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PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions
to help you put together your perfect trip

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need to know

When to Go

High Season
(Dec-Feb)
Peak prices, crowded beaches, and long queues for popular activities.

Shoulder Season
(Mar-May)
Pleasant weather, fewer crowds, and better prices.

Low Season
(Jun-Sep)
Cooler weather, fewer crowds, and the best prices.

Yearly Daily Budget
Budget new travellers
\$130
average \$20-35 per night
includes breakfast, accommodation, and transport.

Mid-range
\$130-250
includes a car hire, accommodation, and transport.

High-end
\$250-450
includes a car hire, accommodation, and transport.

Language
English is spoken.

itineraries



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UNDERSTAND THE SOUTH ISLAND

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you
can make sense of what you see

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The South Island Today

Key facts

- Population: 1.5 million
- Area: 150,000 sq km
- Capital: Christchurch
- Language: English
- Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)

What's new

The South Island is a beautiful and diverse landscape, with stunning scenery and a rich cultural heritage. It's a great place to visit for anyone looking for a unique experience.

1772

Marion du Fresne's French expedition arrives; it stays for some weeks at the Bay of Islands. Relations with Maori start well, but a breach of Maori (kauri) leads to violence.

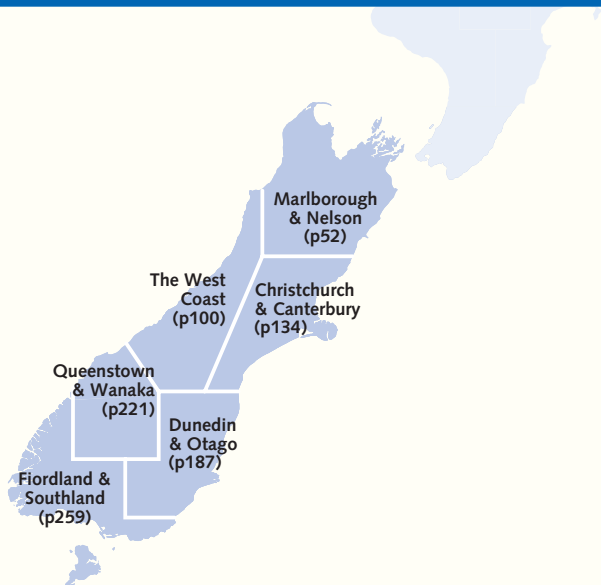
ISBN 978-1-74220-212-9



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THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Brett Atkinson,
Sarah Bennett, Peter Dragicevich,
Charles Rawlings-Way, Lee Slater

➤ Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first

➤ Look out for these icons:



Our author's top recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

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Franz Josef Glacier
Glacial thrills adjoining rugged rainforest (p123)

Milford Sound
Forested peaks soaring from indigo depths (p232)

Banks Peninsula
French history and stunning coastal landscapes (p157)

Oamaru
Immerse yourself in Victorian New Zealand (p213)

Central Otago
History, cycling and summer fruit (p205)

Otago Peninsula
Welcoming wildlife amid coastal grandeur (p201)

The Catlins
Wildlife and scenery on the long way round (p279)

Queenstown
Action aplenty meets alpine vistas (p222)

Stewart Island
Meeting kiwi on NZ's third island (p284)

To Bounty Islands;
Antipodes Islands

To Snare Islands;
Auckland Islands

SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

To Campbell Island

Forreux Strait

Chaslands Mistake

Stewart Island (Rakiura)

Oban

Invercargill

Tuatapere

Winton

Gore

Milton

Dunedin

Palmerston

Oamaru

Waimate

Timaru

Temuka

Twizel

Wanaka

Arrowtown

Cromwell

Alexandra

Queenstown

Lumsden

Te Anau

Manapouri

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Contributing Authors

Professor James Belich wrote the History chapter (p294). 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 (p297) 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 (p311). 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 (p46) 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 (p326) 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.

Nandor Tanczos wrote the Environmental Issues in Aotearoa New Zealand boxed text (p306) in the Environment chapter. NZ's first Rastafarian Member of Parliament (NZ Greens Party), and the first to enter parliament in dreadlocks and a hemp suit, he was also the Green Party's spokesperson on constitutional issues and the environment from 1999 to 2008.

Vaughan Yarwood wrote the Environment chapter (p304). Vaughan is an Auckland-based writer whose most recent book is *The History Makers: Adventures in New Zealand Biography*. Earlier work includes *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 Kawau*. He has written widely for NZ and international publications and is the former associate editor of *New Zealand Geographic*, for which he continues to write.

Thanks to Dr David Millar for his help with the Health content, Grace Hoet for her contribution to the Maori Culture chapter, and all the NZ regional tourism organisations for their help with pre-research briefings.



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 Melbourne, London and Oakland, 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



Brett Atkinson

Coordinating author, *Plan your Trip, Christchurch & Canterbury, Dunedin & Otago, Queenstown & Wanaka, Fiordland & Southland, South Island Today* On his third research trip to the 'mainland', Brett explored Maori rock art, stayed in a historic cottage in the Gibbston Valley, and negotiated a penny-farthing bicycle around Oamaru. Two weeks researching earthquake-damaged Christchurch left him even more impressed with the resilience and determination of the people

of Canterbury. Brett has covered ten countries for Lonely Planet, and more than 40 countries as a freelance travel and food writer. See also www.brett-atkinson.net.



Sarah Bennett & Lee Slater

Marlborough & Nelson, The West Coast Raised at the top of the South, Sarah migrated to Wellington at 16 and has lived there ever since, except for various travels and a stint in London working at Lonely Planet's UK office. During research, she strives to find fault, particularly in relation to baked goods and beer selection. Sarah is joined in this endless quest by her husband and co-writer, Lee. English by birth and now a naturalised New Zealander, Lee's first career as an engineer has seen him

travel extensively around Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and the Caucasus. Sarah and Lee are co-authors of *Let's Go Camping* and *The New Zealand Trumper's Handbook*. They are also freelance feature writers for newspapers and magazines, including the *Dominion Post* and *Wilderness*.



Peter Dragicevich

The Kiwi Psyche, Arts & Music After nearly a decade working for off-shore publishing companies, Peter's life has come full circle, returning to West Auckland where he was raised. As managing editor of Auckland-based *Express* newspaper he spent much of the '90s writing about the local arts, club and bar scenes. Peter has worked on several of Lonely Planet's guides to New Zealand and, after dozens of Lonely Planet assignments, it remains his favourite gig.



Charles Rawlings-Way

Survival Guide 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. Mt Taranaki's snowy summit, Raglan's point breaks and Whanganui's raffish charm have enthralled. He's once again smitten with NZ's phantasmal landscapes, disarming locals and determination to sculpt its own political and indigenous destiny.

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

3rd edition – September 2012

ISBN 978 1 74220 212 9

© Lonely Planet 2012 Photographs © as indicated 2012

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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itineraries

Whether you've got one week or two, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers..



Three Weeks Southern Circuit

Head to **Christchurch** and see how the city is rebuilding post-earthquakes. Grab a kick-ass coffee, then visit the Canterbury Museum or International Antarctic Centre. The Avon River cuts a lazy ribbon through town, check it out in the Botanic Gardens, or see if the city tramway or Christchurch Art Gallery have reopened yet.

City saturated? Drive out to Banks Peninsula and the French-colonial settlement of **Akaroa**, then head north for whale-watching in **Kaikoura**. Continue to the famous **Marlborough wine region** and pretty harbour town of **Picton** to lose a day in the waterways of the **Marlborough Sounds**.

Detour west past artsy **Nelson** to ecofriendly **Golden Bay**. Heading southbound along the West Coast there's time to check out the town of **Franz Josef** and visit the Franz Josef and **Fox Glaciers** before continuing to ski-central **Queenstown**, the desolate and mesmerising **Doubtful Sound** and the overgrown **Catlins**. Back up the East Coast, drop in to Scottish-flavoured **Dunedin**, then detour through Central Otago to the snowy heights of **Aoraki/Mt Cook** and **Lake Tekapo**, before rolling back into Christchurch.



CHRISTOPHER GREENHUT / LONELY PLANET IMAGES ©



DAVID WALL / LONELY PLANET IMAGES ©

- » (above) Snowcapped Seaward Kaikoura Range (p70)
- » (left) Autumn in Otago (p201)



One Week to Ten Days

Food, Beer & Markets

Fire up your tastebuds around **Nelson**, widely regarded as the nation's craft-brewing capital and home to innovative microbreweries such as Renaissance, Moa and 8 Wired. Loop east through **Picton** and down the South Island's rugged East Coast to **Kaikoura** for delicious seafood. Graduate from Kaikoura's rustic seafood eateries to classier dining in the vineyard restaurants of **Waipara's** wine region, north of Christchurch. Pegasus Bay and Mud House are both great for leisurely lunches.

Journey into **Christchurch** to sample the post-earthquake restaurant scene emerging in Sumner and Addington, and don't miss the excellent Christchurch Farmers Market on a Saturday morning or Wednesday night. More craft-beer heaven awaits beer buffs at Pomeroy's Old Brewery Inn and the Brewery.

From Christchurch continue south to North Otago and award-winning eateries such as Oamaru's Riverstone Kitchen and Fleur's Place in **Moeraki**. Emerson's and Green Man are the microbreweries to check out further south in **Dunedin** – sample a few at Eureka or Tonic – before loading up the car with organic, free-range and locavore goodies at the Dunedin Farmers Market.

One Week to Ten Days

Animal Planet

From **Christchurch** travel to **Akaroa** to swim with Hector's dolphins, NZ's smallest and rarest. Squeeze in a return trip up the coast to **Kaikoura** for whale-watching and swimming with NZ fur seals, before travelling south to **Oamaru**. There's a fascination with Steampunk culture and a wonderful historic precinct, but nature buffs are in town to meet the little blue penguins that swim ashore every night at dusk.

From Oamaru travel to the **Otago Peninsula** for more little blue penguins, and their extremely rare, shuffling cousins, the yellow-eyed penguin, or hoiho. Join a tour with Natures Wonders to get close up and personal with seals and sea lions before admiring the royal albatross colony on nearby Taiaroa Head. A seaborne journey with Elm Wildlife Cruises is another essential Otago Peninsula experience.

Continue south to the rugged and isolated **Catlins**. Little blue penguins, yellow-eyed penguins and Hector's dolphins are all regular visitors to **Curio Bay**. Head further south and leave the South Island at **Bluff** for kiwi-spotting on wild and idiosyncratic **Stewart Island**. Now you can really say you've met a kiwi.

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