

BEHIND THE SCENES

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Climate map data adapted from Peel MC, Finlayson BL & McMahon TA (2007) 'Updated World Map of the Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification', *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 11, 163344.

Front cover photographs: (top) Piha Beach and Lion Rock at sunset, Travelscape Images/Alamy®; (left) Vintage Dodge car, A Demotes/Corbis®; (right) Road sign in front of Mt Ruapehu, Tim90/Shutterstock®

Back cover photograph: Beach at Mahia Peninsula, Doug Pearson/AWL®

WRITER THANKS

BRETT ATKINSON

Cheers to the chefs and craft brewers of NZ for on the road sustenance, and to Carol for support on island, capital city and Hobbit-inspired getaways. Sarah Bennett and Lee Slater were brilliant co-authors, and thanks to Tasmin Waby at Lonely Planet for the opportunity to explore my Kiwi backyard.

SARAH BENNETT & LEE SLATER

Thanks to everyone who helped us find the South Island's best trips, particularly DOC and i-SITE staff,

and travellers, as well the kindly folks who let us park up and put our flagon in the fridge. Thanks also to our fellow author, Brett Atkinson, and Tasmin Waby for paving the way.

THIS BOOK

This 1st edition of *New Zealand's Best Trips* was researched and written by Brett Atkinson, Sarah Bennett and Lee Slater. This guidebook was produced by the following:

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Thanks to Jennifer Carey, David Carroll, Daniel Corbett, Peter Dragicevich, Lauren Keith, Catherine Naghten, Charles Rawlings-Way, Angela Tinson.



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 Dublin, Franklin, Melbourne, London, 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'.

INDEX

A

Abel Tasman National Park 180, 188-9
 accommodation 25
 adventure sports 22
 Ahipara 46, 51
 Aigantighe Art Gallery 342
 Akaroa 14, 343
 Alexandra 332-4, 336
 Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail 265
 Amberley 226, 227
 Aoraki Mackenzie Dark Sky Reserve 254
 Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park 255, 261, 264, 269, 280-1
 Aratiatia Rapids 113-14
 Arrowtown 259, 261, 311-12, 313
 art 23
 Arthur's Pass National Park 232-3, 235, 244, 245, 273
 Auckland
 eating & sleeping 50, 60
 sights 26, 38-9, 54, 76-7, 82-3, 106-7, 122
 Auckland Art Gallery 82
 Auckland Bridge Climb & Bungy 106
 Auckland Museum 122

B

Banks Peninsula 14, 344, 345
 Bannockburn 279, 307-8
 Bay of Islands 12, 37-51
 beaches 22
 Bendigo 310
 Benmore Dam 266-7
 Bethells Beach 58, 61
 Blackball 242
 Blacks Point Museum 242
 Blenheim 182-3, 183, 197
 Bluff 321-2
 Bohemian Museum 55
 Botanic Gardens (Christ-church) 222, 287
 Britomart Precinct 82-3
 Buller Gorge 199
 Buried Village 111-12
 Butler Point Whaling Museum 45-6

C

campervans 352-3, 348-9
 Canterbury Museum 286
 Cape Egmont Lighthouse 92
 Cape Foulwind 200
 Cape Kidnappers 154
 Cape Palliser 142
 Cape Reinga 46
 car hire 24, 348-9
 car insurance 348

Cardrona 311
 cars, see driving
 Cascade Creek 299
 Castle Hill 231, 244
 Castlepoint 141-2
 Cathedral Cliffs 224
 Cathedral Cove 68
 Cathedral Square 286-7
 Catlins Coast 21, 322
 Cave Stream 231-2
 cell phones 24
 Central Otago Rail Trail 333
 Central Plateau 19
 Charleston 208-10
 Chasm Creek 302
 Christchurch
 eating & sleeping 227, 235, 245, 260, 284
 sights 28, 222-3, 230-1, 238-9, 249, 273, 286-7, 344
 Christchurch Art Gallery 249
 Church Bay 77-8, 81
 Civic Theatre 82
 Clapham's Clocks 40
 Clay Cliffs Paritea 265
 Clendon House 48
 climate 24
 Clyde 334, 336
 Colin McCahon House 59
 Collingwood 191, 193
 Colville 66-7, 68, 72
 Connells Bay 79-80

Cook Strait 353
 Coromandel Peninsula 63-73
 Coromandel Town 66, 72
 costs 25
 Cromwell 258-9, 261, 279-80
 Cuba Street 159
 culture 23
 Curio Bay 322

D

Daily Telegraph Building 154
 Dalmatian settlers 40
 Dawson Falls 94
 Deco Centre 154
 Denniston Plateau 208
 Department of Conservation (DOC) 353
 Desert Road 102
 Devil's Staircase 295
 driving 348-53
 breakdown services 349
 buying a car 349
 car hire 24, 348-9
 documents 348
 fuel 24, 352
 insurance 348
 licences 348
 parking 351-2
 road rules 349, 350-1
 safety 349-50, 352
 websites 349
 Driving Creek Railway & Potteries 66
 driving licences 348
 Dunedin 324-7, 327, 330-1, 336, 340-1, 345
 Dunedin Public Art Gallery 324-7
 Dunedin Railway Station 331
 Durie Hill Elevator 129

E

East Cape Lighthouse 151
 Eastern Southland Gallery 318
 Edwin Fox Maritime Museum 196-7
 Elephant Rocks 268
 emergencies 24, 349

F

Fairlie 251-3
 Farewell Spit 191-2
 ferry travel 353
 Fletcher Bay 68
 food 22, 25
 Fox Glacier 215-16, 219, 275, 284
 Franz Josef Glacier 214-15, 219
 freedom camping 352-3
 fuel 24, 352

G

gas 24, 352
 Geraldine 250-1, 260, 283, 285
 Giant's House 343
 Gibbston Valley 307
 Gillespies Beach 216
 Gisborne 152-4, 156-7
 glaciers 214-16, 219, 275, 284
 glowworms 127
 Goat Island 56
 Gold Discovery Centre 71
 Golden Bay 185-93
 Golden Fleece Battery 242
 Goldfields Railway 71
 Goldmine Experience 64
 Gore 318
 Gore Bay 224
 Govett-Brewster Art Gallery 91

Great Alpine Hwy 231
 Greymouth 210-11, 218, 234, 235, 242-3, 245

H

Haast 217, 219
 Hahei 68-9, 73
 Hamilton 107-8, 118, 124, 130
 Hanmer Springs 224-6, 227, 239, 245
 Harwoods Hole 190
 Hastings 154, 157
 Hauraki Rail Trail 71
 Havelock 175-6
 Havelock North 154-5, 157
 Hawera 92-4
 Helensville 57
 Hells Gate 112-13
 Highlands Motorsport Park 279-80
 highlights 8-9, 12-21
 history 23
 History House Museum 234
 Hobbiton 108
 Hokitika 211, 218, 274, 284
 Hokitika Gorge 211-13
 Hokonui Heritage Centre 318
 Hokonui Moonshine Museum 318
 Homer Tunnel 300-2
 Horseshoe Bend Bridge 331
 Hot Water Beach 69-70, 73
 Huka Falls 99, 114-15
 Huka Prawn Park 99

I

insurance 348
 International Antarctic Centre 273
 internet access 24
 Invercargill 319-21, 326

J

Jackson Bay Road 215

K

Kaikoura 20, 224, 227
 Kaiteriteri 188-9
 Kapiti Island 139
 Karangahake Gorge 71
 Karikari Peninsula 48
 Kate Sheppard Memorial 286
 Kauri Museum 49
 Kawakawa 44
 Kawiti Glowworm Caves 44
 KD's Elvis Presley Museum 93
 Kennedy Bay 68
 Kerikeri 44-5, 51
 Kuaotunu 67, 72
 Kumara 233-4, 243-4
 Kumeu 57-8, 61
 Kura Tawhiti 231, 244
 Kurow 267-8

L

Lady Knox Geyser 113
 Lake Brunner 243, 245
 Lake Gunn 299
 Lake Kaniere 211
 Lake Manapouri 317-18
 Lake Matheson 216
 Lake Mistletoe 296-7
 Lake Pukaki 254-5
 Lake Rotoiti (Nelson Lakes National Park) 198
 Lake Tarawera 111-12
 Lake Tekapo 253-4, 260, 282-3, 285
 Lake Wakatipu Viewpoint 347
 Left Bank Art Gallery 243
 Leithfield 227

Len Lye Centre 90-1
 Lewis Pass 237-45
Lord of the Rings, The 108, 139, 190, 312
 Lyell 200
 Lyttelton 343-4, 345

M

Mackay Creek 297
 Mackenzie Country 19, 282
 Mahia Peninsula 152
 Makarora 277-8
 Man O' War Bay 78-9
 Mangawhai Heads 39-40, 50
 Mangonui 45-6, 51
 Maniototo Curling International 335
 Maniototo Museum 335
 Manu Bay 123-4
 maps 349
 Mapua 187-8
 Marahau 189-90, 193
 Marble Hill 240-2
 Marlborough Sounds 176
 Martinborough 142, 143
 Maruia Springs 239-40
 Masterton 140-1
 Matakana 56, 60
 Matakohē 49
 Matamata 108, 118
 Mavora Lakes 296
 Mercury Bay Museum 67-8
 Methven 283, 285
 Middlesmarch 335, 337
 Mike's Brewery Urenui 94
 Milford Sound 17, 293-303
 Mirror Lakes 297-9
 Mission House 44-5
 Mitre Peak 297
 mobile phones 24
 Moeraki 341-2, 345
 Moeraki Boulders 342
 Molesworth Station 226

money 25
 Morris & James 56
 Motueka 180, 183, 188, 193
 mountains 23
 Mount Hot Pools 148
 Moutuhora (Whale Island) 149
 Mt Aspiring National Park 279, 311
 Mt Maunganui 147-8, 156
 Mt Somers 250, 260
 MTG Hawke's Bay 117
 Murchison 198-9, 201
 Muriwai 57
 Museum of Waitangi 44
 music 353
 Mussel Inn 191

N

Napier 117, 119, 154, 157
 Naseby 335, 337
 National Army Museum 102
 National Park Village 100-2, 128, 131
 national parks 17
 National Tobacco Company Building 154
 National Transport & Toy Museum 311
 Nelson 176-7, 183, 186-7, 193
 Nelson Lakes National Park 180-2, 198
 New Plymouth 90-1, 95
 New Regent Street 286
 New Zealand Maritime Museum 83
 New Zealand Rugby Museum 140
 Nga Manu Nature Reserve 139
 Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision 159
 Ngarua Caves 190
 Ngarunui Beach 123-4

Niagara 327
 Nile River Caves 208-9
 Ninety Mile Beach 46
 Northland 37-51
 Nugget Point/Tokatā 323-4

O

Oakura 91-2, 95
 Oamaru 268, 269, 342
 Ohakune 102, 103
 Ohope 149
 Okarito 214, 219
 Old Ghost Road 200
 Olveston 331
 Omapere 48-9, 51
 Omarama 265-6
 Oneroa 77, 81
 Onetangi 78, 81
 Oparara Basin 210
 Ophir 334-5, 337
 Opito 67
 Opononi 48-9, 51
 Opotiki 149-51, 156
 Opotiki Museum 149
 Opunake 92, 95
 Orakei Korako 113
 Otago Central Rail Trail 334
 Otago Museum 340
 Otago Peninsula 323
 Otama 67
 Otorohanga Kiwi House &
 Native Bird Park 125-6
 Owaka 327

P

Paihia 44, 50-1
 Palmerston North 139-40,
 143
 Pancake Rocks 210
 Papatowai 322-3
 Parakai Springs 57
 Paritutu 91
 parking 351-2

Peel Forest 251, 260
 Pelorus Bridge 176
 petrol 24, 352
 Picton 175, 183, 196-7, 201
 Piha 58-9, 61
 Pompallier Mission 43
 Poor Knights Islands 41
pounamu 211
 Pounaweia 323
 Puhoi 55-6, 60
 Pukaha Mt Bruce National
 Wildlife Centre 140-1
 Pukekura Park 91
 Punakaiki 210, 218
 Pupū Springs 191

Q

Quake City 344
 Quarry Arts Centre 41
 Queenstown
 eating & sleeping 261, 285,
 303, 313
 sights 14, 29, 259, 278-9,
 295, 306-7, 346-7

R

radio 353
 Raglan 122-3, 130
 Rakaia Gorge 250, 283
 Rakiura National Park 319
 Ranfurly 337
 Rapaura Water
 Gardens 65-6
 Rawene 46-8
 Redwoods Treewalk 111
 Redwoods Whakarewarewa
 Forest 109, 119
 Reefton 242, 245
 Renwick 182, 197-8, 201
 Re:START Mall 287
 Riverton 319, 326
 road rules 349, 350-1
 Ross 275

Rotorua 14, 108-9, 118
 Roxburgh 331-2
 Royal Albatross Centre 323
 Ruataniwha Conservation
 Park 258
 Russell 43-4, 50

S

safety 349-50, 352
 Sanctuary Mountain
 Maungatautari 126
 sandflies 275
 School of Mines & Mineral-
 ogical Museum 64
 Shantytown 211
 Sheffield 235
 Ship Creek 216, 275-7
 Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine
 Centre 265
 Sky Tower 82
 SkyJump 106
 Skyline Gondola 347
 Skyline MTB Gravity
 Park 109
 SkyWalk 106
 Smash Palace 287
 Southland Museum & Art
 Gallery 319-20
 Springfield 231
 St Arnaud 201
 St Peter's Anglican
 Church 346
 Staveley Store 250
 Steampunk HQ 342
 Stewart Island 319, 326
 Stone Store 44-5

T

Tahunanui Beach 186
 Taieri Gorge Railway 335
 Tairāwhiti Museum 153
 Takaka 190-1
 Talbot Forest Scenic
 Reserve 283

Taranaki 89-95
 Tarras 311
 Tasman Bay 185-93
 Taumarunui 94, 95, 127-8
 Taupiri 108
 Taupo 98-9, 103, 115-16, 119
 Tauranga 146-7, 156
 Tawharanui Regional Park 56
 Tawhiti Museum 93
 Te Anau 295-6, 303, 317, 326
 Te Awamutu 124-5, 130
 Te Henga (Bethells Beach) 58, 61
 Te Hikoi Southern Journey 319
 Te Manawa 140
 Te Manuka Tutahi Marae 148
 Te Paki Recreation Reserve 46
 Te Papa 158
 Te Puia 108
 Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve 152
 Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery 59
 Te Waewae Bay 318-19
 Te Wāhipounamu-South West New Zealand World Heritage Area 217, 255
 Te Waikoropū Springs 191
 Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve 69
 Te Whau Point 80
 telephone services 24
 Thames 64
 Timaru 342-3
 tipping 25
 Titirangi 59, 61
 Toitū Otago Settlers Museum 330-1
 Tokomaru Bay 151-2

Tokorahi 269
 Tolaga Bay 152
 Tongariro National Park 97-103
 Tongariro National Trout Centre 99
 transport 25
 TranzAlpine 234
 TSS *Earnslaw* 347
 Tukurua 193
 Tunnel Beach 324
 Turangi 99-100, 103
 Tutukaka 41-3, 50
 Twizel 255-8, 261, 265, 269

U

Upper Moutere 177-80
 Urenui 94

V

Viaduct Harbour 83
 Volcanic Activity Centre 99

W

Waiheke Island 19, 75-81
 Waihi 70-1
 Waihi Beach 71, 73
 Waikanae 139
 Waikato Museum 107-8
 Waikawau Bay 68
 Waimangu Volcanic Valley 113
 Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland 113
 Waiouru 102
 Waipara Valley 223-4
 Waipoua State Forest 49, 51
 Waipu 40
 Waipunga Falls 116-17
 Wairakei 99, 114
 Waitaki Bridge 345
 Waitangi Treaty Grounds 44

Waitomo 128
 Waitomo Caves 20, 126-7, 130-1
 Wanaka 278, 284, 311, 313
 weather 24
 websites 25, 349
 Wellington 27, 138-9, 143, 158-9
 West Coast 15, 207-19
 Westerman's Building 154
 Westland Tai Poutini National Park 214-15
 Westport 200, 201, 208, 218
 Weta Cave 139
 Whakaari (White Island) 148
 Whakapapa Village 100
 Whakarewarewa Village 108
 Whakatane 148-9, 156
 Whale Bay 124
 Whale Island 149
 Whangaahei 68
 Whangamata 70, 73
 Whangamomona 94
 Whanganui 128-31, 131
 Whangarei 40-1, 50
 Wharariki Beach 192
 Whataroa 213-14
 White Island 148
 Whitianga 67-8, 72
 Whittaker's Musical Museum 77
 wi-fi 24
 Willowbank Wildlife Reserve 223
 Wither Hills Farm Park 197
 Wool Shed 140
 World of WearableArt Museum 176-7
 Wynyard Quarter 83

OUR WRITERS



BRETT ATKINSON

Born in Rotorua, and now resident in Auckland, Brett Atkinson has been tripping around New Zealand for most of his life. For this 1st edition of *New Zealand's Best Trips*, he ventured to sleepy harbours in Northland, negotiated coastal roads around Coromandel, and quaffed the best of Wellington craft beer. Together with his wife, Carol, he's explored many countries independently behind the wheel of a car.

My Favourite Trip **1** **Northland & the Bay of Islands** I love this area's diversity, especially the differences between the east and west coasts. It's also a poignant journey packed with many family memories.



SARAH BENNETT

Sarah grew up in Marlborough, but her life-long love affair with Wellington has left her loyalties divided between North and South. What is constant is her obsession with NZ road trips, which keeps her and husband, Lee, on the road in their little campervan for around four months each year. Their mountain bikes always come with them, as do hiking boots, a hot water bottle and the laptop (of course) because it's not always sunshine and wine.

My Favourite Trip **15** **The West Coast Road** because few things make me happier than unspoilt New Zealand wilderness.

Read more about Sarah at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/sarahbennett39>



LEE SLATER

Lee embarked on his first NZ road trip just after moving there from the UK in 1999. What soon became blindingly obvious was the difference between the two country's roads. Swapping 20-mile traffic jams on multi-laned highways for empty, winding roads cut through some of the world's most impressive scenery has been a tough job. Upgrading from pup tent to campervan with his beau, Sarah Bennett, has softened the blow somewhat.

My Favourite Trip **19** **Inland Scenic Route** because it's filled with the things that make me sing: mountains, lakes and Central Otago pinot noir.

Read more about Lee at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/leeslater41>

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

1st edition – Sep 2016

ISBN 978 1 78657 025 3

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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