



AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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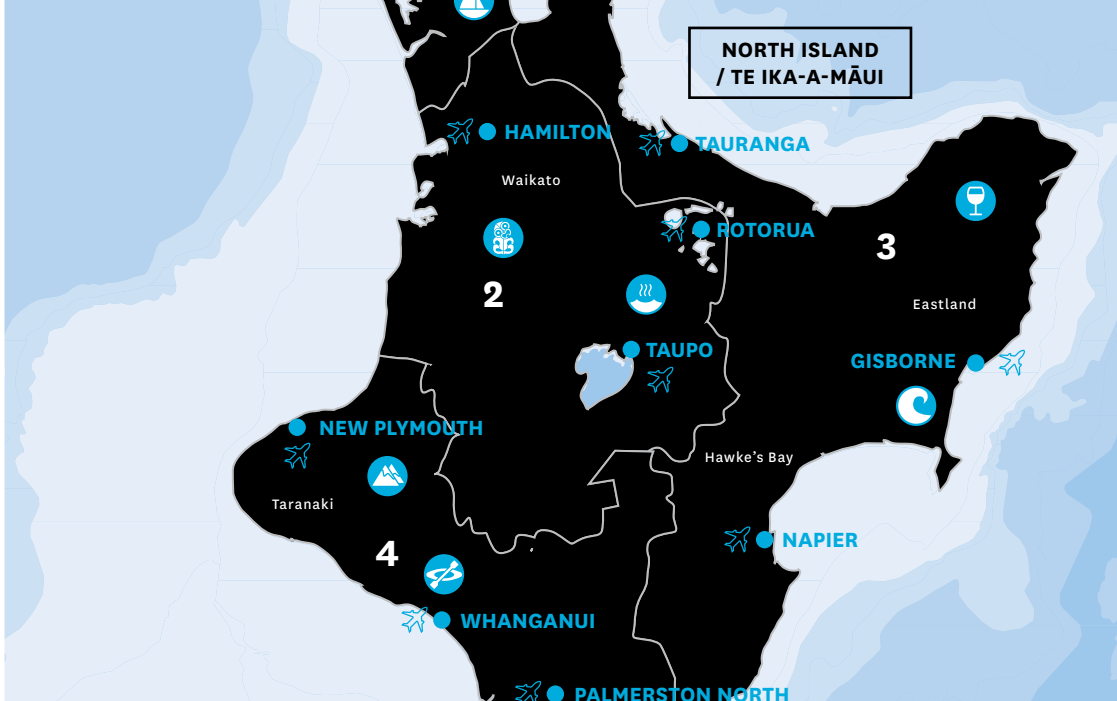
1. Northland and Auckland

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 salt-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 Waiheke Island. Travel north to arrive in the winterless Northland, the spiritual home of New Zealand, and paddle a waka (Māori for boat) across the waters where Polynesian explorer Kupe first landed.



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.



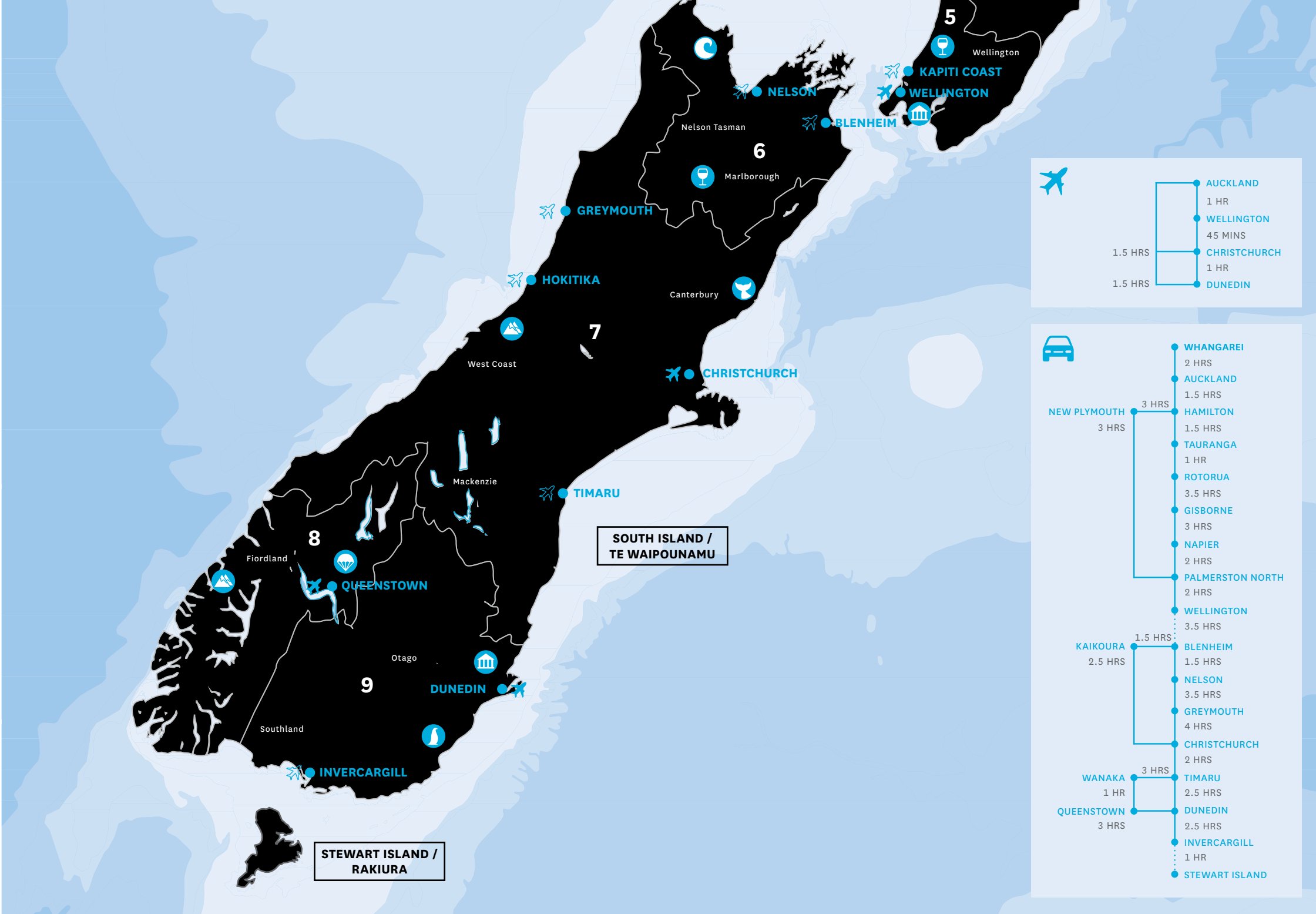
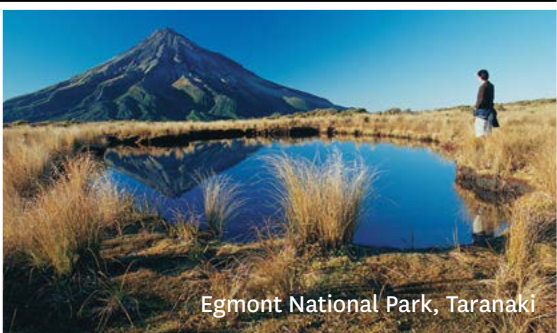
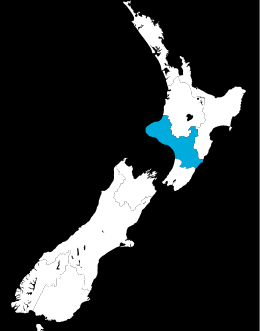
3. Pacific Coast Highway

The Pacific Coast Highway follows the North Island's eastern coastline south from Auckland, making it perfect for road trips. Along the way you'll pass a range of great swimming and surfing beaches and it's only a short side-trip up the Coromandel Peninsula to reach the unique geothermally heated Hot Water Beach. Visit Tauranga and enjoy beautiful days on the beach or taking a walk to the summit of Mount Maunganihi for a breathtaking view of the surrounding city and ocean. At Whakatane take a trip out across sparkling blue waters by boat or helicopter to New Zealand's most active volcano, Whakaari White Island.



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 all the way to the mountain's peak. 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.



5. Wellington and Wairarapa

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 films including The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Trilogies. Head north and you'll reach Wairarapa and the Kapiti Coast, which are home to wildlife sanctuaries, wineries, world-class golf courses and artisanal food producers.



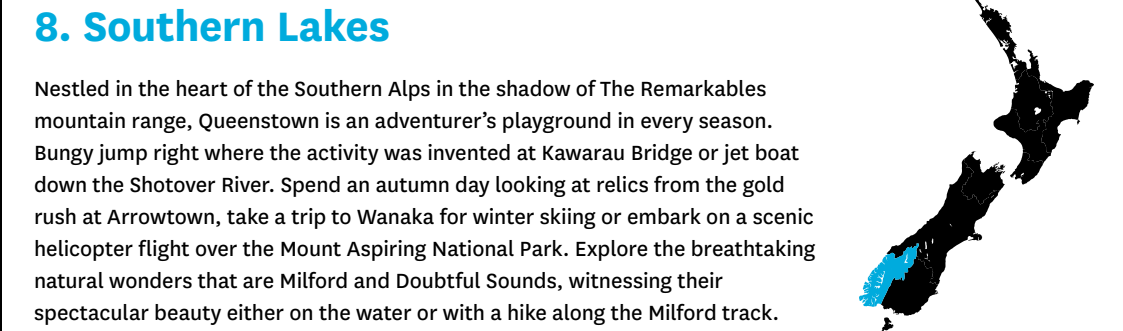
6. Nelson and Marlborough

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.



7. Canterbury and West Coast

Known for rolling green pastures, 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 is the airport gateway in the South Island. Head north to Kaikoura at any time of the year and feast on delicious fresh crayfish and have an up-close whale watching experience. Head to Aoraki Mount Cook National Park and fly by helicopter or hike to the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers.



8. Southern Lakes

Nestled in the heart of the Southern Alps in the shadow of The Remarkables mountain range, Queenstown is an adventurer's playground in every season. Bungee 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 Wanaka for winter skiing or embark on a scenic helicopter flight over the Mount Aspiring National Park. Explore the breathtaking natural wonders that are Milford and Doubtful Sounds, witnessing their spectacular beauty either on the water or with a hike along the Milford track.



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 lovers of historic architecture and rugged landscapes. Drop by Dunedin and visit the historic Speight's Brewery or take a trip out to the majestic Larnach Castle. The coast is also a treasure trove of incredible geological and wildlife sights including the Moeraki Boulders, blue and yellow-eye penguin, albatross and fur seal colonies. At the bottom of New Zealand, Stewart Island is home to a wide range of rare native species, making it perfect for nature walks.





GETTING AROUND

Many destinations in New Zealand are just hours from each other. An extensive network of air, train and road services mean most places can be reached by public transport. Buses and coaches link up with rail and ferry operators to take you the length of the country, and air travel is also available to most destinations.

THEMED HIGHWAYS

These routes are marked with distinctive brown road signs. For more information visit: newzealand.com/int/themed-highways

NORTH ISLAND

Twin Coast Discovery Highway: This route begins in Auckland and travels north, tracing both coasts to Cape Reinga and back. Driving is easy and interesting. Highlights include a procession of beautiful beaches, opportunities for fishing, surfing, diving and dolphin encounters; cultural experiences at Waitangi; forest hikes and craft shopping.

Pacific Coast Highway: Linking the Coromandel, Bay of Plenty and Eastland with Auckland in the north and Hawke's Bay in the south, the Pacific Coast Highway takes you to spectacular coastal scenery and beaches, forest wilderness and grape growing districts. This route should go down the Pohutakawa Coast, through Clevedon and around the Firth of Thames. The cities of Tauranga, Gisborne, Napier and Hastings will satisfy your urge to wine, dine and shop.

Thermal Explorer Highway: This route runs between Auckland and Hawke's Bay, travelling through the volcanic centre of the island. You'll have the chance to discover the caves around Waitomo in the Hamilton & Waikato region, geothermal areas in Rotorua and Lake Taupo, the amazing Tongariro National Park and Hawke's Bay Wine Country. Expect equal quantities of relaxation and adventure. When combined, the Pacific Coast Highway and Thermal Explorer are known as The Great New Zealand Touring Route.

Forgotten World Highway: The 150km Forgotten World Highway (State Highway 43) is a memorable driving journey through stunningly scenic untouched landscapes. Following ancient Māori trade routes and 19th century bridge paths, the highway connects Taumaranui to Stratford. The route wriggles its way over four mountain saddles, through an eerie one-way tunnel and along a sinuous river gorge, passing through the unique Republic of Whangamomona.

From the trout town of Turangi, you can circle the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park by following state highways 47, 4, 48 and 1. On a clear day, you'll enjoy spectacular views of the mountains and the volcanic terrain that surrounds them. The stretch known as the 'Desert Road', which cuts across the desolate Rangipo Desert, is particularly memorable.

Surf Highway 45: The 105km highway that traces the Taranaki coast is known as Surf Highway 45 for the countless surf breaks that can be found at the end of almost every road that leads to the coast. The top spots have fascinating names - the Kumara Patch, Graveyards, Secret Spot, and Green Meadows to mention a few, and they are handily punctuated by cozy cafés feeding surfers and adventurers alike.

Manawatu Scenic Route: A scenic alternative to State Highway One, this route takes you on journeys between the highways through rural landscapes. Discover hidden places and tucked away treasures ranging from country cafés and pubs; heritage sites, galleries and gardens, to scenic reserves, day walks, swimming holes, glow-worm caves, picnic areas, and camping spots. Meet the locals and enjoy world-class scenery from the roadside.

Classic New Zealand Wine Trail: Weaving through three major wine regions, the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail serves up unforgettable wine and food experiences along the 380km route, spanning the North and South Islands. This self-guided drive takes visitors through Hawke's Bay, Waipara, and Marlborough, home to some 230 wineries. At the heart of the trail lies Wellington, New Zealand's capital, the perfect place for a culinary and cultural stopover.

SOUTH ISLAND

Alpine Pacific Touring Route: The Alpine Pacific Touring Route takes you to the wine and food experiences of Waipara, the spa delights of Hamner Springs and the marine mammal encounters of Kaikoura. Between destinations, you'll enjoy beautiful country scenery.

The Inland Scenic 72 Route: The perfect road journey for travellers who like to get off the main highways and find real rural life. The route starts at Amberley, in the north of the Canterbury region, and runs to Winchester, where it links to State Highway 1. There are fabulous views of the Southern Alps on one side of the road, complemented by the green serenity of the Canterbury Plains on the other.

The Great Alpine Highway: This coast-to-coast route traverses the Southern Alps. From Christchurch, the 255-kilometre route follows State Highway 72 west across river plains before rising to traverse through Porters Pass and Arthur's Pass National Park. Highlights include the impressive Waimakariri and Otira River gorges, driving along the Otira Viaduct and exploring natural wonders like the Castle Hill Rocks and Cave Stream Reserve.

Great Coast Road: The Great Coast Road stretches from Westport down to Kumara. It meanders alongside the ancient limestone cliffs of Paparoa National Park, where the world's smallest penguin resides, through Charleston and down to Pukaki, home to the famous Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. Driving it in one go only takes about 90 minutes, but it's best to slow down, enjoy the ride and explore some of New Zealand's small towns.

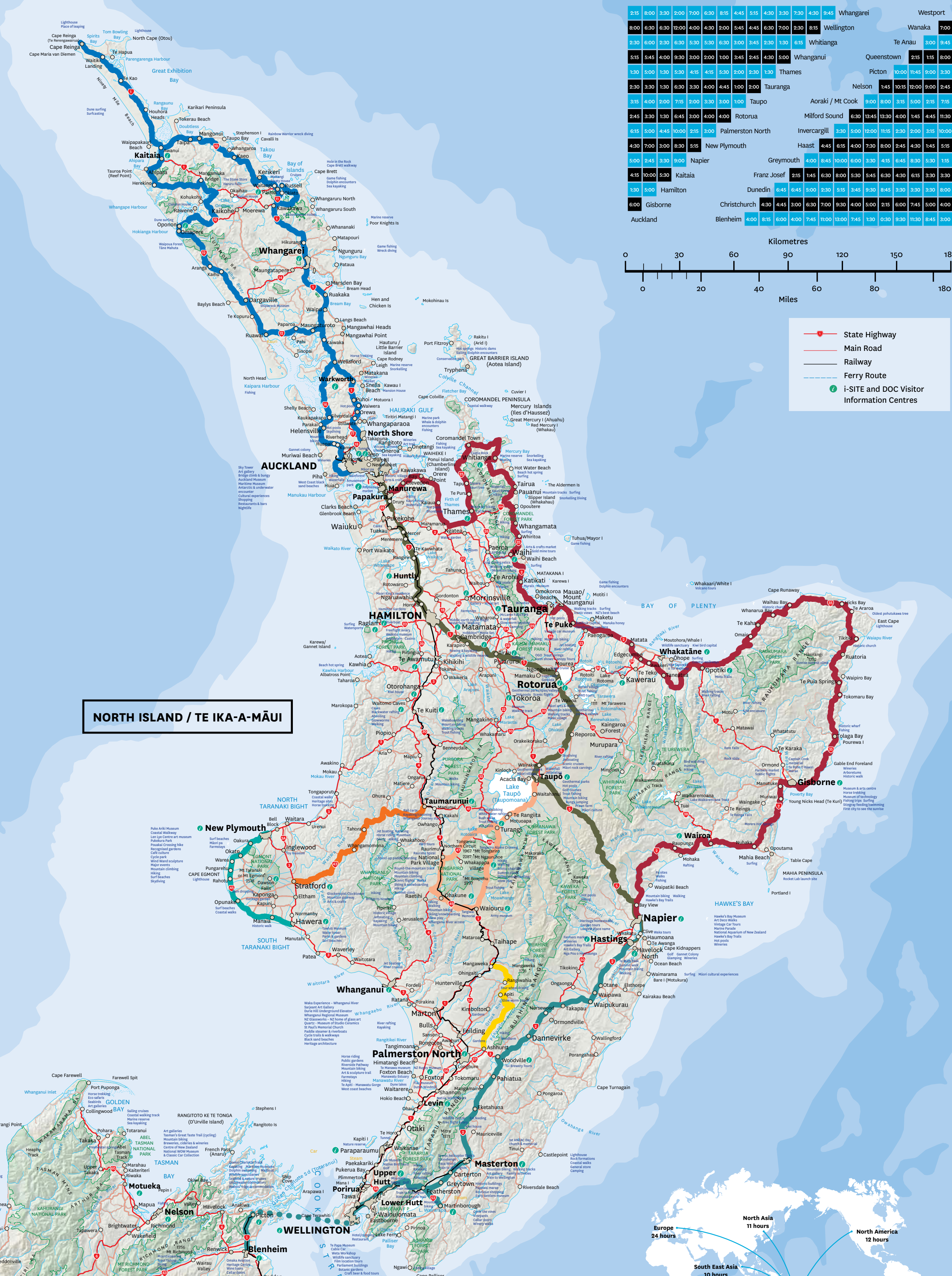
Glacier Highway: The Glacier Highway hugs the coastline from Kumara, through Hokitika and all the way down to Glacier Country. This 300-kilometre journey is surrounded with dense coastal scrub and West Coast rainforest, making it one of New Zealand's most scenic routes. It passes through three national parks, seal colonies, beaches, lakes, and as its namesake states, mighty glaciers.

Southern Scenic Route: Starting in the historic city of Dunedin, this route follows the wild southern coast to Invercargill, then continues west and north to Te Anau before ending at Queenstown. Highlights include wildlife encounters along the Catlins coast, the classic motors of Invercargill, cruising Fiordland, walking the Milford Track and the southern local delicacies found throughout.

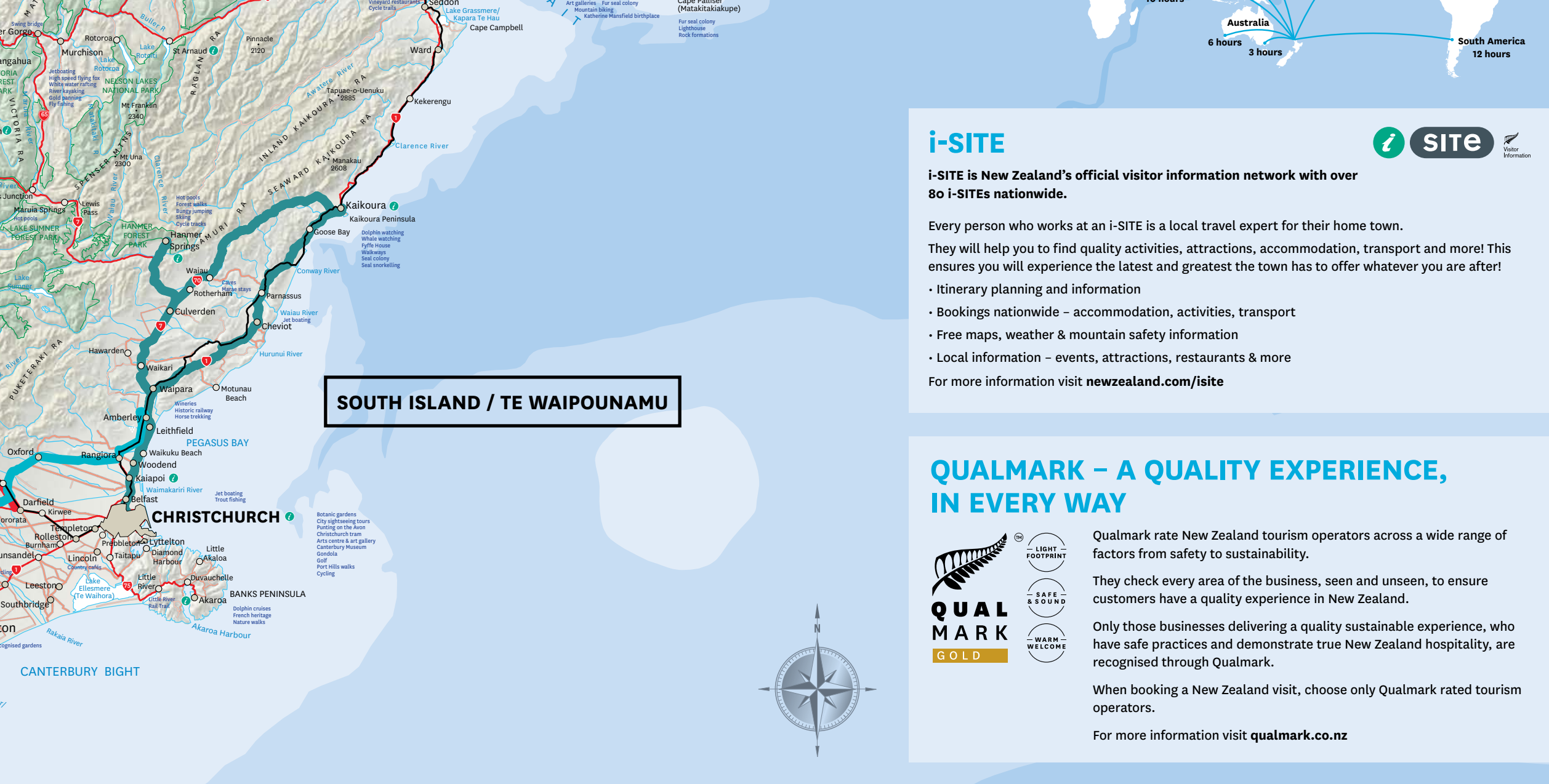


STEWART ISLAND / RAKIURA

Mouterehaka / Great 1



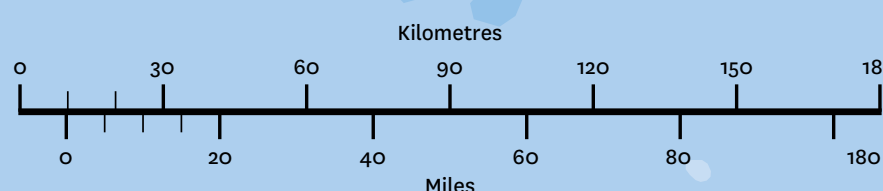
NORTH ISLAND / TE IKA-A-MĀUI



SOUTH ISLAND / TE WAIPOUNAMU

DRIVE TIMES (hours)

| 215 | 850 | 330 | 200 | 700 | 630 | 835 | 445 | 515 | 630 | 730 | 430 | 345 | Whangarei | Westport |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|------------------|
| 800 | 630 | 630 | 1200 | 400 | 430 | 530 | 545 | 445 | 630 | 700 | 530 | 545 | Whangarei | Wanaka |
| 530 | 600 | 630 | 630 | 530 | 530 | 530 | 530 | 545 | 630 | 700 | 530 | 545 | Whangarei | Te Anau |
| 515 | 445 | 400 | 630 | 530 | 530 | 530 | 545 | 445 | 630 | 700 | 530 | 545 | Whangarei | Queenstown |
| 430 | 545 | 530 | 530 | 430 | 430 | 430 | 430 | 430 | 430 | 430 | 430 | 430 | Whangarei | Pictou |
| 230 | 230 | 130 | 630 | 330 | 400 | 440 | 500 | 500 | Tauranga | | | | Whangarei | Nelson |
| 330 | 400 | 500 | 715 | 510 | 510 | 510 | 510 | 510 | Taupo | | | | Whangarei | Aoraki / Mt Cook |
| 245 | 230 | 130 | 645 | 300 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | Rotorua | | | | Whangarei | Milford Sound |
| 645 | 500 | 445 | 500 | 510 | 510 | 510 | 510 | 510 | Palmerston North | | | | Whangarei | Invercargill |
| 430 | 700 | 300 | 810 | 510 | 510 | 510 | 510 | 510 | New Plymouth | | | | Whangarei | Haast |
| 530 | 245 | 330 | 530 | 530 | 530 | 530 | 530 | 530 | Napier | | | | Whangarei | Grynmouth |
| 410 | 500 | 530 | Kaitiaki | | | | | | Francis Joseph | | | | Whangarei | Dunedin |
| 130 | 500 | Hamilton | | | | | | | Dunedin | | | | Whangarei | Christchurch |
| 600 | Gisborne | | | | | | | | Christchurch | | | | Whangarei | Blenheim |
| | Auckland | | | | | | | | Auckland | | | | Whangarei | |



- State Highway
- Main Road
- Railway
- Ferry Route
- i-SITE and DOC Visitor Information Centres

i-SITE

i-SITE is New Zealand's official visitor information network with over 80 i-SITES nationwide.

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