

Seniors Card Destination Guide

Visiting New Zealand? Save with Seniors Card

You don't need to be a kiwi to join Seniors Card – you just need to be aged 55 or over. So if you're planning a visit downunder, a Seniors Card can save you money on accommodation, attractions and transport while you're here. [Click here](#) to join, and be sure to check out this handy Destination Guide to New Zealand.

Destination Guide to New Zealand

Visiting New Zealand? Great idea! New Zealand is a wonderful destination for seniors. It's easy to get around, affordable and safe. At Seniors Card, we're often asked about travelling in New Zealand, so we've created this guide to help you get the most out of your visit. And remember, you don't need to be a kiwi to join Seniors Card; you just need to be aged 55 or over. So [click here](#) to join now and take advantage of a wealth of deals, discounts and savings on travel and attractions during your trip. In this guide, businesses providing discounts to NZ Seniors Card members are denoted by an #.

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

Population and Language

New Zealand's multi-cultural population is approx 4.2 million people, with the majority being of English descent and an indigenous Maori population of around 14%. The Maori language is the second official language of the country after English.

Money

Currency is the NZ dollar available in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 bank notes. Bank notes are printed in a range of sizes to enable partially sighted and blind people to distinguish between notes. The largest in the series is the \$100 note and the smallest is the \$5. NZ coins come in 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1 and \$2. The \$2 coin is larger than the one dollar coin, the opposite of Australia.

Tip: change money or cash travellers' cheques at banks for a better rate than at hotels or non-bank change dealers. Shop around and ask if there is a commission or fee payable

Banks & ATM's

NZ banks normally trade Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm. ATM's are in convenient locations and you can usually withdraw cash direct from your overseas cash card accounts through most ATM's. You can withdraw cash advances from Visa and MasterCard at any ATM.

Tip: when arriving at your NZ airport, withdraw NZ dollars from a ATM easily located in the terminal when you leave the Customs hall.

Travellers Cheques and Credit Cards

Most banks, hotels, restaurants and shops will accept travellers' cheques. Please present your passport for identification.

Tip: if taking credit and debit cards and a small amount of cash, travellers' cheques may not be necessary for your trip.

Passports & Visas

You will need a valid passport to enter New Zealand. Passports need to be valid for at least six months after intended departure. Australian passport holders do not need a visa to enter New Zealand. You should check to see whether you will need to apply for a Visa before you commence your travel to New Zealand.

Duty Free Allowance

. When entering NZ, you can bring in up to 3 bottles of alcohol per person. Check with NZ Customs or at duty free stores for details.

Tip: NZ Seniors Card members receive a 7% discount on Regency Duty Free purchases made at Auckland International airport.

Departure Taxes

When leaving from Auckland International Airport departure tax is now included in the price of your airline ticket and you are not required to pay a separate departure tax.

NZ GST New Zealand GST is 12.5% and is included in prices. No GST is payable on Duty Free purchases.

Time Zones

New Zealand is +12 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight savings time operates from early October to April each year when a one hour change is applied to the time.

Postal Service

You can have mail sent to you Post Restante available at 45 NZ Post locations across the country www.nzpost.co.nz

Telephones and Electricity

The international access code in New Zealand is 00 followed by the country code (i.e. UK is 00 44) and then the area code and

number, leaving the first zero off the area code.

The Emergency telephone number in New Zealand is 111

Electricity is the same in both New Zealand and Australia and runs at 240v, and both countries use the same pin plug.

Tip: buy a phone card from convenience stores or service stations. Cost can be about a quarter of hotel charges.

Water

Water supplies are clear, clean and safe to drink.

Tipping

Tipping is at your discretion and is normally calculated at around 10%

Travel Insurance

It is recommended that you take out comprehensive travel insurance to cover you over the length of your stay in New Zealand . Shop around for the best price as rates and coverage vary.

Tip: Seniors Card members can apply online for a competitive travel insurance policy at <http://senior.aceinsurance.co.nz>

Seniors Discounts

Generally other country's Seniors Cards are not accepted by New Zealand businesses. New Zealand Seniors Card was launched in 2004 and is available by subscription to any international visitor aged 55 and over. The card covers a broad range of accommodation options, tours, cruises, tourist attractions and shopping. Details of the Seniors Card programme are featured elsewhere on this website.

GETTING HERE:

Air Travel

There is no better time than now to fly to New Zealand. Airfares are very competitive and in many cases lower than years ago. New cut price carriers such as Freedom Air, Jetstar and Pacific Blue have large numbers of discounted tickets compared with a smaller allocation of cheap fares with the larger airlines.

Direct flights to NZ are available from many international airports. Qantas, Air New Zealand, Emirates, Thai International, Lan Chile, Aerolineas Argentina, Jetstar, Freedom Air, Pacific Blue (Virgin) Singapore Airlines all fly to New Zealand at frequent intervals. The main International airport is at Auckland, but some international flights are also available into Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington and Queenstown.

Tip. to get the lowest fares you should book as far in advance as possible. When comparing the cheap fares, take into account the actual departure times. An early morning flight might necessitate an expensive overnight stay at an airport hotel and thus negate the savings made on the fare.

Arriving in Auckland

Auckland International Airport is located quite a distance south of the city. If staying at one of the many airport hotels (none within walking distance), you can arrange to have a free shuttle pick-up no matter what time you arrive. For transport to Auckland city hotels, taxi fares will be around NZ\$60-\$90 one way. There are also Taxi Shuttles which provide a cheaper taxi service to the city (you are likely to share a mini bus with others) for between \$30-\$40. A city "Airbus Express" coach service leaves frequently with one way fares from between \$12-\$18. For more details on the Airbus Express go to www.maxx.co.nz There are free shuttles to the domestic terminal if you have internal connections with Air New Zealand, JetStar, or Pacific Blue, or you can walk following the yellow line.

Arriving in Wellington

The taxi fare to most city hotels is around \$30 to \$35. Shuttle buses are also available.

Arriving in Christchurch

Taxi fares range up to \$40 to city hotels. Shuttle buses are available and some hotels can provide pick-ups.

Arriving in Dunedin

Dunedin airport is quite a distance from the city centre with taxi fares around \$80. Small shuttle buses are more economical and can deliver you direct to your hotel for around \$20.

Cruising to New Zealand

There are a number of cruises operating each year to New Zealand. Cruises usually call in at Auckland, Tauranga (Bay of Plenty), Lyttelton (Christchurch) and Fiordland. While you won't see as much of the country as you would on a land tour, you will see the very best places with all meals and accommodation included and the benefit of only having to unpack once. See your local travel agent for details.

GETTING AROUND:

Coach Tours

Escorted tours offer a relaxed way to see the best of New Zealand. Tour companies do all the planning and booking for you and best of all most things are pre-paid before you leave home. All you need to do is sit back and relax and enjoy the tour with a group of new found friends. Even if you have been on an NZ tour in the past, there are now a number of new specialist tours such as rail tours, which may be of interest to you.

TIP: Do your homework and carefully compare the numerous tours on offer, find out what is not included, check the standard of hotels offered, admission fees covered and types and number of meals. Look for an experienced operator with modern coaches that operate frequent tours year round. Some coach companies have a special discount for NZ Seniors Card members

Driving in New Zealand

NZ road rules are similar to Australia and the UK generally, driving on the left hand side of the road. The wearing of seat belts is compulsory. Current Overseas and international driving licences are accepted. The main difference is that New Zealand has a "give way to the right" rule. i.e. when turning left you must give way to on-coming traffic turning right. Ask your rental car company for more information.

Tip: Police speed cameras are not signposted and you could be caught speeding unaware that you have driven past a camera. Adhere strictly to speed limits especially on country roads as New Zealand highway patrols are prevalent.

Rental Cars

All major rental car companies have airport offices and pick-ups. There are also a myriad of other car companies that have near airport offices and you should check on the pickup and drop off arrangements before confirming your booking. The major companies rent new vehicles and the lower priced rental companies may rent you an older vehicle, sometimes up to 8 years old.

Tip: if renting a car make sure you top-up the petrol tank before returning the vehicle. There are petrol stations close to most airports. Both Budget and Avis have airport pick-ups and drop-offs and offer NZ Seniors Card members special rates.

Motorhomes

Motorhomes are an excellent way to explore New Zealand, combining both travel and accommodation on wheels. There are a large range of companies and vehicles to choose from.

Tip: both Apollo Motorhomes and Senior Motorhome Rental New Zealand offer NZ Seniors Card Members a discount.

Travelling Distances & Times

When planning your touring routes, factor in extra driving time for unknown roads, rest and photo stops. Many New Zealand roads are windy and cover mountainous areas. Be on the look out for stock on roads and for timber and sheep trucks ahead or around a bend.

Tip: always add an extra hour for half day trips or 2 hours for full day drives.

Approximate Driving Times

NORTH ISLAND	DISTANCE (km)	TIME (HR)
Auckland to Kaitiaki (Bay of Islands)	325	6
Auckland to Hamilton	129	2
Hamilton to Rotorua	107	1.40
Hamilton to Waitomo Caves	75	1.30
Rotorua to Taupo	82	1.00
Hamilton to Tauranga (Bay of Plenty)	107	1.55
Taupo to Wellington	82	1.00
Auckland to Wellington	660	9.00
SOUTH ISLAND	DISTANCE (km)	TIME (HR)
Picton Ferry Terminal to Blenheim	29	0.25
Blenheim to Christchurch	320	4.40
Christchurch to Dunedin	360	4.30
Dunedin to Queenstown	300	4.30
Queenstown to Milford Sound	299	5.00
Queenstown to Invercargill	190	3.00
Invercargill to Dunedin	212	3.00

Coaches

InterCity Coachlines offers the most comprehensive and economical transport network in New Zealand with 120 services a day to 600 towns and cities across the country. Newmans Coach Lines is a leading New Zealand coach operator, providing scheduled

services linking New Zealand's main commercial and tourist centres, and sightseeing excursions to selected tourist destinations. Newmans Coach Lines operate luxury coaches and cover major cities and tourist hot centres.

Tip: both InterCity and Newmans offer NZ Seniors Card members a discount of up to 20%

Trains

Kiwirail is New Zealand's only passenger rail company providing world renowned breathtaking train journeys. The Overlander runs between Auckland and Wellington. The Tranz Coastal operates daily from Picton to Christchurch and vice versa and The Tranz Alpine, one of the most popular train trips, leaves Christchurch for an across the island journey to Greymouth on the west coast. A feature of the train is an open-air viewing carriage. For more information visit www.tranzscenic.co.nz

Taxis

Taxis are easy to find on ranks or by phone bookings.

Cook Strait Ferry Crossing

Two ferry companies operate this crossing which takes about 3 hours. Timetables cover day and evening departures from Wellington in the North Island and Picton in the South Island. A day-time crossing with the cruise along Queen Charlotte Sound is a memorable experience. If you have a rental car, please note that the major companies require you to leave your vehicle and provide another car on arrival. At certain times of the year, such as Christmas, Easter and long weekends, the ferries may be heavily booked.

Tip: Both The Interisland Line and Bluebridge Cook Strait Ferry Service offer Seniors card members a discount

WHERE TO STAY:

Hotels, Motels & Resorts

New Zealand has a vast range of good quality hotels and motels offering all standards of accommodation. You can plan your holiday in advance and book all your accommodation before you leave home or you may prefer to just book your first and last night stays and then choose where to stop as you travel. Of course there are some periods of the year where rooms may be hard to find e.g. Christmas, Easter, long weekends and peak tourist seasons (January – March) but generally accommodation will be available throughout the country.

TIP: major chains such as Novotel, Mercure, Ibis, Comfort, Quality, Clarion, Best Western, Millennium, Rydges and Grand Chancellor have great discounts for Seniors Card members.

Bed & Breakfast

For a truly New Zealand experience, many people prefer to stay at Bed & Breakfast Homestays. Start the day with a wonderful home cooked meal and armed with local knowledge of the best places to visit, Staying at a B&B may be your preferred option for your NZ holiday.

TIP: Seniors Card has a range of B&B's offering special deals for members

Holiday Parks

Holiday and tourist parks (caravan parks) offer powered sites, cabins and camping areas. Standards vary and you should pick up a good directory of parks that not only list sites but also reviews their facilities.

Hostels

For travellers on a budget or those seeking a different experience, hostels offer a cheap alternative. One Australian senior recently told us that at some hostels, there were more seniors than young people staying there

WHAT TO SEE:

AUCKLAND

Auckland is the major International gateway to New Zealand. It's described as the City of Sails, a claim easily verified when you see the large number of sailing boats that dot the beautiful harbour (actually Auckland has the highest per capita number of pleasure boats of any place in the world) Auckland IS a Vibrant modern city with over a million residents enjoying a stunning harbourside location, white sandy beaches and accessible offshore islands. With Waitemata Harbour opening to the Hauraki Gulf to the east and Manukau Harbour on the Tasman Sea side to the west, Auckland sits across an ancient volcanic area. There is so much to see and do in Auckland, so allow enough time on your holiday to enjoy it

What to See: Auckland Domain, Botanic Gardens and the War Memorial Museum; Kelly Tarlton's Antarctic Encounter & Underwater World catch a ferry to Devonport with time to explore the village; explore the NZ Maritime Museum visit the lookout at One Tree Hill for spectacular scenery (with no tree); Sky Tower Museum of Transport & Technology (MOTAT), and the Auckland Explorer Bus. *Tip: Many of the above attractions offer Seniors Card members discounts – check the website or your guide for details.*

NORTHLAND

Rich in history and culture, most of Northland still remains completely unspoilt. From its ancient Kauri forests to the hundreds of kilometres of stunning coastline, the region is a paradise for nature lovers. And its subtropical climate means visitors can enjoy it all year round. The north has an abundance of fresh local produce and seafood. Leading chefs in the region make the most of these ingredients to create world-class cuisine - or you could go out and catch your own! Northland is a game fishing Mecca (marlin, yellow fin tuna, kingfish) but the region is also exceptional for just about any type of fishing and for all skill levels.

Fancy a spot of golf? The courses on the Northland Golf Trail offer excellent greens, challenging courses, stunning views - and far more relaxed tee-off times. If you fancy something a bit less energetic, why not visit one of the stunning local vineyards and along the way enjoy the works of our celebrated artists and craftspeople. Locally made gourmet food ranges from macadamia liqueur to handmade chocolates; internationally renowned avocado and olive oils to award-winning cheeses, fruit wines, jams, chutneys and pickles.

Northland is known as the Birthplace of a Nation. Its colourful history can be discovered on the Heritage Trail which takes you on a fascinating journey from the kauri logging, whaling and early settlers to the coming together of Maori and European cultures. Accommodation in Northland encompasses everything from historic homesteads to stylish bed and breakfasts; boutique hotels to modern motels and campsites with million dollar views. Settings range from stunning coastal situations to tropical gardens. For help with accommodation, itineraries, maps, trails and things to see and do visit www.northlandnz.com.

CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

A few hours drive south east of Auckland is the Coromandel Peninsular. **Thames** is the gateway to this historic region and the old gold mining town of **Coromandel** are not to be missed. The region's gold mining and Kauri logging relics, together with spectacular beaches, coves and forests are reasons why it's one of New Zealand's premier holiday destinations. Visit the many local craft shops; Cathedral Cove; Hot Water Beach; the mining relics and forest trails.

The Bay of Plenty boasts that it's 'the Coast With the Most', **Tauranga's** bustling city centre and the beautiful coastal beaches of **Mount Maunganui**, make it a favourite tourist stop. The region is the centre of citrus and kiwifruit farming as well as having New Zealand's largest port, a popular destination for cruise ships.

Hamilton is the largest city in the Waikato region, an area rich in agriculture, dairy farms and horse breeding. Hamilton is renowned for its beautiful parks along the Waikato River. A relaxing cruise on the Waipa Delta Paddleboat 1iJ, which operates from Memorial Park Jetty, is not to be missed.

Waitomo Glowworm Caves is one of New Zealand's top tourist attractions. Guided tours leave at frequent intervals. The tour will take you through stunning underground scenery including the magnificent Cathedral Cave. The highlight of the tour is the boat trip through the spectacular Glowworm Grotto with thousands of tiny glowworms lighting your way.

Tip: Seniors Card members save off normal admission prices.

The geo-thermal city of **Rotorua** offers a memorable tourism experience. You quickly get used to the ever present smell of sulphur emanating from the various bubbling mud pools, steaming craters and spouting geysers. While Rotorua offers a huge selection of accommodation, it's wise to book ahead if staying at weekends. Enjoy the many Maori tourist attractions and craft shops in the area and take a drive out to Lake Tarawera to visit the Buried Village.

Tip: buy a Rotorua 5 Star Attraction Pass which includes entry to the Agrodome Sheep Show, Skyline Gondola Ride, Paradise Valley Springs, the Maori Arts & Crafts Institute and Te Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve as well as entry to the Polynesian Spa. Seniors Card members save 15% off the Pass.

Travelling south from Rotorua is **Lake Taupo**, the centre of the North Island and the largest lake in New Zealand. The popular tourist centre of **Taupo** offers a wide range of attractions including water sports and nearby geo-thermal areas. The lake, an enormous 600sq m water filled crater, feeds NZ's largest river, the Waikato. On a clear day if you look across the lake from Taupo you can see Mt Tongariro. To the south is Tongariro National Park (NZ's first).

On the scenic east coast, **Gisborne** is the first city in the world to see sunrise. The Eastland region is famous for its wine growing and is one of the best places in NZ to discover Maori culture. South of Gisborne is the Hawkes Bay region with the twin cities of **Napier** and **Hastings**. Napier, the site of a devastating 1931 earthquake is known worldwide for its fine art-deco architecture. The Norfolk Pine lined beachfront esplanade has a number of tourist attractions including a marine park and aquarium.

Tip: visit the picturesque botanic gardens and its nocturnal kiwi house or take a heritage guided walk around the city

New Plymouth on the west coast is the centre of the Taranaki region with its snow-capped Mt Taranaki (Mt Egmont) dominating the

skyline. Known for its extensive gardens and displays of rhododendrons and azaleas, the area is lush with vegetation and has been used for movie locations such as the Last Samurai with Tom Cruise.

WELLINGTON

Wellington, chosen as the nation's capital in 1865, should not be overlooked on your tour planning. The Museum of New Zealand - **Te Papa**, which opened in 1998, is the jewel of this arts centre of NZ. Te Papa sits on the edge of the harbour and covers every aspect of NZ life. Allow at least a half a day to explore the many exhibits including Maori displays and a cannon from Captain Cook's Endeavour (a gift from the Australian Government to the people of New Zealand) Wellington is the home of the Royal New Zealand Ballet and the NZ Symphony Orchestra.

The Museum of Wellington City and Sea is located over 3 levels in the beautifully restored Bond Store that dates from 1892. The museum features Interactive exhibits of Wellington's 20th century history as well as displays of pre-European settlement (Queens Wharf)

Recommended: take the Cable Car railway from Lambton Quay to the top of the Botanic Gardens, enjoy the expansive view and visit Carters Observatory. Explore the waterfront promenade and recreation areas (fantastic sculptures), stroll the Cuba Street and Courtenay Place area in the middle of the city for great gift shops, nightclubs, theatres and cafes.

MARLBOROUGH/NELSON

The Nelson and Marlborough regions are most famous for wine production and the area is known as the food bowl of the nation. With exceptional produce including fine fruits, salmon and mussels accompanied by award winning wines, it is a truly gastronomic experience. Tramping (bush walking), kayaking, sailing, diving and fishing are just some of the recreational activities on offer. There are beautiful beaches and bays as well as national parks to explore. **Nelson** has a wide selection of accommodation and good range of high quality restaurants (with seafood a specialty). The town of **Blenheim**, the wine growing hub, is only 20 minutes from the port of **Picton**. The Cook Strait ferry services from Wellington terminate at Picton, a quaint village at the end of the Marlborough Sound. Picton is well worth exploring and has good hotels and cafes. The ferry crossing, in good weather, is one of the best cruises you will find in the world.

Tip: Both the Interisland ferries and Bluebridge ferry have special prices for Seniors Card members

CANTERBURY - CHRISTCHURCH

Christchurch is the major gateway and largest city of the beautiful South Island. It is known as the Garden City of New Zealand, because of its many tree lined streets, private gardens and public parklands. Both Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens are within walking distance of the city centre. The River Avon winds its way through Christchurch and together with its neo-Gothic architecture, Christchurch is described as 'the most English town outside of Britain'

Cathedral Square and the nearby Visitors Centre (pick up a free city map) is surrounded by an excellent shopping centre and restaurant district. The historic tram meanders its way through the city streets and is a great way of orientating new visitors to the city.

The city has had a long association with Antarctic exploration with both Scott & Shackleton using the port of Lyttelton as a staging post for the Antarctic voyages (see the statue of Scott in the central city). In modern times, Christchurch International Airport is a base of the NZ, United States and Italian Antarctic programmes. The nearby International Antarctic Centre (twice judged the best attraction in NZ) is worth a visit and features an interactive and educational experience as well as a display of live penguins. For a breathtaking scenic view of Christchurch, Lyttelton Harbour and the Canterbury Plains, take the Gondola ride to the top of an extinct volcano rim.

Highlights: the kiwi house at the Visitors Centre; the Park Terrace al fresco restaurants; punting on the River Avon; a visit to the city's museums and galleries, The Air Force Museum.

Tip: Christchurch Sightseeing Tours operates a half day City & Beaches tour with discounts for Seniors Card members

Arakoa described as a slice of France, is a popular tourist destination about one and a half hours south of Christchurch. This French settlement on the Banks Peninsula features boutique shopping, interesting restaurants and breathtaking scenery.

Tip: Akaroa Harbour Tours operates daily cruises (see the dolphins) with discounts for Seniors Card members

The spa village of **Hanmer Springs** is situated about 90 minutes north of Christchurch, in a beautiful mountain setting. Visit the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa. There is a daily shuttle service from Christchurch.

Tip: Albergo Hanmer B&B offers Seniors Card members a 10% discount and free spa entry for stays of two or more days.

Kaikoura is around 180 kms north of Christchurch and is New Zealand's whale watching capital. You can take a Swim with the Dolphins cruise, go whale watching, spot fur seals and albatross. **Methven**, on the Canterbury Plains is headquarters for Aoraki Balloon Safaris, described as a magical sky experience with views across the plains to the snow capped alps and **Mt Cook**

If you are driving south to Dunedin, then **Timaru** is a good place for a stop. Enjoy the botanic gardens and the park at Caroline Bay. **Oamaru** has an impressive historical building collection as well as a local penguin colony.

OTAGO & QUEENSTOWN

The university city of **Dunedin** has the look and feel of a Scottish city, from its Victorian and Edwardian architecture to the long main street and shopping district (including a tartan shop). There's even a statue of Robbie Burns in the Octagon (a town square that's not a square) and New Zealand's only castle, Lanarch Castle. Set at the head of beautiful Otago harbour, Dunedin is the starting point of the famous Taieri Gorge rail journey.

Explore the city centre, its museums and galleries and stop for a coffee in a local cafe. Take a tour of Speight's Brewery or the Cadbury Chocolate factory. For wildlife enthusiasts there's a tour to an albatross colony with penguins and seals inhabiting the area.

Dunedin Casino is a great day or night time attraction.

On the scenic drive to Queenstown stop off at the historic township of **Arrowtown**, a former gold town and photographer's delight. Have lunch, coffee or an ice cream at one of the many cafes.

Queenstown is a year round alpine resort, situated on the shores of Lake Wakatipu with a breathtaking mountain backdrop. Queenstown is a delightful place to visit at any time of the year, with a vibrant city centre and great shopping and restaurants. There's a vast range of outdoor activities to enjoy including snow or water skiing, hiking, fishing, bungy jumping (discounts for seniors) gold panning and golf.

Tip: The Skyline Gondola, Restaurant and Luge is within walking distance of the town and offers a great vantage point to view the town and surrounding hills

FIORDLAND & SOUTHLAND

Fiordland features some of the most dramatic and beautiful scenery in New Zealand. It is also one of the largest national parks in the world and is a World Heritage Area. **Lake Te Anau, Milford Sound, Doubtful Sound** and **Wanaka** are essential stops. A cruise on Milford Sound is a great experience, as is a visit to the Underwater Observatory.

Tip: Red Boat Cruises, Milford Sound Cruises and Milford Underwater Observatory all have discounts for NZ Seniors Card members
Invercargill is the cosmopolitan hub of Southland and is situated at the very bottom of the South Island and launch point to visit Stewart Island (one hour by ferry). Bluff, a short drive from town is famous for its oysters.

Five of New Zealand's 13 national parks are located in the West Coast region. Stretching along 600 kms of coastline, the region is famous for its glaciers, snow capped mountains, rainforests, and rugged beaches. Greymouth another gold-rush town 'is the main centre of the West Coast. The Tranz Alpine train service from Christchurch, rated as one of the world's great train trips, ends in Greymouth (take a one way journey and drive or catch a coach back), Step back in time and pan for gold at Shantytown, a historic village and leading attraction of the area.

Tip: The Helicopter Line operate scenic flights over Franz Joseph and Fox Glaciers from its base at Franz Joseph. They offer a \$15 discount for NZ Seniors Card members.

Further Information is available from the following websites

New Zealand Customs	www.customs.govt.nz
New Zealand Tourism	www.newzealand.com
Jasons-tourism information	www.jasons.com
AA Guides	www.aaguides.co.nz
Holiday Parks	www.holidayparks.co.nz
Camping Guide	www.nzcamping.co.nz
Tourism	www.tourisnz.com
Interisland Ferry	www.interislander.co.nz
KiwiRail	www.tranzscenic.co.nz
Travel Planner	www.discovernewzealand.com
Rental Cars	www.avis.co.nz www.budget.co.nz

Important NZ Phone Numbers

NZ Emergencies	111
Local Operator	010
International Operator	0170
NZ Directory Assistance	018
International Assistance	0172

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