



# New Zealand (Aotearoa)



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## PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to New Zealand .....	4
New Zealand Map .....	6
New Zealand's Top 20 .....	8
Need to Know .....	20
What's New .....	22
If You Like.....	23
Month by Month.....	27
Itineraries .....	31
Hiking in New Zealand ...	36
Skiing & Snowboarding in New Zealand .....	43
Extreme New Zealand ...	48
Food & Drink .....	52
Travel with Children.....	55
Regions at a Glance.....	57

## ON THE ROAD

<b>AUCKLAND .....</b>	<b>62</b>
Auckland .....	63
Hauraki Gulf Islands.....	100
Rangitoto & Motutapu Islands.....	101
Waiheke Island .....	102
Great Barrier Island.....	109
<b>West Auckland .....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>North Auckland.....</b>	<b>117</b>

### BAY OF ISLANDS & NORTHLAND.... 123

<b>Whangarei District.....</b>	<b>126</b>
Mangawhai .....	126
Whangarei .....	129
Tutukaka Coast & the Poor Knights Islands .....	134
<b>Bay of Islands .....</b>	<b>136</b>
Russell .....	139
Paihia & Waitangi .....	142
Kerikeri .....	147
<b>The Far North .....</b>	<b>151</b>
Doubtless Bay.....	153
Cape Reinga & Ninety Mile Beach .....	155
Ahipara .....	158
<b>Hokianga .....</b>	<b>159</b>
Opononi & Omapere .....	161
<b>Kauri Coast .....</b>	<b>162</b>

### WAIKATO & THE COROMANDEL PENINSULA..... 166

Hamilton .....	169
Raglan .....	175
Te Awamutu.....	180
Cambridge.....	181
Matamata .....	183
Waitomo Caves.....	187
Thames .....	197
Coromandel Town .....	200
Whitianga.....	204
Waihi & Waihi Beach .....	212

### TARANAKI & WHANGANUI.... 216

New Plymouth .....	217
Mt Taranaki (Egmont National Park).....	226
Surf Highway 45.....	230
Whanganui.....	233
Whanganui National Park .....	238
Palmerston North .....	244

### TAUPO & THE CENTRAL PLATEAU..... 250

Taupo .....	251
Turangi & Around.....	262
Tongariro National Park.....	266
Whakapapa Village.....	271
National Park Village.....	272
Ohakune.....	274

### ROTORUA & THE BAY OF PLENTY ... 278

<b>Rotorua .....</b>	<b>279</b>
Tauranga .....	298
Mt Maunganui.....	304
Whakatane .....	310
Opotiki .....	317

### THE EAST COAST... 319

Pacific Coast Hwy .....	322
Gisborne .....	325
Te Urewera National Park .....	332
Napier.....	336
Hastings & Around.....	344
Cape Kidnappers .....	349

### WELLINGTON REGION..... 351

<b>Wellington .....</b>	<b>353</b>
<b>Kapiti Coast.....</b>	<b>373</b>
<b>The Wairarapa.....</b>	<b>376</b>



AUCKLAND P63



MT TARANAKI P226

# Contents

## UNDERSTAND

### MARLBOROUGH & NELSON ..... 382

Picton.....	383
Marlborough Sounds.....	388
Queen Charlotte Track.....	390
Kenepuru & Pelorus Sounds.....	392
Blenheim.....	393
Kaikoura.....	398
Nelson.....	403
Motueka.....	411
Abel Tasman National Park.....	414
Golden Bay.....	418
Kahurangi National Park.....	422
Nelson Lakes National Park.....	423

### THE WEST COAST... 425

Murchison & Buller Gorge.....	427
Reefton.....	428
Westport & Around.....	430
Karama & Around.....	433
Punakaiki & Paparoa National Park.....	436
Greymouth.....	437
Hokitika.....	441

### Westland Tai Poutini National Park ..... 447

Franz Josef Glacier.....	447
Fox Glacier.....	451
Haast Region.....	454

### CHRISTCHURCH & CANTERBURY... 457

Christchurch.....	460
Banks Peninsula.....	478
Hanmer Springs.....	484
Waipara Valley.....	487
Selwyn District.....	488
Methven.....	490

Mt Somers.....	492
Peel Forest.....	493
Timaru.....	494
Geraldine.....	496
Lake Tekapo.....	498
Twizel.....	500
Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park.....	503

### DUNEDIN & OTAGO ..... 508

Omarama.....	509
Waitaki Valley.....	511
Oamaru.....	512
Dunedin.....	518
Otago Peninsula.....	528
Naseby.....	533
Lauder, Omakau & Ophir.....	534
Alexandra.....	534
Clyde.....	537
Cromwell.....	538

### QUEENSTOWN & WANAKA ..... 540

Queenstown.....	541
Glenorchy & Around.....	559
Arrowtown.....	562
Wanaka.....	566
Cardrona.....	572
Makarora.....	574

### FIORDLAND & SOUTHLAND... 575

Fiordland.....	577
Te Anau.....	577
Milford Sound.....	585
Manapouri.....	587
Doubtful Sound.....	587
Invercargill.....	590
The Catlins.....	595
Stewart Island.....	599

New Zealand Today.....	608
History.....	610
Environment.....	620
Māori Culture.....	626
Arts & Music.....	634

## SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A–Z.....	640
Transport.....	652
Index.....	661
Map Legend.....	670

## SPECIAL FEATURES

Hiking in New Zealand.....	36
Skiing & Snowboarding in New Zealand.....	43
Extreme New Zealand... ..	48
Environment.....	620
Māori Culture.....	626

# Itineraries



## 2 WEEKS North & South

From the top of the north to halfway down the south, here's a quick-fire taste of New Zealand's best.

Kick things off in **Auckland**: it's NZ's biggest city, with awesome restaurants and bars, galleries and boutiques, beaches and bays. Not an urbanite? Hoof it a few hours north to the salt-licked **Bay of Islands** for a couple of days of R&R.

Set your bearings southwards to **Rotorua**, a unique geothermal hot spot: geysers, mud pools, volcanic vents and Māori culture make for an engaging experience. Further south, progressive **Taupo** has the staggeringly beautiful **Tongariro National Park** nearby. Get into some tramping, mountain biking or skydiving, then boot it down to **Wellington**, a hip little city with an irrepressible arts scene.

Across Cook Strait, see what all the fuss is about in the **Marlborough Wine Region**. If you're not a wine fan, the hypnotically hushed inlets, ranges and waterways of the **Marlborough Sounds** are nearby. Swinging further south, cruise into **Christchurch** for some southern culture and hospitality.



## Kiwi Classics

Classy cities, geothermal eruptions, fantastic wine, Māori culture, glaciers, extreme activities, isolated beaches and forests: just a few of our favourite NZ things.

Aka the 'City of Sails', **Auckland** is a South Pacific melting pot. Spend a few days shopping, eating and drinking: this is NZ at its most cosmopolitan. Make sure you get out onto the harbour on a ferry or a yacht, and find a day to explore the beaches and wineries on **Waiheke Island**. Truck north to the **Bay of Islands** for a dose of aquatic adventure (dolphins, sailing, sunning yourself on deck), then scoot back southeast to check out the forests and holiday beaches on the **Coromandel Peninsula**. Further south in **Rotorua**, get a nose full of egg gas, confront a 30ft geyser, giggle at volcanic mud bubbles and experience a Māori cultural performance (work your *haka* into shape).

Cruise down to **Napier** on the East Coast, NZ's archetypal art-deco sun city. While you're here, don't miss the bottled offerings of the **Hawke's Bay Wine Country** (...*ohh*, the chardonnay). Down in **Wellington**, the coffee's hot, the beer's cold and wind from the politicians generates its own low-pressure system. This is NZ's arts capital: catch a live band, some buskers, a gallery opening or some theatre.

Swan over to the South Island for a couple of weeks to experience the best the south has to offer. Start with a tour through the sauvignon blanc heartland of the **Marlborough Wine Region**, then chill for a few days between the mountains and the whales offshore in laid-back **Kaikoura**. Next stop is the southern capital **Christchurch**, rapidly finding its feet again after the earthquakes. Follow the coast road south to the wildlife-rich **Otago Peninsula**, jutting abstractly away from the Victorian facades of Scottish-flavoured and student-filled **Dunedin**. Catch some live music while you're in town.

Head inland via SH8 to bungy- and ski-obsessed **Queenstown**. If you have time, detour over to Fiordland for an unforgettable encounter with **Milford Sound**, before returning to Queenstown for your flight back to Auckland.

OLIVER STREME / GETTY IMAGES ©



Top: Hikers, Fox  
Glacier (p451)

Bottom: Kaikoura  
(p398) and the  
snowcapped Seaward  
Kaikoura Range

DOUG PEARSON / GETTY IMAGES ©





**10  
DAYS**

## Auckland Encounter

Is there another 1.4-million-strong city with access to *two* oceans and vibrant Polynesian culture?

**Auckland** also offers stellar bars and restaurants, museums, islands and beaches. Check out the Māori and South Pacific Islander exhibits at Auckland Museum, then wander across the Domain to K Rd for lunch. Pay a visit to the grand Auckland Art Gallery and the iconic Sky Tower, then Ponsonby for dinner and drinks.

Ferry over to **Rangitoto Island**, then chug into Devonport for a meal. Have a look at the tall timber in **Waitakere Ranges Regional Park**, or check out the wild surf at **Karekare** and **Piha**, then hit the Britomart restaurants. Have breakfast in Mt Eden, climb Maungawhau, then ferry-hop to **Waiheke Island** for wineries and beaches.

Take your pick of activities within easy reach of the big smoke: snorkelling at **Goat Island Marine Reserve**, sailing the **Bay of Islands**, ocean-gazing at **Cape Reinga**, ogling giant trees at **Waipoua Kauri Forest**, delving into **Waitomo Caves**, surfing at **Raglan** or beaching yourself at **Whitianga**.



**2  
WEEKS**

## Northern Exposure

Three-quarters of New Zealanders live on the North Island – time to find out why!

Begin in **Auckland**, NZ's biggest city. Eat streets abound: try Ponsonby Rd in Ponsonby, K Rd in Newton, and New North Rd in Kingsland. Hike up One Tree Hill (Maungakiekie) to burn off resultant calories, and don't miss the Auckland Art Gallery and Auckland Museum.

Venture south through geothermal **Rotorua** – home to some truly amazing volcanic sights – then cruise over to the sunny **East Coast**. By the seaside and encircled by the chardonnay vines of **Hawke's Bay Wine Country**, art-deco **Napier** is a hit with architecture buffs. Heading south, follow SH2 into the sheeepy/winey region of **Wairarapa**, before driving over the Rimutaka Range into hip, art-obsessed **Wellington**.

Looping back northwest to Auckland, pick and choose your pit stops: the New Zealand Rugby Museum in **Palmerston North**, some crafty glass in **Whanganui**, or the epic **Mt Taranaki**, rising like Olympus behind New Plymouth. Go underground at **Waitomo Caves**, or surf the point breaks near **Raglan**.





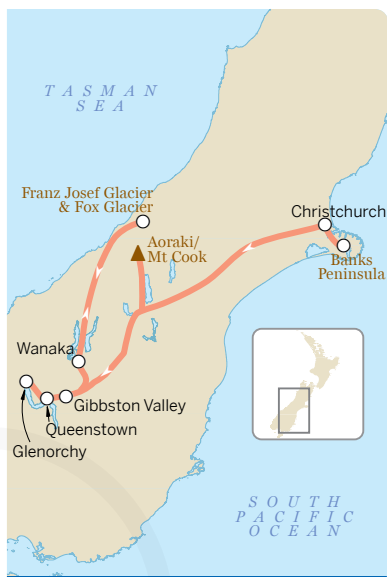
### 3 WEEKS Southern Circuit

Winging into **Christchurch** to launch this three-week escapade, you'll find a vibrant city rebuilding post-earthquakes. Grab a coffee at a cafe (try Addington Coffee Co-op or Supreme Supreme), then check out the excellent Canterbury Museum and the Avon River, cutting lazily through the Botanic Gardens.

City saturated? Visit the geologically/culturally eccentric **Banks Peninsula**, then head north for a wildlife encounter in **Kaikoura**. Continue through to the famous **Marlborough Wine Region**, and lose a day on the whisper-still waterways of the **Marlborough Sounds**.

Detour west through artsy **Nelson** to **Abel Tasman National Park** and eco-friendly **Golden Bay**. Southbound, dawdle down the dramatic West Coast with its wilderness and eye-popping **Franz Josef Glacier** and **Fox Glacier**. From here, track inland through to hip/hippie **Wanaka** and ski-central **Queenstown**. From here, desolate **Doubtful Sound** is mesmerising, while the overgrown deep-south **Catlins** are perfectly chilled out.

Back up the east coast, wheel through Dunedin to surprisingly hip **Oamaru**, before rolling back into Christchurch.



### 10 DAYS Winter Wanderer

Fly into **Christchurch** for a day or two to acclimatise, day-trip to the **Banks Peninsula**, then drive south to see snowy **Aoraki/Mt Cook**. Continuing south, internationalist **Queenstown** offers world-class skiing, great restaurants and a kickin' nocturnal scene. Coronet Peak is the area's oldest ski field, with treeless slopes, consistent gradients and excellent skiing for all levels (great for snowboarders, too). The visually remarkable Remarkables are more family-friendly.

Had enough snowy slopes? Take a drive around Lake Wakatipu to gorgeous **Glenorchy**; or lose an afternoon in the fab wineries of the **Gibbston Valley**. Alternatively, Queenstown's extreme activities keep the winter chills at bay.

As an alternative to Queenstown, head to **Wanaka** (Queenstown's little brother – all the benefits but none of the hype). Ski fields near here include Treble Cone, Cardrona and Snow Farm New Zealand, NZ's only commercial Nordic (cross-country) ski area.

From Wanaka, take an overnight trip to Westland Tai Poutini National Park on the West Coast to check out **Franz Josef Glacier** and **Fox Glacier**. Backtrack to Queenstown for your next flight.



# 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*



### **Peter Dragicevich**

**Auckland, Dunedin & Otago, Queenstown & Wanaka, Fiordland & Southland** 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 nineties writing about the local arts, club and bar scene. This is the 5th edition of the *New Zealand* guidebook to which he has contributed and, after dozens of Lonely Planet assignments, it remains his favourite gig.

Read more about Peter at:

<http://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/peterdragicevich>

## **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-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](http://www.ahitextsolutions.co.nz)).

**Josh Kronfeld** wrote the Surfing in New Zealand boxed text 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 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 Kawau*. 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 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'.

## OUR WRITERS



### Charles Rawlings-Way

**Taranaki & Whanganui, East Coast (North Island), Wellington** 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 delirance and Whanganui's raffish charm have helped him forgive: he's once again smitten with the country's phantasmal landscapes, disarming locals, and determination to sculpt its own political and indigenous destiny. Charles also wrote the Planning, Understand and Survival Guide chapters.



### Brett Atkinson

**Bay of Islands & Northland, Waikato & 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](http://www.brett-atkinson.net) for his latest adventures.



### Sarah Bennett & Lee Slater

**Marlborough & Nelson, West Coast (South Island), Christchurch & Canterbury** 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](http://www.bennettandslater.co.nz). Sarah and Lee also wrote the Skiing & Snowboarding,

Hiking and Extreme New Zealand chapters.

OVER MORE  
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