Off the Beaten Track

There's not much left of this historic goldmining town but a haunted pub, a handful of heritage houses and a curious blue lake.

AWAROA BAY
This gorgeous, golden-sand beach was bought by crowdfunding in 2016 (nearly 30,000 Kiwis contributed) and added to Abel Tasman National Park. Due to its remote setting, only a fraction of them will ever see it.

MOLESWORTH STATION
Managed by the Department of Conservation, this immense farm covers a huge chunk of the South Island’s northeastern hinterland. You can drive along the bumpy road for hours without seeing another soul.

ST BATHANS
There’s not much left of this historic goldmining town but a haunted pub, a handful of heritage houses and a curious blue lake.

CAPE FAREWELL
The isolated northern tip of the South Island is flanked to the west by wild Whakariki Beach, while to the east, magnificent Farewell Spit stretches out for 35 sandy kilometres.

JACKSON BAY
This remote fishing village, nestled in the shadow of the Southern Alps, is literally the end of the road on the rugged West Coast. You’re likely to have its walking tracks all to yourself.

MACETOWN
There’s something hugely intriguing about goldmining ghost towns, especially ones reached by either an arduous trek or an arse-numbing 4WD ride.

PARADISE
Who doesn’t want to say that they’ve been to Paradise! There’s not much to do there but it’s all about the journey, after all – along a river valley with mountain views in every direction.

MAVORA LAKES CONSERVATION PARK
Enclosed within a state forest, this remote area features two blissful lakes separated by an expanse of golden meadow: a perfect setting for Lord of the Rings fantasies.