



New Zealand (Aotearoa)



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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 hotspot: geysers, mud pools, volcanic vents and Māori culture make for an experience that fires all the senses. Further south, invigorating **Taupo** has the ragged craters and Emerald Lakes of **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 world-famous **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** to enjoy southern hospitality in a city of rapid reinvention.



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 eggy gas, confront a 10m geyser, giggle at volcanic mud bubbles and experience a Māori cultural performance.

Meander down to **Napier** on the East Coast, NZ's attractive art-deco 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, 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**, swiftly rebuilding 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 bungee- and ski-obsessed **Queenstown**. Don't miss a detour over to Fiordland for a jaw-dropping road trip and boat cruise around **Milford Sound**, before returning to Queenstown for your flight back to Auckland.



10 DAYS

Auckland Encounter

Is there another 1.4-million-strong city with access to *two* oceans and vibrant Polynesian culture? Immerse yourself in city and seaside, then swing north and south of Auckland to majestic forests and caves.

Allow at least three days in **Auckland** for its stellar bars, restaurants, museums and beaches. Admire Māori and South Pacific Islander exhibits at Auckland Museum, then wander across to K Rd for lunch. Visit Auckland Art Gallery and the iconic Sky Tower, then Ponsonby for dinner and drinks.

Ferry over to **Rangitoto Island's tramping trails**, then chug into Devonport for a meal. Admire tall timber in **Waitakere Ranges Regional Park** and wild surf at **Karekare** and **Piha**, then hit the Britomart restaurants. Breakfast in Mt Eden, climb Maungawhau, then ferry-hop to **Waiheke Island** for wineries and beaches.

For your final few days, take your pick of activities beyond the big smoke. Driving a northerly loop out of Auckland takes you snorkelling at **Goat Island Marine Reserve**, sailing the **Bay of Islands**, ocean gazing at **Cape Reinga** and ogling kauri trees at **Waipoua Forest**. Leave a couple of days to delve south to **Waitomo Caves**, surf at **Raglan** or beach 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 sheepy/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

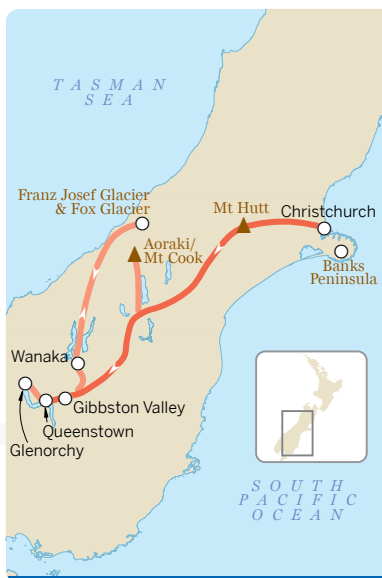
Loop around the best of the South Island.

Wing into **Christchurch** to find a vibrant city rebuilding post-earthquakes. Grab a coffee and check out the Canterbury Museum.

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** (more paintbrushes than people). Dawdle south along the West Coast; allow time to gape at the Pancake Rocks at **Punakaiki** and embark on a guided tramp or helihibe at **Franz Josef Glacier** or **Fox Glacier**. From here, track inland through to hip/hippie **Wanaka** and adventure sport and ski hub **Queenstown**. From here, venture southwest to Manapouri for a mesmerising day cruise to **Doubtful Sound** before venturing east to the overgrown deep-south **Catlins** for a couple of days of waterfalls, wave-lashed coves and penguin-spotting.

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



10 DAYS Winter Wanderer

We know, a whole bunch of you are here for one thing only: South Island snow!

Fly into **Christchurch** and spend a day acclimatising at lively bars and restaurants. Intermediate skier or better? Your next stop is **Mt Hutt** for 365 skiable hectares. As you push south, detour to admire views of snowy **Aoraki/Mt Cook** before continuing to **Queenstown**, offering world-class skiing, great restaurants and a kickin' nocturnal scene. Coronet Peak is the area's oldest ski field, with excellent skiing for all levels (great for snowboarders, too). The visually remarkable Remarkables are more family friendly.

Need a break from snow? Drive around Lake Wakatipu to gorgeous **Glenorchy**; or get lost in the wineries of **Gibbston Valley**. Alternatively, Queenstown's extreme activities are still on offer in winter: bungy jumping, jetboating, mountain biking and more.

Get back on the slopes in **Wanaka** (Queenstown's low-key little brother). Nearby ski fields 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 the West Coast to helihibe or ice climb **Franz Josef Glacier** and **Fox Glacier**. Backtrack to Queenstown for your next flight.



Top: Franz Josef
Glacier (p468)

Bottom: Glenorchy
(p590)



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Behind the Scenes

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

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OUR READERS

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THIS BOOK

This 19th edition of *Lonely Planet's New Zealand* guidebook was curated by Charles Rawlings-Way, and researched and written by Brett Atkinson, Andrew Bain, Peter Dragicevich, Samantha Forge, Anita Isalska and Sofia Levin. The previous three editions were written by Charles Rawlings-Way, Brett Atkinson, Sarah Bennett, Peter Dragicevich and Lee Slater.

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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
- Hut/Shelter

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



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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 Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, 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



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Charles is a veteran travel, food and music writer who has penned 30-something titles for Lonely Planet – including guides to Singapore, Tonga, Toronto, Sydney, Tasmania, New Zealand, the South Pacific and Australia – and numerous articles. After dabbling in the dark arts of architecture, cartography, project management and busking for some years, Charles hit the road for LP in 2005 and hasn't stopped travelling since.



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OVER MORE
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