

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. If you're going to drive around New Zealand (a popular option) driving tips, licences and permits, road rules and general information as well as transport options can all be found on [newzealand.com](http://newzealand.com)

For more information visit  
[newzealand.com/int/getting-around](http://newzealand.com/int/getting-around)  
These routes are marked with distinctive brown

**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. The cities of Tauranga, Gisborne, Napier and Hastings will satisfy your urge to wine, dine and shop.

**Thermal Explorer:** 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, 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:** While it's only 150 kilometres long, the Forgotten World Highway (otherwise known as State Highway 43) is a memorable driving journey. Built on 19th century bridle paths, the highway connects Taumarunui to Stratford. The route wriggles its way over four mountain saddles, through an eerie one-way tunnel and along a sinuous river gorge.

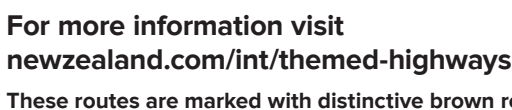
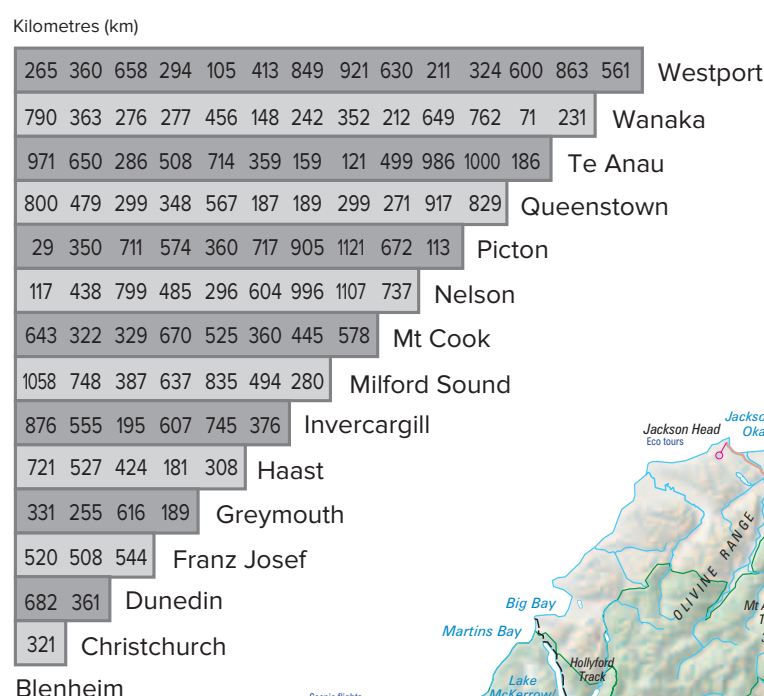
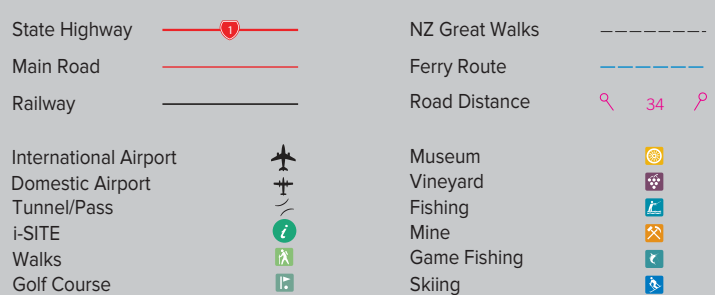
**Surf Highway 45:** The 105-kilometre highway that hugs the Taranaki coast is known as Surf Highway 45. One after another, magnificent surf beaches entice you to park the car and catch a wave. The most popular surfing spots have fascinating names - the Kumara Patch, Graveyards, Shark Pit, Secret Spot, Green Meadows and The Dump, just to mention a few.

**Classic New Zealand Wine Trail:** This route links the regions that produce 70% of New Zealand's wine - Hawke's Bay, Martinborough and Marlborough - with Wellington city as a cultural bonus. As well as wonderful wine, you'll enjoy innovative cuisine and all kinds of character accommodation. Art galleries, live theatre and museums provide food for thought.

### Other North Island Scenic Routes

**Western Bays Highway:** This peaceful route takes you through the heartland of the North Island, where traffic is scarce and the scenery is entrancing. From Turangi, the highway passes several lakeside settlements before skirting the Pureora Forest Park. It then crosses an amazing landscape of pine forest and hydro lakes along the Walkato River, ending at the forestry town of Tokoroa.

**Volcanic Loop:** From the trout town of Turangi, you can circle the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park by following state highways 47, 4, 49 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.



**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.

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

**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 in Queenstown. Highlights include wildlife encounters along The Catlins coast, hiking the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track, cruising Fiordland and walking the Milford Track - one of New Zealand's 'Great Walks'.

### Other South Island Scenic Routes

**These routes are not specifically signposted.**

**Treasured Pathway:** Enjoy a mix of history, hiking and hedonism as you discover heritage sites, vineyards, national parks and fabulous beaches. The Treasured Pathway runs across the top of the South Island, from the seaport town of Picton to the sand dunes of Farewell Spit. The city of Nelson provides a dash of urban fun in the middle of the journey.

**Alpine Traverse:** From Christchurch you'll travel over Arthur's Pass and enjoy awe inspiring views all the way to the West Coast. Drive north to Reefton before taking the Lewis Pass up to the spa resorts of Maruia Springs and Hanmer Springs. Journey back to Christchurch via Kaikoura, where the whales are waiting to meet you.

**West Coast Touring Route:** Between Haast in the south and Karamea in the north, the West Coast is one adventure after another. Watch the oceanic performance at Punakaiki's blow holes, shop for greenstone in Greymouth and Hokitika, explore old gold workings and hike over one of the massive glaciers. There's only one road to follow, so you can't get lost!

**The Great Alpine Highway:** From Christchurch, this route follows State Highway 73 west across river plains before rising to traverse the Southern Alps 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.

**Southern Heritage Route:** Head inland to Mount Hutt ski field, then travel south to Geraldine, pausing at Lake Tekapo to see the beautiful Church of the Good Shepherd. Continue through Twizel, then on to Mount Cook Village for alpine adventures. Drive on to Wanaka or Queenstown, then loop back to see the heritage architecture of Dunedin.

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