

North Side Beaches



Ninety Mile Beach (Northland)

Despite its name, Ninety Mile Beach is about 55 miles (88 km) long. It's a remote, stunning stretch of golden sand on the west coast of the North Island, famous for its dramatic sunsets, surf, and as a place for adventure activities like sandboarding.

Highlights: Surfing, fishing, and the opportunity to spot dolphins.



Bay of Islands (Northland)

The Bay of Islands is a gorgeous, sheltered area with clear turquoise waters, numerous islands, and secluded beaches. It's a popular spot for sailing, swimming, and exploring the abundant marine life. Highlights: Swimming with dolphins, snorkeling, sailing, and relaxing on the pristine beaches.



Hot Water Beach (Coromandel Peninsula)

Known for its geothermal activity, Hot Water Beach allows visitors to dig their own hot pool in the sand at low tide. The striking contrast of the hot, mineral-rich water and the cool ocean makes for a unique beach experience. Highlights: Digging your own hot pool, surfing, and exploring the nearby Cathedral Cove.



Raglan (Waikato)

Raglan is a laid-back surf town famous for its long sandy beaches and consistent surf breaks. Its beaches like Manu Bay are world-renowned among surfers, and the surrounding landscape, with lush hills, adds to the charm. Highlights: Surfing, beach walks, and the scenic views of the surrounding hills and ocean.

South Side Beaches



Abel Tasman National Park (Golden Bay)

Abel Tasman is renowned for its golden sandy beaches, clear turquoise waters, and lush native forests. This coastal area is perfect for those seeking a mix of relaxation and adventure, with options for hiking, kayaking, and boat cruises. Highlights: Onetahuti Beach, kayaking, scenic walks, and the chance to see seals and marine life.



Wharariki Beach (Golden Bay)

Wharariki Beach is a hidden gem, known for its dramatic coastal landscape, featuring towering sand dunes, wind-sculpted rock formations, and huge, arching cliffs. The beach is often uncrowded, offering an idyllic escape into nature. Highlights: Wild beauty, wildlife (seals and seabirds), and stunning views of natural rock arches.



Kaiteriteri Beach (Tasman Bay)

Kaiteriteri Beach offers a perfect blend of golden sand, calm blue waters, and the backdrop of rolling hills. It's a family-friendly beach ideal for swimming, boating, and enjoying the serene atmosphere. Highlights: Swimming, kayaking, and boat tours to nearby islands.



Curio Bay (Catlins Coast)

Curio Bay is famous for its unique blend of natural beauty, including dramatic cliffs, pristine beaches, and fossilized trees. It's also a place where you can spot wildlife like dolphins and sea lions, making it a nature-lover's paradise. Highlights: Fossils, wildlife sightings (including Hector's dolphins), and scenic coastal walks

East Side Beaches



Waimarama Beach (Hawke's Bay)

Waimarama Beach is known for its golden sands and pristine waters, with a backdrop of rolling hills and farmland. It's a fantastic spot for swimming, sunbathing, and enjoying the peaceful surroundings. The beach is also less crowded than some other popular spots, making it ideal for a relaxed experience. Highlights: Swimming, beach walks, and stunning views of the Hawke's Bay coastline.



Muriwai Beach (Auckland)

Muriwai Beach is famous for its dramatic black sand, rugged cliffs, and powerful surf. It's also home to a large colony of gannets, which can be seen nesting on the cliffs. The beach offers a great mix of nature, wildlife, and stunning ocean Views. Highlights: Surfing, birdwatching (gannet colony), and breathtaking views from the cliffs.



Mahia Beach (Hawke's Bay)

Mahia Beach offers golden sands, clear waters, and a relaxed atmosphere, making it perfect for swimming, fishing, and sunbathing. The area is less commercialized, which adds to its charm, and it's often less crowded, providing a peaceful beach experience. Highlights: Swimming, fishing, and enjoying the quiet, natural beauty of the Mahia Peninsula.



Castlepoint Beach (Wairarapa)

Castlepoint Beach is a stunning, remote location with white sand, clear blue waters, and dramatic coastal features. The iconic Castle Rock, a rocky outcrop, sits at the entrance to the bay and offers spectacular views of the coastline. It's a great place for beach walks, swimming, and exploring the nearby Lighthouse. Highlights: Castle Rock views, lighthouse, swimming, and hiking along the coastline.

West Side Beaches



Punakaiki Beach (West Coast)

Punakaiki Beach is set against the backdrop of the famous Pancake Rocks and blowholes. The beach features wild, surf-swept waters and dark sands. The nearby limestone formations create a striking contrast with the beach, making it one of the most scenic spots on the West Coast. Highlights: The Pancake Rocks, blowholes, and dramatic coastline views.



Bethells Beach (Auckland)

Bethells Beach is known for its dramatic black sand and powerful surf. It's surrounded by lush bushland, and the beach is less commercialized, offering a more serene and natural environment. The nearby Lake Wainamu adds to the charm, with its unique dunes and forested landscapes. Highlights: Black sand, surf, the nearby lake, and scenic walking trails.



Westport Beach (West Coast)

Westport Beach offers expansive golden sands and is a great spot for beach walks, bird watching, and surf casting. The beach is wide and uncrowded, giving visitors a sense of peacefulness while still being close to the small town of Westport. The nearby Tauranga Bay is also home to a seal colony .Highlights: Uncrowded golden sands, bird watching, seal colony at Tauranga Bay.



Hokitika Beach (West Coast)

Hokitika Beach is known for its sweeping views of the Tasman Sea, with a stunning backdrop of the Southern Alps. The beach features a mix of smooth pebbles and sand, creating a unique setting. The nearby Hokitika Gorge, with its striking turquoise waters, is another highlight of the area. Highlights: Stunning sunsets, pebbly shores, and proximity to the Hokitika Gorge.