

Milford Sound



**100% PURE
NEW ZEALAND**

newzealand.com

DISCOVER NEW ZEALAND



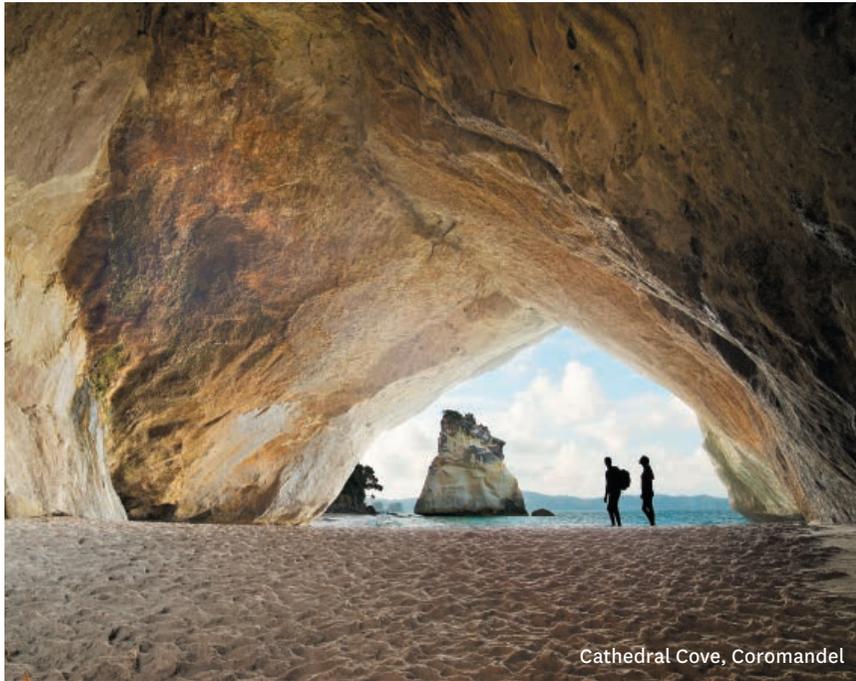
WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND

KIA ORA

Imagine a holiday where every day is a different journey, leading to unforgettable sights and life-changing experiences. New Zealand, one of the world's most inspiring travel destinations, promises all this and so much more.

Waitangi, Northland





Cathedral Cove, Coromandel



Waitomo Caves, Waikato

WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND

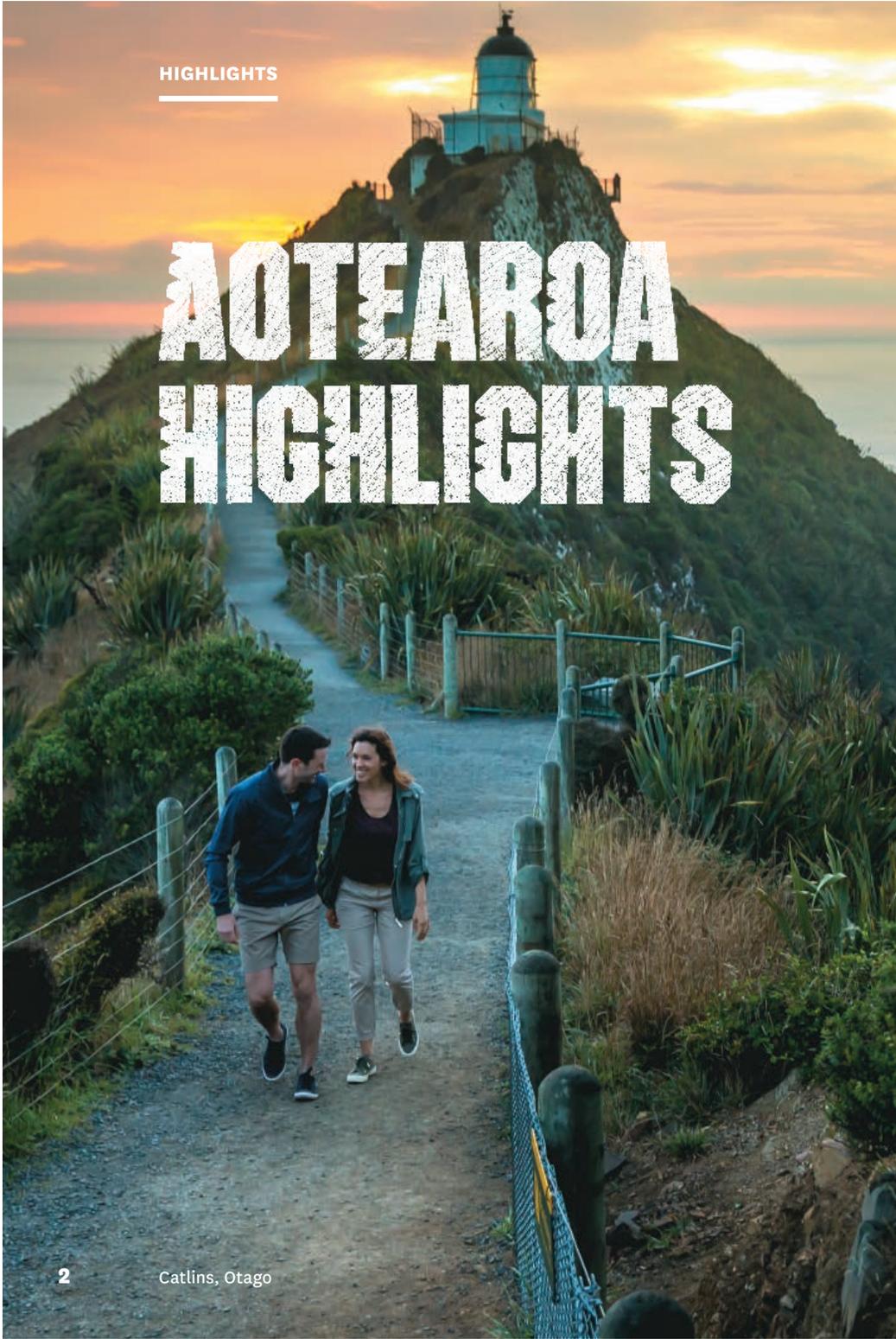
A small and remote South Pacific nation, New Zealand is a land of majestic scenery, fascinating history and vibrant culture. Spread throughout two main islands. New Zealand is surrounded by smaller isles and stretches of magnificent coastline. Since its discovery by early Māori and the European settlers that followed, it has been a place of exploration, rejuvenation and inspiration – and remains so for locals and visitors to this day.

Its world-renowned landscapes are a stunning backdrop for outdoor activities of every kind. From hiking and kayaking, to simply soaking up

the views from a picturesque picnic spot. The cities and towns spread around the coastlines, rural plains and mountains will surprise visitors with their diversity, energy and famously friendly locals.

Visitors will soon discover travelling in New Zealand is easy, with everything close and the journeys in between enriched by spectacular scenery and endless hidden delights. We've written 'Discover New Zealand' to help your clients discover the very best of our country and experience the trip of a lifetime.

AOTEAROA HIGHLIGHTS



AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

From the cosmopolitan streets of New Zealand's largest city to the relaxed, friendly towns of the far north, these regions share spectacular coastal scenery, rich history and vibrant culture.



THERMAL EXPLORER HIGHWAY

The heart of the North Island pulses and thrills with powerful Māori culture, adrenaline activities, cinematic scenery and subterranean wonders ranging from glowworms to geysers.



PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

Stretching between Auckland and Hawke's Bay, these neighbouring regions offer an irresistible blend of sublime coastal scenery, rich history, dreamy beaches and superb food and wine.



WESTERN NORTH ISLAND

Pretty river valleys, rolling farmland, wild surf and notable mountains are all encountered on explorations of the less-travelled mid-west regions of Taranaki, Whanganui and Manawatu.



WELLINGTON & WAIRARAPA

The lower North Island offers visitors a diverse and dynamic mix of rural country, rugged wilderness, dramatic coastlines and colourful, cosmopolitan culture in and around the capital.



NELSON & MARLBOROUGH

Great weather, beautiful coastlines and world-class wineries are just some of the reasons the neighbouring Nelson and Marlborough regions are popular with visitors, all year round.



CANTERBURY & THE WEST COAST

Separated by the mighty Southern Alps, these two regions highlight the South Island's contrasts. From the east's sandy beaches and lush plains, to the rainforest, untamed rivers and wild coast in the west.



SOUTHERN LAKES

Landscapes of awe-inspiring grandeur set a backdrop to a dazzling array of outdoor activities. From leisurely to limit-pushing, to the more indulgent pursuits on offer around lively tourist towns and vineyards.



PURE SOUTHERN LAND

The southern reaches of New Zealand boast a blend of untouched wilderness, rugged coastlines, pretty rural scenery and some surprising cultural attractions, found in sweet towns.

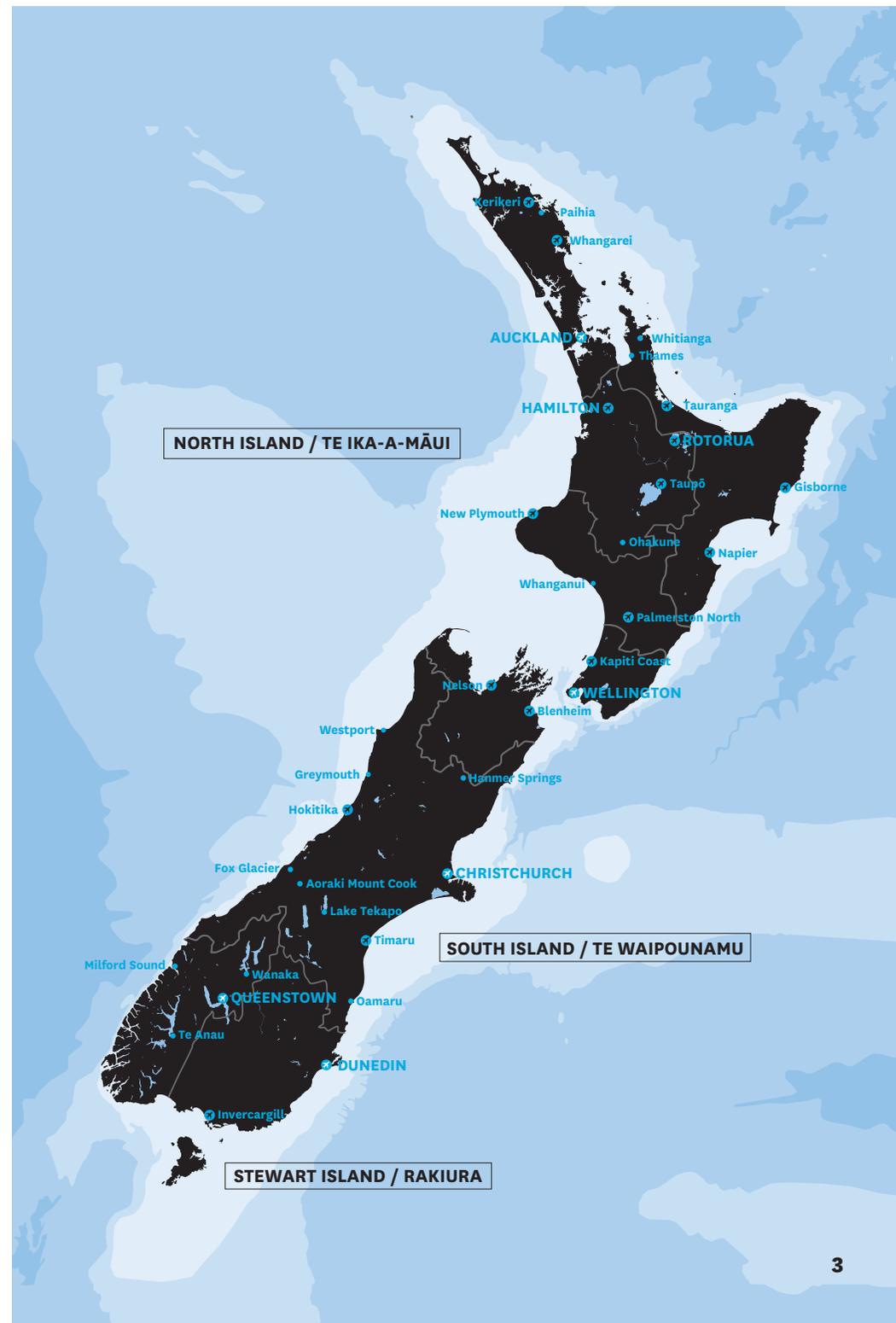
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Get an idea of when to visit, where to go, and how much you can expect to spend by completing your New Zealand Trip Snapshot on our website.



MĀORI CULTURE

From evocative place names to rich artistic traditions, Māori culture is an integral part of New Zealand life and rewards visitors with unique sights, stories and experiences.

Māori are *tangata whenua* – indigenous people – who arrived by canoe more than 1000 years ago from their mythical Polynesian homeland, Hawaiki. Now making up around fourteen percent of the country's population, their history, language and traditions are central to the nation's identity, touching everyday life for both New Zealanders and their visitors.

TOP EXPERIENCES:

- Visiting a *marae* (tribal meeting ground) and meeting local *tangata whenua* (people of the land).
- Seeing and perhaps even participating in, rousing cultural performances featuring *waiata* (songs) and *haka* (war dance).
- Learning the history of Aotearoa 'the land of the long white cloud', through ancient legends and *taonga* (treasures).
- Admiring traditional and contemporary arts such as carving, weaving and *tā moko* (tattooing).
- Joining in on a *hāngi*, a communal feast cooked in an earth oven.

WALKING & HIKING

New Zealand is walker's paradise, with nine Great Walks and hundreds of other well-maintained trails traversing landscapes from mountains to sea.

From isolated beaches and rugged sea cliffs, through river valleys, virgin forests and dramatic mountain ranges, New Zealand's walking trails present an incredible diversity of scenery. Legendary landscapes are just part of the allure, with many trails following richly historic routes. Others offer encounters with very special wildlife and a chance to get up close to some of New Zealand's most iconic natural wonders.

TOP EXPERIENCES:

- Multi-day Great Walks such as the Milford Track, Routeburn Track and Abel Tasman Coastal Track.
- Spectacular day walks including the world-famous Tongariro Alpine Crossing and the Hooker Valley Track near Aoraki/Mt Cook.
- Manaaki Trails and other fully guided hiking tours for walkers of all abilities, complete with great food and comfortable lodging.
- Staying overnight in backcountry huts and campsites.
- Spring flowers, autumn colours and snowy mountain ranges – without the crowds – on a wide array of year-round trails.



www.newzealandinsight.com | time2go.nz

Lake Gunn, Fiordland



Great Taste Trail, Nelson

MOUNTAIN BIKING & CYCLING

An ever-growing network of cycle trails takes two-wheeled adventures to a whole new level. Ranging from easy to epic, with special sights, scenery and local hospitality.

It's hard to imagine a better place for off-road cycling than New Zealand, where a seemingly endless network of cycle trails and mountain bike tracks lead riders through an incredible variety of landscapes. Such a wide range of terrain ensures that there are rides for everyone, at any time of year. Bike shops and tour operators make it easy to head out on both guided and independent trips.

TOP EXPERIENCES:

- New Zealand Cycle Trail/Nga Haerenga, a network of Great Rides criss-crossing the country.
- Otago Rail Trail, Alps 2 Ocean and other cruisy, multi-day trails. Combined with spectacular scenery and legendary Kiwi hospitality.
- Technical, backcountry adventures such as the Old Ghost Road, New Zealand's longest stretch of single-track.
- World-class mountain bike hubs at Rotorua, Taupō, Nelson and Queenstown.
- Sightseeing by bike. From city highlights, historic sites and wineries, to beaches, geothermal wonders and wildlife reserves.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Nature-lovers will be captivated by the unique creatures that have evolved in these isolated islands, as well as notable migratory species that visit New Zealand each year.

From birds soaring mountain high to dolphins frolicking in sheltered bays, New Zealand's wildlife is varied, mostly friendly and often unique. The country is internationally acclaimed for birds such as the flightless kiwi – the national icon. However, there are endless places and ways to encounter a wide array of creatures, predominantly living free in their natural habitats.

TOP EXPERIENCES

- Learning about New Zealand's remarkable natural history at wildlife reserves and on guided tours.
- Kaikōura's world-famous whale-watching tours.
- Seeing kiwi in sanctuaries or wild places such as Stewart Island.
- Meeting many other unique birds, such as kea and kākā, the country's two native parrots.
- Swimming with dolphins and seals in stunning coastal locations.
- Viewing the royal albatross in the world's only mainland breeding colony in Otago.





Ponsonby Central, Auckland

FOOD & WINE

An abundance of superb ingredients mixed with inspiration from around the world, produces a culinary scene that is diverse and delicious.

It starts in the orchards and fields, where sensational fruit and vegetables grow. Creamy treats such as artisan cheese and authentic gelato are made from free-range milk. The country's lamb is envied around the globe, as is its fresh seafood, sourced from sparkling oceans. World-class wines and exciting craft beers make the perfect match.

TOP EXPERIENCES:

- Exploring cosmopolitan culinary scenes in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and beyond.
- Tasting sauvignon blanc, syrah and pinot noir on wine tours of Marlborough, Hawke's Bay and Central Otago.
- Savouring greenshell mussels, crayfish and other delicacies.
- Sampling exciting craft beer at micro-breweries and gastropubs.
- Gathering fresh produce at farmers' markets and roadside stalls.
- Joining foodie celebrations such as the Bluff Oyster Festival.

ART & CULTURE

New Zealand may be a young country, but its museums, galleries, performing arts and other cultural attractions offer insight and entertainment to satisfy all interests.

The cultural life of New Zealand is one of surprising diversity and creativity, forged in little more than a thousand years of human settlement. Taking the form of everything from Māori rock drawings and pioneer landscape paintings, to contemporary art, street theatre and classical music concerts.

TOP EXPERIENCES:

- Visiting the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington, just one of many major cultural institutions.
- Exploring Māori culture through concerts, and art crafted in pounamu (greenstone) and other traditional materials.
- Lively theatre and music scenes ranging from ballet to buskers.
- Colourful and often curious museums from small towns to cities.
- Busy event calendars rich in literary, music and other festivals.
- Meeting artists in a kaleidoscope of galleries and artists' studios.





Cecil Peak, Queenstown

SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

New Zealand's stunning alpine landscapes serve up scenic ski holidays from easy to extreme. All generously dusted with classic Kiwi après-ski hospitality.

The same mighty peaks, ridges, volcanic craters, basins and alpine lakes that attract visitors all year round are transformed into snow-white wonderlands in winter leaving skiers of every level breathless. New Zealand's ski season generally runs from June to October, when resort towns come alive with winter festivals and special events.

TOP EXPERIENCES:

- Hitting the slopes on a live volcano at Whakapapa and Turoa within the UNESCO-listed Tongariro National Park.
- Legendary resorts such as Coronet Peak and Cardrona, close to Queenstown and its lively après ski scene.
- Vast mountain and lake views at Wanaka's Treble Cone.
- The family-friendly slopes of Mt Hutt, near Christchurch.
- Uncrowded, club fields hidden in spectacular places.
- Heli-skiing and backcountry ski tours into remote wilderness.

GOLF

‘New Zealand is an amazing golf destination with some of the best golf courses I have ever played. It should be a must-visit place for golfers from all over the world.’ *Lydia Ko*

With close to 400 golf courses, New Zealand is second only to Scotland in the number of courses per capita. The sheer beauty and diversity of their backdrops and terrain, arguably earn it the crown of world number one. Spread around the coast, plains and foothills from north to south is a rich legacy of varied courses, from classical seaside links to more traditional parkland courses.

TOP EXPERIENCES:

- World-class courses such as Jack’s Point, Millbrook and The Hills, just three of nine spectacular options around Queenstown.
- Award-winning, luxury golfing resorts such as Cape Kidnappers, Kauri Cliffs and Millbrook.
- Relaxed, great-value golf at lovingly maintained municipal and rural courses spread throughout New Zealand.
- Memorable courses designed by renowned architects Tom Doak, Robert Trent Jones Jnr, Jack Nicklaus and David Harman.
- Meeting friendly, fellow golfers, often full of local golf and travel tips.



Jack's Point, Queenstown



Muriwai, Auckland

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Welcoming accommodation, easy travel and endless opportunities for all-ages adventure make New Zealand a memorable holiday destination at any time of year.

A warm welcome and a wealth of family friendly facilities are just two reasons New Zealand holidays are hassle-free. Another is the sheer variety of parks, forests, beaches and other captivating places that everyone can enjoy and explore. Each day offers a new adventure that both adults and children will love.

TOP EXPERIENCES:

- Getting back to nature on hiking trails and nature walks.
- Seeing glowworms twinkle in the dark at secret grottoes dotted all around the country.
- Swimming, kayaking and other fun, seaside activities.
- Exploring special places on horse treks.
- Getting interactive at hands-on museums and galleries.
- Pushing the boundaries on an eye-popping array of adventure and adrenaline activities such as zip-lining and river rafting.

BACKPACKING

New Zealand's epic natural playground, colourful culture and friendly vibe make it one of the world's most popular backpacking destinations.

Scenery made famous by The Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit films forms a dramatic backdrop to the journey of a lifetime. Every day is different, filled with new places and fresh experiences, with the bonus of warm Kiwi hospitality and the company of fellow travellers. New Zealand is compact and easy to get around, with many transport and tourism operators offering special packages and discounts for budget-conscious travellers.

TOP EXPERIENCES:

- Ticking off bucket list activities such as bungee jumping, skydiving and white-water rafting.
- Exploring New Zealand's wilderness in budget-friendly ways including walking and camping in stunning locations.
- Adventure bus tours going to amazing places with like-minded people.
- Roaming free on a road-trip by car or campervan.
- Making new friends at sociable hostels throughout the country.
- Staying longer and seeing more on the Working Holiday Scheme.



Kaikoura, Canterbury

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

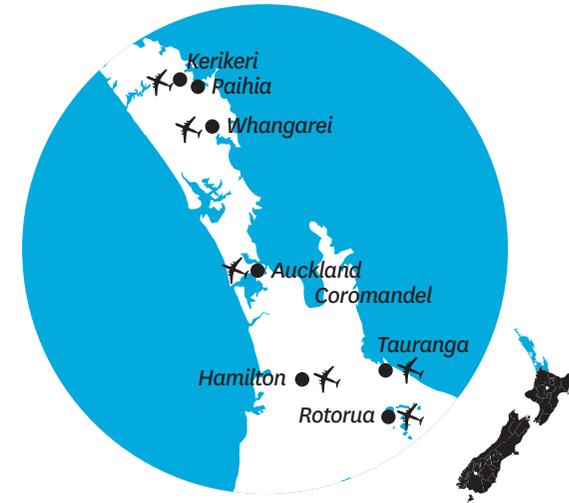
From the cosmopolitan streets of New Zealand's largest city to the relaxed, friendly towns of the far north, these regions share spectacular coastal scenery, rich history and vibrant culture.



Waitangi, Northland



Devonport, Auckland



AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Auckland is New Zealand’s major international gateway offering easy onward-transport connections throughout the country. It is also a lively, cosmopolitan city with a diverse cultural mix, evident in everything from its museums, architecture and arts scene, to exciting restaurants and nightlife.

It may be the country’s largest city, home to around 1.4 million people but Aucklanders and their visitors are never far from natural attractions such as hiking trails and beaches. Set around two sparkling harbours dotted with pretty islands, Auckland lives up to its label of ‘the City of Sails’.

The city’s green hills and glittering coast offer a tantalising taste of what awaits in the narrow region to the north. Northland is lined with some of New Zealand’s best-loved bays and beaches. Ninety Mile Beach and the Bay of Islands might be the most famous but in reality they are just the beginning.

WHY WE LOVE IT

- 
Beautiful beaches From sun-lover and surfer hangouts to secret coves and epic, empty sunset spots.
- 
Wine & food Auckland’s dining scene sizzles while Northland dishes up delicious fare from land and sea.
- 
Colourful history Visit the iconic birthplace of the nation plus many more important heritage sites.
- 
Warm climate These regions are known as the ‘winterless north’ for their generous share of fine weather.

HIGHLIGHTS



URBAN AUCKLAND

One of the world's most livable cities, Auckland is a hive of cultural sights, colourful streets, exciting dining and nightlife back-dropped by bush-clad hills and sparkling harbours.



BAY OF ISLANDS

Stunning coastal surrounds and a subtropical climate make this area a must-visit for lovers of beach holidays, scenic cruises, dolphin-watching and kayaking.



NINETY MILE BEACH

Renowned for sand dunes, sunsets and spectacular surf breaks, this seemingly never-ending paradise stretches for 88 sandy km (54 mi.) along Northland's west coast.



WAIHEKE ISLAND

A short ferry ride from Auckland and popular for indulgent day-trips and short breaks, this island paradise offers a blend of wining, dining, shopping and coastal scenery.



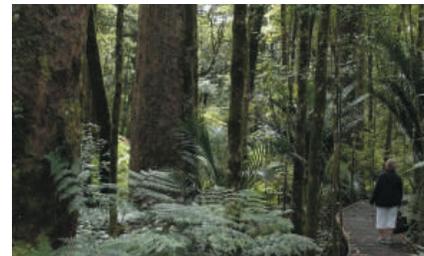
RANGITOTO ISLAND

See why Auckland is called the 'City of Sails' on a cruise to volcanic Rangitoto Island, home to lava fields, stunted forest and a magical 360-degree view of the Hauraki Gulf.



WAITANGI TREATY GROUNDS

The museum, guided tours, cultural performance and momentous landmarks of New Zealand's premier historic site offer deep insight into Māori and European relations.



WAIPOUA FOREST

Northland's main highway winds through an ancient kauri forest home to 'The Lord of the Forest' – Tāne Mahuta – the country's largest kauri tree and around 2000 years old.



CAPE REINGA

At New Zealand's northernmost tip, two oceans collide below an iconic lighthouse. Māori spirits are said to leap from an ancient pōhutukawa tree to their ancestral homeland.



Tiritiri Matangi Island

DISCOVER MORE

DELVE INTO ART & CULTURE

Auckland's museums, galleries and entertainment scene cater to all ages and interests. Colourful streets in between brim with buskers, sculpture and street art.

DRIVE THE TWIN COAST DISCOVERY HIGHWAY

This scenic touring route along Northland's east and west coasts leads visitors beyond the hot spots to lesser-known highlights such as Hokianga Harbour and Kai Iwi Lakes.

VISIT TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND

An inspiring conservation project, this island sanctuary is a haven for native birds and a magical day trip from Auckland with walking trails, swimming and picnic spots.

DIVE THE POOR KNIGHTS

Off Northland's stunning Tutukaka Coast, the unique and varied marine life of the Poor Knights Marine Reserve attract scuba divers and snorkellers from around the world.

For more information on Auckland and Northland, visit aucklandnz.com, northlandnz.com

THERMAL EXPLORER HIGHWAY

The heart of the North Island pulses and thrills with powerful Māori culture, adrenaline activities, cinematic scenery and subterranean wonders ranging from glowworms to geysers.





Waitomo Caves, Waikato



Hobbiton™ Movie Set



THERMAL EXPLORER HIGHWAY

New Zealand’s fourth-largest city, Hamilton, is the main gateway to this popular touring route that explores the fascinating volcanic landscapes spread across the central North Island. Other highlights such as Hobbiton™ Movie Set and Waitomo Caves provide even more reasons to visit.

The hub of the action is Rotorua, home to bubbling mud pools, spouting geysers and natural hot springs, alongside an array of Māori concert performances set within major geothermal reserves and cultural centres.

Further south on the edge of the southern hemisphere’s largest lake, Taupō is an all-seasons holiday hot spot for trout fishing, watersports and numerous outdoor pursuits. Across the lake in the Ruapehu region, yet more adventures await in the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Tongariro National Park defined by three volcanoes towering over an otherworldly, tussock-covered plateau.

WHY WE LOVE IT



Volcanic wonders Feel, see, hear and smell the Earth’s fiery powers in surprising ways and places.



Māori culture Encounter Aotearoa’s indigenous people and their history, art, food and performance.



Thermal spas Relax and rejuvenate at hot natural springs and spa resorts throughout these regions.



Adrenaline buzz Rafting, sky diving, jet boating, mountain biking and bungee jumping are just the start.

HIGHLIGHTS



GEOTHERMAL RESERVES

Rotorua and Taupō are laden with volcanic parks boasting a dazzling array of bubbling mud pools, steaming vents, shooting geysers and colourful silica terraces.



MĀORI ART & CULTURE

Welcoming cultural centres, some within geothermal reserves, offer rich insight into Māori life through intricately carved buildings, arts and crafts, concerts and hāngi feasts.



HAMILTON GARDENS

Named 2014 International Garden of the Year, this 58-hectare wonderland is a must-see for nature-lovers. Guided tours, mobility scooters and bike hire make exploration easy.



TONGARIRO ALPINE CROSSING

Often touted as one of the world's finest day hikes, this adventure takes in the strange volcanic landscape and epic mountaintop views of the UNESCO-listed Tongariro National Park.



HOT POOLS & HEALTH SPAS

Thermal activity fuels a series of hot pools ranging from natural springs bubbling up in hidden rivers, to spa resorts with private pools, relaxing therapies and fun water-parks.



WAITOMO CAVES

This spectacular underground maze of limestone caves, home to galaxies of glowworms, can be explored on guided walks, boat tours and thrilling blackwater rafting trips.



HOBBITON™ MOVIE SET

Visit Tolkien's Shire, a magical movie world with Hobbit holes, the Party Tree and The Green Dragon Inn, set within the idyllic landscape of Matamata.



MT RUAPEHU SKI AREAS

Experience Tongariro National Park in winter at Whakapapa and Turoa, New Zealand's largest ski fields blanketing the slopes of the North Island's highest mountain.



Whakarewreawa Forest, Rotorua

DISCOVER MORE

HIT THE BIKE TRAILS

The choices are many and legendary. These include Rotorua's Redwood Forest and Gravity Park, Waikato River Trails, Taupō's Great Lake Trail and Ohakune's Old Coach Road.

FACE-OFF WITH HUKA FALLS

One of the country's most popular natural attractions, this gigantic gushing cascade can be viewed from riverside lookouts or on a thrilling jet boat ride up to its thundering base.

SKYDIVE, SWING, RAFT & BUNGY

Rotorua and Taupō give Queenstown a run for its money with a head-spinning line-up of extreme activities including the unforgettable Ogo – a crazy New Zealand invention!

GO FISHING

Take a fishing cruise on Lake Taupō, the largest natural trout fishery in the world, or go fly-fishing with an expert local guide on the picturesque Tongariro River near Turangi.

For more information on Thermal Explorer Highway, visit visithamilton.co.nz, rotoruanz.com, greatlaketaupo.com, visitrualpehu.com

PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

Stretching between Auckland and Hawke's Bay, these neighbouring regions offer an irresistible blend of sublime coastal scenery, rich history, dreamy beaches and superb food and wine.





Hot Water Beach, Coromandel



Cape Kidnappers, Hawke's Bay



PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

The North Island's mid-east coast boasts a roll call of essential New Zealand destinations, starting with the Coromandel Peninsula. It's a popular holiday destination for both domestic and international visitors, drawn to hot-spots such as Cathedral Cove, Hot Water Beach and vibrant Coromandel town.

Arching south is the Bay of Plenty, where Tauranga city offers a shot of cosmopolitan culture while surf rolls in at nearby Mount Maunganui. Offshore, the marine volcano Whakaari/White Island is a strange and steamy must-see.

Roads less travelled lead through and around Eastland, a region rich in both Māori and European history. Blessed with idyllic rural landscapes and epic, empty beaches. More memorable inland and coastal scenes are revealed further south in Hawke's Bay. Famous for sunshine, fine food and wine, Art Deco architecture and some stunning natural landmarks.

WHY WE LOVE IT



Beautiful beaches Whangamata, Waihi, Mount Maunganui, Waikanae, Wainui, Waimarama, the list goes on...



Wine & food Gisborne and Hawke's Bay wine regions cap off culinary scenes loaded with local produce.



Architecture There is much to admire, from carved Māori meeting houses to world-class Art Deco.



History Waves of explorers and settlers, including Captain Cook, have left stories in their wake.

HIGHLIGHTS



WHAKAARI/WHITE ISLAND

New Zealand's most active volcano is a crater-shaped island of steamy, sulphurous phenomena and extreme human existence. An unforgettable tour offers the chance to get up close.



MOUNT MAUNGANUI

With two beaches, one serene, the other surfy, topped off with the iconic hill known as Mauao ('the Mount'), this town is deservedly popular for relaxed seaside holidays.



NAPIER ART DECO

A devastating 1930s earthquake saw Napier re-emerge as one of the world's most uniform and exquisite Art Deco cities. Survey its streets freely or on guided tours.



HAWKE'S BAY WINERIES

New Zealand's oldest operating winery is among around 30 cellar doors showcasing fine cabernet/merlot, syrah and chardonnay – ripe for touring and vineyard dining.



GISBORNE SURF TOWN

The world's first city to see the sun and radiating relaxed holiday vibes, 'Gizzy' is a mix of sunshine, laid-back surf beaches, vineyards and rich Māori and European history.



CATHEDRAL COVE & HOT WATER BEACH

This famous duo of Coromandel beaches lines up a dramatic natural arch with the unique experience of soaking in a sandy, seaside hot pool.



COROMANDEL TOWN

One of the country's sweetest old gold-rush towns. Coromandel Town brims with Victorian timber buildings, boutique arts and crafts, eateries and the enchanting Driving Creek Railway.



CAPE KIDNAPPERS

A self-guided walk or tour out to the tip of this cape is a chance to see a remarkable 20,000-strong colony of gannets while taking in some of Hawke's Bay's best coastal scenery.



Hawke's Bay Trails

DISCOVER MORE

TAKE A DETOUR

Well-signposted short detours off the Pacific Coast Highway reveal hidden gems such as Waihi, Karangahake Gorge, East Cape Lighthouse, Mahia Peninsula and empty beaches galore.

VENTURE IN TO TE UREWERA

Steeped in Māori history and folklore, the North Island's largest native forest is a remote wonderland of ancient trees, birdlife and the Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk.

WALK THE COROMANDEL TRAILS

A diverse coastline, rugged inland forest and fascinating historic sites make the Coromandel a mecca for walkers. Options range from short heritage trails to multi-day hikes.

CYCLE THE 'GREAT RIDES'

Three of the New Zealand Cycle Trails premier rides – Hauraki Rail Trail, Motu Trails and Hawke's Bay Trails, are a great way to see the sights while soaking up the scenery.

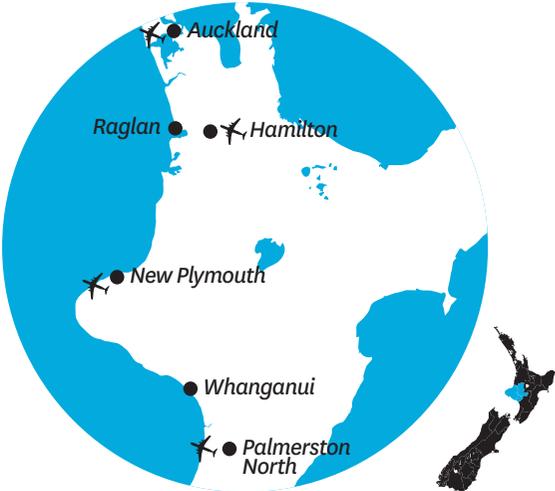
For more information on the Pacific Coast Highway, visit

thecoromandel.com, bayofplentynz.com,
outeast.co.nz, hawkesbaynz.com

WESTERN NORTH ISLAND

Pretty river valleys, rolling farmland, wild surf and notable mountains are all encountered on explorations of the less-travelled mid-west regions of Taranaki, Whanganui and Manawatu.





WESTERN NORTH ISLAND

The North Island's mid-west comprises three neighbouring regions, all largely rural in nature but each with their own character and attractions.

It is particularly popular with self-drive travellers who are free to follow scenic back roads to special and remote spots such as the black-sand beaches that encourage summer swimming, surfing and sunset walks.

Taranaki's compact but cool capital, New Plymouth, is the launching pad for adventures in Egmont National Park, unmistakable for the near-perfect cone of Mt Taranaki at its heart. Further south, Whanganui city exhibits a similarly arty side and serves as the gateway to Whanganui National Park.

On the way south to Wellington, the mountain-fringed Manawatu serves up classic countryside, and scenic touring routes dotted with sweet towns, bush reserves and Palmerston North city.

WHY WE LOVE IT

-  **National parks** Whanganui and Egmont serve up distinctly different landscapes and outdoor adventures.
-  **Museums & galleries** Small towns and cities demonstrate admirable commitment to art and culture.
-  **Surf beaches** Taranaki rolls out some of New Zealand's best breaks along aptly named Surf Highway 45.
-  **Parks & gardens** An obsession with gardening is displayed in public parks and suburban gardens alike.

HIGHLIGHTS



EGMONT NATIONAL PARK

The volcanic cone of Mt Taranaki stands at the centre of this unique wilderness lined with hiking trails leading to epic lookouts, waterfalls, wetlands and other natural wonders.



LEN LYE CENTRE

Part of New Plymouth's Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, this impressive centre showcases the mesmerising films and kinetic art of one of New Zealand's most original artists.



FORGOTTEN WORLD ADVENTURES

An abandoned railway line featuring historic tunnels and bridges has been resurrected for a range of fun-filled tours through pretty countryside, riding on a powered or pedal-cart.



SURF HIGHWAY 45

Taranaki's curved coastline collects oceans of awesome swell between New Plymouth and Hawera, a classic road-trip with laid-back towns, rural scenery and views of Mt Taranaki.



WHANGANUI JOURNEY

This Great Walk is in fact a canoe or kayak trip deep through Whanganui National Park, passing remote sights such as the Bridge to Nowhere and Tieke Kainga, a Māori meeting place.



SARJEANT GALLERY

Completed in 1919, Whanganui's architecturally significant art gallery will re-open renovated in 2019. Meanwhile, their excellent exhibitions continue at Sarjeant on the Quay.



Mountains to Sea Trail, Whanganui National Park

DISCOVER MORE

CYCLE FROM MOUNTAINS TO SEA

One of New Zealand's Great Rides, the Mountains to Sea Trail reveals varied natural and human history as it follows the mystical Whanganui River to Whanganui city.

DRIVE THE FORGOTTEN WORLD HIGHWAY

This winding journey serves up ever-changing views, waterfalls and remote Whangamomona village, home to an historic pub.

HIKE THE POUAKAI CROSSING

Egmont National Park's premier day-hike traverses the foothills of Mt Taranaki, with spectacular views and passing diverse forest, tussock lands and a unique swamp.

DAY TRIP IN THE MANAWATU

Palmerston North is the perfect launching pad for day trips through pretty countryside and the dramatic Manawatu Gorge/Te Apiti featuring walking trails and a terrific café.

For more information on the Western North Island visit [visit.taranaki.info](https://www.visit.taranaki.info), [whanganuinz.com](https://www.whanganuinz.com), [manawatunz.co.nz](https://www.manawatunz.co.nz)

WELLINGTON & WAIRARAPA

The lower North Island offers visitors a diverse and dynamic mix of rural country, rugged wilderness, dramatic coastlines and colourful, cosmopolitan culture in and around the capital.

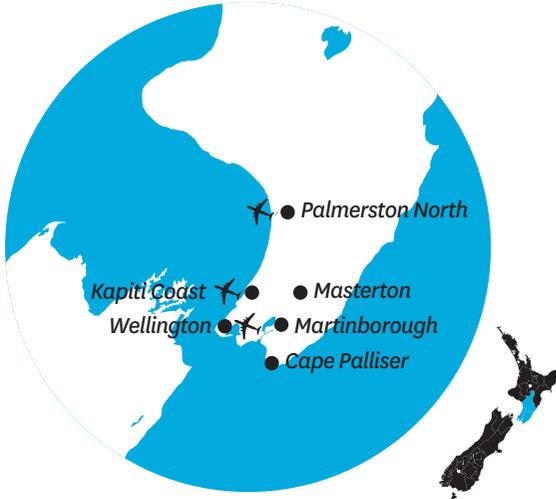




View of Wellington from Mt. Victoria



Wellington waterfront



WELLINGTON & WAIRARAPA

The big drawcard in these parts is the nation’s capital, Wellington, famous for its vibrant arts scene, world class café and restaurant culture and internationally recognised coffee roasters and craft beer breweries. Outdoor adventure is a big part of Wellington life, encouraged by the beaches, town belt and regional parks that line the harbour and hills. This is a city that truly offers something for everyone.

A short distance away via State Highway 2, over the forested mountain ranges to the north, the Wairarapa is a pretty, rural region popular with visitors attracted by such indulgences as world-class pinot noir, boutique accommodation and chic shops. The Classic New Zealand Wine Trail (which starts in Blenheim, Marlborough) continues as a scenic driving route through to Hawke’s Bay, offering travellers 380km (236mi) of indulgence as it winds through wineries, artisan food producers and scenic landscapes.

The most common route to and from Wellington, however, is along the eastern, Kāpiti Coast via State Highway 1. Improved transport connections combined with enviable beaches and nature reserves are helping the Kāpiti region flourish.

WHY WE LOVE IT

- 
Art & culture Whether institutional or impromptu, Wellington’s cultural scene is lively, imaginative and fun.
- 
Diverse coast Sandy beaches, rocky reefs, coves, inlets and harbours offer changing sights and moods.
- 
Fine food & drink Local wine, beer, coffee, produce and passion ensure sublime culinary experiences.
- 
Wildlife Seals, eels, tuatara, kākā, tui, kiwi and weta are just some of the creatures that inhabit this area.

HIGHLIGHTS



MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA

New Zealand's contemporary, colourful museum presents the country's natural and human stories in interactive, illuminating ways that will appeal to all ages and interests.



MIDDLE OF MIDDLE-EARTH

Visit film locations made famous by The Lord of the Rings & Hobbit films, then head to the heart of 'Wellywood' for a Weta Workshop tour to experience the magic first-hand.



ZEALANDIA

Wellington's groundbreaking urban wildlife sanctuary offers natural encounters with endangered native birds and other animals including the iconic kiwi bird and tuatara.



WELLINGTON CABLE CAR

Views of the central city and harbour broaden as the capital's historic, red cable car trundles up from Lambton Quay up to a classic lookout at the top of the hilly Botanic Gardens.



WELLINGTON DINING & NIGHTLIFE

It starts with espresso and ends with a nightcap, with street food, ethnic cuisine, contemporary fare, craft beer and everything else in between. The capital is a treat!



CASTLEPOINT

Located on a remote stretch of Wairarapa coast, this fascinating landscape encompasses a reef, lagoon, dunes and a photogenic lighthouse perched on a rocky point.



KĀPITI ISLAND

This important nature reserve can be explored on day trips, or overnight stays featuring nighttime kiwi-spotting walks and warm Māori manaakitanga (hospitality).



WAIRARAPA WINE TOURING

Well known for world-class pinot noir, this region's boutique wineries offer easy and scenic wine tours, with Martinborough village a handy base for tours by bike or on foot.



Cape Palliser, Wairarapa

DISCOVER MORE

WANDER WELLINGTON

It only takes around an hour to walk across downtown Wellington but a day could easily be spent wandering artfully and aimlessly, relishing hidden shortcuts and detours galore.

CRUISE KĀPITI'S BEACH TOWNS

Dotted along State Highway 1 within an hour's drive of the capital, Kāpiti's six small towns feature enviable beaches, numerous nature reserves, several golf courses and satisfying dining and shopping.

SEE MORE MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

History and culture aren't confined to the capital. Lower Hutt's Dowse, Porirua's Pataka and Masterton's Aratoi number amongst many other impressive institutions.

VENTURE TO CAPE PALLISER

A spectacularly scenic road from the wine-soaked Wairarapa Plains leads around a wild, dramatic coastline to a lonely lighthouse where epic views are earned via 250 gut-busting steps.

For more information on Wellington and the Wairarapa visit wellingtonnz.com, wairarapanz.com

NELSON & MARLBOROUGH

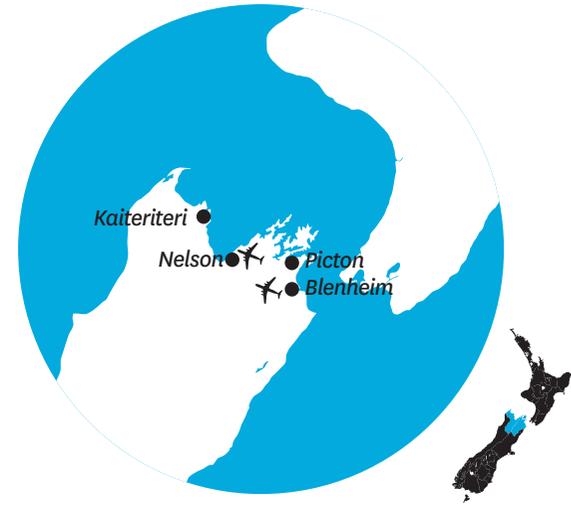
Great weather, beautiful coastlines and world-class wineries are just some of the reasons the neighbouring Nelson and Marlborough regions are popular with visitors, all year round.



Marlborough Sounds



Abel Tasman National Park



NELSON & MARLBOROUGH

Conveniently reached via regional airlines, the interisland ferry, or via scenic highways leading to Christchurch and the West Coast, the top of the south is an easy addition a New Zealand travel itinerary.

The Nelson and Marlborough regions have much in common, starting with above-average sunshine hours. Both also boast significant wine touring areas, beautiful coastal resorts including the Marlborough Sounds and endless hiking opportunities throughout three national parks and other reserves.

The top of the south's largest centre is Nelson, notable for an active arts scene and the white-sand beaches lining Tasman Bay. Marlborough's capital, Blenheim, is the thriving hub of the country's largest wine-growing area, situated in the picturesque Wairau Valley. Motueka, Picton and Takaka number among the regions' other cheerful, welcoming towns.

WHY WE LOVE IT



Beaches Nelson can claim some of the nation's best, such as Tahunanui, Kaiteriteri and Anchorage.



Seafood & sauvignon blanc Salmon and greenshell mussels are a perfect match with local, world-class Marlborough wines.



Sublime landscapes From snowy alps to coastal forest, with pretty valleys and farmland in between.



Sunshine Nelson and Blenheim are hot competitors for the annual title of New Zealand's sunniest centre.

HIGHLIGHTS



ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

Explore the lush forest and sparkling bays of this world-famous paradise on the Coast Track Great Walk, by sea kayak, or on scenic day cruises focusing on wildlife or short walks.



MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

A hike or bike ride along the Queen Charlotte Track are just two ways to enjoy the secluded bays, view-filled ridges and peaceful resorts of the Marlborough Sounds.



WINE TOURING

Survey the scenery while sampling world-class sauvignon blanc and other local specialities on a tour of cellar door and vineyard restaurants throughout Nelson and Marlborough.



HEAPHY TRACK

Crossing the remote wilderness of Kahurangi National Park, this Great Walk offers incredibly diverse vistas of rugged ranges, tussocky downs, forested valleys and wild beaches.



BIKE TASMAN'S GREAT TASTE TRAIL

Meandering through picturesque countryside and along the Tasman Bay shore, this easy trail is a terrific way to tour the wineries, breweries, cafés and galleries near Nelson.



OMAKA AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE

Dramatic scenes from the two World Wars feature in powerful displays of original and replica aircraft, and models made by the people behind The Lord of the Rings & Hobbit.



FAREWELL SPIT

A remote, otherworldly landscape and home to a notable lighthouse, this vast Golden Bay sandbank is also a renowned bird sanctuary that can be explored on 4WD safaris.



WORLD OF WEARABLE ART™ AND CLASSIC CARS MUSEUM

Revel in a riot of creativity and colour at this museum combining cars with eye-popping garments from the international art show.



Abel Tasman National Park

DISCOVER MORE

LINGER AROUND NELSON LAKES

Bush-fringed Rotoiti and Rotoroa lie like blue jewels in the Nelson Lakes National Park wilderness of rugged peaks and bird-filled forest, explored via nature trails and alpine hikes.

RIDE THE COASTAL PACIFIC

This 350km (217mi.) railway line follows the east coast between Picton, Kaikoura and Christchurch, serving up superb mountain and ocean vistas.

HEAD INTO THE HIGH COUNTRY

Epic panoramas and pioneer stories abound on the remote road between Blenheim and Hanmer Springs through the country's largest high country station, the Molesworth.

TAKE TO THE SKIES

A squadron of scenic flights and one of New Zealand's best skydiving drop zones boast birds-eye views of snowy mountains, river valleys, forest, town, coast and ocean.

For more information on Nelson and Marlborough visit nelsonnz.com, marlboroughnz.com

CANTERBURY & THE WEST COAST

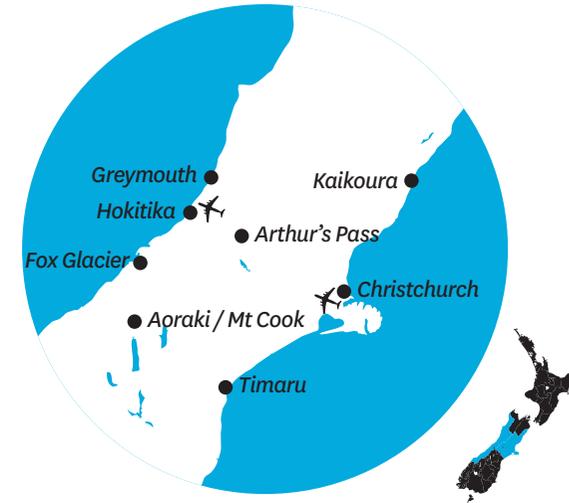
Separated by the mighty Southern Alps, these two regions highlight the South Island's contrasts – from the east's sandy beaches and lush plains, to the rainforest, untamed rivers and wild coast in the west.



Street art in Christchurch



Canterbury Plains



CANTERBURY & THE WEST COAST

Known as ‘The Garden City’ for its beautiful parks and tree-lined avenues, Christchurch is a hot spot for all things pop-up, artistic, innovative and inspiring. It is also the South Island’s main air, rail and road transport hub, providing ready access to the diverse attractions within Canterbury and further afield.

The region’s south sports many stunning natural wonders including New Zealand’s highest mountain, Aoraki/Mt Cook. The night skies are so clear in this region, the area has been declared an International Dark Sky Reserve. To the north, the charming town of Kaikoura is the launching pad for whale-watching and other wildlife tours.

Many visitors head over Arthur’s Pass, one of three main highways through the Southern Alps that run nearly the full length of the South Island. On the other side, the West Coast region is a lightly populated wilderness, famous for its ‘Pancake Rocks’ and glaciers but in fact remarkable from top to toe.

WHY WE LOVE IT



The Southern Alps Jaw-dropping mountain vistas are a constant companion on journeys around here.



Outdoor activities Hiking, cycling, kayaking, rafting and much more. A huge adventure playground awaits.



Friendly towns A generous spread of small towns and villages offer warm hospitality and genuine charm.



Contrasting coasts The Alps divide two totally different environments, each with dramatic natural history.

HIGHLIGHTS



CHRISTCHURCH CITY

This pretty ‘garden city’ is creative, energetic and full of surprises. Avon River trips and heritage tram rides are great ways to hear the stories and take in the central city’s sights.



AORAKI/MOUNT COOK NATIONAL PARK

This majestic Southern Alps landscape of glacial valleys, lakes and alpine gardens can be admired on foot or scenic flights.



KAIKOURA WILDLIFE TOURS

Watching whales, spotting albatross and swimming with dolphins are daily delights in this buzzy little town fronted by a pretty peninsula and backed by snow-capped peaks.



FRANZ JOSEF & FOX GLACIERS

Dazzling sights from many angles, Westland’s twin glaciers can be viewed on guided walks, heli-hikes and scenic flights and on spectacular short walks in their lower valleys.



AKAROA

On Banks Peninsula, this harbourside village seduces visitors with its French colonial charm, boutique shops and restaurants. There’s even a chance to spy the world’s smallest dolphin.



LAKE TEKAPO

A photogenic church lures visitors to this surreal blue lake during the day, while at night the crystal clear skies above Mt John Observatory attract astronomers and stargazers alike.



ARTHUR’S PASS NATIONAL PARK

A sublime cross-country road or rail journey takes travellers deep into the heart of this alpine wilderness where trails lead to waterfalls, hikers’ huts, hidden valleys and mountaintops.



PUNAKAIKI

Also known as ‘Pancake Rocks’ and particularly mysterious at sunset, these ancient, eroded rock stacks are riddled with blowholes that roar and surge with the ocean swell.



Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail, Lake Pukaki

DISCOVER MORE

SOAK IT UP IN HANMER SPRINGS

In North Canterbury, centered on a thermal spa complex, this all-seasons alpine resort mixes relaxation and indulgence with hiking, jet boating biking and other pursuits.

CYCLE THE ALPS 2 OCEAN

The 'cloud piercer', Aoraki/Mt Cook, is just one of many unforgettable sights on this cross-country journey all the way from the Southern Alps to the Pacific Ocean at Oamaru.

HEAD UNDER OPARARA ARCH

Off the beaten track but as good as the West gets, the Buller Region brims with quiet and unspoilt natural wonders such as this hidden lime-stone basin cloaked in ancient forest.

TAKE THE TRANZALPINE

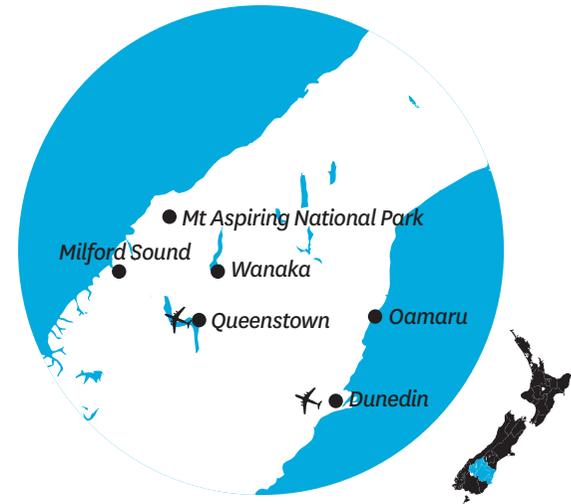
This truly spectacular train journey from Christchurch to Greymouth takes in rural plains, vast river valleys and Southern Alps' majesty on show within Arthur's Pass.

For more information on Canterbury & The West Coast visit westcoast.co.nz, christchurchnz.com, mackenzienc.com, kaikoura.co.nz

SOUTHERN LAKES

Landscapes of awe-inspiring grandeur set a backdrop to a dazzling array of outdoor activities. From leisurely to limit-pushing, to the more indulgent pursuits on offer around lively tourist towns and vineyards.





SOUTHERN LAKES

Growing international air services have propelled New Zealand’s premier winter ski resort, Queenstown, into an all-seasons extravaganza of outdoor adventure, adrenaline sports and good times in its lively centre. Queenstown lies on Lake Wakatipu, one of the many beautiful lakes in this region.

Over the lofty Crown Range is Lake Wanaka. Its township is another popular ski holiday base but also the gateway to Aspiring National Park, part of Te Wāhipounamu, South West New Zealand World Heritage Area.

This UNESCO-listed area also encompasses the vast, glacier-carved wilderness of Fiordland National Park, which lures in visitors with such iconic experiences such as Milford Sound cruises and three legendary Great Walks. Another lakeside town, Te Anau situated beside yet another beautiful lake, is a pleasant and convenient base for exploring Fiordland.

WHY WE LOVE IT

- 
Surreal scenery From any angle, in any weather, these dramatic landscapes have to be seen to be believed.
- 
Guided adventures Established tourism operators ensure a plethora of richly rewarding experiences in this region.
- 
Wine & food World-renown reds and restaurants galore make this region a treat.
- 
Adrenaline rush Strike the sky-dive, paraglide and bungee jump off the bucket list, then add more on.

HIGHLIGHTS



QUEENSTOWN

Fuelled by the adrenaline and energy created by the adventures around it, downtown Queenstown offers non-stop entertainment from shopping to dining and nightlife.



MILFORD & DOUBTFUL SOUNDS

See two of New Zealand's finest natural wonders, remote and deep blue fiords lined with soaring peaks and gushing waterfalls on a scenic cruise, wildlife tour or kayak trip.



SNOW SPORTS

Ski resorts such as Coronet Peak, The Remarkables, Treble Cone and Cardrona make this Australasia's top winter playground, while more thrills await in the backcountry.



WANAKA

On the edge of a mountain-ringed lake, beautiful Wanaka offers year-round outdoor adventure from skiing to kayaking and hikes in Mount Aspiring National Park.



ADRENALINE SPORTS

The world's first bungee jump bridge is just one place to get a buzz on. With skydiving, rafting, paragliding, parasailing and ziplining all featuring amongst a dizzying mix.



GREAT WALKS

Lauded as one of the world's finest hikes, the Milford Track joins the Routeburn and Kepler in a trio of unforgettable Great Walks through World Heritage-listed wilderness.



CENTRAL OTAGO WINERIES

Relaxed tasting rooms and vineyard restaurants showcase fine wines, local fare and stunning scenery, savoured on guided tours and cycle trails taking in other great sights.



ARROWTOWN

This historic riverside village charms visitors with its boutiques, galleries, restaurants and cafés. The gritty gold rush stories retold along a fascinating heritage trail.



Jack's Point, Queenstown

DISCOVER MORE

RIDE THE SKYLINE GONDOLA

Queenstown's essential experience is the gondola ride up Bob's Peak for eye-popping views and fun activities such as lugging, zip-lining, mountain biking and paragliding.

TAKE A SCENIC FLIGHT

Between the mountains, valleys and waterways of Fiordland, Mount Aspiring and Aoraki/Mount Cook National Parks, aerial sightseeing doesn't get better than this.

GO CRUISING

Lakes, rivers and ocean offer boat tours galore, such as Lake Wakatipu's steamship cruise - the TSS Earnslaw, Te Anau's glowworm trip and wondrous journeys on Milford and Doubtful Sounds.

PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF

World-class courses such as Jack's Point, Millbrook and The Hills number among nine golf courses in the Southern Lakes area, each with its own spectacular backdrop.

For more information on the Southern Lakes visit queenstownnz.co.nz, lakewanaka.co.nz, fiordland.org.nz

PURE SOUTHERN LAND

The southern reaches of New Zealand boast a blend of untouched wilderness, rugged coastlines, pretty rural scenery and some surprising cultural attractions found in sweet towns.



Oban, Stewart Island



Nugget Point, Catlins



PURE SOUTHERN LAND

Otago is one of two regions covering New Zealand's deep south. Its capital, Dunedin, is rich in Scottish heritage and one of the Southern Hemisphere's best-preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities. The adjacent Otago Peninsula is inhabited by rare yellow-eyed penguins, albatross and other wildlife.

Dotted throughout Otago, towns such as Oamaru, Alexandra and Lawrence are the legacy of gold rushes and pioneer industries that pushed railways throughout the region, leaving behind old stone buildings, bridges and crumbling remains that fill travellers' days with fascinating tales.

Neighbouring Southland is a starkly contrasting mix of manicured pasture and wild places. Its capital, Invercargill, is the launch point for trips to bird-filled Stewart Island and a major stop on the Southern Scenic touring route that takes in many other highlights of New Zealand's far reaches.

WHY WE LOVE IT



Wildlife-spotting Special residents include albatross, penguins, seals and sea lions.



Heritage buildings Stories of old echo in clay, limestone, schist and an array of native timbers.



Food & drink Home-baking is a speciality, along with fine local fare, Central Otago wine and beer.



Surf beaches Hot spots include Dunedin's St Clair, Catlins' Curio Bay and Colac Bay down south.

HIGHLIGHTS



DUNEDIN

Often referred to as the Edinburgh of the South, Dunedin is rich in architectural gems including Olverston Historic Home, Larnach Castle and a grand railway station.



OTAGO PENINSULA

A must-see albatross sanctuary caps off this wild headland visited and inhabited by seals, sea lions, penguins and up to 20 other species of seabird.



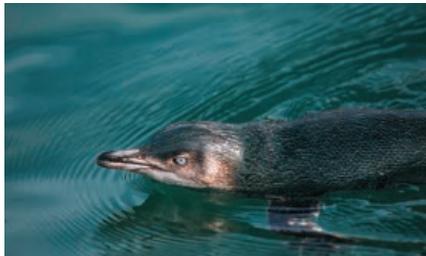
OTAGO CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL

This leisurely 150km (93mi.) cycle trail rolls through classic 'Central' big-sky country complete with railway and gold mining relics and a series of characterful towns.



STEWART ISLAND

Rakiura National Park covers 85% of New Zealand's third largest island and is a magnet for birdwatchers, nature-lovers and hikers exploring via the Great Walk and other trails.



OAMARU

This port town blends the gothic vibe of the Victorian Precinct and Steampunk HQ with cute penguins, quaint shops, great cafés, a craft brewery and lovely public gardens.



MOERAKI BOULDERS

Mysterious and mesmerising, these outsized, ancient spheres scattered on a North Otago beach inspire wonder and a whole lot of creative camera action.



MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Dunedin city is the main cultural hub but impressive institutions can be found throughout the region. Many focusing on local art, social history and the natural world.



THE CATLINS

Full of delight and surprise, a road trip around this quiet coast reveals lighthouses, caves, waterfalls and a petrified forest, with the chance to see special creatures in the wild.



Omarama, Waitaki

DISCOVER MORE

FOLLOW THE SOUTHERN SCENIC ROUTE

A multi-day journey tracing a 'U' between Te Anau and Dunedin, this road trip takes in major southern highlights including Fiordland, the Catlins and Otago Coast.

RIDE THE TAIERI GORGE RAILWAY

This day trip takes travellers from Dunedin's grand railway station to Central Otago's big-sky hinterland via an historic railway with tunnels, viaducts, river gorges and plains.

EXPLORE THE WAITAKI VALLEY

A quiet road route linking Otago and the inland Mackenzie Country, this valley's highlights include wineries, unique rock formations and the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail.

CYCLE THE TWIN GOLD TRAILS

Adjoining the Otago Central Rail Trail, the easy Roxburgh Gorge and Clutha Gold trails follow the mighty Clutha River through a spellbinding schist gorge and bucolic farmland.

For more information on Pure Southern Land visit dunedinnz.com, southlandnz.com, cluthanz.com

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW





WHEN TO VISIT

New Zealand is a fantastic destination in any season, from the hot days of summer enjoyed at the beach, to the depths of winter when the ski fields spring to life and whales cruise the coast off Kaikoura. Hiking, cycling and wildlife watching number among the memorable activities that can be enjoyed all year round.

The peak travel season is summer, December to February and through to the end of March. For travel during this time, it is recommended that accommodation, rental cars and campervans, domestic flights and popular activities and tours are booked well in advance. Travel arrangements should also be made in advance for winter ski season holidays.

The shoulder seasons are excellent times to visit too. Spring (September–November) bursts with new life, from flourishing gardens and frolicking lambs, to gushing waterfalls powered by mountain snow melt. Autumn/Fall (April–May), meanwhile, brings settled weather, vibrant natural landscapes and the flexibility offered by fewer crowds.



CLIMATE

Overall, New Zealand enjoys a mild climate with moderate rainfall, although its mountain ranges and maritime environments create varying microclimates and sudden changes in weather. In general, though, the far north of New Zealand is subtropical, with average temperatures generally decreasing towards the south.

The warmest months are December to February, when average maximum daytime temperatures range between 20–30°C (68–86°F). In the coolest months, June to August, temperatures range from 10–15°C (50–59°F), although inland alpine areas of the South Island can be as cold as -10°C (14°F).

Visitors should come prepared for all conditions, at any time of year. Local weather conditions and forecasts can be found on the MetService website (www.metservice.com).

GETTING TO NEW ZEALAND

Auckland and Christchurch are the two main international gateways, but there are also international airports located in Wellington and Queenstown.





GETTING AROUND NEW ZEALAND

Getting around New Zealand is easy and relatively inexpensive, thanks to a well-developed transport network.



Marlborough Sounds



Arrowtown, Otago



TranzAlpine, Canterbury

AIR, ROAD & SEA

Air New Zealand serves more than 25 major domestic cities and towns, while smaller regional airlines service other, smaller destinations. By road, national coach services criss-cross the North and South Island daily, with the Cook Strait in between them crossed via frequent interisland ferries between Wellington and Picton. Scheduled boat services ply other popular routes such as those around Auckland Harbour and Foveaux Strait from Bluff to Stewart Island/Rakiura.

CAMPERVANS/MOTORHOMES

Campervan travel offers the ultimate freedom on self-drive holidays, allowing visitors to stay overnight in some of New Zealand's most beautiful locations, with the convenience of a bed, kitchen and ablution facilities on board.

Campervans are available in a various sizes and configurations, from compact and basic two-berth vans to spacious six-berth 'homes on wheels' complete with a stove, fridge, satellite TV, shower and toilet. Rental charges vary according to the time of year with some excellent rates available during the shoulder and low seasons.

REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport services can be found in cities and most major towns, while Auckland and Wellington also boast regional train networks. Long-distance train travel is limited to the KiwiRail scenic journeys, counted amongst world's most scenic rail journeys.

SELF-DRIVE

New Zealand is one of the world's greatest road-tripping countries, with quiet highways and epic landscapes ensuring that the journeys really are as enjoyable as the destinations. However, driving in New Zealand has challenges, including long, winding, mostly single-lane roads that commonly take longer to drive than anticipated.

In advance of collecting a rental vehicle, visitors should familiarise themselves with New Zealand's unique driving rules and conditions and ensure they are well rested before getting behind the wheel.

A well-planned journey will maximise enjoyment of attractions along the way, as well as alleviate pressure on itineraries. For more information about driving in New Zealand, please visit the Drive Safe website:

www.drivesafe.org.nz

ACCOMMODATION

New Zealand boasts a wide range of accommodation with options to suit all tastes and budgets. For travel during peak season, it is recommended that visitors book well in advance.

QUALMARK

Qualmark is New Zealand tourism's official quality assurance organisation, which independently assesses travel businesses against a set of national standards indicated by the display of a Qualmark symbol. The general rating system is from one to five stars, with five being the highest. A series of other endorsements include Enviro Awards, indicating accreditation to sustainable tourism practices. Read more at www.qualmark.co.nz





The Landing, Bay of Islands



Queenstown



Huka Lodge, Taupō

CAMPsites & HOLIDAY PARKS

Campers and motorhome travellers are spoilt for choice, with hundreds of Department of Conservation and other basic campsites offering inexpensive (or even free) overnight stays. Around 300 commercial holiday parks, many in spectacular natural surrounds, offer extensive facilities, from grassed tent and powered campervan sites, to units ranging from budget cabins to plush motels. Be responsible with your waste wherever you camp. Carry in, carry out. Leave no trace.

HOSTELS & BACKPACKER LODGES

Backpackers are well catered for, with hundreds of hostels and budget lodges offering dormitories and private rooms with excellent communal facilities and traveller services such as transport and activity bookings.

MOTELS & HOTELS

Offering a wide range of choice for all tastes, motels and hotels line popular destinations and travel routes throughout the country. Out of peak season, visitors can often find a room without pre-booking.

B&BS & HOMESTAYS

New Zealand's bed & breakfast lodges and homestays enjoy a fine reputation for high-quality accommodation in memorable locations. Friendly hosts are central to the experience, as are local produce for breakfast and insider travel tips.

APARTMENTS & HOLIDAY HOMES

Ranging from slick, urban apartments to the rustic 'Kiwi bach' (family holiday home), these self-contained options are ideal for travellers looking for family or group accommodation or just a homely atmosphere.

LUXURY LODGES

Set in some of the country's most spectacular landscapes, New Zealand's luxury lodges and resorts specialise in pursuits such as golf, fishing, general leisure and wellbeing, as well as fine dining showcasing local produce and wines. Personal service extends to arranging activities such as scenic flights, wilderness adventures and wine touring.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION





Wai-o-Tapu, Rotorua



Hooker Valley, Canterbury



Waitemata Harbour, Auckland

VISAS

Visitors from more than 50 countries are eligible for a visa waiver and do not require a visa for stays of less than three months. Full details are provided on the Immigration New Zealand website (www.immigration.govt.nz).

MONEY

New Zealand's currency is the dollar (NZ\$). Visa and MasterCard the most widely accepted credit cards, although other major credit cards are also accepted. ATMs are widespread in cities and most towns, with currency exchange also available at international airports, as well as bank and bureaus in major centres.

WI-FI, INTERNET & MOBILE PHONES

Free Wi-Fi hotspots are generally found in the main cities in libraries and visitor centres throughout the country and in an increasing number of cafés, restaurants and bars. All but the most remote and basic accommodation provides Wi-Fi or other internet connections, often free of charge.

Mobile phone coverage is extensive, although services may be patchy or even non-existent in remote areas. Visitors should check with their service provider about international mobile roaming facilities for New Zealand, or consider hiring or buying a mobile phone and a local SIM card.



Christchurch City, Canterbury

HEALTHCARE

New Zealand's public and private medical and hospital facilities provide a high standard of treatment and care. While there are reciprocal health care arrangements with some countries, generally, medical services are not free to visitors, therefore travel and health insurance are recommended. No vaccination certificates are required. New Zealand has no snakes or dangerous wild animals.

ELECTRICITY

New Zealand's electricity supply runs at 230/240 volts, 50Hz and uses angled, two or three pin plugs (the same as Australia).

TIPPING & SERVICE CHARGES

Tipping in New Zealand is not obligatory, even in restaurants and bars, although is always appreciated for good service. On public holidays, restaurants and cafés may add service charges of up to 15% to your final bill.

SHOPPING

Shopping is a real pleasure, with plenty of markets, gift stores and designer fashion boutiques, with a high number of unique, independent outlets. New Zealand-made specialties include: beautiful pounamu (jade) and paua shell (abalone) ornaments and jewellery, handcrafted glass and local wood products, luxurious merino or possum knitwear, sheepskin and leather goods.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information visit our website or social media pages:

www.newzealandinsight.com | time2go.nz

 facebook.com/newzealandinsight

 instagram.com/newzealandinsight

 twitter.com/NZinsight



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newzealand.com