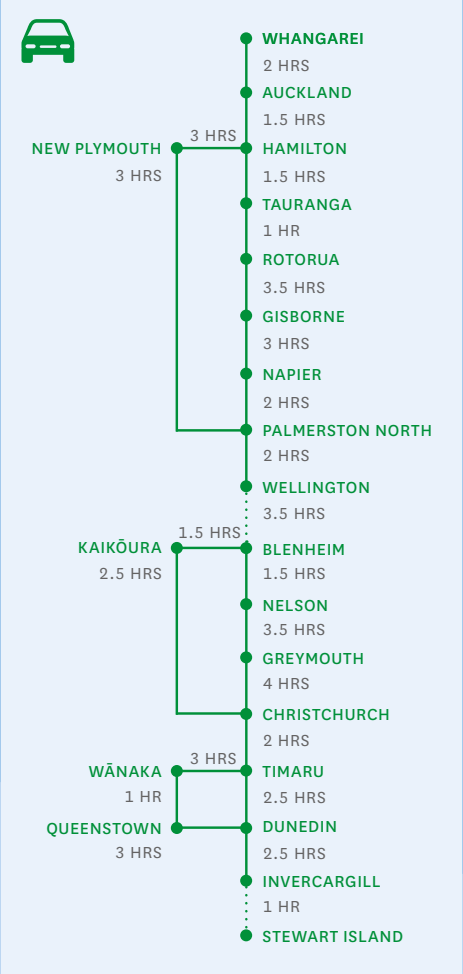
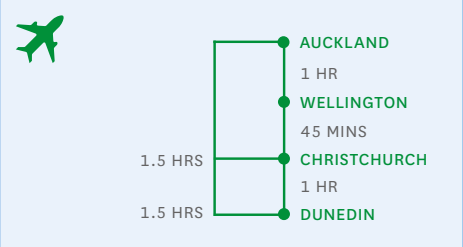


Aotearoa New Zealand

New Zealand has an amazing range of experiences that are all within arm's reach of everyone who visits. You'll find a unique embrace of people, culture and landscapes that will take you on your journey and create everlasting stories.

Aotearoa New Zealand is a destination for the curious ones – for those willing to seek, New Zealand offers everything, from dramatic natural scenery to rich Māori culture and vibrant cities. Its extraordinary geography offers a hugely diverse range of unique things to see and do.

Hike through lush rainforests near glaciers, soak in geothermal hot pools surrounded by snow-capped mountains, and relax on perfect white sand beaches that stretch for miles. Sail on turquoise waters dotted with picturesque islands, or cruise through towering fiords past cascading waterfalls. End each perfect day indulging in award-winning cuisine paired with wine from local vineyards that stretch through every region.



Viaduct Harbour, Auckland



1. Northland and Auckland

As New Zealand's largest and most cosmopolitan city, Auckland offers a wealth of cultural, artistic and dining attractions. Ride a glass-bottomed elevator to the observation deck of the 1000-foot-tall Sky Tower and take a horizon-spanning look over the city and the sail-studded Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Take a cruise across Auckland's harbour and walk beneath the pōhutukawa canopy on Rangitoto Island, or enjoy a sunny day of food, wine and white sandy beaches on Waikheke Island. Travel north to arrive in winterless Northland. The spiritual home of New Zealand, and paddle a waka (Māori for boat) across the waters where Polynesian explorer Kupe first landed.



Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Northland



Waipoua Forest, Northland



Hobbiton™ Movie Set Tours, Matamata



Hot Water Beach, The Coromandel



Te Puia, Rotorua



2. Thermal Explorer Highway

Drive through the centre of the North Island and you'll see the beating geothermal heart of the country, passing crater lakes and volcanic cones that are the remnants of past eruptions. Starting south of Auckland, the highway runs through Hamilton then on to Waikato; famous for its subterranean river rafting and glowworm caves. Step into movie history at Hobbiton™ near Matamata, seeing the movie set from The Hobbit Trilogy. At Rotorua ride a giant inflatable ball down a hillside and witness geothermal geysers, bubbling mud pools and Māori cultural performances. Further south at Tongariro National Park you'll find snow-capped mountains, fantastic tramping trails and ski fields.



Waitomo Caves, Waitomo



Cathedral Cove, The Coromandel



3. Pacific Coast Highway

Follow this route from Auckland for a beach-infused road trip and take in the spectacular coastlines, forests and seaside villages of the Coromandel Peninsula. In Bay of Plenty, take a walk to the summit of Mauao Mt Maunganui for breath-taking views of the surrounding beaches, towns, nearby cafés and shops. Eastland's relaxed coastal life is popular with surfers and also offers authentic Māori cultural experiences. Travel south to Hawke's Bay for outstanding wines and art deco architecture in Napier.



Mt Maunganui, Bay of Plenty



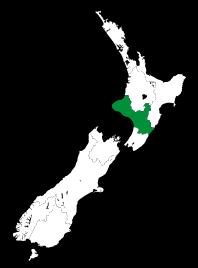
Whanganui National Park



Kelburn Hill, Wellington



Abel Tasman National Park, Abel Tasman



4. Western North Island

The Western North Island is thrilling in all seasons, with Egmont National Park home to the snow-capped Mount Taranaki, which provides excellent skiing in winter and wonderful tramping trails. During summer and autumn the region boasts excellent surf beaches, great art galleries and always entertaining summer music festivals. To the east of the mountains New Zealand's longest navigable waterway, Whanganui River, is perfect for a guided kayak safari, or if you're looking for something a little more exciting you can brave the rapids of the Rangitikei River on a rafting trip.



Whanganui River, Taranaki



5. Wellington and Wairapa

The lower North Island, which includes New Zealand's capital city of Wellington, is the country's creative hub. Indulge in fine wine, exquisite cuisine and coffee culture at a range of excellent eateries, or absorb some of New Zealand's art and culture at Wellington's many galleries and the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Film buffs will get a kick out of Wētā Cave, which features props and behind the scenes stories from a range of films including The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit trilogies. Head north and you'll reach Wairarapa and the Kāpiti Coast, which are home to wildlife sanctuaries, wineries, world-class golf courses and artisanal food producers.



Parrot Dog, Wellington



Castlepoint, Wairapa



6. Nelson and Marlborough

Marlborough is the gateway to the South Island, with travellers ferrying across the Cook Strait and through the beautiful Marlborough Sounds. The area is renowned for its wineries, which are particularly noted for their world-class Sauvignon Blanc. Enjoy a tasting of award-winning vintages of years past and outstanding regional cuisine at on-site restaurants. Located just west of Marlborough, Nelson overlooks the stunning Tasman Bay and Abel Tasman National Park, replete with golden sand beaches and known for being one of the sunniest parts of New Zealand, it is perfect for hiking, cycling, kayaking, fishing or taking a relaxing cruise.



The Great Taste Trail, Nelson



Marlborough Sounds, Marlborough



Hooker Valley Track, Aoraki Mount Cook National Park



Shotover River, Queenstown



Larnach Castle, Dunedin



Christchurch, Canterbury



7. Canterbury and West Coast

Known for rolling green pastures, the jagged peaks of the Southern Alps and silvery beaches, Canterbury is home to world-class wildlife experiences, lush vineyards and pristine glacial lakes. Christchurch, the largest city and airport gateway in the South Island, is a place of intense creative energy as its residents rebuild in the wake of the 2011 earthquake. Drive north to Kaikōura to have to an up-close whale watching experience any time of year, and to feast on delicious fresh crayfish. Head to Aoraki Mount Cook National Park and fly by helicopter, or hike to the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers.



Kaikōura, Canterbury



Milford Sound, Fiordland



Treble Cone, Wānaka



8. Southern Lakes

Nestled in the heart of the Southern Alps where The Remarkables mountain range meets Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown is an adventurer's playground in every season. Bungy jump right where the activity was invented at Kawarau Bridge, or jet boat down the Shotover River. Spend an autumn day looking at relics from the gold rush at Arrowtown, take a trip to Wānaka for winter skiing, or embark on a scenic helicopter flight over the Mount Aspiring National Park. Explore the breath-taking natural wonders that are Milford and Doubtful Sounds, witnessing their spectacular beauty either, on the water or with a hike along the Milford Track.



Otago Peninsula, Dunedin



Blue Penguin Colony, Oamaru



9. Pure Southern Land

Hosting a wide range of well-preserved Victorian and Edwardian buildings as well as spectacular rocky coasts, coastal Otago and Southland are the perfect place for those who appreciate historic architecture and rugged landscapes. When in Dunedin, visit the historic Speight's Brewery, or take a trip out to the majestic Larnach Castle. The coastline in this region is a treasure trove of incredible geological and wildlife sights, including the Moeraki Boulders, blue and yellow-eyed penguin, albatross and fur seal colonies. At the bottom of New Zealand, Rakiura Stewart Island is home to a many rare native species, making it perfect for nature walks.

