



Taranaki & Whanganui

Includes »

New Plymouth	226
Around New Plymouth	234
Mt Taranaki (Egmont National Park)	234
Around Mt Taranaki	237
Surf Highway 45	238
Whanganui	240
Whanganui National Park	246
Palmerston North	252
Around Palmerston North	256
Manawatu Gorge & Around	257

Why Go?

Halfway between Auckland and Wellington, Taranaki (aka 'the naki') is the Texas of New Zealand: oil and gas stream in from offshore rigs, plumping the region with enviable affluence. New Plymouth is the regional hub, home to an excellent art gallery and provincial museum, and enough decent espresso joints to keep you humming.

Behind the city, the moody volcanic cone of Mt Taranaki demands to be visited. Taranaki also has a glut of black-sand beaches: surfers and holidaymakers swell summer numbers.

Further east the history-rich Whanganui River curls its way through Whanganui National Park down to Whanganui city, a 19th-century river port that's aging with artistic grace.

Palmerston North, the Manawatu's main city, is a town of two peoples: tough-talkin' country fast-foodies in hotted-up cars and caffeinated Massey University literati. Beyond the city the region blends rural grace with yesterday's pace: you might even find time for a little laziness!

Best Outdoors

- » New Plymouth Coastal Walkway (p228)
- » Surf Highway 45 (p238)
- » A Mt Taranaki walk (p235)
- » Whanganui River canoeing (p248)

Best Places to Stay

- » Fitzroy Beach Motel (p230)
- » Ahu Ahu Beach Villas (p238)
- » Anndion Lodge (p243)
- » Flying Fox (p251)

When to Go

Mt Taranaki is one of NZ's wettest spots, and frequently cops snowfalls, even in summer: weather on the mountain can be extremely changeable. Ironically, New Plymouth frequently tops the North Island's most-sunshine-hours list. Expect warm summers and cool winters.

Over in Whanganui the winters are milder, but they're chillier on the Palmerston North plains. Sunshine is abundant hereabouts too – around 2000 hours per year!

Taranaki & Whanganui Highlights

- 1 Walking up or around the massive cone of **Mt Taranaki** (p234)
- 2 Riding the big breaks along **Surf Highway 45** (p238)
- 3 Getting experimental at New Plymouth's **Govett-Brewster Art Gallery** (p227)
- 4 Bouncing from bean to bean in **New Plymouth's cafes** (p231)
- 5 Watching a glass-blowing demonstration at one of **Whanganui's glass studios** (p241)
- 6 Redefining serenity on a canoe or kayak trip on the **Whanganui River** (p248)
- 7 Traversing the rainy **Whanganui River Road** (p247) by car or bike – it's all about the journey, not how fast you get there
- 8 Flexing your All Blacks–spirit at Palmerston North's **New Zealand Rugby Museum** (p252)



TASMAN
SEA



0 40 km
0 20 miles