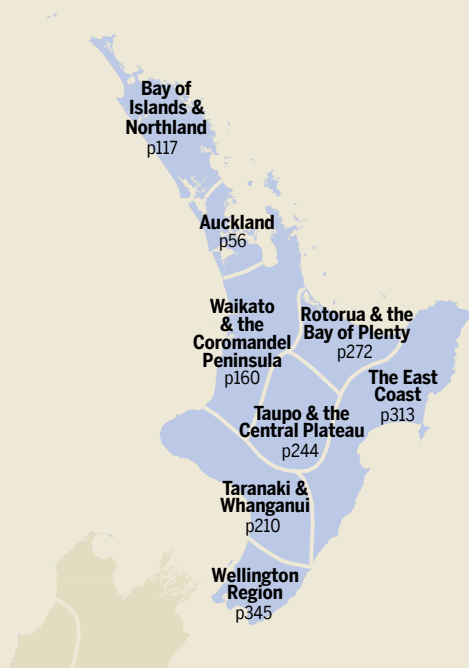




New Zealand's North Island (Te Ika-a-Māui)



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Charles Rawlings-Way,

Brett Atkinson, Sarah Bennett, Peter Dragicevich, Lee Slater

PLAN YOUR TRIP

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VICTORIA ST, AUCKLAND
(P57)

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Itineraries



10
DAYS

Auckland & the North

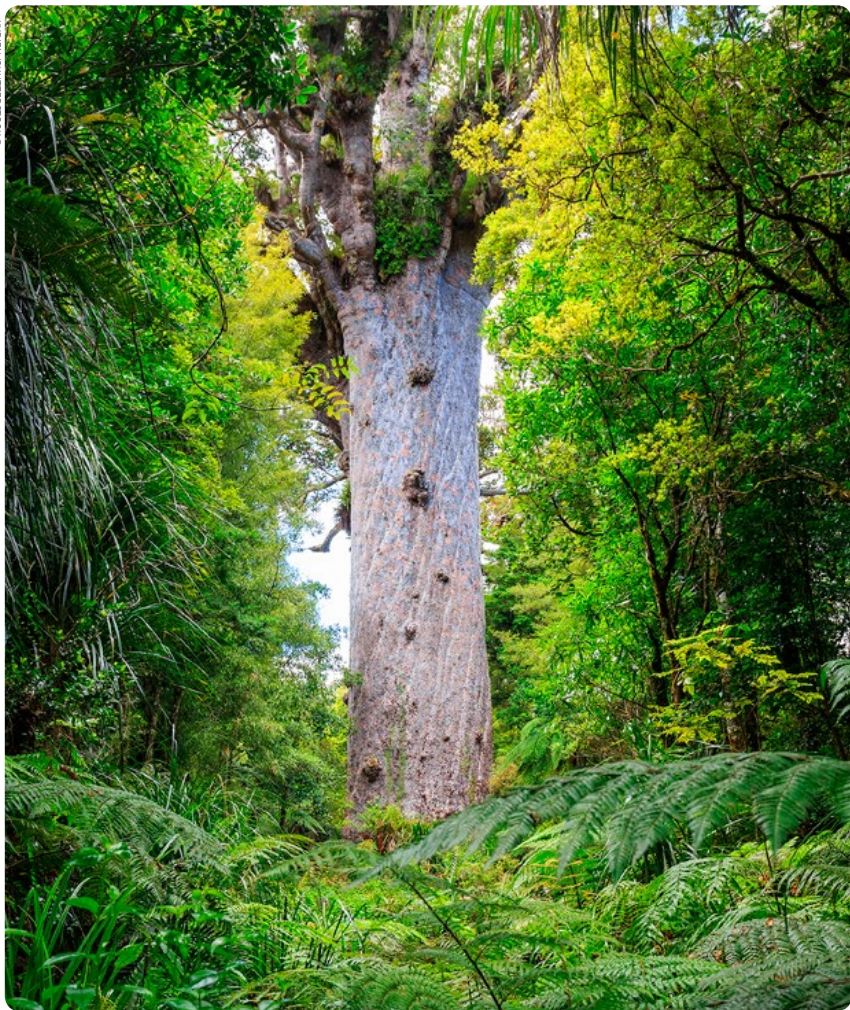
If you're travelling in summer and fancy an unhurried beach holiday, this one's for you.

Spend three days in **Auckland**, exploring its volcanoes, beaches, bars and eateries, and taking day trips to Waiheke Island and the west-coast beaches. Hit the highway and head north to sleepy **Tutukaka** for a day's diving around the Poor Knights Islands.

Continue on to the **Bay of Islands** for a dose of Māori and colonial history, and the timeless charm of pretty coves and coastal scenery. Stay for at least two nights and spend at least one day cruising between the islands.

Drop by **Doubtless Bay** for another lazy beach day and to feast on fish and chips on the wharf at Mangonui. The following morning, take a long, leisurely drive up to **Cape Reinga** at the very tip of the country – the most sacred site in traditional Māori spirituality.

Venture south, skirting the windswept expanses of Ninety Mile Beach, before hitting **Ahipara**. Continue south via the Hokianga Harbour and stop for the night at **Opononi**. Allow yourself time to pay homage to the majestic trees of the **Waipoua Forest** before commencing the long, scenic drive back to Auckland.



Top: Tane Mahuta, the largest living kauri tree, in the Waipoua Forest (p156)

Bottom: Tutukaka (p128), northeast of Whangarei



IAN URQUHART/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



Central Highlights

This itinerary offers a short, sharp blast down the middle of the island, taking in NZ's two main cities and other highlights along the way.

After a couple of days in energetic and cosmopolitan **Auckland**, take a slow drive south, dropping in to briefly explore Hamilton and Cambridge en route to **Rotorua**. At your destination the classic combo of bubbling thermal activity and vibrant Māori culture awaits, and you can ease any travel aches with a lengthy soak in a hot spring.

Continue south to **Taupo** for jetboating thrills or the more relaxed appeal of trout fishing. If you're feeling brave, bungee jump from 47m above the Waikato River.

Follow the coves of Lake Taupo's picturesque eastern shore to **Tongariro National Park**, where there's good winter skiing, and the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, judged one of the world's best one-day walks.

Stop in at the National Army Museum at Waiouru and at the beach in Paekakariki before pushing on to **Wellington**. The nation's cute little capital has more than enough museums, galleries, bars and cafes to amuse you for a couple of days, and a good live-music scene to blast away the cobwebs at night.



A Grand Circuit

Tracing a broad circuit around most of the North Island, this is an ideal route for travellers with time on their hands.

Kick off by exploring bustling **Auckland** before heading the long way around the Coromandel Peninsula, via Thames and Coromandel Town, to the legendary beach town of **Hahei**. Spend a day kayaking, visiting Cathedral Cove and digging a natural spa pool at nearby Hot Water Beach.

Continue south to **Rotorua**, the most dramatic of NZ's geothermal hot spots. Stop for the night at laid-back **Whakatane** before taking the winding coastal road right around isolated East Cape to beachy **Gisborne**. At **Napier**, pause to admire the art-deco architecture and acclaimed Hawke's Bay wineries. More wine awaits in **Martinborough**, which is short hop from the nation's vibrant capital, **Wellington**.

After two nights in the capital, head north and then branch out west towards Whanganui and **New Plymouth**, a charming regional city with a brilliant art gallery, in the shadow of majestic Mt Taranaki.

As you near the end of your North Island odyssey, take comfort that you've saved some highlights till last: the glowworm-lit magnificence of the **Waitomo Caves** and the chilled-out little surf town of **Raglan**.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book

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-prize 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 Māori Culture chapter. John has an editorial, research and writing background with a focus on Māori writing and culture. He was senior editor for Māori 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 the North Island boxed text in the Extreme Sports on the North Island 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 Kawaii*. 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

Taranaki & Whanganui, East Coast, Wellington Region English by birth, Australian by chance, All Blacks fan by choice: Charles's 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 its determination to sculpt its own political and indigenous destiny. Charles also wrote the Planning chapters (with the exception of Hiking and Extreme Sports on the North Island), NZ Today, Arts & Music and Survival Guide.



Brett Atkinson

Bay of Islands & Northland, Waikato & the Coromandel Peninsula, Taupo & the Central Plateau, Rotorua & the Bay of Plenty Born in Rotorua, but now a proud resident of Auckland, Brett explored the top half of New Zealand's North Island for this edition. Excursions to Northland, the Coromandel Peninsula and Tongariro National Park echoed family holidays from an earlier century, and rediscovering his home town also evoked great memories. Brett's contributed to

Lonely Planet guidebooks spanning Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and covered around 50 countries as a food and travel writer. See www.brett-atkinson.net for his latest adventures.



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Sarah and Lee specialise in NZ travel, with a particular focus on outdoor adventure including hiking, mountain biking and camping. In addition to five editions of the *New Zealand* guidebook, they are also co-authors of Lonely Planet's *Hiking & Tramping in New Zealand* and *New Zealand's Best Trips*. Read more at www.bennettandslater.co.nz. Sarah and Lee wrote Hiking on the North Island and Extreme Sports on the North Island.



Peter Dragicevich

Auckland After nearly a decade working for off-shore publishing companies, Peter's life has come full circle, returning to his home city of Auckland. As managing editor of *Express* newspaper he spent much of the '90s writing about the local arts, club and bar scenes. Peter has contributed to several editions of the *New Zealand* guidebook and, after dozens of Lonely Planet assignments, it remains his favourite gig.

OVER MORE
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