



New Zealand



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Itineraries



2 WEEKS North & South

From the top of the north to halfway down the south: a taste of New Zealand's best.

Kick things off in **Auckland**: it's NZ's biggest city, with awesome restaurants and bars, galleries and boutiques, beaches and bays. Not an urbanite? Head north to the salt-licked **Bay of Islands** for a couple of days R&R.

Tracking south, **Rotorua** is a unique geothermal hot spot: geysers, mud pools, volcanic vents and Maori culture make for an engaging experience. Further south, progressive **Taupo** has the staggeringly beautiful **Lake Taupo** and **Tongariro National Park** nearby. Try some tramping, mountain biking or skydiving, then hoof it down to **Wellington**, a hip little city with an irrepressible arts scene.

Across Cook Strait, see what all the fuss is about in the **Marlborough Wine Region**. The hypnotically hushed inlets, ranges and waterways of the **Marlborough Sounds** are nearby. Swinging south, spend a day whale-watching in **Kaikoura**, then cruise into **Christchurch** for some southern culture and hospitality.



Kiwi Classics

Classy cities, geothermal eruptions, fantastic wine, Maori culture, glaciers, extreme activities, isolated beaches and forests: just a few of our favourite NZ things.

Aka the 'City of Sails', **Auckland** is a South Pacific melting pot. Spend a few days shopping, eating and drinking: this is NZ at its most cosmopolitan. Make sure you get out onto the harbour on a ferry or a yacht, and find half a day to explore the beaches and wineries on **Waiheke Island**. Truck north to the **Bay of Islands** for a dose of aquatic adventure (dolphins, sailing, sunning yourself on deck), then scoot back southeast to check out the forests and beaches on the **Coromandel Peninsula**. Further south in **Rotorua**, get a nose full of egg gas, confront a 30ft geyser, giggle at volcanic mud bubbles and experience a Maori cultural performance (work your *haka* into shape).

Cruise down to **Napier** on the East Coast, NZ's archetypal art-deco sun city. While you're here, don't miss the bottled offerings of the **Hawke's Bay Wine Country** (...ohh, the chardonnay). Down in **Wellington**, the coffee's hot, the beer's cold and wind from the politicians generates its own low-pressure system. This is NZ's arts capital: catch a live band, some buskers, a gallery opening or some theatre.

Swan over to the South Island for a few days to experience the best the south has to offer. Start with a tour through the sauvignon blanc heartland of the **Marlborough Wine Region**, then jump on a boat/plane/helicopter for a close encounter with a massive marine mammal in **Kaikoura**. Next stop is **Christchurch** – the southern capital is finding its feet again after the earthquakes – followed by the coast road south to the wildlife-rich **Otago Peninsula**, jutting abstractly away from the Victorian facades of Scottish-flavoured and student-filled **Dunedin**. Catch some live music while you're in town.

Head inland via SH8 to bungee-obsessed **Queenstown**. If you have time, detour over to the West Coast for an unforgettable encounter with **Franz Josef Glacier** and **Fox Glacier**. From here you can keep driving back north, or play airport hopscotch from Hokitika to Christchurch then back to Auckland.



5 WEEKS

Icons & Beyond

Virgin visitors to NZ will want to check out NZ's tourist icons, plus a few active wilderness experiences.

Cruise sail-dappled **Auckland** harbour, then take SH1 north to the winterless **Bay of Islands**: surfboards, sailing, kayaks, scuba gear... Heading south, hold your nose in sulphurous **Rotorua**, then hook into idyllic **Taupo** for some volcanic tramping in nearby **Tongariro National Park**. Take SH43 west to photo-genic **Mt Taranaki**, then stay up late in **Wellington**.

Across Cook Strait, disappear into the **Marlborough Sounds** or launch into some sea-kayaking in **Abel Tasman National Park**. Track down the rainy West Coast with its iconic **glaciers**, then experience adrenaline-addicted **Queenstown**. Mix and match highways to Te Anau for the side road to **Milford Sound**, then backtrack to SH6 and head north for cloud-piercing **Aoraki/Mt Cook**. Veer east back to **Christchurch**, a city on the mend. Don't miss exploring the **Banks Peninsula**, southeast of town.

3 WEEKS

Southern Circuit

Take a long loop through the best of the South Island. Winging into **Christchurch** to launch this three-week escapade, you'll find a vibrant city rebuilding post-earthquakes. Grab a coffee at a cafe (try Addington Coffee Co-op), then visit the excellent Canterbury Museum. Check out the Avon River, cutting lazily through the Botanic Gardens.

City saturated? Visit the geologically and culturally eccentric **Banks Peninsula**, then head north for whale-watching in **Kaikoura**. Continue through the famous **Marlborough Wine Region**, and lose a day on the **Marlborough Sounds** waterways.

Detour west past artsy **Nelson** to eco-friendly **Golden Bay** (more paintbrushes than people). Southbound, dawdle down the dramatic West Coast with its **glaciers** and wilderness, and continue through to hip/hippie **Wanaka** and ski central **Queenstown**. Desolate **Doubtful Sound** is mesmerising, while the overgrown **Catlins** are perfectly chilled out.

Back up the east coast, wheel through Dunedin to surprisingly hip **Oamaru**, before rolling back into Christchurch.



OLIVER STEWART/GETTY IMAGES ©



MATT MURDO/LONELY PLANET ©

Top: Waitakere Ranges
Regional Park (p111)

Bottom: Mt Ngauru-
hoe, Tongariro National
Park (p262)

2
WEEKS

Auckland Encounter

Is there another 1.4-million-strong city with access to *two* oceans and vibrant Polynesian culture? **Auckland** also offers stellar bars and restaurants, museums, islands and beaches.

Check out the Maori and South Pacific Islander exhibits at Auckland Museum, then wander across the Domain to K Rd for lunch. Pay a visit to the grand Auckland Art Gallery and the iconic Sky Tower; then Ponsonby for dinner and drinks.

Ferry over to **Rangitoto Island**, then chug into Devonport for a meal. Have a look at the tall timber in **Waitakere Ranges Regional Park**, or check out the wild surf at **Karekare** and **Piha**, then hit the Kingsland restaurants. Have breakfast in Mt Eden, climb Maungawhau, then ferry-hop to **Waiheke Island** for wineries and beaches.

Activities within easy reach of the big smoke: snorkelling at **Goat Island Marine Reserve**, sailing the **Bay of Islands**, ocean-gazing at **Cape Reinga**, ogling giant trees at **Waipoua Kauri Forest**, delving into **Waitomo Caves**, surfing at **Raglan** or beaching yourself at **Whitianga**.

3
WEEKS

Northern Exposure

Three-quarters of New Zealanders live on the North Island – find out why!

Begin in **Auckland**, NZ's biggest city. Eat streets abound: try Ponsonby Rd in Ponsonby, K Rd in Newton, and New North Rd in Kingsland. Hike up One Tree Hill (Maungakiekie) to burn off resultant calories, and don't miss Auckland Art Gallery and Auckland Museum.

Heading north, the amazing **Waipoua Kauri Forest** is home to some seriously tall timber. The rugged tip of the far north is **Cape Reinga**, rich in Maori lore.

Venture back south through geothermal **Rotorua** then the **Bay of Plenty** to the sunny **East Coast**. Art-deco **Napier** is surrounded by the chardonnay vines of **Hawke's Bay Wine Country**. Follow SH2 south into the sheepy/winey **Wairarapa** then continue down to hip **Wellington**.

Heading northwest, there's crafty glass in **Whanganui**, the joyously scenic **Whanganui River Road** and epic **Mt Taranaki**. Go underground at **Waitomo Caves**, surf the point breaks near **Raglan**, then hit Auckland again.



Peter Dragicevich

Christchurch & Canterbury, Dunedin & Otago, Queenstown & Wanaka After nearly a decade working for offshore publishing companies, Peter's life has come full circle, returning to his home town of Auckland. As managing editor of *Express* newspaper he spent much of the '90s writing about the local arts, club and bar scene. This is the 4th edition of the *New Zealand* guide he's worked on and, after dozens of Lonely Planet assignments, it remains

his favourite gig. Peter also wrote *The Kiwi Psyche* chapter, and the Arts section of the Arts & Music chapter.

Read more about Peter at:
lonelyplanet.com/thorntree/profiles/peterdragicevich

Contributing Writers

Professor James Belich wrote the History chapter. James is one of NZ's pre-eminent historians and the award-winning author of *The New Zealand Wars*, *Making Peoples* and *Paradise Reforged*. He has also worked in TV – *New Zealand Wars* was screened in NZ in 1998.

Tony Horwitz wrote the Captain James Cook boxed text in the History chapter. Tony is a Pulitzer-winning reporter and nonfiction author. His fascination with James Cook, and with travel, took him around NZ, Australia and the Pacific while researching *Blue Latitudes* (alternatively titled *Into the Blue*), part biography of Cook and part travelogue.

John Huria (Ngai Tahu, Muaupoko) wrote the Maori Culture chapter. John has an editorial, research and writing background with a focus on Maori writing and culture. He was senior editor for Maori publishing company Huia and now runs an editorial and publishing services company, Ahi Text Solutions Ltd (www.ahitextsolutions.co.nz).

Josh Kronfeld wrote the Surfing in New Zealand boxed text in the Extreme New Zealand chapter. Josh is an ex-All Black flanker, whose passion for surfing NZ's beaches is legendary and who found travelling for rugby a way to surf other great breaks around the world.

Gareth Shute wrote the Music section in the Arts & Music chapter. Gareth is the author of four books, including *Hip Hop Music in Aotearoa* and *NZ Rock 1987–2007*. He is also a musician and has toured the UK, Europe and Australia as a member of the Ruby Suns and the Brunettes. He now plays in indie soul group The Cosbys.

Vaughan Yarwood wrote the Environment chapter. Vaughan is an Auckland-based writer whose books include *The History Makers: Adventures in New Zealand Biography*, *The Best of New Zealand: A Collection of Essays on NZ Life and Culture by Prominent Kiwis*, which he edited, and the regional history *Between Coasts: From Kaipara to Kowhai*. He has written widely for NZ and international publications and is the former associate editor of *New Zealand Geographic*, for which he has also written for many years.



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'.

OUR WRITERS



Charles Rawlings-Way

Coordinating Author, Taranaki & Whanganui, Rotorua & the Bay of Plenty, The East Coast English by birth, Australian by chance, All Blacks fan by choice:

Charles' early understanding of Aotearoa was less than comprehensive (sheep, mountains, sheep on mountains...). He realised there was more to it when a wandering uncle returned with a faux-jade tiki in 1981. He wore it with pride until he saw the NZ cricket team's beige uniforms in 1982... Mt Taranaki's snowy summit, Napier's art-deco deliverance and Whanganui's raffish charm have helped him forgive: he's once again smitten with the country's phantasmal landscapes, disarming locals, and determination to sculpt its own political and indigenous destiny. Charles also wrote the Plan Your Trip section, and the Directory and Transport chapters.



Brett Atkinson

Auckland, Bay of Islands & Northland, Waikato & Coromandel Peninsula Resi-

dent in Auckland, Brett leapt at the chance to research his home town for this edition. Highlights include exploring the city's emerging restaurant scene around Wynyard Quarter, and journeying to the diverse islands of the Hauraki Gulf. Excursions further afield to Northland and Coromandel echoed family holidays in an earlier century. Brett's contributed to Lonely Planet guidebooks spanning

Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and covered almost 50 countries as a food and travel writer. See www.brett-atkinson.net for his latest travels.



Sarah Bennett & Lee Slater

Taupo & the Central Plateau, Wellington Region, Marlborough & Nelson, The West Coast, Fiordland & Southland Lee and Sarah live in Wellington, but spend

many months on the road each year in their small campervan, boots on board, mountain bikes on the back. Specialists in 'soft-core adventure' (tramping without crampons), they re-imagine their journeys into magazine features, and guidebooks including Lonely Planet's *Hiking & Tramping in New Zealand*, four

editions of *New Zealand*, as well as *The New Zealand Trumper's Handbook* and *Let's Go Camping*. Read more at www.bennettandslater.co.nz and follow on Twitter @BennettnSlater. Sarah and Lee also wrote the New Zealand Today chapter.

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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