



AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is a destination where everything's close - from dramatic natural scenery to 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.



1. Northland and Auckland

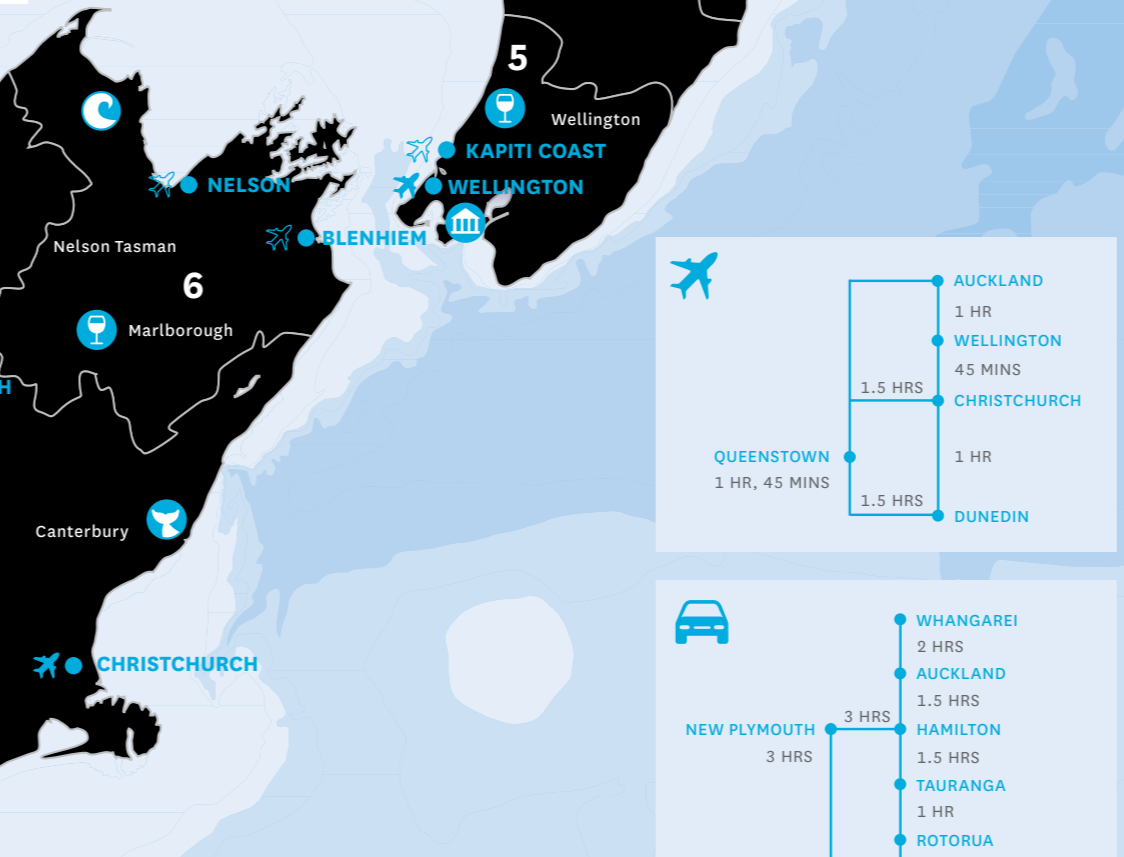
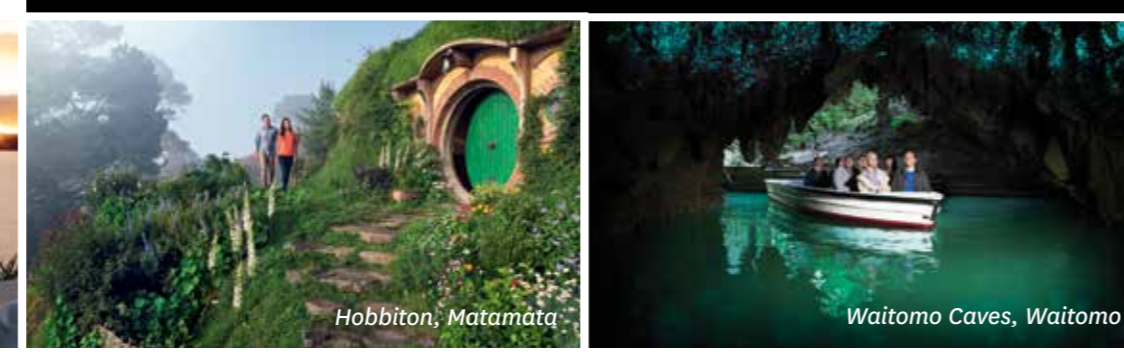
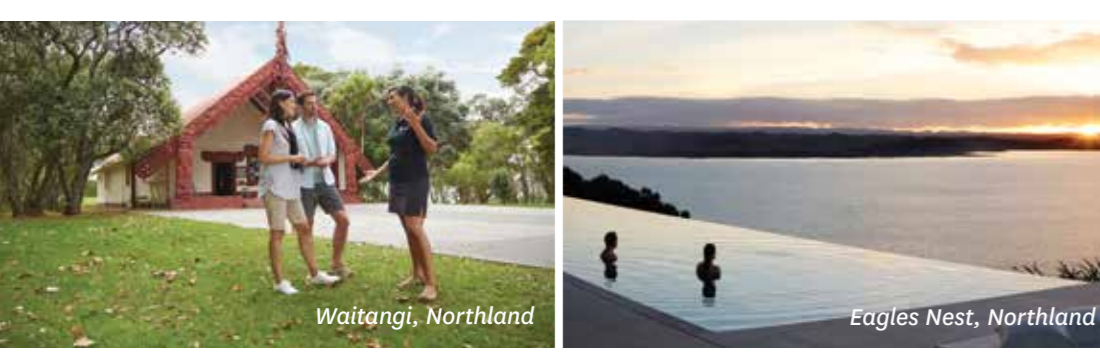
As New Zealand's largest and most cosmopolitan city, Auckland sits on a massive sailboat-studded harbour, and offers buzzing nightlife, beautiful beaches, vineyards, wildlife cruises and more. Head to the top of the 1000-foot-tall Sky Tower for a horizon-spanning look over the city and the 50 islands that dot the harbour. Hop on a ferry to one of the islands, like Waiheke, to enjoy a sunny day of food, wine and white sandy beaches. Travel north to arrive in the 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 centre 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 Maunganiū 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.



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 tramping 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.

5. Wellington and Wairarapa

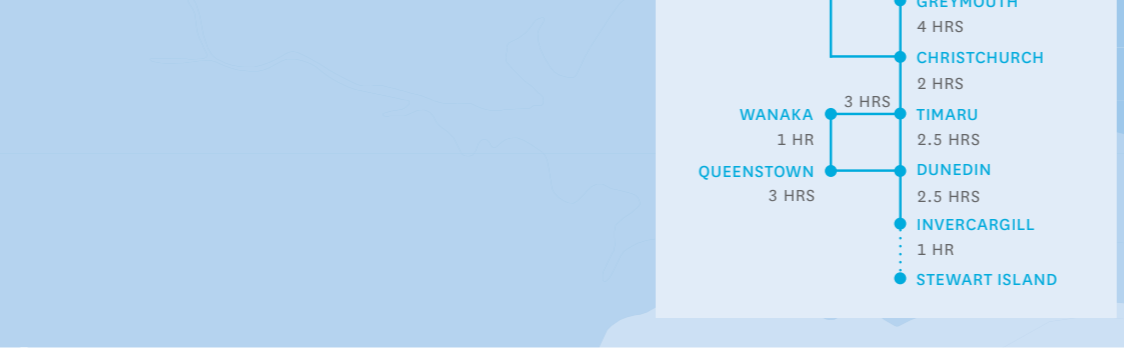
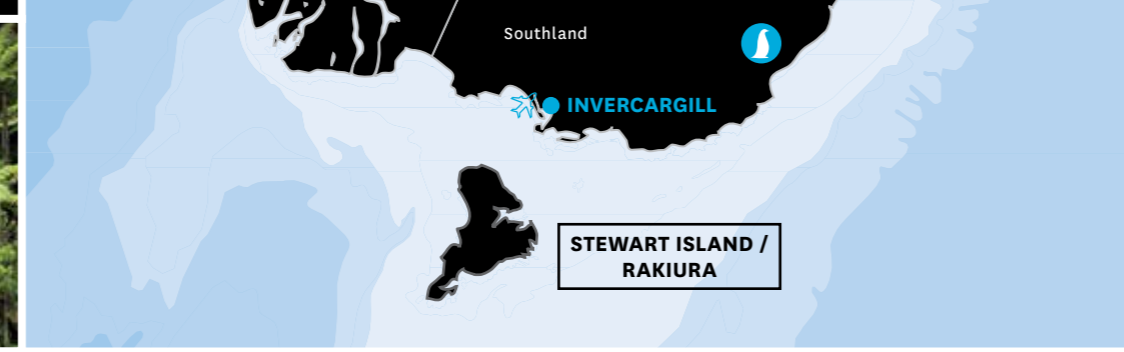
The lower North Island, which includes New Zealand's capital city of Wellington, is the country's creative hub. Indulge in fine wine, exquisite cuisine and coffee culture at a range of excellent eateries, or absorb some of New Zealand's art and culture at Wellington's many galleries and the Museum of 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.

6. Nelson and Marlborough

Marlborough is the gateway to the South Island, with travellers ferrying across the Cook Strait and through the beautiful Marlborough Sounds. The area is renowned for its wineries, which are particularly noted for their world-class Sauvignon Blanc. Enjoy a tasting of award-winning vintages of years past 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.

7. Canterbury and West Coast

Known for rolling green pastures, jagged peaks of the Southern Alps and silvery birches, 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 Kaikoura to have to 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.



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9. Pure Southern Land

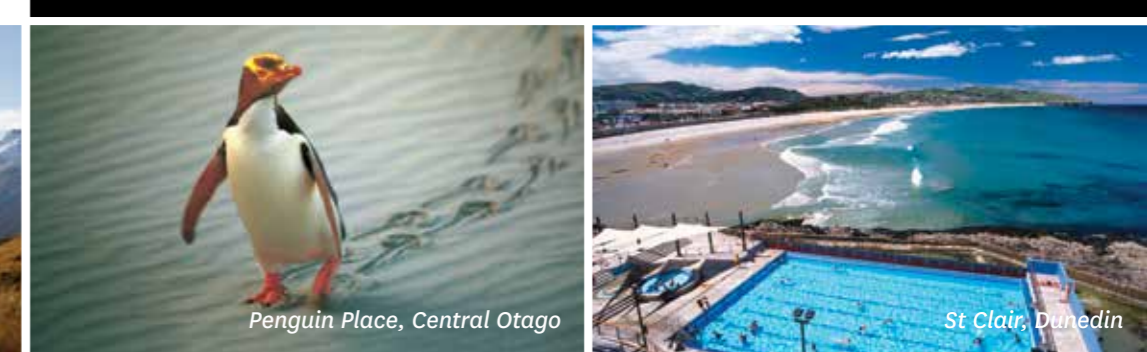
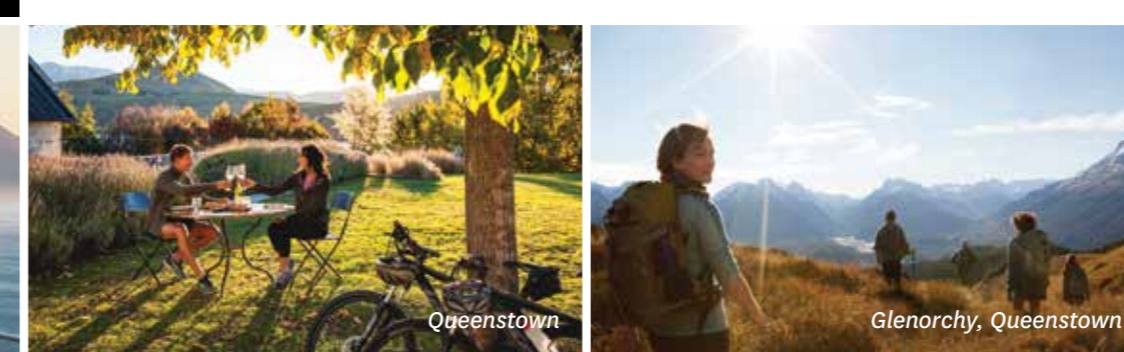
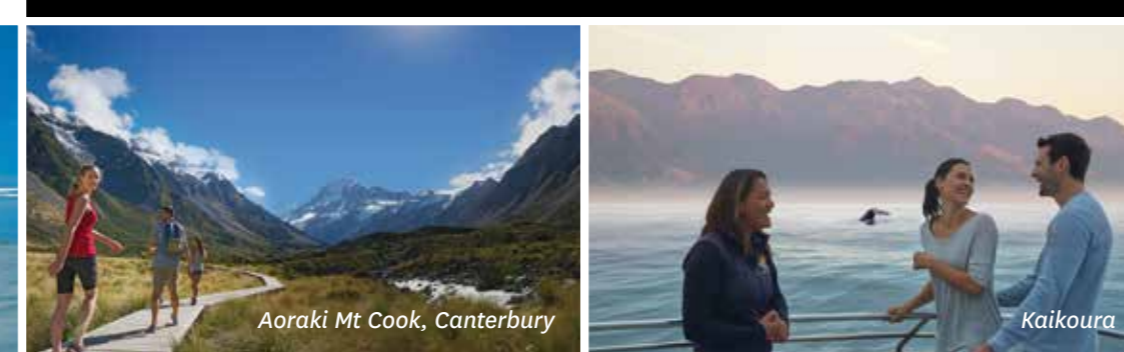
Hosting a wide range of well-preserved Victorian and Edwardian buildings as well as spectacular rocky coasts, Coastal Otago and Southland are the perfect place for lovers of historic architecture and rugged landscapes. Drop by Dunedin and visit the historic Speights Brewery or take a trip out to the 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.

10. 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 looking at relics from the gold rush at Arrowtown, take a trip to Wanaka for winter skiing or embark on a scenic helicopter flight over the Mount Aspiring National Park. Explore the breathtaking natural wonders that are Milford and Doubtful Sounds, witnessing their spectacular beauty either on the water or with a hike along the Milford Track.

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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.

For recommended trip ideas in general, visit 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 Waikangī, 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, travelling through the volcanic centre 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 150 kilometers 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 Taumarunui 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 105-kilometer 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 Inland Scenic 73 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.
- 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.
- The Great Alpine Highway:** From Christchurch, this route follows State Highway 73 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 Oira River gorges, driving along the Oira Viaduct and exploring natural wonders like the Castle Hill Rocks and Cave Stream Reserve.
- 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 Catlins coast, hiking the Tuiatere Hump 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 Picton 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 Marua Springs and Hamner Springs. Journey back to Christchurch via Kaikoura, where the whales are waiting to meet you.
- West Coast Touring Routes:** Between Haast in the south and Karamea 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 Routes:** Head inland to Mount Hutt ski field, then travel south to Geraldine, pausing 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.



STEWART ISLAND / RAKIURA

DRIVE TIMES (hours)

215	850	540	500	700	630	815	445	515	630	730	430	145	Whangarei	Westport
800	430	610	1200	400	630	200	845	815	630	700	730	815	Wellington	Wanaka
530	630	610	630	530	530	530	530	530	530	530	530	530	Whangarei	Te Anau
315	445	400	820	320	220	300	245	845	820	820	820	820	Whangarei	Queenstown
320	145	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	Whangarei	Picton
230	230	130	630	330	400	445	100	100	100	100	100	100	Whangarei	Nelson
315	400	600	815	600	830	330	330	100	100	100	100	100	Whangarei	Aoraki / Mt Cook
245	230	130	645	100	600	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	Whangarei	Milford Sound
645	500	645	1000	915	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Whangarei	Invercargill
430	700	100	830	830	135	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Whangarei	Haast
330	245	330	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	Whangarei	Grytmouth
415	1000	120	830	830	135	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Whangarei	Frantz Josef
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Whangarei	Dunedin
600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	Whangarei	Christchurch
													Whangarei	Blenheim
													Whangarei	Auckland



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

NORTH ISLAND / TE IKA-A-MĀUI

SOUTH ISLAND / TE WAIPOUNAMU

i-SITE

i-SITE is New Zealand's official visitor information network with over 80 i-SITES nationwide.

Everyone who works at an i-SITE is a local expert for their home town. They will help you to find quality activities, attractions, accommodation, transport and more! This ensures you will experience the latest and greatest the town has to offer whatever you are after!

- Itinerary planning and information
- Bookings nationwide - accommodation, activities, transport
- Free maps, weather & main safety information
- Internet kiosks
- Local information - events, attractions, restaurants & more

For more information visit www.i-site.org.nz

NEW ZEALAND TOURISM'S OFFICIAL MARK OF QUALITY

For your perfect New Zealand holiday, make sure you look for businesses that carry the Qualmark. It means we have checked out everything they provide, and it will be an experience that won't disappoint.

Whether you're looking for an exclusive lodge, a luxury hotel, a family motel, a budget backpacker, a homey bed and breakfast or a spacious holiday park, the Qualmark symbol identifies great places to stay. A Qualmark endorsement for transport, activities and visitor services is your assurance of good service standards, clean facilities and a safe, satisfying experience.

Whether you're planning your New Zealand holiday 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, traveller 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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