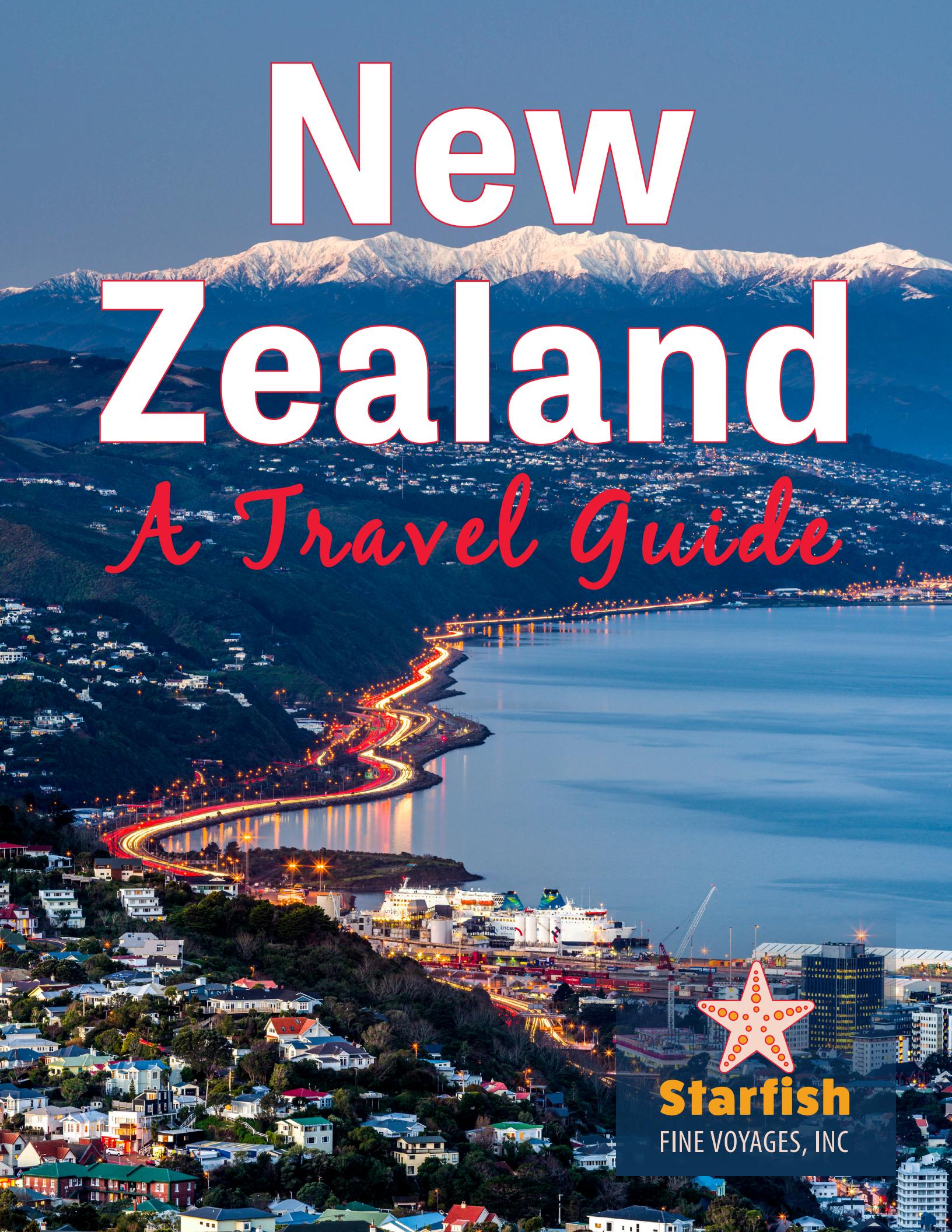


New Zealand

A Travel Guide



Starfish
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New Zealand Tourism Overview



VIADUCT HARBOUR, AUCKLAND

Whether you're travelling with friends, catching up with locals or simply enjoying some quality time together, Auckland offers plenty of choice when it comes to waterfront dining. Right in the heart of the city, Britomart, the Ferry Building, Princes Wharf and Viaduct Harbour form a continuous line-up of bars, cafés and restaurants that overlook the water.



COROMANDEL, COROMANDEL

Well-designed kayaks make it easy to discover the joy of paddling through paradise. Even if you've never kayaked before, the professional local guides will provide initial instruction and stay close to ensure an excellent adventure.



AUCKLAND CITY, AUCKLAND

Auckland is a city of quick changes. A leisurely morning of cafés and shopping can make way for an afternoon of adrenaline-filled fun, like SkyJump at the Sky Tower. Or travel for 30 to 45 minutes and leave the city behind to explore a bird sanctuary, wine region or a magnificent west coast surf beach.

Why travel to New Zealand?

New Zealand is a tiny country. Made up of two remote islands and many smaller ones and with a population of just over four million people, it is not the most accessible place in the world to visit. Yet it remains one of the world's greatest tourist destinations.

New Zealand's faraway location ensures that its natural

beauty is protected from the hordes of tourists who would overwhelm this place if it was easy to get to. True, New Zealand's greatness has been exposed to the world by movies like *The Lord of the Rings*, but surprisingly few people make their way down here.

Here are some of the unique things about New Zealand that have made it justifiably famous,

and why you should visit it too:

Incredible unspoilt scenery

New Zealand has an amazing range of breathtaking scenery, from subtropical forests, beaches and offshore islands in the north to glaciers, lakes, snow-covered mountains and large flat plains in the south. There are also fiords, volcanoes, hot springs and

beautiful rolling green pastures – a diversity like no other on earth.

The people

"Kiwis," as the locals are called, are a very friendly bunch and very welcoming to visitors. A wide range of cultures is represented although, as an ex British colony, the European influence is still strong.

Wherever you go you will receive a friendly smile and a warm welcome no matter who you are or where you are from.

The climate

Although there are four distinct seasons in New Zealand there are not the extremes of hot and cold to be found in most other countries. Any time of year is a pleasant time to explore New Zealand's wonders.

Safety

Crime is low in New Zealand and as a tourist you are unlikely to encounter problems. Furthermore, there are virtually no lethal creatures amongst New Zealand's

wildlife so you can explore without concern for being bitten or eaten!

The culture

New Zealand was inhabited by the local native people, the Maori before the arrival of the Europeans in the 1700s. New Zealand today is a fascinating blend of cultures who mingle and thrive in a peaceful yet vibrant society.

These are just some of the reasons why your visit to New Zealand will be both memorable and unique.

MOUNT COOK, CANTERBURY

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park is a mountaineers paradise. About 40% of the park is covered by glaciers and there are 19 peaks more than 3000 metres high, including New Zealand's tallest Mountain, Aoraki/Mount Cook. But you don't have to be a Mountain climber to enjoy this magnificent park there are walking trails for all levels of fitness.



Mount Cook National Park



MOUNT COOK, CANTERBURY

New Zealand's cycle trails make it easy to explore remote wilderness areas. With no traffic or crowds, there's nothing to stop you becoming totally immersed in the spectacular range of landscapes. And at the end of each day, you'll find great food and comfortable accommodation choices, so you'll be ready to ride the next stage.

Nature Lover's Paradise

Aoraki Mount Cook National Park is home of the highest mountains and the longest glaciers. It is alpine in the purest sense — with skyscraping peaks, glaciers and permanent snow fields, all set under a star-studded sky.

Key Highlights

Although it encompasses 23 peaks over 3000 metres high, this park is very accessible. State Highway 80 leads to Aoraki/Mt Cook Village which is situated beside scenic Lake Pukaki and provides a comfortable base for alpine activities. Far from city lights, the stargazing here is magnificent — Aoraki Mount Cook National Park forms the majority of New Zealand's only International Dark Sky Reserve.

Mountaineers regard the area to be the best climbing region in Australasia, while less skilled adventurers find plenty of satisfaction with the mountain walks that lead to alpine tarns, herb fields and spectacular glacier views. Encounters with cheeky kea (mountain parrots) are part of the fun.

At 27 kilometres in length, the mighty Tasman Glacier is a powerful piece of landscaping

equipment. While it slowly carves the valley sides, it provides a landing place for small ski planes and helicopters. Surreal, milky lakes are a feature of the park — suspended, glacier-ground rock sediment makes the water opaque.

Key Tips

- Climbers don't require permits, but are requested to complete a trip intentions form at the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre
- Local guides are available for climbing, walking and glacier skiing
- Winter climbing is an extreme sport - only recommended for well-prepared, experienced mountaineers
- The weather can change very suddenly - be prepared for heavy rainfall, snow and/or high winds
- The park has an airport serving domestic commercial flights and scenic flight operators.



Waiheke Island

WAIHEKE ISLAND, AUCKLAND

From bare farmland to award-winning vineyard and restaurant in just 20 years, Mudbrick on Waiheke Island is the creation of a young couple who gave up accounting to follow their dreams. Set on a hillside with sunset views to Rangitoto Island and distant city lights, it's an inspiring place to relax and unwind.



Why do travellers rave about Waiheke?

It's something to do with the vineyards, the beaches, the scenery and the fact that it's just a 40-minute ferry ride from Auckland's CBD. If you're in Auckland for a few days, save at least one of them for Waiheke Island.

Waiheke Island is a place of lazy days and holidays, vineyards, olive groves and beautiful beaches, all just a 35-minute cruise from downtown Auckland.

Because it's so easily accessible from the city, Waiheke is an ideal day trip destination. If you'd like to stay longer and enjoy more of what's on offer, there's a huge range of accommodation, from luxury lodges to holiday homes and traditional Kiwi baches.

There are lots of activities for adventure seekers on Waiheke—try archery and laser clay pigeon shooting, hire a scooter, take a scenic flight or zoom across the tree tops on a flying fox zipline.

Come for a visit and you'll find beautiful galleries and craft boutiques in this homeland of artists. There are plenty of places to enjoy a good coffee or a taste of New Zealand's fresh Pacific Rim cuisine. Enjoy local wine while looking out over vine-covered valleys to the blue sea beyond.



COUPLE VISITS AN ALPACA FARM



TOURIST ZIPLINES ACROSS A VINEYARD



TE WHAU, WAIHEKE ISLAND, AUCKLAND

If you love wine, you'll adore Te Whau on Waiheke Island. You can enjoy a winery tour with tastings of award-winning red wines, and then make yourself comfortable in the restaurant. Critics get hugely excited about Te Whau's food, which has resulted in a long list of awards. Te Whau is a wow in every way.



Auckland City



AUCKLAND CITY, AUCKLAND

As the sun sets over the Waitakere Ranges and the Sky Tower pierces the evening glow, the promise of fun, food and friendship fills the air.

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city and there's plenty to enjoy when the lights come on. Waterfront cafés, bars and restaurants offer local craft beers, fine wines and mouth-watering dishes that celebrate the fresh local food.



AUCKLAND CITY, AUCKLAND

Leave some space in your suitcase when you come to New Zealand, because the shopping is like nowhere else in the world. Around the Chancery Precinct in Central Auckland, you'll find New Zealand's most exciting designer stores; Karen Walker, Zambesi, World, Working Style and Adrienne Winkelmann, just to mention a few.

A Truly Unique City

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city and main transport hub. Make sure you stop and enjoy the shopping, dining and natural wonders Auckland has to offer.

Imagine an urban environment where everyone lives within half an hour of beautiful beaches, hiking trails and a dozen enchanting holiday islands. Add a sunny climate, a background rhythm of Polynesian culture and a passion for outstanding food, wine and shopping, and you're beginning to get the picture of Auckland, New Zealand, our largest and most diverse city.

More than just a city, Auckland is a whole region full of things to see and do. Best of all, with so many experiences close by it's easy to hop from one adventure to the next.

Auckland's vast harbour, quiet islands and vibrant cityscape offer an exciting and accessible mix of urban, water and wildlife activities.

The harbour side city of Auckland is surrounded by natural attractions. There are plenty of beautiful places to visit within an hour of the CBD.

The Story of Auckland

The creation of Auckland's unique landscape is part of an ancient love story that brought about a fierce battle of incantations. The battle between two iwi (tribes) created deep cracks in the earth, thrusting upwards the many volcanic cones scattered across the region today.

The fertile soils left from this battle, combined with the abundant resources of the Waitemata and Manukau harbours, have drawn people to this region for centuries. It is for this reason that the Auckland region is widely known as Tāmaki Makaurau – Tāmaki desired by many lovers.

These same natural assets also attracted waka (canoes) from tribes across the country to trade with the people of the Auckland region. It is said that at times hundreds of canoes could be seen on Auckland's harbours, giving the region another name: Tāmaki Herenga Waka – Tāmaki the gatherer of canoes. Today these waters are sprinkled with hundreds of boats and Auckland is often referred to around the world as the 'City of Sails'.



AUCKLAND CITY HARBOR





Franz Joseph Glacier

An enthralling world of ice

The hospitable town of Franz Josef serves the glacier of the same name. Stay here while you explore this spectacular World Heritage Area.

Franz Josef Glacier was first explored in 1865 by geologist Julius von Haast, who named it after the Austrian emperor. The glacier is five kilometres from the town of the same name, and a 20 minute

walk will take you to its terminal face. From the glacier car park, you can hike to a choice of lookout points for a bigger view of this awesome river of ice.

If you want to actually make contact with the glacier, take a guided ice walk or a heli-hike. Aerial sightseeing is another option. A short heli hop from the township takes you into the

remarkable Pinnacles area of the glacier, where your guide will navigate you through a maze of ice and explain the dramatic environmental changes over the last few years.

There's a range of natural attractions in close proximity to Franz Josef Glacier Village. Lose yourself in the rainforests, waterfalls, and lakes.