

‘100% Pure’

Information about New Zealand

Lush rainforests, sweeping coastlines, steaming volcanoes, huge mountain chains and incredible fiords - New Zealand's stunningly beautiful landscape is unparalleled. Though small in size, there are numerous natural wonders that find home in the beautiful islands of New Zealand, and as all these stunning sights are all so close together New Zealand really is the perfect touring destination.

Situated in the southwest Pacific, New Zealand comprises of two main islands; the North Island and the South Island. The North Island is mostly rolling farmland yet is dominated by the centrally positioned mountains and Volcanic Plateau - an active volcanic and thermal area. The more sparsely populated South Island is made up of the impressive Southern Alps, the vast Canterbury Plains and again, much farmland.

As most of the country is near the coast New Zealand enjoys mild temperatures, moderate rainfall and an abundance of sunshine. December, January and February are New Zealand's summer months when you can take pleasure in long, sunny and warm days and mild nights. Winter falls during June, July and August when it is colder and considerably wetter in most places. During winter snow falls in the South and lower North Islands blanketing the mountain ranges to create beautiful vistas and sensational skiing.

New Zealand's isolation has given the opportunity for an abundance of native flora and fauna to thrive. Giant tree ferns, the mighty Kauri, and the coastally located Pohutakawa trees can all be easily sighted, and if you're lucky, native birds such as the endangered Kakapo, the cheeky Kea and the famous flightless Kiwi can even be spotted.

The Maori are the indigenous people of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and their culture has a significant impact on the wider New Zealand community. Maori culture is rich in traditions that have been passed down for hundreds of years; Kapa Haka (group performance), Moko (tattoo), carving and weaving are all traditional arts that are still common today. Recent years have also seen many modern arts adopting elements of Maori culture and as a result much of New Zealand art, television, film and music is full of Maori influences. New Zealand also benefits from an abundance of Pacific and Asian influences that complement its strong British roots and help create a truly unique society.

Regions of New Zealand

North Island: Northland | Auckland | Coromandel | Bay of Plenty | Rotorua | Taupo | Hawke's Bay | Wellington

South Island: Nelson | Marlborough | Christchurch | Mt Cook | Wanaka | Queenstown | Fiordland | Dunedin

History of New Zealand

The history of New Zealand dates back at least 700 years to when it was discovered and settled by Polynesians, who developed a distinct Māori culture centred on kinship links and land. The first European explorer to sight New Zealand was Abel Janszoon Tasman on 13 December 1642. Captain James Cook, who reached New Zealand in October 1769 on the first of his three voyages was the first European explorer to circumnavigate and map New Zealand. From the late 18th century, the country was regularly visited by explorers and other sailors, missionaries, traders and adventurers. In 1840 the Treaty of Waitangi was signed between the British Crown and various Māori chiefs, bringing New Zealand into the British Empire and giving Māori "equal rights" with British citizens. There was extensive British settlement throughout the rest of the century. War and the imposition of a European economic and legal system led to most of New Zealand's land passing from Māori to Pākehā (European) ownership, and most Māori subsequently became impoverished.

From the 1890s the New Zealand parliament enacted a number of progressive initiatives, including women's suffrage and old age pensions. The country remained an enthusiastic member of the British Empire, and 110,000 men fought in World War I (see New Zealand Expeditionary Force). After the war New Zealand signed the Treaty of Versailles (1919), joined the League of Nations, and pursued an independent foreign policy, while its defence was still controlled by Britain.

When World War II broke out in 1939, New Zealanders contributed to the defence of the British Empire; the country contributed some 120,000 troops. From the 1930s the economy was highly regulated and an extensive welfare state was developed. Meanwhile, Māori culture underwent a renaissance, and from the 1950s Māori began moving to the cities in large numbers. This led to the development of a Māori protest movement which in turn led to greater recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi in the late 20th century.

The country's economy suffered in the aftermath of the 1973 global energy crisis, the loss of New Zealand's biggest export market upon Britain's entry to the European Economic Community, and rampant inflation. In the 1980s the economy was largely deregulated and a number of socially liberal policies, such as decriminalisation of homosexuality, were put in place. Foreign policy involved support for Britain in the

world wars, and close relations after 1940 with the United States and Australia. Foreign policy after 1980 became more independent especially in pushing for a nuclear-free region. Subsequent governments have generally maintained these policies, although tempering the free market ethos somewhat. In 1984, the Fourth Labour government was elected amid a constitutional and economic crisis. The economic reforms were led by finance minister Roger Douglas (finance minister (1984–1988), who enacted fundamental, radically neo-liberal and unexpectedly pro-free market reforms known as Rogernomics.

Season

Spring: September - November

During spring, New Zealand bursts with new life. Colourful blooms, baby wildlife and 'waterfall season' makes this an inspiring time of year to visit.

Temperatures range from 4.5 - 18 degrees celsius (40 - 65F).

Summer: December - February

New Zealand's many beaches and lakes are perfect to cool off during the summer months. Summer activities tend to make the most of the sun, sea and sand.

Temperatures range from 21 - 32 degrees celsius (70 - 90F).

Autumn/ Fall: March - May

In autumn, New Zealand enjoys some of the most settled weather of the whole year. Soak up long, sunny days and golden leaves with hiking, cycling or kayaking.

Temperatures range from 7 - 21 degrees celsius (45 - 70F).

Winter: June - August

The winter months brings snow blanketing soaring mountains in certain parts of the country and clear, crisp days that awaken the senses. Hit the ski slopes, visit a winery or two or head along to one of the many winter festivals.

Temperatures range from 1.5 - 15.5 degrees celsius (35 - 60F).

Weather

New Zealand has a temperate sub-tropical climate. Temperatures in the North Island range from 18-25 degrees C in the Summer (Dec - Feb) to 6-17degrees C in the Winter (Jun-Aug). The South Island ranges from 18-28 degrees C in the Summer and 0-12 degrees C in the Winter. Snow is common in most of the South Island and in the centre of the North Island during winter.

Getting Around New Zealand

Getting around by plane

Flights in New Zealand are both easy to organise and very affordable, making air transport a popular choice for travel around the country. You can fly between all New Zealand cities and most major towns using domestic air services. Air New Zealand and Jetstar are the main providers. Their services are complemented by regional airlines, charter companies and scenic flight operators.

Getting around by bus

A cost-effective alternative to air travel with daily scheduled passenger services available throughout the country. There's also a multitude of coach companies serving the main tourist routes. Hop on, hop off traveller's networks, where you buy a pass for unlimited travel, can move you around New Zealand's major destinations very effectively. In Auckland there are buses that circulate around key attractions, allowing you unlimited travel for a fixed price. If you're travelling with a group, charter coach companies have the flexibility to adapt to your itinerary. The drivers are also guides, so you'll have the added benefit of a commentary if you want one. For travellers who want the simplicity of a packaged tour, there are several companies running scheduled trips around the main tourist destinations in either or both islands. Accommodation and meals are often included in the tour price, and you're sure to make a few friends along the way.

Getting around by car

Rental car companies in New Zealand offer a wide range of vehicles available to suit any budget. You'll find all the big names as well as a number of local operators. Generally, the longer you hire the rental car,

the cheaper the daily rate. There are depots in the main cities as well as in most of the regional airports throughout the country. One way hire is easy to organise. Make sure your travel insurance covers rental car hire. You can legally drive in New Zealand for up to 12 months if you have either a current driver's licence from your home country or an International Driving Permit (IDP) - (Note: if your overseas licence or permit isn't in English, you must carry an accurate translation).

Getting around by Campers

A home on the road gives you the freedom to take each day as it comes. Roam the country, finding beautiful and remote places to park and picnic. Overnight you'll find it convenient to book a powered site in a holiday park or camping ground. The kitchen, laundry and bathroom facilities are handy and many sites have great positions at the edge of a lake or by the beach. Free camping may be possible, but it's wise to check with the local information centre before you park for the night as each district in New Zealand has different rules around where it is permitted. If you are a food and wine enthusiast, there are a number of vineyards, farms, olive growers etc that allow you to park up at their property for free! Check out [Okay2stay](#) for more information on this great service. Campervans are available for pick up from New Zealand's main centres. Some companies will offer flexible pick up and drop off options, allowing you to travel from one point to another instead of a round trip. Daily rental rates vary according to the season and are based on unlimited kilometres per day. Other costs include insurance and a bond that is refundable at the end of your holiday. For travel during summer and autumn, it's best to book your motorhome before you arrive in New Zealand. The usual minimum age to rent a motorhome is 21 years.

Getting around by train

New Zealand's challenging landscapes demanded some remarkable feats of early railway engineers. While our rail network isn't vast, thanks to their skill and determination, there are some incredible rail journeys on offer. Train trips travel through remote national parks, across spectacular volcanic landscapes, over braided river valleys and alpine passes and along rugged coastlines with steep mountains on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other.

Kiwirail Scenic Rail Journeys

Northern Explorer-

In the North Island, the Northern Explorer links Wellington and Auckland. A remarkable 12-hour journey through the volcanic heart of the North Island with highlights including Tongariro National Park and the famous Raurimu Spiral, a feat of railway engineering.

The Northern Explorer's carriages all have large windows for panoramic views of the magnificent landscapes. At the rear of the train, an observation carriage includes lounge-style seating surrounded by glass on three sides. There are also open-air observation areas and a buffet car for meals, drinks and snacks.

Kiwirail-

In the South Island, Kiwirail runs two magnificent railways.

1) Coastal Pacific- Between Picton and Christchurch you can catch the Coastal Pacific. The scenery is remarkable, with the Kaikoura Ranges rising steeply on one side and the Pacific Ocean swells washing over a rocky coastline on the other. Seals and penguins can often be seen on the rocks.

If you have a rail travel pass, make a stopover at the town of Kaikoura for a whale-watching safari. The next stage of this journey chuffs across the Canterbury Plains, where vast braided rivers dissect a patchwork of horticultural and farming landscapes. In total, the Coastal Pacific carries you through 22 tunnels and across 175 bridges.

2) TranzAlpine- The other intrepid South Island rail route is the TranzAlpine. The fantastically scenic rail trip on the TranzAlpine - one of the world's greatest - crosses the Southern Alps on a journey that links the city of Christchurch to historic Greymouth, a river town on the rugged West Coast. Highlights include the 73 metre high Staircase viaduct, Arthur's Pass National Park and the Otira tunnel. The TranzAlpine covers 223.8 kilometres in four and a half hours. There are 19 tunnels and four viaducts. An outdoor viewing carriage will get you close to the fresh alpine air and spectacular scenery.

Stay put or hop on and off the train- Each of Kiwirail Scenic Journey's great train trips can be completed as a single journey in one day. Or, with a multi-day Scenic Rail Pass, you can hop on and off to explore attractions along the way. The pass is also a convenient way to combine several of New Zealand's great train trips into the rail journey of a lifetime.

Other New Zealand rail trips

Our other rail experiences rely on the passion and dedication of enthusiasts. Southland has the Kingston Flyer, Dunedin has the Taieri Gorge Railway and Auckland is the launching point for amazing boutique steam train trips around the whole country.

While each of New Zealand's great train trips has its own personality, they all offer warm hospitality and expert commentary as they carry you in comfort through the youngest country on earth.

Getting around by ferry

New Zealand's most famous ferry route is between Wellington in the North Island and Picton in the South Island. As well as transporting you and your vehicle, this journey showcases the extraordinary beauty of the Marlborough Sounds. Sightings of dolphins, whales and fur seals are common. To find out more about crossing the Cook Strait visit Bluebridge or the Interislander. If you find yourself in Auckland, Wanganui or Queenstown, a paddlesteamer cruise should definitely be on the agenda. In the Bay of Islands, the 'hole in the rock' cruise to the tip of Cape Brett is a star attraction. Water taxis are a handy service for getting to the start of a hiking track or reaching a destination that isn't accessible by ferry. Most water taxi operators can also put together a customised scenic tour of local sights.

Health & Safety Information

Health care in New Zealand is of a very high standard and widely accessible. Every traveler is recommended to have an adequate insurance policy to cover them in the event of an emergency. Tap water in New Zealand is fresh, treated and safe to drink.

Travel Tips

Language

New Zealand's official language is English. While English is the predominant language spoken in New Zealand, there are two actual official languages in New Zealand. Maori became an official language in 1987 while in April 2006, New Zealand became the first country to declare sign language as an official language, alongside Maori. New Zealand Sign Language, or NZSL, is the main language of the deaf community in New Zealand.

Time Zone

Sunrise over Mount Hikurangi on the East Coast of the North Island of New Zealand is one of the first places in the world to see the sun. New Zealand is one of the first places in the world to see the new day, 12 hours ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time). In summer New Zealand uses 'daylight saving', with clocks put forward one hour to GMT +13.

Daylight saving begins on the last Sunday in September and ends on the first Sunday in April of the following year, when clocks are put back to GMT +12.

Currency

New Zealand's national currency is New Zealand dollars (NZD), which comes in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes. Coins come in 10, 20 and 50 cent and one and two dollar denominations.

Goods and Services Tax

All goods and services are subject to a 15 percent Goods and Services Tax (GST) included in the displayed price. Visitors cannot claim this tax back, however when a supplier ships a major purchase to a visitor's home address the GST will not be charged.

Tipping

Tipping in New Zealand is not obligatory, even in restaurants and bars. However, tipping for good service or kindness is at the discretion of the visitor. Hotels and restaurants in New Zealand do not add service charges to their bills.

Banking

New Zealand banks are open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Some are also during weekends. Automated Teller Machines (ATM's) are widely available at banks, along main shopping streets and in malls. International credit cards and ATM cards will work as long as they have a four-digit PIN encoded. Check with your bank before leaving home.

Electricity

New Zealand's electricity supply operates at 240 volts. Most hotels also provide 110 volt sockets for electric razors. An adaptor or converter is necessary to operate all other electrical equipment.

Dial Code

The international dialing code for New Zealand is 61.

Regions of New Zealand

1) North Island

Northland

Northland's warm climate is home to beautiful beaches and forests, smiling people and wide open spaces. Visitors will spend a lot of time basking in the sun in Northland, home to many beaches and secluded sunny spots. The ocean is an important part of Northland, from Cape Reinga – where people can watch two oceans meet – to the plentiful opportunities to swim, dive, surf, fish or kayak

Shopping- Northland has enough shopping opportunities to test out anyone's credit card limits, from high-end designers to a simple street market. Your client will find whatever it is they're looking for, and a few other things besides that.

The Poor Knights Island – This marine reserve – featuring over 50 dive spots and the largest sea cave in the world- is simply paradise for any diver, snorkeler or kayaker.

Bay of Islands – Idyllic beaches line the coastline, with boating, sailing, fishing and surfing undertaken daily.

Historic Sites- Visitors can get to know New Zealand and Māori culture through Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the site where Māori and the British Crown came together to sign the Treaty of Waitangi – the nations' founding document.

Cape Reinga & 90 Mile Beach- Visitors can take a tour towards the meeting point between the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean, with towering sand dunes lining the beach as far as the eye can see.

Forests– With a guided tour by day or at twilight, your clients can experience some of the largest and oldest living rainforest trees in the world, not least the 2000 year old 'Lord of the Forest' at Waipoua Forest.

Auckland

As New Zealand's largest city and international gateway, there's something for everyone in Auckland – relaxing or invigorating. Your clients can take in the sun at one of the many restaurants, cafés or bars, savour some of New Zealand's best wine at the vineyards, or take a short ferry ride to explore one of the surrounding islands in the Hauraki Gulf. And that's only a few suggestions. With a moderate climate and plenty to do and see, Auckland delivers an unforgettable experience.

Shopping- Auckland has enough shopping opportunities to test out anyone's credit card limits, from high-end designers to a simple street market. Your client will find whatever it is they're looking for, and a few other things besides that.

Restaurants, cafes and bars- With so many different cuisines on offer, your clients could quite happily eat their way around Auckland. Many of New Zealand's award-winning restaurants are here, as well as plenty of lively little cafés serving the best espresso ever tasted.

Water Activities – You're never far from the water in Auckland, and can even beach hop from the east coast to the west in less than an hour. Clients can choose between wild activities like jetboating through to more peaceful ferry tours, or whale and dolphin watching – or just hit the beach!

Hauraki Gulf and Islands- The popular getaway, Waiheke Island, is just 40 minutes away by ferry. People can explore on foot, take a tour to visit the many vineyards that can be found on the island, browse boutiques and galleries, or sit down for some classic Pacific Rim cuisine. Other islands to visit include Rangitoto Island, Great Barrier Island or the nature reserve of Tiritiri Matangi.

History, Arts and Culture- Occupying a unique heritage building, the Auckland War Museum is a cultural must, as well as the Auckland Art Gallery, which boasts both traditional and contemporary art.

Coromandel

With kilometres of majestic coastline, The Coromandel is a popular summertime spot for New Zealanders and visitors alike.

Coromandel Peninsula – With hidden coves and picturesque beaches not far from seaside towns, visitors can explore the coast by walking, kayaking, driving or scenic boat tour.

Cathedral Cove – A few kilometres north of Hahei township, your client can get to this arched rock cavern and beach via a 40 minute boat tour or by hiring a kayak. Guided tours are also available.

Hot Water Beach – Clients can dig their own spa pool at low tide and relax in geothermally heated water that can be seen bubbling through the sand.

Bay of Plenty

Tauranga and Mount Maunganui are at the heart of the Bay of Plenty, and the area is particularly busy during summer when visitors flock to the beautiful beaches in the area.

White Island- travellers can take a helicopter or boat to see New Zealand's most active but safe volcano, taking in the crater lake, an abandoned sulphur mine and gas vents.

Kiwi360 Kiwifruit Tours- The ultimate kiwifruit experience, travellers can tour the orchards on a KiwiKart vehicle.

Comvita – Visit Comvita, the manufacturers of New Zealand's famous Manuka honey health and beauty products.

Blokarting- A mix of land sailing and electric drift karting, the whole family can experience the thrill on purpose built tracks.

History, Arts and Culture – Occupying a unique heritage building, the Auckland War Museum is a cultural must, as well as the Auckland Art Gallery, which boasts both traditional and contemporary art.

Waikato

The landscapes you'll encounter in the Waikato will stay with you for all time. Find pure serenity above ground and the most astounding adventures below. Above ground the view is dominated by the serenity of the Waikato River and the rich rolling green of productive farmland. Travelling south from Auckland, the Waikato is the first region south of Greater Auckland. The Waikato region, centred on the Waikato River, contains some of the world's most productive farmlands. The main centre is the university town of Hamilton, with an impressive collection of Maori treasures in its Museum of Art and History. Hamilton is famous for its themed gardens, and the local zoo which has the largest free flight aviary in the Southern Hemisphere. Hamilton Gardens covers an area of 58 hectares and includes the Hamilton East Cemetery and Municipal Nursery. In the Waitomo area, south of Hamilton, there's a natural labyrinth to discover. Massive subterranean caverns are adorned with stalactites and stalagmites, formations that have been millions of years in the making.

Hamilton- this is the main centre for the rich Waikato pastoral region and location of Waikato University

Cambridge- this is an attractive leafy rural town and centre of bloodstock industry

Te Awamutu- this place known for its rose gardens and arts and crafts

Waitomo Caves Village- this fantastic place is a home of thrilling caving and adventure activities

Matamata- this place is a thoroughbred horse racing centre of New Zealand

Te Aroha- visitors can enjoy the relaxing hot mineral pools

Rotorua

Rotorua sits on the Pacific Rim of Fire, and has one of the world's most lively fields of geothermal activity. With accessible hot springs and mud pools to visit, your clients can relax all day and soak.

Māori Culture– Rotorua offers many cultural activities including tasting a hangi, a traditional meal cooked under the ground, a tour of original pre-European Māori villages or Māori performing arts.

Geothermal Activities– visitors can see natural geysers or relax in mud pools, hot springs or soak in the thermal mineral hot water pools.

Wellness/Health Spas– Incorporating such things as natural minerals, volcanic mud and steam, travellers can be pampered at a local health spa.

Adventure Activities- From lugging to skydiving and mountain biking, Rotorua offers many exciting, unique attractions.

Eastland

Eastland is a wild and enchanting place full of ancient stories. Bush fringed misty mountain lakes, beaches that have hardly changed for hundreds of years and farmland and vineyards that breathe the spirit of nature are characteristics of Eastland scenery. This hilly North Island region reaches out to the Pacific Ocean, and is the most easterly in New Zealand. Eastland is the first mainland place in the world to see the sun each day. The east coast is best known for its high annual sunshine hours, stunning coastal scenery and glorious country gardens. Eastland is an area of high Maori population and is one of

the best places in the country to discover Maori heritage. The region is also one of New Zealand's prime grape-growing regions, renowned for its Chardonnay wine.

Gisborne is the first city in the world to welcome the new day. Its surf beaches and long hot summers have always attracted New Zealanders on holiday.

Surfing in Gisborne, Eastland- The Gisborne area also has some of the country's best surviving carved Maori meeting houses and churches.

Te Urewera National Park- South-west of Gisborne is Te Urewera National Park, the third largest national park and the largest untouched native forest in New Zealand. Te Urewera, centred on beautiful Lake Waikaremoana, is one of the most stunning areas for hiking and trekking with its magnificent walks and trails. While at Te Urewera National Park, enjoy trout fishing, hunting, swimming, kayaking or walking around Lake Waikaremoana.

Mount Hikurangi- At 1,754 metres high, Mount Hikurangi is the first point on mainland New Zealand to see the sunrise each day. It's a very spiritual mountain for the Ngati Porou, the local Maori people. Climbing treks are by permission only from Te Runanga o Ngati Porou (Tribal Authority) 195 Wainui Road, Kaiti, Gisborne.

Taupo

Lake Taupo boasts a range of high action activities, but also a multitude of things to do for those not seeking adventure. Popular year-round with both the lake and the mountains providing a breathtaking backdrop, Lake Taupo is guaranteed to delight.

Lake Activities- Lake Taupo is renowned for its trout fishing, with fishing charters available, or clients can take a cruise out to the famous Māori Rock Carvings.

Huka Falls - One of New Zealand's most visited natural attractions, clients can view the falls from the banks of the river or take a jet boat up to their base (prepare to get wet).

Skydiving - visitors can get the best view in the house by strapping into a tandem skydive.

Mount Ruapehu- With two main ski fields, Whakapapa and Turoa, this active volcano offers over 1,000 hectares of ski area.

Ruapehu

You can't escape the gaze of the huge volcanoes that mark the heart of this astonishing landscape. Explore the wild scenery on foot, on skis or from the roaring rapids of a river. The Ruapehu district is located in the central North Island, midway between Auckland and Wellington, with Highways 1 and 4 through the region providing equally good access and forming the western and eastern boundaries. The connecting Highways 47 and 49 provide the northern and southern boundaries respectively. The 80,000 hectare Tongariro National Park (World Heritage Area) makes up most of this region, with its centrepiece Mount Ruapehu (2,797 metres) rising dramatically from the surrounding countryside. Mt Ruapehu is still very much an active volcano that every year or so puts on a magnificent pyrotechnic display of a mini eruption. It is also the site of the North Island's premier ski fields at Whakapapa and Turoa, which have world class facilities. Alongside Mount Ruapehu are two smaller volcanic mountains: Mount Ngauruhoe (also active) and Mount Tongariro.

Trekking- In summer there are a number of trails to explore, with one of the best known being the Tongariro Crossing, a full day hike. These hikes provide opportunities to experience some of the most active volcanic areas, as well as moonscape craters, lush native forest, lava formations, glaciers and pristine streams and lakes.

Adventure sports- High-energy pursuits include ice and rock climbing, abseiling and mountaineering. There is also rafting, canoeing, trout fishing, horse trekking, golfing and farm bike tours.

Two of New Zealand's biggest and most developed ski areas are both based on Mount Ruapehu--just four hours drive from Auckland or Wellington.

Waiouru Army Museum- Near the junction of Highways 1 and 49, the Waiouru Army Museum tells the stories of New Zealanders at war.

An attraction of special interest to railway buffs is the Raurimu Spiral, an internationally recognized engineering achievement built to negotiate a 215 metre escarpment on the North Island Main Trunk Railway. Railway enthusiasts come from all over the world to ride this section of track, either on scheduled services or on regular vintage steam train excursions.

Taranaki

A place to find the soulful beauty of New Zealand's heartland. Come because you seek the time and space to discover new memories; on the mountain, in the water, or exploring lush, colourful gardens and invigorating art. Taranaki, on the North Island's west coast, is on a peninsula that juts into the Tasman Sea and is half way between Auckland and Wellington. The most striking natural feature of Taranaki is the near-perfect volcanic cone of Mt Taranaki that dominates the whole region. From mountain trails, you can see spectacular views of Egmont National Park spread out below and lush green dairy pastures that stretch as far as the eye can see.

The area around the sunny city of New Plymouth is well-known for its black sand surfing beaches and glorious parks and gardens, particularly the dazzling array of rhododendrons and azaleas on display in spring. Many of the area's magnificent private gardens are open for public viewing year round. New Plymouth is the major city in the Taranaki region. In contrast with its outdoorsy lifestyle, New Plymouth has an artsy side. It is home to the acclaimed Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Zealand's only contemporary art museum with a permanent collection.

The Egmont National Park encompasses the mountain and the land around it. Hiking is the thing to do here. Lush rainforest covers the foothills of the mountain, but the landscape changes the higher you go--from tall rimu and kamahi trees at lower altitudes through dense subalpine shrubs to an alpine herb field with some plants unique to the park.

Goblin Forest- The forest on Mount Taranaki's middle slopes is sometimes known as 'Goblin Forest' because of the gnarled shape of the trees and the thick swathes of trailing moss. In winter, Mount Taranaki becomes a place to ski.

Golf courses- There are 21 attractive golf courses in the city and region, many in park-like surroundings with ocean views.

The rugged backcountry makes for exciting canoeing, horseriding, four-wheel drive adventures and dam dropping.

Walking trails- There is a choice of walking tracks on Mt Taranaki. The three-to-five day Round-the-Mountain track is recommended. Hut and motel accommodation are available.

Hawkes Bay

Although local food and wine is savoured in Hawke's Bay, the Art Deco architecture that features in the main city of Napier is also celebrated, especially since the city was rebuilt after an earthquake in 1931. If your clients want to get out of the city, there's an abundance of outdoor activities to keep them active.

Wineries- With over 100 vineyards and 80 wineries, travellers can drive the Classic NZ Wine Trail through Hawkes Bay to sample a multitude of fine wines.

Food - To match the wine, Hawke's Bay also offers a range of local produce to try and farmers' markets to visit.

Cape Kidnappers - Visitors can walk or take a tractor out to see the largest mainland gannet colony in the world, or take in a game of golf with views spreading across the region.

Art Deco Architecture - With numerous art deco shops along Emerson and Tennyson Streets, travellers can wander by themselves or take a guided tour to learn more about the history.

Cycle Trails - With three trails linking Napier, Hastings and Havelock North, travellers can hire a bike or cycle their way around the coast and wineries.

Wanganui

The Whanganui River is the Wanganui's reason for being. Deep, beautiful and mysterious, it holds many secrets for you to discover. The Wanganui region is known for Maori culture, heritage, Whanganui National Park and river adventures. The Wanganui region is on the lower west coast of the North Island, south of Taranaki and the Taupo/Ruapehu regions, based around the Whanganui River. The Wanganui region takes its name from the city of Wanganui, which rests on the banks of the spectacular Whanganui River. Except for the rolling coastal lowlands around Wanganui, the hinterland is very rugged and there are only two winding roads following river valleys up to the volcanic plateau. A large part of the hill country is included in the Whanganui National Park, through which flows the historic Whanganui River, New Zealand's longest navigable waterway. The river was an important means of access for pre-European Maori, European settlers, and for intrepid tourists heading for the central North Island. In the early 1900's, visitors called the Whanganui River the 'Rhine of New Zealand'. It is the longest navigable river in New Zealand, with 239 rapids and stunning bush scenery.

There are many ways to explore the Whanganui River: jet boat, kayak, canoe, raft, paddle steamer, or on the end of a fly-fishing rod. Visitors can travel up the Whanganui River by jetboat or riverboat into the heart of the Whanganui National Park, or canoe downstream over gentle rapids.

You can also follow the trail to the mysterious 'Bridge to Nowhere', built across the Mangapurua Gorge to give access to an isolated settlement that was finally abandoned in 1942. Now only the 'Bridge to Nowhere' remains.

To the east of Wanganui lie the city of Palmerston North, the towns of Feilding, Ashhurst and many rural villages. You'll also find the southern hemisphere's largest wind farm.

As well as excellent brown trout fly-fishing in the Rangitikei River, there's the chance to see rare and migrating birds at the Manawatu river estuary.

Adrenaline enthusiasts can jet boat through the region's most identifiable natural icon, the formidable Manawatu Gorge. You can also throw yourself out of aeroplanes and off bridges, ascend walls and rocks, or descend into caves, saddle up for an overnight horse trek or tackle the terrain in a 4WD (four-wheel drive).

Or visit a historic tribal village, where Maori welcome visitors who want to experience their unique lifestyle and cultural traditions.

Wanganui's Old Town Heritage Walk showcases a typical colonial New Zealand town.

Manawatu

Explore the green beauty of heartland New Zealand and find the peaceful pleasures created by gardeners and conservationists. There's also plenty of potential for 'scare-raising' adventure. This area is based around State Highway 1 where it descends from the volcanic plateau to Wellington, west of the main ranges. Although there are extensive coastal plains, the countryside becomes increasingly hilly towards the north. Sheep farming and cattle raising are important activities, along with cropping on the lowlands. In the Rangitikei River Valley and surrounding hill country, bed and breakfasts and farmstays are a specialty, with many old homesteads having magnificent gardens. The largest of the villages and towns along the road to Mt Ruapehu and the central plateau is Taihape. It is renowned as the "gumboot capital", where every year a festival is held to celebrate this essential item of rural Kiwi footwear. The river supports an excellent trout fishery and there's also bungy jumping, white water and scenic rafting. To the south is the Manawatu region lies the university city of Palmerston North, one of the country's larger provincial cities. The central business district of Palmerston North is centred on a large leafy square where many of the original stores built in the 1920's and 1930's have been restored and are now charming boutiques, cafes and great restaurants. It is a good base for exploring the many large private gardens in the surrounding countryside.

On a Health, Herbs and Honey tour you can meet local people who are passionate about growing, harvesting and producing their unique range of natural health, herb and honey products.

Visit Manawatu's glorious lavender and herb gardens, enjoy delicious garden fresh meals, purchase herbal and honey products and indulge in a wonderful relaxing massage or beauty treatment.

At Cross Hills Gardens, Kimbolton you can enjoy a park-like garden that includes one of the world's finest collections of rhododendrons and azaleas - there are over 2,000 varieties on display.

The Fragrant Garden in Feilding is a commercial production nursery specialising in herbs and lavender. Visitors are welcome to visit the display gardens.

In coastal Manawatu you'll find Pukemarama, a classic example of the formal English gardens that were popular in the 19th century.

Ruahine Forest Park is one of a number of small mountain ranges that form the spine of the North Island. The range offers some wonderful forest and alpine walks for those wanting somewhere away from the standard tourist trips.

Wairarapa

Leave the city and enter a contemporary style of country life that fully embraces the pleasures of fine wine and good food. Take in the heritage while you indulge your hedonistic urges. The Wairarapa region is situated on the south-eastern part of the North Island, about 60 kilometres north east of Wellington City. Known for its hot, languid summers, the Wairarapa provides a relaxing, refined country break away from the pressures of urban life. The Wairarapa area is a rich sheep-farming district with more than 100 farm and home stays located in idyllic countryside. The region, especially Martinborough, is fast gaining a reputation for premium wines, including Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc varieties. Historical Greytown is New Zealand's first inland town. It has retained its delightful colonial village character with careful preservation of the many wooden Victorian buildings.

About 20 kilometres north of the main centre of Masterton is Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre. Set amidst a pocket of ancient rainforest, this centre is where the New Zealand Department of Conservation runs its captive breeding programme for threatened bird species. Visitors can take a walk with a professional conservation officer through natural bush aviaries. In the ranges to the West are the Rimutaka and Tararua forest parks, which contain a network of huts and trails that begin at many road-end picnic spots. Adventure activities include four-wheel driving, rafting, jetboating, abseiling, tandem skydiving, horse trekking, canoeing, hot air ballooning and gliding. Wine tasting is encouraged at many of the vineyards and wineries clustered round the colonial village of Martinborough. The village has craft shops and several excellent restaurants, especially the wonderfully restored Martinborough Hotel. Around 30 of the Wairarapa private gardens open to visitors are at their best from September to March, but some are open and provide refreshments year round. Beyond Masterton lies the wild, dramatic scenery of Castle Point beach, complete with a picturesque lighthouse that looks across the sea towards Antarctica.

Wellington

As the capital of New Zealand, Wellington is where you'll find our parliamentary buildings. But the city isn't all politics, with plenty of cultural delights to take in too, from theatre shows to the impressive collection of art and history gathered at the Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa.

Parliamentary Buildings- Known as "The Beehive", travellers can tour the country's parliamentary buildings, learning all about New Zealand's political heritage.

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa - With the national art collection, natural history objects, an earthquake simulator and fun interactive exhibits, Te Papa gives a unique insight into New Zealand.

Dining, Shopping and Nightlife - All within walking distance, travellers can eat and shop their way around the city, from Courtenay Place through to Willis and Cuba Streets and down to Lambton Quay and the waterfront.

Lord of the Rings- travellers can visit Weta Cave, where *Lord of the Rings* came alive, or take a guided tour of the movie's filming locations.

Culture and Arts - Wellington is home to events such as World of Wearable Arts (WOW), the biennial Festival of the Arts and the Royal New Zealand Ballet.

Nature - Stroll through the Botanic Gardens, see a Kiwi bird (our national icon) by night at wildlife sanctuary Zealandia, or take a 4WD tour to see fur seals.

Cable Car and Carter Observatory- Ride the cable car to enjoy views across the city and to access the Carter Observatory and Planetarium, Cable Car Museum and Botanic Gardens.

Kapiti Coast - An hour's drive away, the Kapiti Coast is an area rich with Māori heritage. Here you'll find the Southwards Car Museum and Paraparaumu Beach Golf Course, or you can hop over to a nearby conservation island full of native wildlife.

2) South Island

Nelson

From Hobbit and Lord of the Rings filming locations to golden sandy beaches and fresh local produce, a recommendation to visit the Nelson region is always well received by visitors.

Creative Arts- travellers can meet local artists in their studios or get private tutoring in painting, ceramics and even glass blowing at the Höglund Art Glass Studio and Car Gallery.

Museums - The World of Wearable Arts and Classic Cars Museums allows travellers to see a range of intriguing garments from the international show. The Car Gallery and Classic Car Collection lets you see over 100 sought-after vehicles.

Able Tasman National Park - New Zealand's only coastal National Park, travellers can cruise, sail a catamaran, catch a water taxi or kayak the clear waters.

Kahurangi National Park - As well as making use of the beaches, travellers can also walk the Heaphy Track to trek to forests and tussock surroundings.

Nelson Lakes National Park - This national park marks the beginning of the Southern Alps, providing alpine scenery and forested valleys.

Local Produce - Fresh seafood abounds, including at the smokehouse in Mapua, while the Nelson Markets every Saturday in the city square will give a taste of the area.

Craft Beer - Nelson is home to many craft breweries. travellers can take a tour of the breweries and sample a wide range of boutique beers.

Lord of the Rings/Hobbit Trilogy- Nelson boasts seven film locations from *The Hobbit trilogy* and three from *The Lord of the Rings*, letting fans get a glimpse of the movies for themselves. The best way to see these locations is through a tour.

Farewell Spit- Farewell Spit is a unique bird sanctuary and wetland and only accessible by guided tour.

Beaches and Water Activities - Golden Bay is open to walking, swimming or kayaking, and Te Waikoropupu Springs located in Golden Bay are the largest freshwater springs in New Zealand.

Marlborough

Marlborough is home to a number of top wineries and offers many bays, inlets and hilly areas to explore.

Wineries – Take in New Zealand's largest wine region with a winery or vineyard tour by private car, group coach or by bike.

Marlborough Sounds' activities and boutique accomodation - Explore 1500km of secluded beaches and waterways on a cruise, guided kayak tour or luxury yacht and let the travellers indulge themselves by staying in an exclusive retreat.

Queen Charlotte Track- Cycle or walk the 71km Queen Charlotte track to explore the Marlborough Sounds, along ridges and amongst lush coastal forests. This track can be completed in one to five days, depending on the track.

Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre - you can see here a large private collection of artifacts including WW1 aircrafts, and watch theatrical human stories come to life.

Wildlife - The Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary offers clients the opportunity to see both land and sea birds. During warmer months, travellers can go swimming with local dolphins.

Townships - travellers can get off the Interisland Ferry at Picton, gateway to the Marlborough Sounds, stay in Blenheim and explore the vineyards, or travel to Havelock, the Greenshell Mussel capital of the world.

West Coast

The wildest side of New Zealand, the West Coast has the power to touch your soul with its landscape of brooding mountains, icy glaciers, primal forest and surreal coastal formations. In New Zealand, the West Coast generally refers to the narrow strip of land between the South Island's Southern Alps and the Tasman Sea. The West Coast is a wild and sparsely populated region with some of the most dramatic scenery in New Zealand. It is an area of soaring mountain peaks, impressive glaciers, tranquil lakes and raging rivers, lush rainforest and a magnificent coastline that stretches for 600 kilometres. The West Coast contains the largest area of protected land of any region in New Zealand and provides access to five of New Zealand's 13 national parks. The southern West Coast area has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its uniqueness and recognition as a 'special place' in the world.

The Coast's reputation for hospitality is legendary. "Coasters" display a sincere friendliness and strength of character as unique as their surroundings.

In the townships of Westport, Greymouth and Hokitika, you can learn about the West Coast's colourful past and shop for pounamu (greenstone or jade). Pounamu is the local treasure that's only significant source within New Zealand is from the West Coast's raging mountain rivers.

The West Coast region offers a variety of short scenic walks and hiking opportunities, as well as exciting adventure activities for all ages and levels of competence. Anglers will find they are in paradise anywhere on the coast.

Rafting- try rafting a subterranean stream through a weird world of stalactites, stalagmites and glow-worms. Between Westport and Greymouth is a wild, ruggedly beautiful coastline that features the unique Pancake Rocks and blowholes at Punakaiki.

Kotuku- near Whataroa, on the shores of the Okarito Lagoon, is New Zealand's only nesting colony of the white heron (kotuku). Boat trips on this primeval swamp reveal these elegant birds in their natural glory.

Graded glacier trips at both Fox and Franz Josef accommodate every level of fitness and experience, and there are scenic flights and helicopter excursions for those who wish to view the glaciers from the air.

The coast is also strewn with relics of the heady goldrush days of the 1860's, and tracks and walks explore many of the old workings.

You can try your hand at gold panning at Shantytown, a replica goldfield town of last century, near Greymouth.

Christchurch

Canterbury's patchwork plains are framed by the ocean and the Alps, bringing a wide variety of attractions for visitors. Within two hours of an international airport, you can ski, play golf, bungee jump, go whitewater rafting, mountain biking, wind surfing, whale watching, and visit world-class vineyards and gardens.

The Garden City- Visitors will admire the finest collection of plants in New Zealand at the Botanic Gardens, can punt down the Avon River or relax in Hagley Park.

Shopping- The "Container Mall" in Christchurch is a must-see for visitors. It's the exciting shopping mall built in shipping containers following the earthquakes experienced in 2010 and 2011.

Marine Life- visit Kaikoura, where you can jump on a specialist tour to witness a range of marine life including whales, dolphins, seal colonies and the mighty albatross.

Southern Alps- Aoraki/Mt Cook is at the top when it comes to climbing in New Zealand, while glaciers offer spectacular viewing. Only 5 hours drive from Christchurch.

Hanmer Springs- visitors can in Hanmer Springs' thermal pools, set in the most stunning surroundings.

Heritage - Visitors can stroll around the harbour in Akaroa, taking in some of the French history of this area, perched on the coast of the Banks Peninsula.

Banks Peninsula - visitors can take time out to explore the secluded bays and inlets, or hop a tour to see the wildlife – namely the endangered Hector dolphins.

Canterbury

Coastal and mountain experiences combine to make Canterbury a place where there's something for every traveller. Here you'll find many worlds within one region. The Canterbury Region includes a large central portion of the east coast of the South Island, centred around the city of Christchurch.

Akaroa village- Step back into Maori, whaling, French and British history in Akaroa—Canterbury's oldest village. You can take a cruise on Lyttelton Harbour and enjoy the dramatic volcanic landscape. In summer you might even get the chance to swim with the world's rarest dolphin, the Hector Dolphin.

Kaikoura- Two hours north of Christchurch is Kaikoura, where the mountains meet the sea—one of the few places where you can see the giant sperm whale. To the northwest lies Hanmer Springs, a scenic alpine and thermal village. You can enjoy nature or adventure activities, or laze in the pools. Nearby, in the Hurunui District, you can enjoy the wineries of Waipara.

Arthurs Pass- Inland from Christchurch lie the magnificent Southern Alps—only an hour from the city. The village of Arthurs Pass makes an ideal base for all kinds of activities, and you can also experience the TransAlpine rail trip—one of the world's most spectacular train journeys that takes you from Christchurch to Greymouth.

Skiing and hot Air ballooning- South of Christchurch lies the Ashburton and Timaru districts. Ashburton District is home to all kinds of exciting activities like skiing, hot air ballooning and salmon fishing. Timaru district features many attractive towns, rolling green hills, lush pasture and braided rivers.

Mount Cook

Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain, is suitably set within the phenomenal Mount Cook Aorangi National Park. With an abundance of striking glaciers and imposing mountains the entire region is simply spectacular.

Lake Tekapo- It's divine turquoise hue set against the striking mountains makes it a remarkably beautiful location and the ideal place to get a great shot of Mount Cook in all its splendour.

Franz Josef Glacier- Its 'giant tongues of ice' reach out to the rainforest covered surrounds and in some places it is just 250 metres above sea level. The dramatic beauty of Franz Josef can be appreciated on foot, by rafting along the Waiho River or by absorbing the environment at the Okartio Lagoon. Nestled at the base of the rainforest clad Southern Alps is the Fox Glacier Township.

Explore- Exploring the wilderness by foot is very popular and there are numerous mountain walks to choose from. Alternatively you could try something a little more challenging and hire a guide to take you mountain climbing.

Ski Adventurers- Ski planes are able to land on the Tasman Glacier and you can even go heli-skiing. The sheer scale of the environment and the utter isolation will make you feel like you're in a place that no one has ever been to before.

Wanaka

One of the attractions of a stay in Lake Wanaka is that it combines the warmth of small town living with the quality and attention to detail you'd expect of an international holiday destination.

Mount Aspiring National Park- From soaring mountains and glaciers to tranquil river flats, exploring the wilderness of this World Heritage Area is easy from Wanaka. With scenic flights, glacier landings, jet-boat and 4WD tours all available, you don't need to be a mountaineer to appreciate this incredible landscape.

Lake and River Water Fun - Crystal clear lakes and rivers are at the heart of Wanaka's outdoor lifestyle. Enjoy a relaxing boat cruise to visit Lake Wanaka's islands, experience the thrill of jet-boating, hire a kayak, or try your hand at fishing.

Airborne Adventures - helicopter glacier landings, scenic flights, vintage WWI and WWII fighter planes, skydiving from 15,000ft – or you can even fly a plane yourself!

Unique Attractions- Fun, quirky, exciting and always engaging, created by people with passion to share... Wanaka's attractions are unique, just like the personalities behind them.

Walking and Hiking- Lake Wanaka offers some of the best hiking in New Zealand, from short local walks along the lakes and rivers to full or multi-day guided adventures in Mt Aspiring National Park. A must-do is the Rob Roy Glacier track.

Mountain Biking and Cycling - Wanaka has some of the best mountain biking and road cycling in New Zealand and the Lake Wanaka region boasts a network of over 700kms of bike trails.

Skiing and Snowboarding- Wanaka has Australasia's largest skiable terrain offering the space and freedom to enjoy the best winter has to offer. Lake Wanaka has three world-class ski areas – Cardrona Alpine Resort, Treble Cone and Snow Farm- plus the second largest heli-skiing area in the world!

Autumn Colours- Autumn in Wanaka is a spectacular time of year and a photographer's dream when the autumnal leaves turn to vibrant reds & golds.

Food and Wine - Enjoy food fresh off the land, matched with fine local wines and friendly hospitality while soaking up the spectacular views

Events - The spectacular backdrop of Lake Wanaka adds a new dimension to any event and Wanaka is home to some of the best in the world which include the Warbirds Over Wanaka Airshow (Easter 2016 / 2018), Challenge Wanaka, Rhythm & Alps and lots more!

Queenstown

Queenstown offers year-round experiences, utilising its heart-stopping surroundings to the maximum. Whether heading to the mountains during the winter, or basking in the sun and enjoying the lakes and rivers during the warmer months, Queenstown has a long list of activities.

Mountain Activities- With four different ski fields, there's plenty of snow to go around in the winter. In the summer, take on the mountains by foot or bike using the well marked trails.

Lakes and Rivers- travellers can't take their pick when it comes to the water, with fishing, wakeboarding, waterskiing, parasailing, rafting and kayaking all available.

Adventure Capital - Skydiving, bungee jumping, canyon swinging, jetboating, ziplining and lugging offer your clients an adrenaline overload.

Golf Experiences - With six immaculate courses only a short drive away, Queenstown is a perfect place to stay when looking for a golf package

Cycling - Whether it's on the road or off the beaten track, take a guided or self-guided ride through a range of different terrains (or perhaps out to a local vineyard for a well-deserved glass of wine).

Short Walks - By day or night, there are a number of short walks. The Atley Track takes clients past historic gold mining features, whilst tracks in Bob's Cove take clients to beaches and fishing areas also.

Arrowtown - Take a short trip to Arrowtown, where visitors can walk down the cobbled main street. They can shop at the boutiques stores, studios or visit and dine at, award winning restaurants.

Fiordland

Fiordland was carved by glaciers over 100,000 years. Waterfalls cascade into deep black fiords, ancient rainforest untouched by man clings to mountains, and shimmering lakes and granite peaks look as they did a thousand years ago. It's an understatement to say that visitors will come away with some unforgettable photos and experiences.

Milford and Doubtful Sounds- Take in the waterfalls and forests of either sounds by helicopter, coach and cruise, or overnight cruise. Milford Sounds can also be reached by fly and cruise.

Glow worm Caves- visitors can take a guided tour through the caves in Te Anau, which also includes a scenic cruise of the lake.

Diving- Fiordland has marine reserves where travellers can see rare species, such as red and black corals.

Walking Tracks- With guided walks available, travellers can explore the Fiordland National Park on foot through extensive walking tracks.

Otago

Once the scene of a mighty gold rush, now appreciated for its powerful, moody landscape. Learn the history of Central Otago while you find its special places. Located in the centre of the South Island, inland from Dunedin, this semi-arid region comprises a series of river basins and deep river gorges. Otago is often called the golden country due to its goldmining associations, vivid autumn colours and apricot orchards. The Central Otago region is the only one to experience a continental climate, having the hottest summers and coldest winters in New Zealand.

Old trails that provided access for thousands of miners in the gold rush of the 1860's can still be seen winding over the hills, along with stone cottages, cleverly-engineered water channels, mines and machinery associated with the gold rush.

Alexandra, the main town on the Clutha River is the centre for stone fruit, particularly golden apricots. The towns of Alexandra, Clyde and Cromwell are ideal bases from which to explore the surrounding historic countryside.

Gabriels Gull - location of the 1860's goldrush

Visit Historic towns of Clyde, Lawrence, St Bathans and Naseby

Dunedin

Coastal Otago offers a host of natural wonders set amongst beautiful landscape. Visiting the city and harbourside of Dunedin allows visitors to experience even more, with vibrant events and culture on show, as well as a range of restaurants, cafés and bars in this small but thriving city.

History and Heritage- As New Zealand's first city, Dunedin is steeped in heritage, which can be witnessed at the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum, Olveston historic house and Larnach Castle, New Zealand's only castle.

Architecture - Take in the magnificent Edwardian and Victorian buildings, including the Dunedin Railway Station and stone buildings of Otago University.

Food and Drink Tours- Cadbury's Chocolate Factory is a must for everyone with a sweet tooth, while Speight's Brewery offers award-winning beer tours.

Chinese Gardens - A gift to the city, these gardens contribute to the many attractions in the inner city of Dunedin.

Railway- The Taieri Gorge Railway is a historic journey, taking you through century-old hand carved tunnels.

Southland

Southland is New Zealand's southern-most region, and includes New Zealand's third island, Stewart Island. General Southland's lush, green pastoral lands are among the richest in the country, a strong contrast to dry Central Otago further north. There are many farmstay options available in this region for those looking for a real Kiwi experience. The region's largest urban centre is Invercargill, a city of 49,000, with many elegant Victorian and Edwardian buildings, gardens and landscaped parks. Like Dunedin to the north, Scots also settled Invercargill. Unspoilt in its isolation, Stewart Island across Foveaux Strait is the third largest island making up New Zealand.

Catlins Forest Park- On the coast, the Catlins Forest Park is a place of hidden waterfalls and river valleys, where native forest meets the water's edge. Rocky bays, inlets and estuaries make up some of the region's most magnificent coastal scenery.

Invercargill- This has an excellent art gallery and museum with high-tech audio/visual displays based on the flora and fauna of New Zealand's sub-Antarctic islands. It also has a unique live display of the tuatara, a lizard-like reptile related to the dinosaur, that is native to New Zealand.

Gore- this place on the Mataura River, has gained a good reputation for its trout.