

THUTISA MONGKONPAT/GETTY IMAGES ©



NEW ZEALAND

PLANNING MAP



Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park

Discover New Zealand's top regional sights, and experience it through an inspiring list of themes



When to Go

High Season Dec–Feb
Busy beaches, outdoor festivals and sporting events. Accommodation prices rise. Winter (June to August) is high season in ski towns.

Shoulder Season Mar & Apr
Fine weather, short queues, kids in school and warm(ish) ocean. Spring (September to November) is shoulder season too.

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MATTHEW WILLIAMS/ELLIS/GETTY IMAGES ©



Waikare Inlet, Bay of Islands

CHRISTOPHER CHAN/GETTY IMAGES ©



Auckland

NORTHWEST

BAY OF ISLANDS C1

The turquoise waters of the bay are dotted with around 150 undeveloped islands offering fine diving, sailing and dolphin swimming. It is also a place of enormous historical significance; the Treaty of Waitangi was drawn up and signed here in 1840.

AUCKLAND C2

It's hard to imagine a more geographically blessed city. Its two harbours frame a narrow isthmus punctuated by volcanic cones and surrounded by fertile land. From many vantage points you'll be surprised how close the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean come to meeting.

HAURAKI GULF C2

There are more than 50 *motu* (islands) in the gulf, which could be thought of as a busy highway for marine mammals. Sei, minke and Bryde's whales are regularly seen in its outer reaches, along with orcas and bottlenose dolphins. You might even spy a passing humpback.

WAIHEKE ISLAND C2

Blessed with its own warm microclimate, world-class wineries, superb dining with spectacular ocean views and a few of the region's best beaches, Waiheke is a favourite destination of Aucklanders and visitors alike.

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COOK STRAIT

WELLINGTON C3

It might be a little windy, but art-house cinemas, funky boutiques, hip bars, live bands and endless restaurants all await you in NZ's cultural capital.

ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK C3

Sea kayaking, boating and tramping are the best ways to experience the beaches and forested coves of this national park on the South Island's northwestern tip.

MARLBOROUGH WINE REGION C3

Languidly exploring the wineries of this region, which produces three-quarters of NZ's wine, is a quintessential experience. Choose from world-famous sauvignon blanc, top-notch pinot noir, notable char-donnay, riesling, gewürztraminer, pinot gris or bubbly.



Wellington

MICHAEL RÖNNEL/GETTY IMAGES ©



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Tauranga Bay of P

BAY OF ISLANDS

Footprints Waipoua
Explore the staggeringly beautiful Waipoua Kauri Forest on Northland's west coast with a Māori guide.

NORTHWEST

Check out SkyWalk and SkyJump at the Sky Tower, and EcoZip Adventures – adventurous thrills with views.

New restaurants, ethnic culinary enclaves and a growing food-truck scene all make Auckland NZ's eating capital.

AUCKLAND

Hillary Trail
For sheer drama you can't beat a wild West Coast beach. Unless you tag on another, and another...

HAURAKI GULF

Auckland's favourite weekend pl microclimate: perfect for Bordea

WAIHEKE ISLAND

Hahei
Iconic Kiwi beach Coromandel Peni mandatory side tri

COROMANDEL PENINSULA

NORTH

MATAMATA

ROTORUA

The Ma the pop perform

WAITOMO

Don a wetsuit, a life vest and a helmet and hurl down an underground river for some black-water rafting.

CENTRAL PLATEAU

Taupo's main a
lake and all the do in, on and e it's the skydivi the world.

TONGARIRO ALPINE CROSSING

Forgotten World Highway
The drive winds through bush country, passing Māori pa (fortified villages), abandoned coal mines and memorials.

Whanganui River Road
Drive past Māori towns and stark, wet mountain slopes plunging into lazy jade stretches of the river.

Wharariki
No car park, no ice-cream vans. This isolated stretch near Farewell Spit is for wanderers and ponderers.

Abel Tasman Coast Track
No need to Photoshop this postcard paradise – these golden beaches, blue bays and verdant hills are for real.

Te Papa

