

BEHIND THE SCENES

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THIS BOOK

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

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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, 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'.

INDEX

A

Abel Tasman National Park 24
 accommodation 13, *see also individual locations*
 Aoraki/Mt Cook 46
 Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park 45-7, 93-5, **94-5**
 Arthur's Pass 89-90
 Arthur's Pass National Park 39-40, 89

B

Bannockburn 44
 Blenheim 26, 30-2, 67-9
 breakdown services 118
 breweries
 Christchurch 87-8
 Mapua 77
 Motueka 78
 Waipara Valley 88-9
 Wanaka 102
 bungy jumping 97

C

campervans 117-18
 camping 121
 canoeing & kayaking
 Blenheim 68
 Christchurch 82

Havelock 67
 Milford Sound 61
 Tasman Glacier 93
 car hire 117-18
 car insurance 117
 car travel, *see* driving
 Cascade Creek 57
 caves 53-4, 113
 cell phones 12
 Chasm Creek 60
 Christchurch 10, 34, 39, 81-8, **84-5**
 accommodation 83
 activities 82-3
 drinking & nightlife 87
 food 86-7
 shopping 87
 sights 81-2
 tours 83
 churches & cathedrals
 Christ Church Cathedral 74
 Transitional Cathedral 82
 climate 12
 Cook Strait 122
 costs 13
 Cromwell 44-5, 106-7
 accommodation 107
 activities 106
 festivals & events 107
 food 107
 sights 106-7
 Cullen Point Lookout 66

D

Department of Conservation (DOC) 121
 Devil's Staircase 53
 Divide, the 57-8
 diving 64
 documents 117
 driving 117-22
 car buying 118
 car hire 117-18
 documents 117
 fuel 12, 120
 insurance 117
 maps 118
 parking 120
 road rules 118, 119
 safety 118-19, 120-1
 websites 118
 driving licences 117

E

emergencies 12, 118

F

ferry travel 122
 Fiordland 113-16
 Fiordland National Park 58
 food 13, 21, *see also individual locations*
 Fox Glacier 41, 110-12, **111**
 accommodation 111

000 Map pages

activities 110
 food 112
 freedom camping 121
 fuel 12, 120

G

gas 12, 120
 Geraldine 48-9, 91
 Gore Bay 32-3
 greenstone 40

H

Havelock 19, 66-7
 helicopter tours 46, 92, 113
 heliskiing 93
 Highlands Motorsport Park 45-6
 highlights 8-9
 hiking, see walking
 Hokitika 40, 108-10, **109**
 accommodation 109
 activities 108-9
 drinking 110
 food 110
 sights 108
 Hokitika Gorge 108
 Homer Tunnel 58-60
 horse riding 91
 hot springs 91

I

insurance 117
 International Antarctic Centre 39
 internet access 12

J

jetboating 44, 97

K

Kaikoura 9, 32, 70-4, **72**
 Kaikoura Coast 29-35

kayaking, see canoeing & kayaking
 kiwis 96

L

Lake Gunn 57
 Lake Kaniere 108
 Lake Mistletoe 54
 Lake Tekapo 47-8, 91-2
 Lake Wakatipu 96

M

Mackay Creek 54-5
 Mackenzie Country 47
 Makarora 43-4, 105-6
 activities 105-6
 maps 118
 Mapua 77
 Marlborough 64-80
 Marlborough Sounds 20
 Marlborough Wine Region 26, 70-1, **68**
 Mavora Lakes 54
 Methven 49, 90-1
 Milford Sound 9, 51-61, 116
 Mirror Lakes 55-7
 Mitre Peak 55
 mobile phones 12
 money 13
 motorsports 106
 Motueka 23-4, 78-9, **79**
 Moutere Hills 77-8
 Mt Aspiring National Park 45
 museums & galleries
 Canterbury Museum 34, 82
 Christchurch Art Gallery 81
 Edwin Fox Maritime Museum 64
 Geraldine Museum 91
 Höglund Art Glass 77
 Hokitika Museum 108
 Kaikoura Museum 70

Marlborough Museum 67
 Motueka District Museum 78
 National Transport & Toy Museum 102
 Nelson Provincial Museum 74
 Picton Museum 64
 Quake City 82
 Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre 93
 Suter Art Gallery 74
 Vintage Car & Machinery Museum 91-2
 World of WearableArt Museum 20
 music 121

N

national parks & reserves
 Abel Tasman National Park 24
 Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park 45-7, 93-5, **94-5**
 Arthur's Pass National Park 39-40, 89
 Fiordland National Park 58
 Mt Aspiring National Park 45
 Nelson Lakes National Park 24-5, 79-80
 Nelson 20-1, 74-7, **75**
 Nelson Lakes National Park 24-5, 79-80

P

parking 120
 parks & gardens, see also national parks & reserves
 Christchurch Botanic Gardens 81
 Hagley Park 81
 Queenstown Gardens 53
 Pelorus Bridge 19-20
 petrol 12, 120

Picton 19, 30, 64-6, **65**
pounamu 40

Q

Queenstown 9, 11, 44, 53,
 96-101, **98**
 accommodation 98-9
 activities 97
 drinking & nightlife 100
 entertainment 101
 food 99-100
 shopping 101-2
 sights 96-7
 tours 97-8
 Queenstown Gardens 53

R

radio 121-2
 Rakaia Gorge 49
 Renwick 25
 road distances 119, 120
 road rules 118, 119
 Ross 40-1
 Ross Goldfields Heritage
 Centre 40

S

safety 118-19, 120-1
 sandflies 41
 seals 70
 Ship Creek 41-3
 Siberia Experience 43-4
 skiing 48, 90, 93
 skydiving
 Fox Glacier 110
 Methven 90
 Motueka 24, 78

snowboarding 48
 Southern Alps 37-49
 Southland 113-16

T

Talbot Forest Scenic Reserve
 48
 Tasman Glacier 93
 Te Anau 53-4, 113-16, **115**
 accommodation 113-14
 activities 113
 drinking & nightlife 114-15
 food 114
 sights 113
 tours 113
 Te Anau Glowworm Caves
 53-4
 telephone services 12
 tipping 13
 tramping, see walking
 transport 13

U

Upper Moutere 21-3, 77

W

Waimea Estate 21
 Waipara Valley 33-4, 88-9
 walking
 Arthur's Pass 89
 Blue Pools Walk 105
 Bridle Track 105
 Fox Glacier 110
 Gillespie Pass 106
 Haast Pass Lookout Track
 105
 Havelock 67

Hooker Valley Track 93
 Kaikoura 70
 Kea Point Track 93
 Sealy Tarns Track 93
 Tasman Glacier 93
 Wilkin Valley Track 106
 Wanaka 44, 101-5, **103**
 accommodation 102-4
 activities 102
 drinking & nightlife 104
 entertainment 105-6
 food 104
 shopping 105
 sights 101-2
 tours 102
 weather 12
 websites 13, 118
 West Coast 108-12
 whales 34
 white-water rafting
 Kaikoura 71
 Queenstown 97
 wi-fi 12
 wildlife parks & reserves
 Kiwi Birdlife Park 96
 Point Kean Seal Colony 70
 Punanga Manu o Te Anau
 113
 wildlife watching 34
 wineries
 Bannockburn 44
 Blenheim 31
 Marlborough 26, 70-1
 Mt Difficulty 107
 Nelson 21
 Waipara Valley 34, 88
 Wanaka 102

OUR WRITERS



BRETT ATKINSON

Born in Rotorua, and now resident in Auckland, Brett has been tripping around New Zealand for most of his life. He has ventured to sleepy harbours in Northland and negotiated coastal roads around Coromandel. Together with his wife, Carol, he's explored many countries independently behind the wheel of a car.



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.



PETER DRAGICEVICH

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 scene. After dozens of Lonely Planet assignments, writing about New Zealand remains his favourite gig.



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 multilaned highways for empty, winding roads that 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.

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