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# Drive New Zealand

Self-Drive Guide

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## Welcome!

Thank you for downloading our New Zealand Self-drive Guide. As you're likely to be in the planning stage for your next holiday, with the help of our Tourism Partners, we've put together a selection of driving itineraries, along with suggested key attractions to visit along the way.

Here at DriveAway Holidays, we believe that there's no better way to experience freedom than by taking a self-drive holiday. As the leading specialist in Australia offering worldwide car hire, motorhome rentals, motorcycles and European Peugeot Leasing, find the best deals from world-leading suppliers with the expertise and knowledge of our team; and take the road to freedom on your next self-drive holiday!

Drive safely,

The DriveAway Holidays Team



A blue banner with the word "Driving?" in large, white, italicized font. Below it, the text "Explore New Zealand with Thrifty Car Rental" is written in a smaller white font. To the right, three white cars are shown. At the bottom right, the "Think Thrifty" logo is displayed in white script and bold fonts.



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## Self-drive New Zealand

New Zealand - land of the long white cloud - has to be one of the best countries to take a self-drive holiday. The scenery is truly breathtaking, the local people are extremely welcoming, and the roads are easy to navigate.

Split into two islands, the North Island offers miles of unspoilt beaches, art deco townships and a strong Maori culture. In the South Island discover the magnificent Southern Alps, vast emerald lakes and a winter playground of extreme sports. With 20 regions stretching across 1,600kms, each destination has its own unique characteristics.

So just picture yourself now driving through some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world - whether it be by car hire or motorhome rental - stopping when and where you choose to take in the fresh air and meet some of the friendliest people on the planet!





# The City of Sails

## The North Island

Popular with first time visitors, New Zealand's North Island is where many self-drive holidays commence. Auckland is the gateway to the north and is also known as The City of Sails. Much of Auckland's surrounding beauty is attributed to volcanic heritage which makes up a field of 48 volcanoes, 300 surrounding islands, along with stunning beaches ranging from black iron sands through to golden, pebbles and shells.

To the north of Auckland lies the region of Northland, with its rolling green hills, sub-tropical weather and long stretches of sandy beaches. It is also the birthplace of New Zealand for both Maori and European settlers. Here you can explore the Bay of Islands and see where the Pacific Ocean meets the Tasman Sea.

Just an hour and a half southeast of Auckland lies The Coromandel Peninsula. A tranquil getaway, this region offers secluded beaches, lush rain forests and fresh local produce.

Further south the Bay of Plenty, Eastland and Hawkes Bay are the first places in the world to see the sunrise. Hawkes Bay is well known for its 80 wineries and 35 cellar doors. Here you can enjoy hundreds of kilometres of bike trails, walking tracks and beautiful white sandy beaches.

# The Tropical North



Just a short drive from Auckland southwards lies the region of Central Northland, well-known for its nature-based activities, underground wonders and iconic Waikato River. The Hamilton & Waikato region offers something for everyone, and it is here you will find the magical movie set of Hobbiton.

Further south, drive onto Rotorua with its 18 lakes, miles of native forest, geothermal mystique and rich cultural history. As New Zealand's most dynamic thermal area, it is here that you'll discover spurting geysers, silica terraces and exploding mud pools. Maori culture and the spirit of Manaakitanga (warmth and hospitality) is extremely important to the locals.

The Great Lake Taupo region southwards boasts New Zealand's largest freshwater lake, the mighty Huka Falls, world famous wild trout fisheries, a host of dual hiking and mountain biking tracks. The region is renowned for world famous golf courses, volcanic and geothermal wonderlands, cultural diversity, accessible ski areas along with adrenaline activities such as skydiving, bungee jumping and jet boating.

The culinary capital of New Zealand, Wellington is a vibrant city with an abundance of bars and restaurants. It is here that Sir Peter Jackson calls home; and with its compact size it's easy to explore.

Ready to take the wheel? Read on to discover some of New Zealand's magnificent self-drive routes...



# Twin Coast Discovery

## Auckland, Kauri Coast & Hokianga, Bay of Islands & Whangarei

### Day 1: Auckland

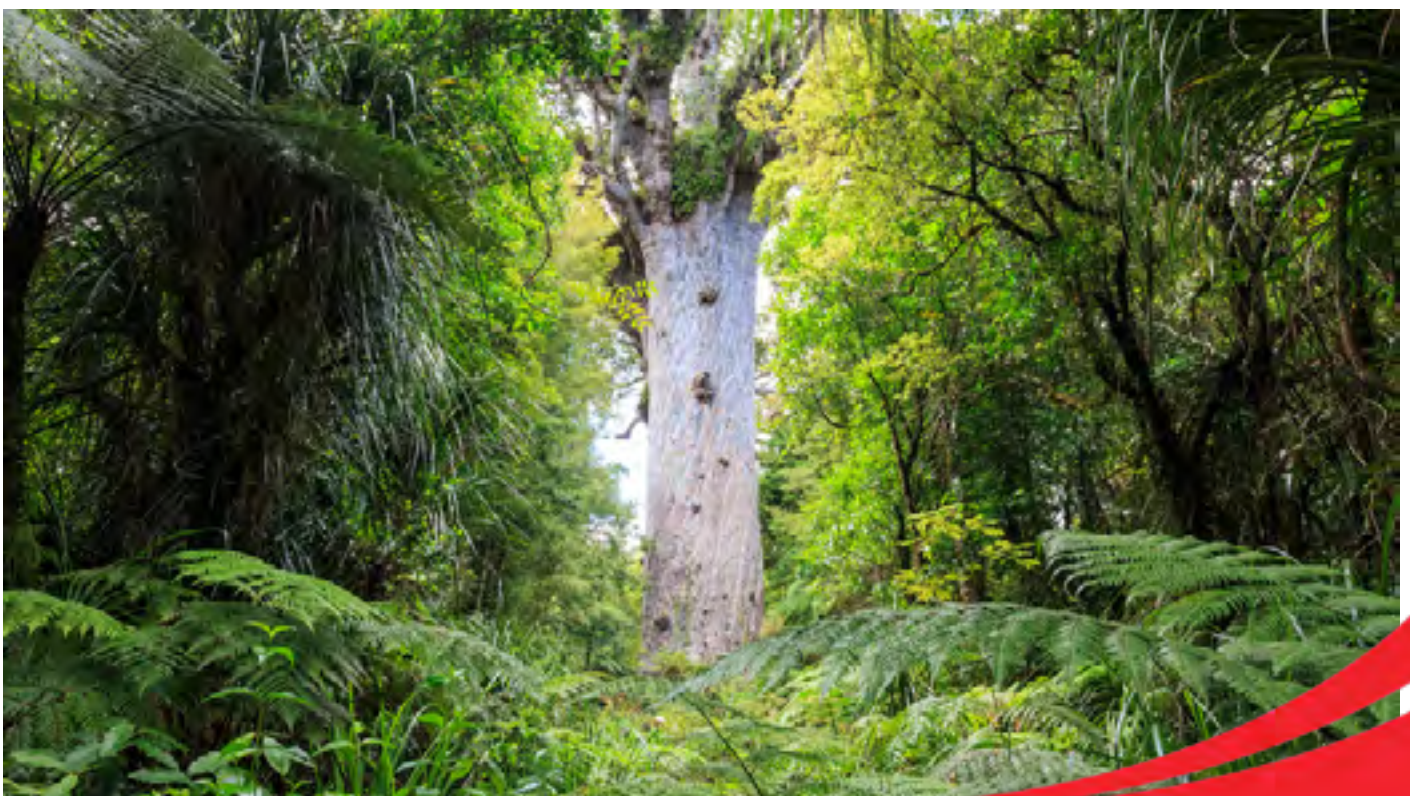
Explore the City of Sails and its magnificent harbour. Take a trip to the top of the Sky Tower breathtaking regional views. For relaxation and tranquility take the ferry over to Waiheke Island before commencing the 800km signposted Twin Coast Discovery circular driving route.

### AUCKLAND ATTRACTIONS

- » The Sky Tower
- » Harbour & Wynyard Quarter
- » Auckland Museum
- » Auckland War Memorial
- » Rainbows End
- » Mount Eden
- » Otara Market
- » Coast to Coast Walk
- » Waiheke Island
- » Botanical Gardens
- » Rangitoto Island

### Day 2: Auckland - Kauri Coast & Hokianga (323km)

Following the Twin Coast Discovery from north of Auckland, turn left at Brynderwyn for the Kauri Coast & Hokianga on the west coast. Wind your way around the shores of the mighty Kaipara Harbour to the famous Kauri Museum at Matakohē. Just after the riverside town of Dargaville, take a left turn to Bayliss Beach for your first encounter with the wild Tasman Sea.

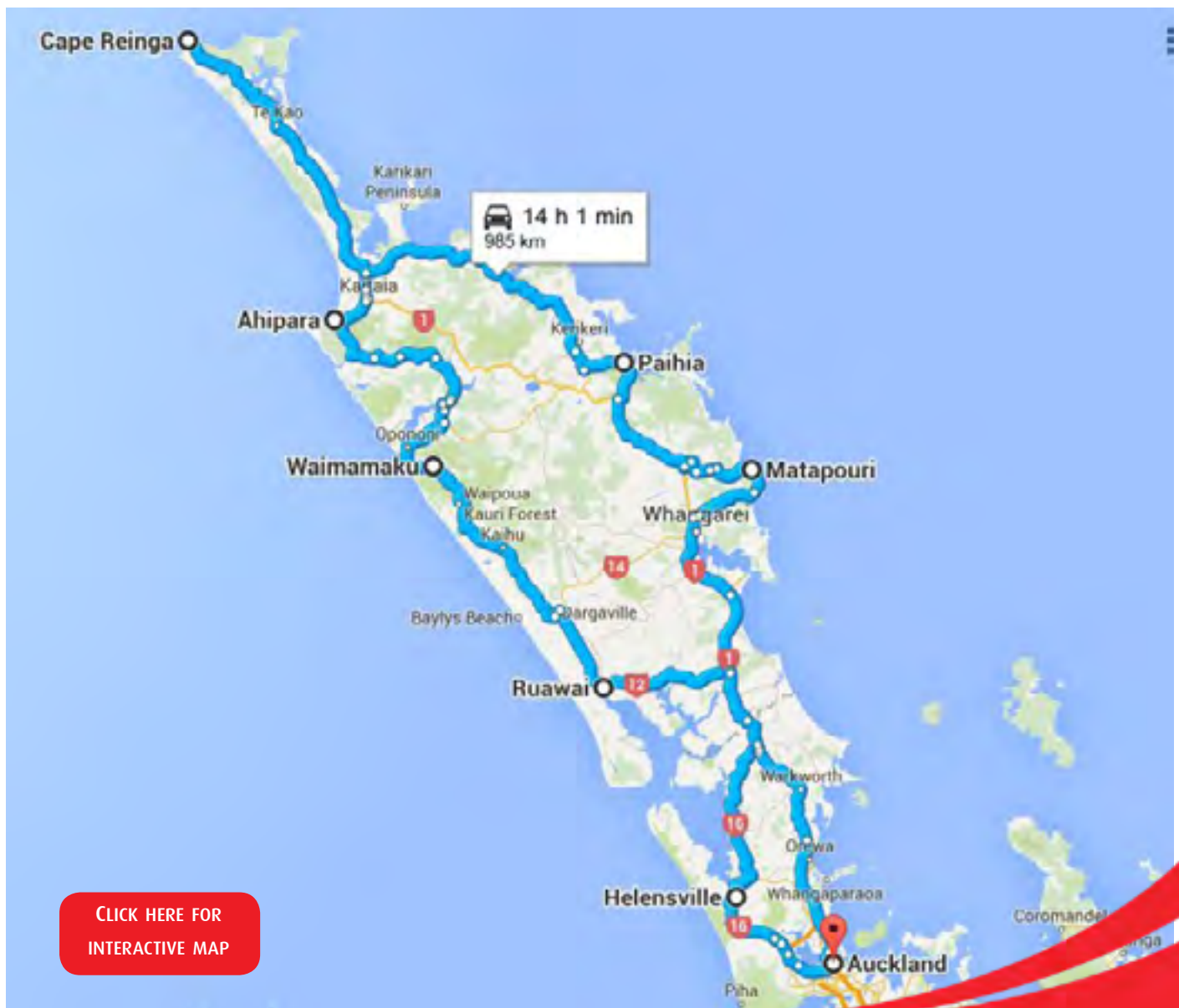


# Twin Coast Discovery

## Auckland, Kauri Coast & Hokianga, Bay of Islands & Whangarei

### Day 2: Kauri Coast & Hokianga

Enjoy a freshwater dip in the nearby Kai Iwi Lakes and then disappear into the deep green of the Waipoua Forest – home to Tane Mahuta - the largest kauri tree in the world at over 2000 years old. As you exit the forest, the route climbs steeply to reveal the majestic beauty of the historic Hokianga Harbour.





# Twin Coast Discovery

**Auckland, Kauri Coast & Hokianga, Bay of Islands & Whangarei**

## **Day 3: Top of the North (210km)**

Catch the vehicle ferry from Rawene to Kohukohu and keep driving north. Keen surfers will want to visit Ahipara, the gateway to 90 Mile Beach, with one of the best left hand surf breaks you'll ever find. Follow the departing Maori spirits to Cape Reinga, where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean, Eerie and unforgettable, magical and entrancing, the Cape casts a spell on those who venture here.

Meander back down the east coast, through beautiful Doubtless Bay and Matauri Bay past countless sheltered coves and deserted white sand beaches. Explore the edges of huge, shallow Parengarenga Harbour - the pure quartz sand is dazzling.



# Twin Coast Discovery

## Auckland, Kauri Coast & Hokianga, Bay of Islands & Whangarei

### Day 4: Bay of Islands (200km)

From the seaside town of Paihia you can sky-dive, para-sail, scuba dive, sea kayak or paddle a *waka* (canoe). The 'hole in the rock' at the tip of Cape Brett is one of the most popular maritime excursions. Other trips and overnight cruises let you swim with dolphins or walk on uninhabited islands.

Take a ferry over to the elegant town of Russell, New Zealand's largest town prior to 1840 and once known as 'the hell hole of the Pacific' due to the rough behaviour of whalers, traders and sailors who settled there. Waitangi Treaty Grounds is the scene of the 1840 signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Visit Treaty House and one of the largest Maori *waka* in New Zealand.

Historical highlights of Kerikeri are the Kerikeri Mission House, the country's oldest house built by John Butler in 1821, and the Mission's Stone Store dating from 1832; New Zealand's oldest stone building. These wonderful buildings are regarded as the "Cradle of the Nation", and are a must for all visitors to the Bay of Islands.





# Twin Coast Discovery

## Auckland, Kauri Coast & Hokianga, Bay of Islands & Whangarei

### Day 5: Whangarei & Tutukaka Coast - Auckland (160km)

Whangarei is a modern city set in a benevolent sub-tropical landscape. With a thriving arts community, cafés and restaurants serving the freshest of Northland produce, the people of Whangarei have something special to share. Tutukaka, just half an hour north east of Whangarei, is a bustling nautical town boasting great views, waterfront cafes, fresh seafood and many yachts. To the marine adventurer, this port is a gateway to Poor Knights Islands and to some of the best diving, snorkeling and fishing in the world.

Another magical spot is at the end of the 'Whangarei Heads Tourist Drive'. There lies the powerful Pacific sweep of Ocean Beach. After the tranquility of the inner harbour coves, Ocean Beach has a new energy with its often powerful surf and awesome views. Other highlights near Whangarei include Waipu which lays claim to New Zealand's 'best small museum' along with Mangawhai's white sandy beaches. Conclude the Twin Coast Discovery drive back in Auckland.



# Pacific Coast Highway

## The Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Eastland & Hawkes Bay

### Day 1-2: Auckland - The Coromandel (168km)

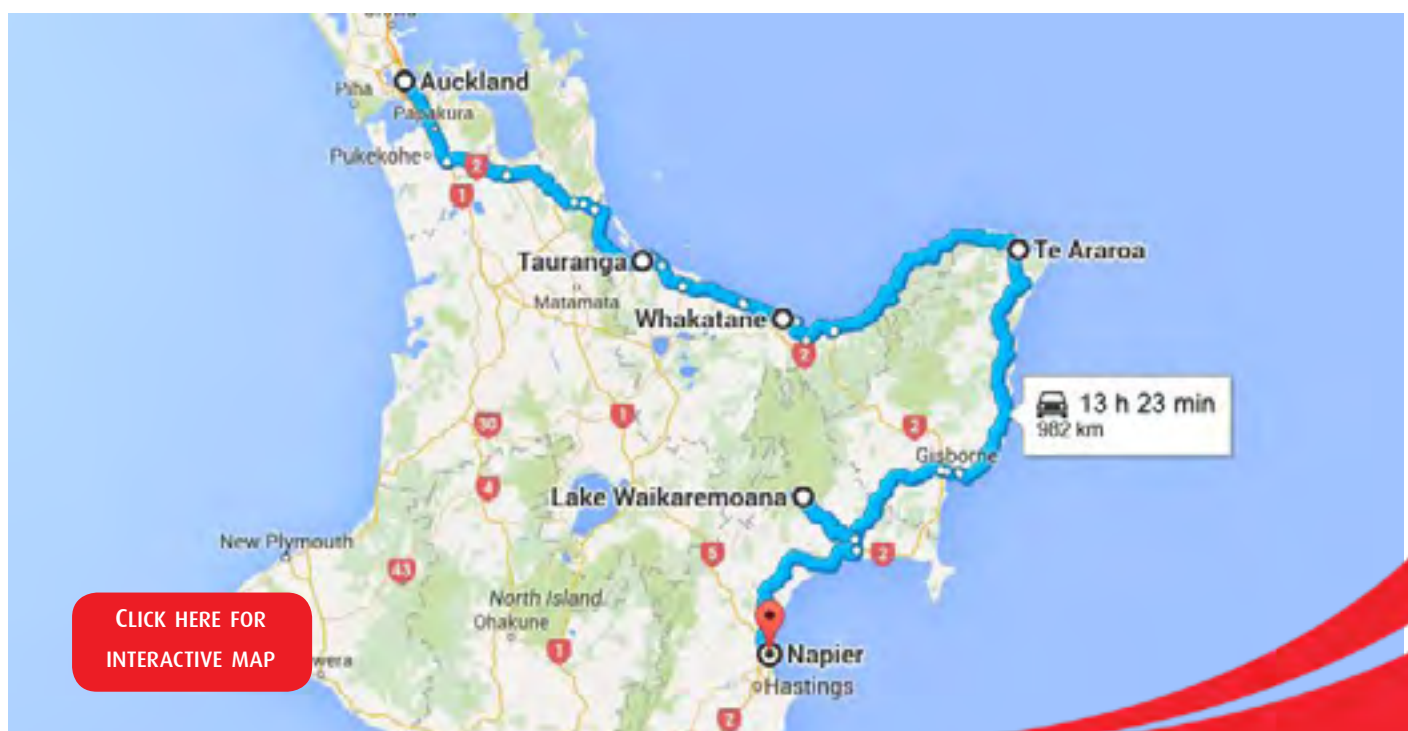
The Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Eastland and Hawkes Bay make up this touring route known as the Pacific Coast Highway. Well signposted, this driving route is easy way to navigate and will take you through some of the most spectacular coastal scenery New Zealand has to offer. Head southeast from Auckland to The Coromandel Peninsula where you will find pristine beaches, hidden coves and luscious rainforests. Discover Cathedral Cove and dig your own geothermally heated pool at Hot Water Beach.

### THE COROMANDEL ATTRACTIONS

- » Cathedral Cove
- » Hot Water Beach
- » Karangahake Gorge
- » Coromandel Coastal Walkway
- » The Pinnacles hut
- » Waiki Gold Discovery Centre

### Day 3-4: The Coromandel - Bay of Plenty (185km)

Head onto the Bay of Plenty, renowned for its gentle climate, making it a relaxing destination. Tauranga is the Bay's biggest town where you can enjoy waterfront dining, live music on The Strand and explore the nearby resort of Mount Maunganui.





# Pacific Coast Highway

## The Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Eastland & Hawkes Bay

### Day 5-6: Bay of Plenty - Gisborne (272km)

White Island is the country's most active volcano, and although it is safe to visit, you will need to wear a hard hat. Take a helicopter or boat ride and see steaming vents, vast craters and an abandoned sulphur mine. Heading onto Eastland, this remote and rugged landscape offers uncrowded beaches and Chardonnay vineyards where you can also discover the region's Maori history. Surf until your hearts content at Gisborne, the first city in the world to see the sun each day. Visit the sacred Mount Hikurangi and learn about the Maori fishing legend.

### Day 7: Gisborne - Hawkes Bay (254km)

The final destination on the Pacific Coast Highway is Hawkes Bay which illustrates some of the world's best Art Deco architecture. Meander through the many wineries sampling the Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon along with first class cuisine. Before concluding, take a trip to Cape Kidnappers, home to the largest gannet colony which can be reached by foot, kayak or tractor where you can also play a round of golf.

#### EAST COAST ATTRACTIONS

- » Te Puke, Bay of Plenty
- » Katikati, Bay of Plenty
- » Whakatane, Bay of Plenty
- » Mt Manganui, Bay of Plenty
- » East Cape Lighthouse, Eastland
- » Tolaga Bay Wharf, Eastland
- » Te Poho O Rawiri Marae
- » Cape Kidnapping, Hawkes Bay
- » National Aquarium of NZ



# Thermal Explorer

## Hamilton, Rotorua, Taupo & Napier

### Day 1: Auckland - Hamilton (127km)

Starting from Auckland, the Thermal Explorer Highway winds through the Waikato region with its emerald green farmland. For all Hobbit fans, a stop at Hobbiton is a must. Journey through the heart of the Shire where the adventures of Bilbo and Frodo's adventures began.

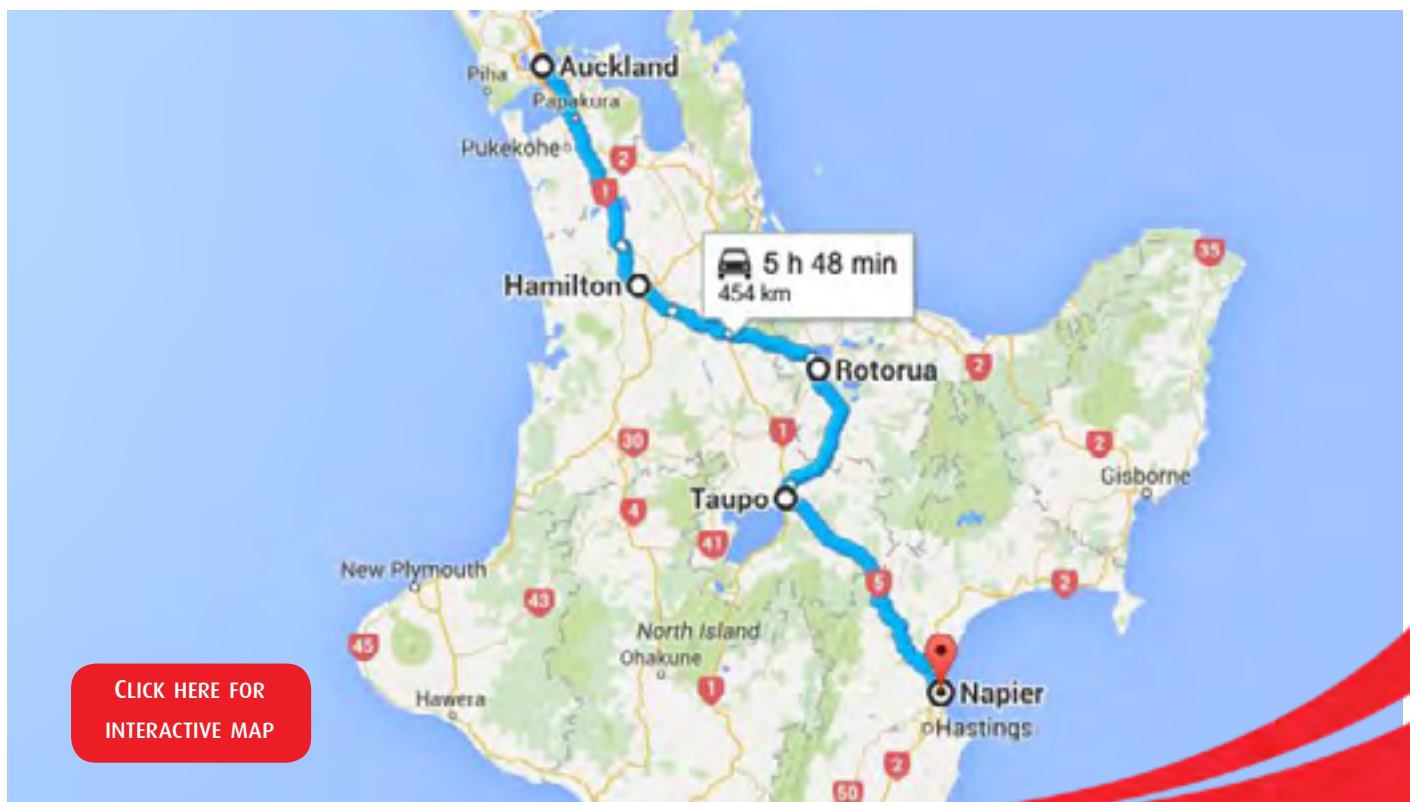
Hamilton is carved in two by the Waikato River. Visit attractions such as the gardens, flight free aviary at the zoo, along with many excellent restaurants and bars at the southern end of the city's main street.

### Day 2: Hamilton - Waitomo (73km)

Explore the labyrinth of Waitomo Caves and stalagmites and stalactites, along with the galaxies of magical glow worms. Here you can go black-water rafting through the caves.

## HAMILTON & WAIKATO ATTRACTIONS

- » Waitomo Caves
- » Hobbiton, Matamata
- » Zealand Tea Rooms
- » Waikato River
- » Bridal Veil Waterfall
- » Marokopa Falls





# Thermal Explorer

## Hamilton, Rotorua, Taupo & Napier

### Day 3: Waitomo - Rotorua (147km)

Continue onto the geothermal city of Rotorua. Here you will see (and smell) wafts of steam, simmering cauldrons and boiling mud pools. Rich in Maori culture, be sure to experience a *hangi* cooked meal - a traditional Maori custom whereby the food is cooked in the ground with the assistance of natural geothermal heat.

### ROTORUA ATTRACTIONS

- » Skyline
- » Te Puia
- » Agrodome
- » Polynesian Spa
- » Rainbow Springs
- » Waimunga Thermal Wonderland and Waitapu
- » Rotorua Museum
- » Lake Tarawera Trail

### Day 4: Rotorua - Taupo - Napier (80km)

Continue onto Lake Taupo, a massive volcanic crater. Here you can enjoy a range of geothermal, adventure and lake activities. Visit the Huka Falls and take a jet boat ride. Take a detour to Tongariro National Park, which covers almost 80,000 hectares and was gifted by Maori chief Te Heuheu Tukino IV in 1887, located in the Ruapehu Region. A hundred years later it was awarded World Heritage status with its emerald lakes, alpine meadows and hot springs - not forgetting its volcanoes. It is also home to the famous Tongariro Alpine Crossing one day walk, and in winter offers great ski fields. Continue along the Thermal Explorer towards the wonderful Art Deco town of Napier, stopping off at one of the region's 40 wineries along the way.



# Surf Highway 45

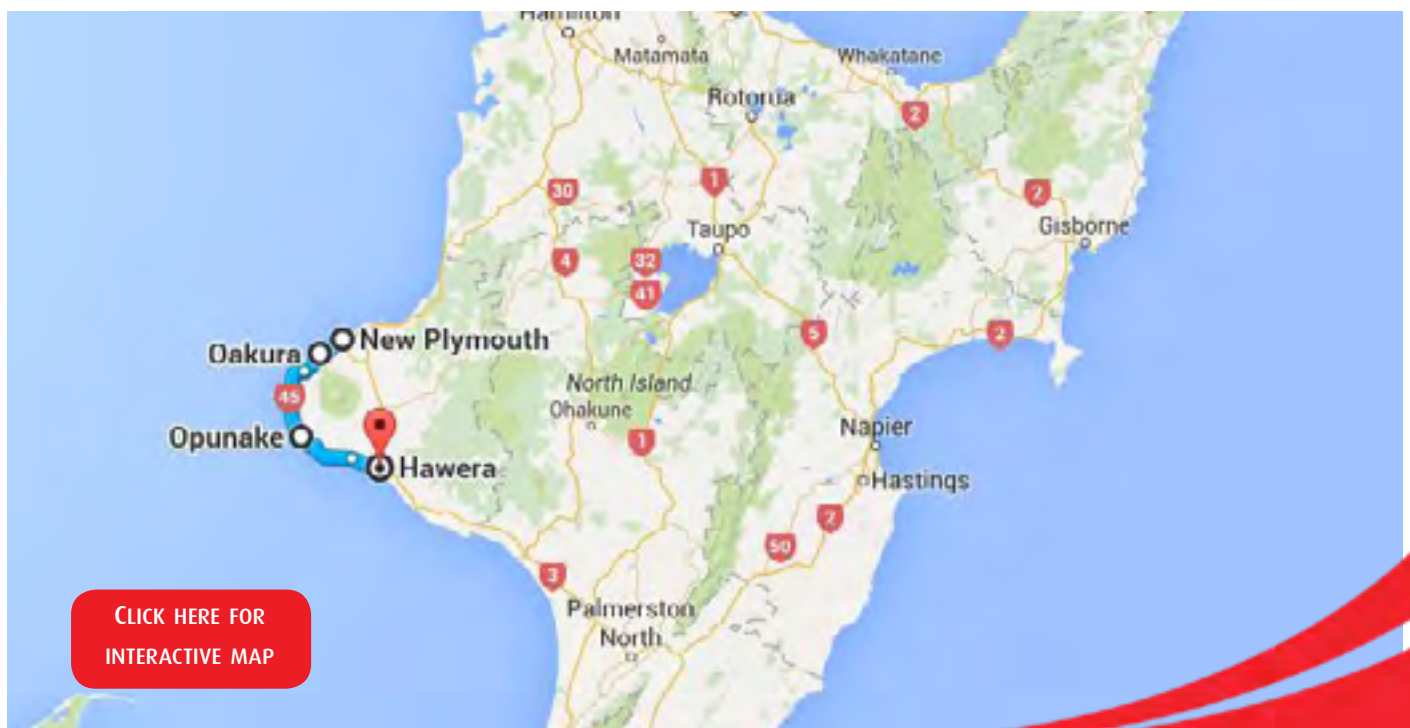
## Taranaki

### 4 Days: New Plymouth - Hawera (110km)

Taranaki is home of Kiwi surf. Almost every road that heads towards the coastline leads to pristine uncrowded waves. This drive starts from New Plymouth and continues onto Hawera and will lead to the stunning surf beaches, a wide variety of artist studios, historical sites, spectacular scenery and cosy cafes.

Stop off at Komene Beach for bird watching, looking out for black swans, oyster catchers, ducks, seagulls and black & white stilts. At Oakura, wonder along the Arts trail and discover local workshops of craft and jewellery.

Taranaki is home to many well preserved historical *Pa* sites. The immense *Koru Pa* and the pivotal *Te Ngutu o Te Manu* can both be easily accessed from the Surf Highway. The scale of these fortresses carved out into hilltops by hand is mind-boggling, as are their historical values.





# Classic New Zealand Wine Trail

## Hawkes Bay - Marlborough

### Day 1: Napier - Martinborough (272km)

The Classic Wine Trail has more than 100 cellar doors along this 380km sign posted trail! Meet the passionate local wine-makers and share their knowledge of how wine is made. Along the way, stop off and enjoy attractions, farmers markets and soak up the stunning scenery.

Hawkes Bay is a leading producer of rich red wines. Start your journey at the art deco city of Napier, and take a safari to Cape Kidnappers, home to the largest gannet colony in the world. Drive to the summit of Te Mata Peak for a panoramic view of the Hawke's Bay region, Pacific Ocean and surrounding mountain ranges. Journeying southwards, stop off at cellar doors along the way. Dine on local lamb at world class winery restaurants, taste the regions olives and stock up on fresh produce from artisan food stores and farmers' markets.

### WAIRARAPA ATTRACTIONS

- » Mangatainoka Tui Brewery
- » Manukura
- » Masterton's Q.Elizabeth Park
- » Tararua Forest Park
- » Riversdale & Castlepoint
- » Stonehenge Aotearoa
- » Greytown & Martinborough
- » Palliser Bay



# Classic New Zealand Wine Trail

## Hawkes Bay - Marlborough

### Day 2-3: Martinborough - Wellington (82km)

Centred around Martinborough, the Wairarapa is famed for its Pinot Noir and is often owned by family run boutique wineries. Historic Greytown offers a mix of dining and shopping, along with chocolate tasting at Schoc. Take a tour of the Tui Brewery at Mangatainoka and visit the Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre, home to the Kiwi bird. Drive to Cape Palliser to see the fur seals and climb 258 steps to the lighthouse for spectacular views!

Follow the trail southwards to the culinary capital of NZ, Wellington where Sir Peter Jackson calls home. A vibrant city, it is said to have more bars and restaurants per capita than New York. Compact in size, it is easy to get around as most attractions are within a short walk. Make sure you visit Australasia's most visited museum—Te Papa.

### WELLINGTON ATTRACTIONS

- » Te Papa
- » Wellington Cable Car
- » Peter Jackson's Weta Workshop
- » Mount Victoria
- » Zealandia Sanctuary
- » Oriental Bay
- » Cuda Street
- » Wellington Zoo



# Classic New Zealand Wine Trail

## Hawkes Bay - Marlborough

### Day 4: Wellington - Picton (100km)

Passage across the Cook Strait by ferry, one of the most scenic ferry trips in the world. The journey takes 3 hours and highlights include the Red Rock seal colony, Tory Channel, Cook's Lookout and the beautiful covers of the sounds. Arrive in the picturesque town of Picton, gateway to the Marlborough Sounds. Here you may choose to take a side trip along the Queen Charlotte Track through Havelock to Nelson.

### MARLBOROUGH ATTRACTIONS

- » Marlborough Wine Festival
- » Pelorous Bridge
- » Abel Tasmin National Park
- » Marlborough Wineries
- » Mount Richmond Forest Park
- » Kahurangi National park
- » Queen Charlotte Track
- » Nelson

### Day 5: Picton - Blenheim (29km)

Famed worldwide for its Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough is home to over 142 wineries ranging from the iconic Cloudy Bay to small boutique family wine makers. Conclude the Classic Wine Trail by enjoying the region's wines with local produce from the region including its famous mussels pacific coast seafood, salmon and wild game.







# Mountains & Lakes

## The South Island

There's not many places in the world where snow-capped mountains and rugged coastline are both visible in one eye. From wildlife to wineries, glacial valleys to star-filled skies, the South Island of New Zealand will take your breath away.

Take the ferry from Wellington across the Cook Strait to Blenheim to begin your self-drive adventure. Depending on whether you hire a car or a motorhome, along with the supplier, will determine if you need to take your vehicle on board.

The top of the South Island has exceptional terrain. With three national parks, the stunning Marlborough Sounds and lots of sunshine. The region boasts fame for some of the world's finest Sauvignon Blanc, along with popular activities such as cycling, kayaking, sailing and fishing. As you discover the region, you will also stumble across 250 local glass artists, painters, potters and sculptors.

Canterbury's landscape is filled with green pastures and friendly country towns. Christchurch has all the attractions of city life, without the hassles of large crowds. Experience the energy of the rebuild created from the devastating earthquakes.



The new energy and inventiveness has given Christchurch a funky rebirth such as the pop-up shopping mall which is made from bright coloured shipping containers; artworks now fill demolished sites and the locals will offer you a warm welcome.

Drive five hours south west into Otago and you will come across the magnificent Southern Alps. Aoraki Mount Cook and National Park will leave you breathless. Head further to the West Coast and experience rugged coastal scenery and hike across the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers.

The southern-most region of New Zealand, Southland covers an area of amazing natural beauty and wide open space. One of the most stunning regions of New Zealand is situated here - Fjordland. Weather permitting, take a side trip to either Milford Sound or Doubtful Sound for a unique experience. Drive south along the coast and experience the magnificent wildlife of the Catlins.

If you choose to hire a car, South Island offers variety of accommodation options from small bed and breakfasts through to luxury lodges. For a more outdoor experience in the warmer months, hiring a campervan / motorhome, stopping off when and where you choose, getting back to nature.

Read on to find out more about one of the most magnificent self-drive destinations on the planet...

# The Great Alpine Highway

## East Coast to West Coast, South Island NZ

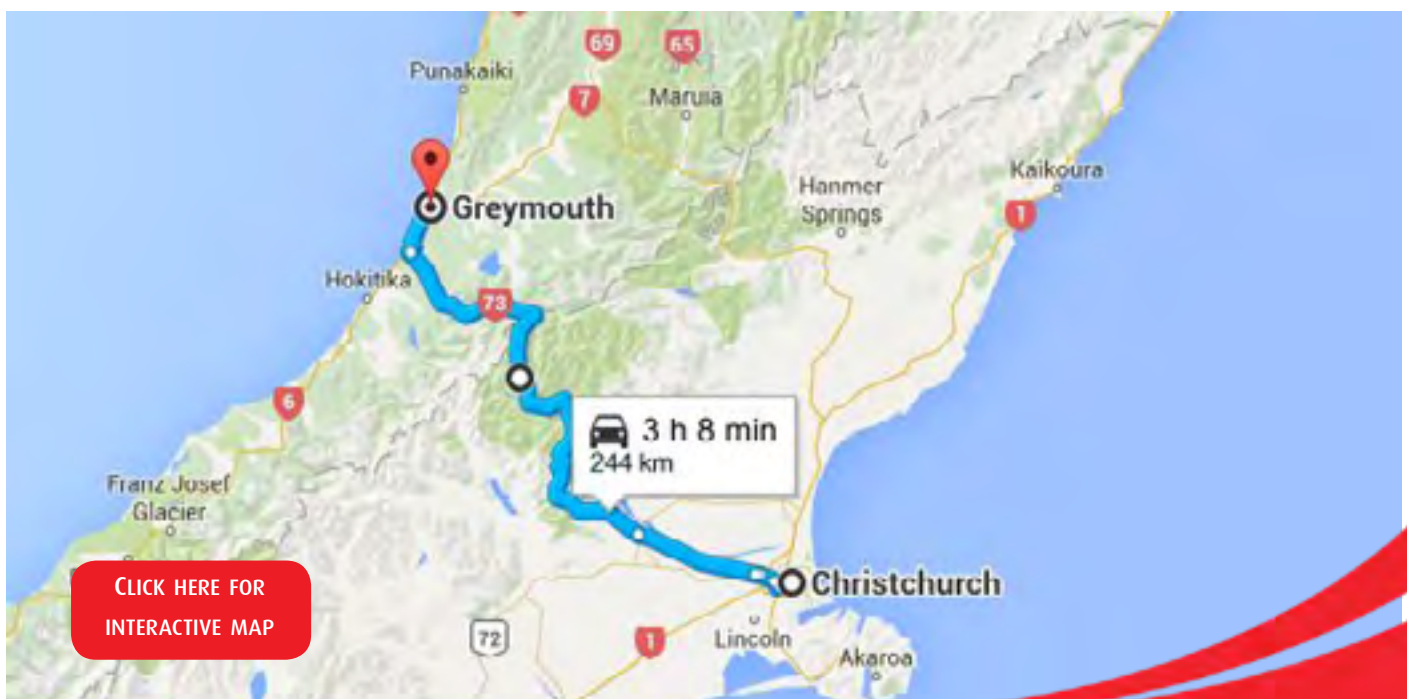
### 3 Days: Christchurch - Greymouth (255km)

Christchurch is the major gateway to the South Island. Since the tragic 2011 earthquake, Christchurch has undergone a huge transformation. Before commencing this drive, take to explore some of the old heritage, along with the new funky pop-up developments made from shipping containers.

#### CHRISTCHURCH ATTRACTIONS

- » Pop-up Bars & Cafes
- » Restart Container Mall
- » Willowbank Wildlife Reserve
- » Botanic Gardens
- » Christchurch Art Gallery
- » International Antarctic Centre
- » Punt on the Avon
- » Christchurch Gondola

A coast to coast route, the Great Alpine Highway will take you on a self-drive trip through some of NZ's pristine mountains. From Christchurch follow State Highway 73 west across the river plains before rising to traverse through Porters Pass and Arther's Pass national Park. Along the journey, look out for natural highlights such as Waimakariri and Otira River Gorges, drive along the Otira Viaduct and explore the Castle Hill Rocks and Cave Stream Reserve. From here commence your self-drive tour along the stunning West Coast.





# Alpine Pacific Triangle

## Christchurch, Kaikoura & Hanmer Springs

### Day 1: Christchurch - Kaikoura (182km)

Head north from Christchurch through farmland, past surf beaches and wineries toward the impressive coastal ranges. Kaikoura is a relaxed coastal town with a magnificent snow-peaked mountain backdrop. Here you can experience a rare insight in the spirituality of the Maori people with a real cultural exchange. Learn about the marine life by taking a scenic whale watching flight, swim with the Dusky Dolphins and spot Fur Seals and seabirds at the Peninsula Walkway.

### Day 2: Kaikoura - Hanmer Springs (132km)

Since 1859, this alpine spa village has attracted visitors who wish to relax and unwind. Bathe in mineral waters and thermal pools. For the more adventurous, jet boat on the Waiaia River or bungy-jump off the Ferry Bridge over the Waiau Gorge.

### Day 3: Hanmer Springs - Christchurch (135km)

As you wind your way back to Christchurch, allow plenty of time to sample wines in the Waipara Region. Specialties include Pinot Gris, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.



# West Coast & The Great Southern Alps

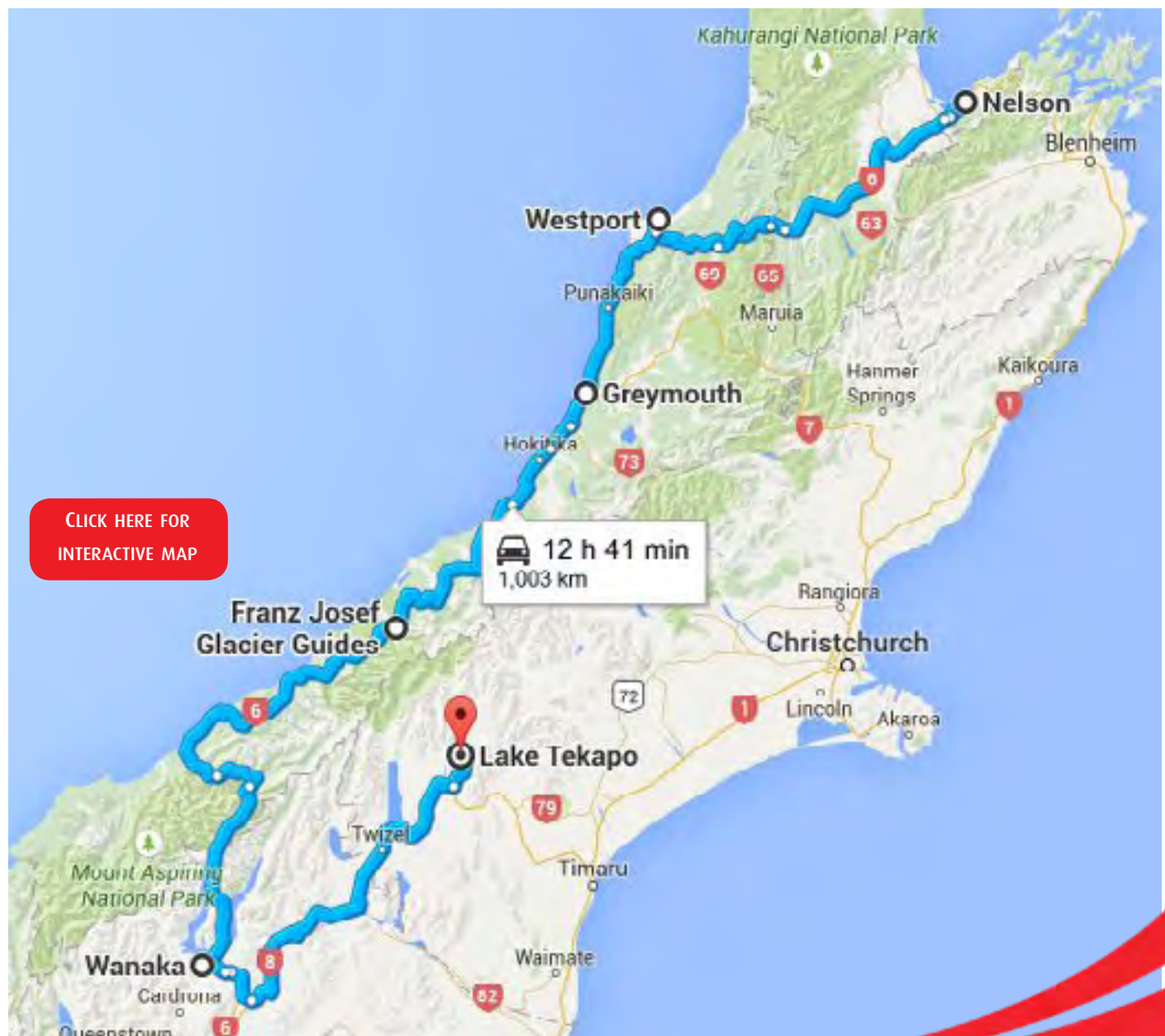
## Nelson, Wanaka & Christchurch

### Day 1: Nelson - St Arnaud (89km)

Commence the drive from NZ's sunniest regions, Nelson, top of the South Island. Offering a range of geographical locations from long beaches like the Abel Tasman Coastal Track where you can spend a few hours kayaking or sailing. Head south to the picturesque town of St Arnaud and sit on the edge of Lake Rotoiti.

### NELSON ATTRACTIONS

- » Nelsons' craft breweries
- » World of Wearable Art
- » Collectible Cars Museum
- » Hoglund Art Glass
- » Abel Tasman National Park
- » Nelson Lakes National Park
- » Kaurangi National Park
- » Golden Bay & Farewell Spit



# West Coast & The Great Southern Alps

## Nelson, Wanaka & Christchurch

### Day 2: St Arnaud - Westport (155km)

From here drive south down to Westport via Buller Gorge and learn about the pioneering gold miners, settlers and prospectors, and how they tamed the wild land. The small town of Westport has a parochial spirit that the locals are extremely proud of in their region.

### Day 3: Westport - Hokitika (137km)

Continue driving south to Charleston and try cave rafting into the some of the largest rainforests in New Zealand, looking out for the glow-worm caves in the bottom levels and experiencing small river rapids down the Charleston Nile River. Driving along the west coastline stop off at Punakaiki, famous for the 'pancake rocks', blow-holes, and walking tracks. These limestone rock formations began 30 million years ago. There is a well formed loop track that winds from the road through native forest out to the spectacular rugged coastline.

At Greymouth visit Monteiths Brewing Company, trying the chocolate stout, ginger beer and 9 types of classic beer. Try your hand at gold panning at Shantytown Heritage Park. Continue along the Kumara Highway to Hokitika famous for its Jade; and if visiting at the end of summer participate in the Wildfood Festival where everything is on the menu!





# West Coast & The Great Southern Alps

## Nelson, Wanaka & Christchurch

### Day 4: Hokitika - Franz Josef (137km)

Drive through Ross to Whataroa, gateway to the Westland National Park. Visit the White Heron Sanctuary and perhaps white-water raft on the Whataroa River. Kayak the waterways of Okarito Lagoon home to over 80 bird species. Head inland to the alpine town of Franz Josef and experience one of New Zealand's most spectacular glacier World Heritage sites where ice meets rainforests. Choose to view the Fox Glacier and Franz Josef Glacier by helicopter or hiking.

### Day 5: Franz Josef - Wanaka (285km)

The drive continues along the Haast River and then inland along Haast Pass, through part of the magnificent Mt Aspiring National Park. Stop off stunning Lake Matheson and take a walk to the lake for an incredible photo. The final stop along the West Coast is Bruce Bay which has a strong Maori heritage. Continue further south to Haast with untouched rugged scenery and thriving wildlife. Take an eco-jet boat along its river and enjoy a local dining experience at Hard Antler Bar or fish and chips at the Cray Pot. Head along State Highway 6 to the stunning township of Wanaka.



# West Coast & The Great Southern Alps

## Nelson, Wanaka & Christchurch

### Day 6: Wanaka

There are many attractions and adventures to enjoy in Lake Wanaka. A popular ski destination in winter, Wanaka will give you access to the snowfields of Cardrona and Treble Cone. In summertime, enjoy hiking, sailing, fly-fishing, mountain biking, skydiving and kayaking. Take a side trip to Central Otago, home to Pinot noir and enjoy freedom (free) camping at Cromwell.

#### WANAKA ATTRACTIONS

- » Lake Wanaka
- » Cinema Paradiso
- » Warbirds & Wheels
- » Puzzling World
- » Mount Aspiring National Park
- » Treble Cone
- » Cardrona
- » Snow Farm

### Day 7-8: Wanaka - Christchurch (426km)

As the route winds towards Christchurch, stop off for breathtaking views of the Southern Alps. Lake Pukaki offers stunning views across the water to Aoraki Mount Cook, NZ's highest mountain. If time permits, take a side trip to the village and take a helicopter ride over the Alps and visit the Sire Edmund Hilary Centre to learn how Mount Cook helped him conquer Everest. There are many walking tracks, ideal for hiking and mountaineering. Enjoy kayaking, horse riding and skiing. Lake Tekapo is part of the UNESCO Dark Sky Reserve, making it perfect for star gazing. Located in the Mackenzie Basin, the lake gets its turquoise colour from the fine rock-flour ground by the glaciers. Visit the picturesque Church of the Good Shepard on its shoreline, built in 1935 for the regions pioneer families.

On the journey back to Christchurch, stop off at the quaint town of Geraldine. The cafes and restaurants offer locally grown produce. Here you will also find the Pukeko birds, Maori for "purple swamphen". Continue along Highway 1 and conclude this drive in Christchurch.

# Southern Scenic Route

## Fjordland & the Southern Coast

### Day 1: Queenstown - Te Anau (289km)

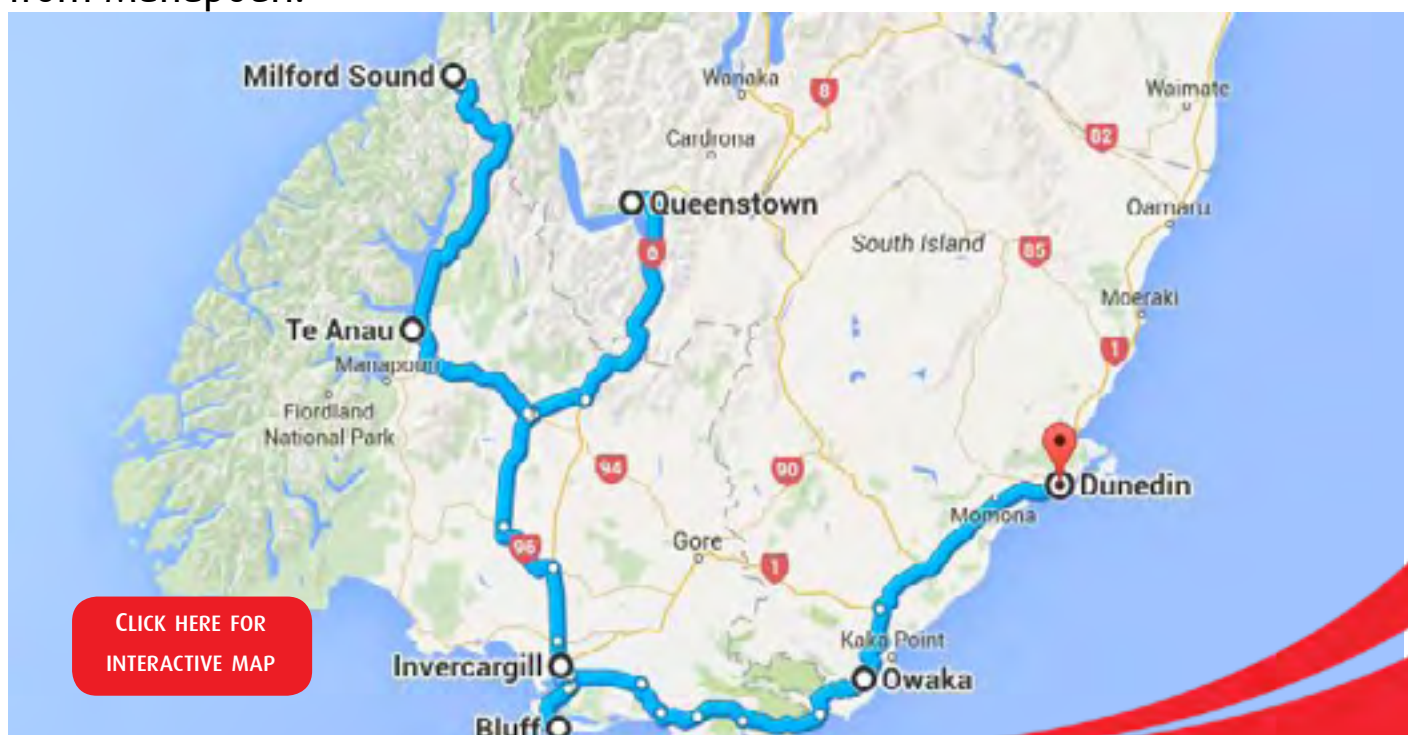
Commence Southern Scenic Route (SSR) at the picturesque city of Queenstown, nestled amongst The Remarkables mountain range. If you're looking for an adrenaline rush there are endless opportunities here - bungy jumping, jet boating, sky diving or dirt biking! Drive along the banks of Lake Wakatipu towards New Zealand's Fjordland National Park. The mountain scenery along the way is truly majestic as you drive through miles of open farmland.

### QUEENSTOWN ATTRACTIONS

- » Skyline Gondola
- » Lake Wakatipu
- » The Remarkables
- » Coronet Peak
- » Mount Hutt
- » Gibston Valley
- » Glenorchy
- » Arrowtown

### Day 2: Te Anau - Milford Sound - Te Anau (240km)

Stopping over in Te Anau, explore the magnificent and remote regions of Milford Sound which is a 5 hour return drive. Take a boat trip to the glow worm caves for a magical experience. Alternatively take an 8 hour return trip to the wilderness region of Doubtful Sound for untouched fjordland scenery from Manapouri.





# Southern Scenic Route

## Fjordland & the Southern Coast

### Day 3: Te Anau - Invercargill (195km)

Continue along the SSR to Western Southland stopping to find your fortune at the rugged Gemstone Beach. Further on, stop at the sleepy seaside town of Riverton and visit the Te Hiko Southern Journey Museum for an insight into the Maori and European historical settlement.

The SSR winds onto Invercargill, NZ's most southerly point. Take a photo at famous Bluff signpost, and if time permits spend a night or two at Stewart Island to spot the kiwi bird in its natural habitat.

### DUNEDIN ATTRACTIONS

- » Larnach Castle
- » Taieri Gorge Excursion Train
- » Royal Albatross Colony
- » Yellow Eyed Penguins
- » Toitu Museum
- » Purakanui Falls
- » Cadbury Factory
- » Baldwin Street

### Day 4: Invercargill - Catlins - Dunedin (253km)

Driving along the southern coast of New Zealand, the SSR takes you into the Catlins region, where native forests meet rugged cliffs and sandy beaches. Explore the region, stopping off at Nugget Point, Puralaunui Falls, Cathedral Caves and Curio Bay where you may see sea lions, dolphins and yellow eyed penguins in their natural habitat. For some leisurely activities stop off for some fishing and golf in Clutha Country before concluding the SSR in the university city of Dunedin.

Both picturesque and bohemian in architecture, Dunedin is a great place to explore New Zealand's heritage and wildlife. Take a trip to the Cadbury's World, visit the Toitu Museum, and venture to Otago Peninsular home to the Royal Albatross breeding colony, stopping off at the country's only castle, Larnach. Finally, make sure you drive up the steepest road in the world – Baldwin Street!

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