



New Zealand's South Island (Te Waipounamu)



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

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

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to the South Island.....	4
South Island Map.....	6
The South Island's Top 15.....	8
Need to Know.....	18
If You Like.....	20
Month by Month.....	23
Itineraries.....	27
Hiking the South Island.....	29
Skiing & Snowboarding in the South Island.....	36
Extreme South Island.....	41
Regions at a Glance.....	47

ON THE ROAD

MARLBOROUGH & NELSON..... 50

Marlborough Region ...	52
Picton.....	52
Queen Charlotte Track.....	58
Kenepuru & Pelorus Sounds.....	60
Blenheim.....	62
Kaikoura.....	66
Nelson Region	72
Nelson.....	72
Motueka.....	80
Abel Tasman National Park.....	84
Golden Bay.....	88
Kahurangi National Park.....	92
Nelson Lakes National Park.....	93

THE WEST COAST .. 95

Buller Region	97
Murchison & Buller Gorge.....	97
Reefton.....	98
Westport & Around.....	100
Karamea & Around.....	103
The Great Coast Road	105
Punakaiki & Paparoa National Park.....	106
Greymouth Region	108
Greymouth.....	108
Blackball.....	110
Lake Brunner.....	111
Kumara.....	111
Westland	112
Hokitika.....	112
Hokitika to Westland Tai Poutini National Park.....	115
Westland Tai Poutini National Park	117
Franz Josef Glacier.....	118
Fox Glacier.....	122

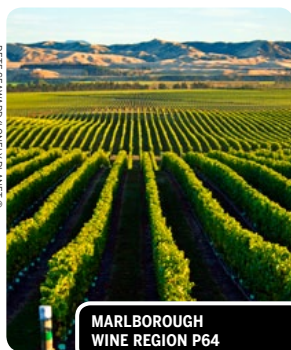
South to Haast	125
Haast Region	125
Haast.....	126
Haast Pass Highway.....	127

CHRISTCHURCH & CANTERBURY..... 128

Christchurch	129
Around Christchurch	149
Lyttelton.....	149
Governors Bay.....	150
Banks Peninsula.....	150
North Canterbury	156
Lewis Pass.....	156
Hanmer Springs.....	157
Waipara Valley.....	161
Central Canterbury	162
Selwyn District.....	162
Methven.....	164
Mt Somers.....	166
South Canterbury	166
Peel Forest.....	166
Geraldine.....	167
Timaru.....	168
Fairlie.....	171
Lake Tekapo.....	172
Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park.....	174
Twizel.....	179

DUNEDIN & OTAGO..... 181

Waitaki District	183
Omarama.....	183
Waitaki Valley.....	184
Oamaru.....	185
Moeraki.....	191
Dunedin	192
Around Dunedin	202
Port Chalmers & Around.....	202



MARLBOROUGH
WINE REGION P64



SURFING IN
NEW ZEALAND P45

Contents

UNDERSTAND

The South Island Today	284
History	286
Environment	296
Maori Culture	303
The Kiwi Psyche	310
Arts & Music	315

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A–Z	322
Transport	335
Language	343
Index	349
Map Legend	358



VIEW FROM THE
REMARKABLES P215

Otago Peninsula	203
Central Otago	205
Middlemarch & Around	205
Ranfurly & Around	206
Naseby	207
St Bathans	208
Lauder, Omakau & Ophir	208
Alexandra	209
Clyde	210
Cromwell & Around	211

QUEENSTOWN & WANAKA

Queenstown	215
Around Queenstown ..	233
Glenorchy & Around	233
Arrowtown	237
Wanaka	241

Around Wanaka	249
Cardrona	249
Lake Hawea	249
Makarora	250

FIORDLAND & SOUTHLAND

Fiordland	253
Te Anau	253
Milford Sound/ Piopiotahi	262
Manapouri	263
Doubtful Sound	264
Southland	265
Southern Scenic Route ..	265
Invercargill	267
Bluff	271
The Catlins	271
Stewart Island/Rakiura ..	275

SPECIAL FEATURES

Hiking in the South Island	29
-------------------------------------	----

Skiing & Snowboarding in the South Island ..	36
--	----

Extreme South Island	41
-------------------------------	----

Maori Culture	303
---------------------	-----

Itineraries



3 WEEKS Southern Circuit

Head to **Christchurch** and see how the city is rebuilding post-earthquakes. Grab a kick-ass coffee at C1 Espresso or the Addington Coffee Co-op, then visit the Canterbury Museum and Transitional Cathedral. The Avon River cuts a lazy ribbon through town. Check it out in the Botanic Gardens, and then ride the historic tram around the city, and ascend in the Gondola for excellent views.

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 along the West Coast there's time to check out the town of **Franz Josef** and visit the Franz Josef Glacier and **Fox Glacier** 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.



10 DAYS Food, Beer & Markets

Fire up your tastebuds around Marlborough, widely regarded as the nation's craft-brewing capital and home to microbreweries such as Renaissance, Hop Federation and Golden Bear. Loop east from **Nelson** to **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 at vineyard restaurants in the wine region around **Waipara**, north of Christchurch. Pegasus Bay and Waipara Hills are both great for leisurely lunches.

Journey to **Christchurch** to sample the restaurants of Victoria St, Sumner and Lyttelton, and don't miss Christchurch Farmers Market on Saturday morning. Craft-beer heaven awaits beer buffs at Pomeroy's Old Brewery Inn and The Brewery.

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 Albar or Tonic – before loading up the car with organic, free-range and locavore goodies at Dunedin's Otago Farmers Market.



10 DAYS Animal Planet

From **Christchurch**, travel to **Akaroa** to swim with Hector's dolphins, New Zealand'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 cousin, the yellow-eyed penguin, or hoiho. Join a tour with Nature's Wonders Naturally to get close up to seals and sea lions before admiring the royal albatross colony on nearby Taiaroa Head. A sea journey with Elm Wildlife Tours is another essential 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.



Charles Rawlings-Way

Survival Guide 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 deliverance and Wanganui'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.

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 Maori Culture chapter. 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 in the Extreme South Island 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 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



Brett Atkinson

Coordinating Author Although he now calls Auckland his hometown, Brett has been exploring the South Island for several decades. Highlights include being the first Lonely Planet author to revisit Christchurch after the earthquakes, taking the longer – and every scenic – route south through the Catlins, and tandem hang gliding above Queenstown. Brett has contributed to Lonely Planet guidebooks spanning Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and covered almost 50 countries

as a food and travel writer. See www.brett-atkinson.net for his latest travels.



Sarah Bennett & Lee Slater

Marlborough & Nelson, The West Coast, Fiordland & Southland Lee and Sarah live in Wellington, but spend many months on the road each year in their small campervan, boots on board, mountain bikes on the back. Specialists in 'soft-core adventure' (tramping without crampons, kayaking without capsizes), they re-imagine their journeys into magazine features, and guidebooks including Lonely Planet's *Hiking & Tramping New Zealand*, four editions of *New Zealand*, as well

as *The New Zealand Trampers' Handbook* and *Let's Go Camping*. Read more at www.bennettandslater.co.nz and follow on Twitter @BennettnSlater.



Peter Dragicevich

Christchurch & Canterbury, Dunedin & Otago, Queenstown & Wanaka After nearly a decade working for off-shore publishing companies, Peter's life has come full circle, returning to his home town of Auckland. As managing editor of *Express* newspaper, he spent much of the '90s writing about the local arts, club and bar scene. This is the fourth edition of the *New Zealand* guide he's worked on and, after dozens of Lonely Planet assignments, it remains his favourite gig.

Read more about Peter at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/peterdragicevich

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

4th edition – October 2014

ISBN 978 1 74220 789 6

© Lonely Planet 2014 Photographs © as indicated 2014

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, and no part of this publication may be sold or hired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: lonelyplanet.com/ip.

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.

© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'