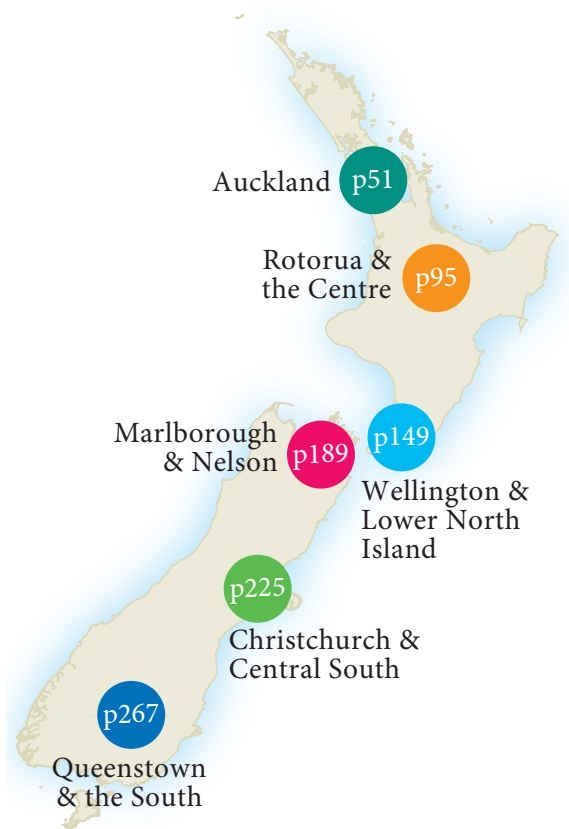




**Discover**  
**New Zealand**

**Experience the best  
of New Zealand**

**This edition written and researched by  
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# This Is New Zealand

New Zealand is a ludicrously photogenic place. Across the country, gorgeous vistas and lush panoramas open up like scenes from a wilderness documentary. Drag your eyes away from the view and you'll discover rich Maori culture, fabulous museums, a hyperactive sports scene (bungy jumping, skiing, skydiving, white-water rafting...) and the nation's overriding passion for rugby.

To fuel your adventures, stop by a local organic farmers market and stock up on goodies. You'll also find Maori faves such as paua (abalone) and kina (sea urchin) on many restaurant menus. Thirsty? NZ sauvignon blanc has been collecting trophies for decades, the craft-beer scene is booming and coffee culture is firmly entrenched.

After you're fed and watered, it's time to head outside. Sublime forests, mountains, lakes, beaches and fiords await – an accessible, remarkable web of wilderness that has made NZ one of the best hiking (locals call it 'tramping') destinations on earth. Spending a few dreamy hours wandering through the wilds will cure what ails you.

Rugby fans will know all about NZ's deified national team, the All Blacks. World Cup winners in 2011 and favourites to go back-to-back in 2015, the 'ABs' would never have become world-beaters without their awesome Maori players. But rugby is just one example of how Maori culture impresses itself on contemporary Kiwi life. Across NZ you can join in a *hangi* (Maori feast), visit a *marae* (meeting house) or catch a cultural performance, usually involving a blood-curdling *haka* (war dance).

Also for your consideration is the fact that NZ is a remarkably easy place to visit. On-the-road frustrations are rare: buses and trains are punctual, roads are in good nick, ATMs proliferate and pickpockets are practically nonexistent. This decent nation is a place where you can relax and enjoy (rather than endure) your holiday.

“  
Sublime  
forests,  
mountains,  
lakes,  
beaches  
and fiords  
await  
”





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## Our Story

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

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