

# Rankers.co.nz Message

1) BUY A DETAILED ROAD ATLAS  
Probably the most vital piece of discovery equipment and likely to be the best \$30 spend of your whole journey. If you just use the free maps you will end up in the same places as everyone else and won't unlock the real gems.

2) GET SOME INSECT REPELLENT  
Be prepared and all will be good. If not, these little blighters make a habit of ruining your day. Look for the regional sandfly alerts on the maps overlaid.

**General Sandfly rules:**  
- Are more likely to be found in the west of the South Island.  
- Love tree / wilderness areas.  
- Dawn till dusk dwellers that go to sleep at night.  
- Attracted to darker coloured clothing.

3) NZ WEATHER IS VOLATILE & CHANGES QUICKLY  
Have a bad weather contingency plan. Be prepared for change. Don't book too far in advance in case the weather changes.

4) WHEN THE SUN SHINES IT BURNS  
Less ozone protection means it bites hard. Cover up your skin and use full factor 25+ sunblock.

5) CAMPING ETIQUETTE  
One sure way to piss off the locals is not to use your own or public toilet facilities.  
No1 rule - Keep it clean when it's green!

[www.camping.org.nz](http://www.camping.org.nz)

6) FREE WIRELESS  
Wireless internet service for travellers in NZ is, well, pretty average. Plus when available, it's often expensive. BUT there is a free wireless service provided by most (over 100) public libraries throughout NZ. Check out the Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa -

[www.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.org](http://www.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.org)

## FOR THOSE WHO SEEK.

- ... truth
- ... freedom
- ... discovery
- ... local
- ... friends
- ... random
- ... connections
- ... movement
- ... thrill
- ... new
- ... excitement
- ... humour
- ... honest
- ... people
- ... places
- ... sunrise
- ... sunset
- ... memories
- ... Aotearoa
- ... pacific
- ... mountain
- ... beaches
- ... fresh
- ... sustainable
- ... real
- ... roots
- ... pacific
- ... mountain
- ... beach
- ... adventure
- ... feels good

If you have ticked all these boxes, you are not a tourist, you are a **traveller**. You have taken but also given. To Aotearoa.

# BY THE TRAVELLER, FOR THE TRAVELLER.

(1) The info for the 'Best of NZ' comes from 15 000+ independent traveller reviews placed on [www.rankers.co.nz](http://www.rankers.co.nz).

(2) Only activity operators with a ranking score of 80% or higher and who have chosen to support this movement are listed. See the complete list at [rankers.co.nz](http://rankers.co.nz).

(3) Rankers.co.nz is owned by two local lads called Nick and Cymen. They set up Rankers so travellers can easily find the folk who look after people best.



Cover Photo: Seek and ye shall find, Island, Auckland Region >

*"This could be you and your shared review" > date unknown*

*"Don't underestimate the time it takes to travel on NZ roads so you have space to relax" > March 09*

*"Be prepared for sandflies. Allow plenty of time for driving esp. the west coast." > April 09*

*"Spend a night at the Rapahoe camp ground & buy a whitebait patie & beer at the Rapahoe pub while watching the sun go down." > April 09*

*"If possible don't keep to a rigid touring plan - go with the flo (and the weather), talk to people, locals and other visitors. Don't be isolated." > March 09*

*"Do your homework, give yourself plenty of time. Don't try to do it all." > March 09*

**feels good**

Like a great road trip movie, wind down the windows, put on your favourite tunes and prepare yourself for a sensory intake of freedom. - Mt Cook Area Description, Photo: Out the window Mt Cook Area.

# Rankers.co.nz

- Independent Travel Reviews -

Thank You  
To the travellers of 08/09 who gave to others without obvious gain so you can now find the best in Aotearoa. In the spirit of those who have gone before, jump onto [rankers.co.nz](http://rankers.co.nz) and have your say!

Rankers.co.nz 'CIRCLE OF GOODNESS'

# Rankers.co.nz

- Independent Travel Reviews -

## BEST OF NEWZEALAND OR THE ISLANDS OF DISCOVERY and SWEETNESS Lying in the SOUTH SEA

By Lieut J. Cook, Commander of the ENDEAVOUR BARK 1770  
Rankers.co.nz 2009 and 15,000+ traveller reviews

# A CHART OF NEWZEALAND OR THE ISLANDS OF DISCOVERY and SWEETNESS Lying in the SOUTH SEA

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### NORTHLAND

The *wairua (spirit)* is strong in this one. Two seas clash on the outer rim while giant forest guardians look over within.

- 94% 14 reviews Tallship R Tucker Thompson - Paihia - 0800 882 537
- 91% 24 reviews Dive! Tutukaka - 0800 288 882
- 83% 13 reviews Sail NZ, Explore NZ - Paihia - 0800 397 567
- 82% 41 reviews Dolphin Discoveries, Explore NZ - Paihia - 0800 365 744

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Tapotupotu Campsite - Cape Reinga - DOC - Edge of the Earth - \$7.50pp
- 2) Matai Bay - Karikari Peninsular - DOC - Beach front - \$8pp
- 3) Russell Top 10 Holiday Park 0800 148 671
- 4) Kauri Coast Top 10 Holiday Park 0800 807 200

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *Tane Mahuta* - Waipoua Forest - 15 min walk
- 2) *Te Pahi* stream and *Ahipara* beach sand dunes
- 3) *Bream Head walks* - Urquharts Bay, Whangarei Heads
- 4) *Ngawha Springs* - Not free but cheap as chips

### WAIKATO

The land of milk and honey. A mecca of dairy coupled with the sweetness of serenity.

- 95% 17 reviews Green Glow Eco-adventures - Waitomo - 0800 476 459

### HOLIDAY PARKS

- 1) Waitomo Top 10 Holiday Park - 0508 498 666
- 2) Otorohanga Kiwitown Holiday Park - 07 873 8279

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *Marokopa Falls Walk* - Near Waitomo - 20 min return - little known gem. Expect 20km of winding, gravel access road.
- 2) *Te Aroha* - classic NZ town
- 3) *Raglan*

### TAUPO

Big eruption = Big hole = Big lake

- 94% 17 reviews Tongariro River Rafting - Turangi - 0800 101 024
- 85% 12 reviews Taupo De Bretts Spa Resort - 07 378 8559

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Reids Farm Campground - Turn off at Huka Falls just nth of Taupo and drive for around 1km - toilets, rubbish bins and next to Waikato River - free
- 2) Lake Taupo Top 10 Holiday Park - 0800 332 121
- 3) De Bretts Thermal Resort - 07 378 8559

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *Huka Falls walk* - Just nth of Taupo, 10 mins walk
- 2) *Aratiatia Dam release* - 10km north of Taupo - Summer: 10am, 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm
- 3) *Taupo's Hot Water Beach* - Eastern end of main beach near town - look for public carpark and toilets and walk south. Dig your own hot pool in sand
- 4) *Tongariro National Trout Centre* - 6km south of Turangi on SH1 - feed the trout (small fee) plus natural picnic areas

### RUAPEHU

Slip on your shoes, it's walk-o-rama. Vivid colour like a Psychedelic cruise.

### CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Excellent serviced DOC campground at Whakapapa Village - Plenty of bush nooks that provide privacy. From \$10 - \$18 pp
- 2) Mangahua - Off SH47, just south of Whakapapa village - cheaper option at just \$4 pp

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *Tongariro Crossing walk* - Popular but it's a classic day walk. Challenging
- 2) *Heaps of quality short walks* at Whakapapa Village + Lake Rotopouanamu + Pillars of Hercules walk
- 3) *SH1 - The Desert Road* - Spectacular drive, plus you might spot the NZ defence force practicing manoeuvres in our antique war machines

### TARANAKI

The Naki is quite the surprise package. Talk with the colloquial locals and unlock a Jack-in-the-Box of the unexpected.

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Weld Road Beach Reserve - Just south of Oakura - free camping on the beach at road end
- 2) Fitzroy Beach Holiday Camp - 06 758 2870

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *Pukekura Park* - One of the great NZ parks with bright night lights
- 2) Scenic drive - *Forgotten World Highway* - SH43 - Whangamomona Hotel
- 3) *Surf highway SH45* - enough said, it cranks

### MANAWATU - WANGANUI

Raw and real. The Whanganui River is a major artery that has fed culture and change, shaping Aotearoa.

- 97% 45 reviews Spirit of the River Jet - Upokongaro - 0800 JET TOUR
- 93% 9 reviews River Valley Stables - Taihape - 06 388 1444
- 90% 38 reviews River Valley Rafting - Taihape - 06 388 1444
- 83% 6 reviews Blazing Paddles - Taumararua - 0800 BLAZING

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

Whanganui River Top 10 Holiday Park - 0800 272 664  
Mowhanau Camp - Kai Iwi beach - remote feel but only 15km from Whanganui

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) Scenic drive - *Whanganui River Rd* - Look for Bridge to Nowhere and the Flying Fox
- 2) *Visit Ratana Church* - About 15km south of Whanganui
- 3) *Koititara beach settlement* - Turn off SH1 near Ratana
- 4) *Throw a gumboot at Taihape* - see the local iSITE

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION - PALMERSTON NORTH

Volunteer with the Green Corridors - planting or weeding with the locals. Every Thursday - contact Geoff Wilkinson 06 356 8199 ext 7703.

### AUCKLAND

There is no other city that has such an array of close natural wonders. Sometimes hidden behind poor urban design, a small effort yields great rewards.

- 97% 19 reviews J G Sailing Adventures - Takapuna - 027 444 8779
- 93% 10 reviews Canyonz - 0800 422 696
- 90% 8 reviews CharterLink - Devonport - 09 445 7114
- 81% 6 reviews Auckland's Whale and Dolphin Safari - 0800 397 567
- 80% 6 reviews Sail NZ Auckland, Explore NZ - 0800 724 569

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Tapapakanga Beach front - Awesome! - 40 mins from airport - \$10pp
- 2) Tawharanui Campsite - Marine and Wildlife reserve - \$10pp
- 3) Ambury Campsite - Only 10 mins from airport - \$10pp
- 4) Takapuna Beach Holiday Park - Take the bus to the city - 09 489 7909

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *West Coast beaches* - Whatipu, Karekare, Piha, Anawhata, Bethells, Muriwai - Walking, swimming, surfing, spectacular scenery and discovery
- 2) *Otara Market* - The heart of Polynesian - Manukau - 6am to 12noon Saturday - lock your vehicle
- 3) *Islands* - Tiritiri Matangi Nature Reserve - Great project and fantastic visit. Plus Great Barrier, Rangitoto, Waiheke Island
- 4) *Ponsonby Rd* - Central City - If an Aucklander was personified by a road, this would be it

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Volunteer with the Moutapu Island conservation project on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month. Contact Bridget Winestone 09 524 5072

### RESOURCES

[www.aucklandnz.com](http://www.aucklandnz.com) & [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz)

### WELLINGTON

Seriously cool that rules with political tools.

There's no better place in Aotearoa to get your city fix.

- 95% 64 reviews Kapiti Island Alive - 06 362 6606
- 88% 212 reviews Te Papa, National Museum - 04 381 7000
- 85% 16 reviews Wellington Rover Tours - 021 426 2111

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Kaitoke Regional Park Campgrounds - On SH2 35 mins from Wgtn city - \$5pp
- 2) Dry Creek Campsite - Belmont Regional Park, Lower Hutt - SH2 - 25 mins from Wgtn city \$5 pp

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *Cuba Street* - Creative quarter of the city - Quirky eateries and shops
- 2) South Coast drive to *Red Rocks* - seals and more...
- 3) *Rimutaka Rail Trail* - Walk (3hrs) or ride (1hr) - family friendly - take a torch

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION - KARORI SANCTUARY TRUST

Zealandia. Various volunteer projects. Give Michael Ayre a call at least a week in advance to check availability. Ph 04 920 9201 or michael@sanctuaryorg.nz

### WAIRARAPA

Get off the main drag and the story of the ugly duckling will be realised.

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Waiohine Gorge Campsite - Gravel road access near Greytown \$6 pp
- 2) Putangirua Pinnacles Campsite - On main road to Cape Palliser \$6 pp

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *Cape Palliser Drive* - Putangirua Pinnacles, Ngawi fishing village, lighthouse
- 2) *Castlepoint*
- 3) *Waiohine Gorge* - Huge swing bridge! Good campsite - (see above)
- 4) *Woodville* - Top 2nd hand shopping in NZ - plus best old school corner dairy

### COROMANDEL

Go underground to find the gold, when you get out there, let it hang out there, use your tea towel as loin cloth and drink herbal tea. Can you handle th' Mandel?

- 93% 50 reviews Cathedral Cove Sea Kayaking - Hahei - 0800 529 258
- 91% 16 reviews The Waterworks - Coromandel Town - 07 866 7191
- 91% 20 reviews Epic Adventures Fishing Guides - Tairua - 07 864 8193
- 90% 12 reviews The Lost Spring - Whitianga - 07 866 0456
- 90% 16 reviews Coromandel Discovery - Coromandel Town - 0800 668 175

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *Karangahake Gorge Walkway* (tunnels - take a torch) - Windows walk - 45min
- 2) *Cathedral Cove walk* - 3hrs return
- 3) *Hot Water Beach*
- 4) *Pinnacles Walk* - Classic NZ day walk

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Fantal, Fletchers & Waikawau Bays - top of peninsula - DOC - \$7pp - winding road access
- 2) Dickson Holiday Park - Thames - 07 865 7308

### BAY OF PLENTY

The name says it all.

- 88% 44 reviews White Island, Pee Jay Tours - Whakatane - 0800 PEE JAY

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) McLaren Falls Park - SH29 around 20km from Tauranga - Camp by a tranquil lake - \$5pp
- 2) Papamoa Top 10 Holiday Park - 0800 232 243
- 3) Waipi Beach Top 10 Holiday Park - 0800 924 448

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *Waipi Beach to Orokawa Bay walk* - stunning - 45mins one way
- 2) *Walk up and around Mount Maungamui* - 40 mins to 1 hour loop

### KAI (FOOD) TIME

Opotiki Main St sports 2 top cafes - Two Fish & Rostards

### ROTORUA

Smell it before you see it Rotorua is so hot right now!

- 93% 10 reviews NZONE Skydive Rotorua - 0800 DROP ZONE
- 92% 12 reviews Waikite Valley Thermal Pools - 07 333 1861
- 92% 12 reviews Riverjet - 44 kms Sth of Rotorua on SH5 - 0800 748 375
- 88% 36 reviews Waimangu Volcanic Valley - 07 366 6137
- 87% 54 reviews Kaitiki Rafting and Sledging - 0800 338 736
- 87% 23 reviews Raftabout - Okere Falls - 0800 RAFTABOUT
- 85% 125 reviews Tamaki Heritage Experiences - 0508 TAMAKI

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Adventurous but rewarding option - get permit (\$4 per vehicle) from Kawerau iSITE (07 323 7550). Drive through Kawerau to stay at Lake Tarawera Outlet Campsite \$7pp
- 2) Rotorua Top 10 Holiday Park - 0800 223 267
- 3) Cosy Cottage International Holiday Park - 07 348 3793

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) Tarawera Falls walking tracks - 20 min to 2 hours - permit required for access, see No 1 campground above
- 2) Whakarewarewa Forest - Best cross country mountain biking in NZ!
- 3) Kerosene Creek - Bathe in a hot stream - SH30 26.5 kms south of Rotorua - Old Waikaremoana road
- 4) Hamurana Springs walk - Hamurana Rd - Nth Rotorua - 20 mins

### EASTLAND = TAIRAWHITI

Gets up before anyone else. A birthplace of the new. Off the track, hang a local, share a brew. Kia Kahal!

- 95% 19 reviews Eastender Horse Treks - Rangitukia - 06 864 3033

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

The East Cape coastal road is a freedom camping mecca. Permit required from iSITE Gisborne (SH) or GDC Te Pahi Springs (Nth) - Cheap as chips - \$10 for up to 6 people for 2 nights

*Waipiro, Tokomaru, Kaiawa, Tolaga, Waihau / Loiselles and Pouawa - All beach front*  
Also on western side of The Cape - Marahako - 90km nth of Opotiki - \$12pp

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *SH35* is one of the top scenic drives in NZ. It's like jumping in The Tardis
- 2) *Rere Rock Slide* - Crazy natural rock slide - at your own risk!
- 3) *Tolaga Bay wharf* - It's a long one
- 4) *East Cape lighthouse* - Beautiful road - remote campground along the way
- 5) *St Mary's Church* - Tikitihi - just off SH35

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION - GISBORNE

Volunteer with Titirangi Community Project - planting and weeding with the locals - 1st Tuesday of every month 9am to 12.30pm - contact Kirsty Gaddum 06 869 0490

### HAWKES BAY

Like a masquerade ball; full of pomp, ceremony, fine wine and food. The gamnets are cool too.

- 90% 22 reviews Gannet Beach Adventures - Te Awanga - 0800 426 638

### HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Mokau Landing campsite - Lake Waikaremoana - Remote goodness - \$8 pp
- 2) Napier Top 10 - Kennedy Park - 0800 457 275

### FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) *Lake Waikaremoana* - Lake Waikareiti walk - rent a dingy and find the island in a lake on an island in a lake
- 2) Grab an *Art Deco self guided tour* booklet from iSITE and go Deco in Napier city
- 3) *Take a wine tour* by car or bike - see iSITE

Hey you can't spell New Zealand, the Maori place names are incorrect! ABOUT THIS MAP: This map is a slightly modified version of Captain James Cook's original 1770 Map of New Zealand, a great sailor perhaps not a great speller, it should not be used for navigational purposes.

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## MARLBOROUGH

After slinking through the sounds and sipping on some Saus, keep the sounds down 'cos the spy base is in town.  
86% reviews Marlborough Sounds Wilderness Guides - 0800 266 266  
85% 11 reviews Marlborough Sounds Adventure Co - 0800 283 283

## HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Pelorus Bridge - DOC serviced \$10 pp
- 2) For adventurous drivers (winding roads) - over 15 cheap, beach front campsites in Marlborough Sounds - ask at SITE
- 3) Picton Top 10 Holiday Park - 0800 277 444

## FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) Bike around the **wineries** - a winner!
- 2) **Queen Charlotte** - Very scenic winding drive
- 3) **Saw Cut Gorge walk** - Waima River Bridge - First bridge once SH1 to Kaikoura meets the coast - 3 hours return
- 4) **Pelorus Bridge walks** - From 5 mins to full day

## MOUNT COOK

Like a great road trip movie, wind down the windows, put on your favourite tunes and prepare yourself for a sensory intake of freedom.

- 1) 95% 18 reviews Air Safaris - Lake Tekapo - 0800 806 880
- 2) 88% 5 reviews Mt John Observatory - 03 680 6960

## HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) White Horse Hill Campsite - Hooker Valley Rd 3 km from Mt Cook Township - DOC \$6 pp
- 2) Lake Tekapo Holiday Park - 0800 853 853

## FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) Walk to **Mt John Observatory** - Good walk + great cafe
- 2) **Mt Cook** - Glacial walk - sealy tarms + Mueller hut - steep
- 3) **Mt Cook valley lake** - Jump in - good luck!
- 4) **Stargazing** - Unreal!
- 5) **Water colours** - Bright turquoise blue water mixed with yellow, raw wind swept tussock

## WEST COAST SANDFLY ALERT!

A diamond in the rough. Get on the offensive, cover yourself in sandfly repellent and tackle the weather & best scenery in NZ head on.

- 1) 96% 15 reviews Mountain Helicopters - Fox Glacier - 0800 369 423
- 2) 93% 12 reviews Glacier Helicopters - Franz Josef - 0800 800 732
- 3) 90% 11 reviews The Helicopter Line Franz Josef - 0800 807 767
- 4) 88% 86 reviews Fox Glacier Guiding - 0800 111 600
- 5) 85% 12 reviews On yer bike - Greymouth - 0800 669 372
- 6) 83% 9 reviews Glacier Helicopters - Fox Glacier - 0800 800 732

## HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Gillespies Beach - West of Fox Glacier - DOC - Sunset wonder #1 \$6 pp
- 2) Okarito Beach Community Campsite - 32km Nth of Franz Josef - Sunset wonder #2 \$10 pp
- 3) Kohahai Campsite - Karamea - Start of Heaphy track \$6 pp
- 4) Punakihi Beach Campsite - 03 731 1894

## FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) **Karamea** walks - Limestone arches, caves + Scotts beach
- 2) **Trueman** Track - Punakihi - Don't miss 1 hr well spent
- 3) **Pancake rocks** + Blowholes - Busy for a reason. High tide visit a bonus
- 4) **Jacksons Bay / Bruce Bay**
- 5) **Lake Okarito** and **Gillespies Beach** (see camping above)
- 6) **Blackball Hilton Pub + Salami!**
- 7) **Welcome Flat** and Hot Pools - Overnight walk

## IMPORTANT TIP!

**SANDFLIES** - Put on repellent - don't wear dark clothes - don't scratch the bites (although you want to) and good luck!

## FIORDLAND SANDFLY ALERT!

Meditative Milford - Get yourself into a zen state as this place is intense. Once the tour buses depart by 4pm, the locals are in their element (including sandflies). Find yourself a quite space and do what you need to do to take it all in.

- 1) 95% 29 reviews Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruises, Real Journeys - 0800 656 501
- 2) 94% 14 reviews Milford Sound Overnight Cruises, Real Journeys - 0800 656 501
- 3) 91% 23 reviews Milford Sound Sea Kayaks - 0800 476 726
- 4) 89% 86 reviews Mitre Peak Cruises - 0800 744 633
- 5) 86% 99 reviews Milford Sound Day Cruises, Real Journeys - 0800 656 501
- 6) 86% 99 reviews Doubtful Sound Day Cruise, Real Journeys - 0800 656 501

## HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) The drive from Te Anau to Milford is chock full of great DOC campsites - Henry Creek and Deer Flat to name just two - \$5pp
- 2) Use the full facilities at Te Anau Top 10 - 0800 249 746

## FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) **Lake Marian walk** - Hollyford Rd - 3hrs+ return
- 2) **Gertrude Saddle** - Milford Road - Day walk - it's a ripper
- 3) **The Chasm** - On approach to Milford - 20 min return - Amazing if raining
- 4) Walk from SITE along **lake Te Anau** - Check out the Takahe and Whio (Blue Duck)

## NELSON

This region is like a hippy with flash shoes. Drunk on sunshine. Replenish, reflect, restock & relax. Then relive the '70s and head down the one way street called Golden Bay, it won't let you down.

- 1) 96% 13 reviews Abel Tasman Mountain Biking - 0800 808 018
- 2) 96% 17 reviews Tasman Sky Adventures - Abel Tasman - 0800 114 386
- 3) 96% 23 reviews U Fly Extreme - Pilot a Stunt Plane - 0800 360 180
- 4) 95% 44 reviews Skydive Abel Tasman - 0800 4 A BUZZ
- 5) 93% 77 reviews Kahu Kayaks - Abel Tasman - 0800 300 101
- 6) 93% 26 reviews Ultimate Descents Rafting - Murchison - 0800 RIVERS
- 7) 91% 49 reviews Marahau Sea Kayaks - Abel Tasman - 0800 808 018
- 8) 89% 75 reviews Abel Tasman Marahau Water Taxis - 0800 808 018
- 9) 88% 119 reviews Abel Tasman Sea Shuttle - 0800 732 748
- 10) 87% 56 reviews Abel Tasman Sailing Adventures - 0800 467 245

## HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Totaranui Campsite - Golden Bay - DOC - Busy in Jan \$12pp
- 2) Motueka Top 10 - 0800 668 835
- 3) Kaiteriteri Beach Motorcamp - 03 527 8010
- 4) Tahuna Beach Holiday Park - 0800 500 501
- 5) Abel Tasman Marahau Beach Camp - 0800 808 018

## FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) **Riwaka Resurgence** - swimming hole in crystal pool
- 2) Various short walks around **Kaiteriteri**
- 3) **Pu Pu springs** 30mins AND Pu Pu hydro walkway 2hrs return
- 4) **Farewell Spit / Pillar Point / Wharariki Beach** walks - all good
- 5) **Bainham Store** - Aorere Valley. Step back in time. Ask about local swimming holes
- 6) **Whanganui Inlet** - Explore!

## KAIKOURA

Squeezed between two giants, a dramatic point where the Southern Alps and Pacific Ocean meet.

- 1) 99% 25 reviews Maori Tours Kaikoura - 0800 866 267
- 2) 92% 19 reviews Fish Kaikoura - 0800 768 020
- 3) 89% 18 reviews Seal Swim Kaikoura - 0800 732 579

## HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Meatworks Beachfront Campsite - Skm north of Kaikoura - free
- 2) Kaikoura Top 10 Holiday Park - 0800 363 638

## FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) Seals plus shorts walks at **Kaikoura Peninsula**
- 2) More seals at **Ohau Point lookout** - roadside stop - 10km north of Kaikoura
- 3) **Mt Eyffe walk** - good views - steep
- 4) **Scenic drive** - 1/2 hour either side of township. It's Banger

## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Trees for Travellers - Buy a tree that is planted within the local Kaikoura community - www.treesfortravellers.co.nz

## CANTERBURY

Lots on offer here, straight roads make for easy driving but a zig zag approach is rewarded. Good place to get lost in. Watch out for local one eyed rugby fanatics.

- 1) 95% 36 reviews Rangitata Rafts - Peel Forest - 0800 251 251
- 2) 92% 33 reviews Swim with Dolphins, Black Cat Cruises - Akaroa - 0800 436 574

## HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Peel Forest Campsite - DOC \$9pp
- 2) Akaroa Top 10 Holiday Park - 0800 727 525
- 3) Stonehurst Campervan Park - 0508 786 633
- 4) Efanmer Springs Top 10 Holiday Park - 0800 904 545

## FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) **Castle Hill rocks** - Walks and freedom caving
- 2) **Arthurs Pass** - Heaps of walks inc Devils Punch Bowl waterfall
- 3) **Christchurch** - The Garden City - Botanical gardens, Christchurch Museum, Arts Centre, Art Gallery
- 4) Quaint town of **Akaroa** - Banks Peninsula
- 5) **Mt Peel** walks

## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Submit Road Society - Banks Peninsula  
Meet every Tuesday to look after Governors Bay Reserve.  
Contact: Mike White - Ph +64 3 312 1551 - whitern@xtra.co.nz

## COASTAL OTAGO

An oddity that works. The Scots did their best to tame the beast but wildlife still prevails. Get a hip flask of whisky, a kilt and stride the coast with purpose.

- 1) 89% 22 reviews Monarch Wildlife Cruises - 0800 666 272

## HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Trotters Gorge Campsite - 3km Sth of Moeraki - DOC - \$6 per site

## FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) **Moeraki boulders** and Fleurs Place
- 2) **Taiaroa Head** - Carpark on a windy day - Albatross in flight
- 3) **Oamaru** - Old school dress up at the pub. Great town centre - Sunset wonder #2 \$10 pp
- 4) **North Dunedin** and unique student lifestyle. Treat it like a zoo and observe the students in their natural habitat

## CENTRAL OTAGO

Surreal space, if the Dalai Lama wanted to hang out in a southern NZ Tibet, then this is the spot. Get out your incense and get remote.

## FREE CAMPSITE

- 1) St Bathans Domain campsite - Off SH85 - DOC - free

## FREE EXPERIENCES

- 1) **Otago Central Rail Trail** - 150km of good times on a bike - Take heaps of water. Primo NZ.
- 2) **Doctors Point Walk** - Lake Roxborough - 4 hours return
- 3) **Tuapeka River Punt** - Take your car across the river in style - free - 8am to 10am and 4pm to 6pm
- 4) **Mount Stuart Rail Tunnel** (Manuka Gorge) - Take a togh - glowworms

## WANAKA

The outdoor fitness capital of NZ. You get the feeling every local is capable of giving you 10 one-handed push ups, while holding a coffee in the other. All roads from here lead to goodness.

- 1) 96% 75 reviews Skydive Lake Wanaka - 0800 786 877
- 2) 85% 44 reviews Stuart Landsboroughs Puzzling World - 03 443 7489

## HOLIDAY PARKS / CAMPGROUNDS

- 1) Boundary Creek Campsite - North Head of Lake Wanaka - DOC - \$7 pp
- 2) Aspiring Campervan Park - 0800 229 843

## FREE EXPERIENCES

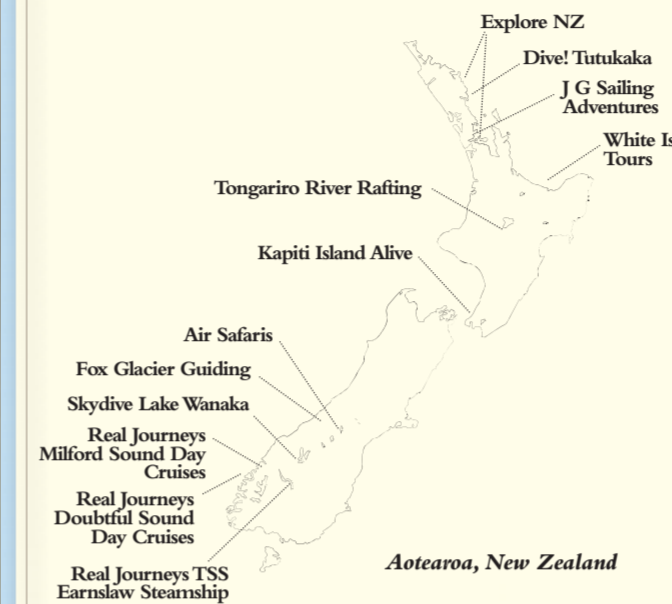
- 1) Drive up the **Matukituki Valley** to Mt Aspiring National Park and be wow-wowed
- 2) **Haast Pass** and **Makarora** area - Lots of good walks
- 3) **Cardrona Pub** - Cardrona Valley Road - scenic drive plus a quiet ale

## STEWART ISLAND

NZ's Final Frontier? - We are short of traveller info here - share your feedback on [www.rankers.co.nz](http://www.rankers.co.nz)

## Rankers.co.nz Best of NZ: The People have Spoken!

The traveller has had their say and the votes are in. Every one of these companies was a Winner or Finalist in the Rankers Traveller Voted Awards 2009. This means you can trust these good folk to give you a great experience.



**DIVING**

91%  
24 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

Dive! Tutukaka  
Tutukaka  
0800 288 882  
info@diving.co.nz  
www.diving.co.nz

"Fantastic trip to the Poor Knights. Best dive I've ever done. Really enthusiastic & helpful staff. Couldn't fault them at all."  
- 24/06/2009

< KatieR - England

**VOLCANIC**

88%  
44 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

White Island Tours  
Whakatane  
0800 733 529  
info@whiteisland.co.nz  
www.whiteisland.co.nz

"Very nice trip! Good explanations and the scenery is just amazing! Worth the money!" - 14/04/2009

< David - Germany

**WILDLIFE**

95%  
64 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

Kapiti Island Alive  
Kapiti Coast  
06 362 6606  
minnie@kapitiislandlive.co.nz  
www.kapitiislandlive.co.nz

"The best! Nature and hospitality in a fantastic combo. Spotted Kiwi we looked for and found. On top the Tikahe at close look. Our best experience in our 3 week tour of NZ. Claes & Anna from Sweden." - 21/08/2009

< Claes - Sweden

**GLACIERS**

88%  
86 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

Fox Glacier Guiding  
Fox Glacier  
0800 111 600  
info@foxguides.co.nz  
www.foxguides.co.nz

"Helihike, brilliant. Pricey but worth every cent. Don't know how to describe how good it was, so you're just going to have to trust me, it was great!" - 15/08/2009

< ChrisD - England

**SCENIC FLIGHTS**

95%  
18 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

Air Safaris  
Lake Tekapo  
03 680 6880  
sales@airsafaris.co.nz  
www.airsafaris.co.nz

"If we could give a ranking higher than 10 we would!!! Absolutely awesome. Staff are friendly and are keen to show you the area at its best." - 20/01/2009

< Jed - France

## Rankers.co.nz Best of NZ: 10% OFF COUPONS!

### BOOK DIRECT

You have to book direct with the operator via phone, website or face to face to get the discount!

### ONE DISCOUNT

The discount coupons cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts, promotions or commissions.

### LOCATION

Discounts not valid at location where the Best of NZ and associated Coupons are issued.

### PRIMARY PRODUCT

10% discount applies to the primary product only at full rack rate and not on additional goods and services.

### ONE CARD PER TOURING GROUP

One coupon is valid for your entire travel group.

### MENTION THE COUPON WHEN BOOKING

To receive the discount, you must mention that you have the card when you place your booking.

### EXPIRY

Coupons expire in December 2010.

### SHOW YOUR COUPON

The discount coupon must be presented upon payment to receive the discount.

See [www.rankers.co.nz](http://www.rankers.co.nz) for full terms and conditions.

**SAILING**

83%  
13 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

Explore NZ  
Auckland Viaduct & Paiaia, Bay of Islands  
0800 397 567  
info@explorenz.co.nz  
www.explorenz.co.nz

"Good value whole day trip with nice people, really relaxed. You are very welcome to help the skipper."  
- 18/03/2009

< Tajane - Austria

**SAILING**

96%  
19 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

J G Sailing Adventures  
Auckland  
0274 448779  
sailing@jgadventures.co.nz  
www.jgadventures.co.nz

"An absolutely perfect day. Sunshine, good food, good company. A chance to relax completely and do exactly what we wanted. I especially loved that it was possible to change itinerary at the last moment - go to Waiteke, eat a wonderful meal and then sail home under the stars.... If I could rank the experience higher than 10, I would!" - 05/04/2009

< yuhong - United Kingdom

**RAFTING**

94%  
17 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

Tongariro River Rafting  
Tingangi  
0800 10 10 24  
info@trr.co.nz  
www.trr.co.nz

"Had a great day with TRR! From pick ups to equipment, to snacks... everything was brilliant! Nice and funny Team, with a lot of experience. :) The rafting tour was good fun... the scenery is really beautiful!"  
- 18/03/2009

< Tanja Kirschmann - Germany

**SKY DIVING**

96%  
72 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

Skydive Lake Wanaka  
Wanaka Airport  
0800 786 877  
info@skydivewanaka.com  
www.skydivewanaka.com

"Super!!!! Loved every second of it!!! great staff and facilities! Worth every penny and the views are second to none!"  
- 06/08/2009

< Phil Hunter - England

**BOAT CRUISES**

86%  
59 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

Milford Sound Day Cruises

"I was blown away by the beauty of Queenstown. The journey on the TSS Earnslaw will leave a lasting memory."  
- 26/09/2009

< Zane - United States

**BOAT CRUISES**

86%  
59 REVIEWS  
RANKERS.CO.NZ

Doubtful Sound Day Cruises

"We appreciated that they turn off the engines of the ship and we could hear the birds and the waves of the sea. Good ship, good explanations, very friendly." - 29/08/2009

< Francesca - Spain

<p><b>Northland</b></p> <p>10% OFF Talkship R Tucker Thompson 0800 882 537</p>	<p><b>Northland</b></p> <p>10% OFF Dive! Tutukaka 0800 288 882</p>	<p><b>Northland</b></p> <p>10% OFF Perfect Day Ocean Cruise 0800 288 882</p>	<p><b>Paihia / Auckland</b></p> <p>10% OFF Explore NZ 0800 397 567</p>
<p><b>Coromandel</b></p> <p>10% OFF Cathedral Cove Sea Kayaking 0800 52 92 58</p>	<p><b>Bay of Plenty</b></p> <p>10% OFF White Island Tours 0800 PEE JAY</p>	<p><b>Waikato</b></p> <p>10% OFF The Legendary Black Water Rafting Co 0800 228 464</p>	<p><b>Rotorna</b></p> <p>10% OFF NZONE Skydive Rotorua 0800 DROPZONE</p>
<p><b>Rotorna</b></p> <p>10% OFF Riverjet NZ 0800 748 375</p>	<p><b>Rotorna</b></p> <p>10% OFF Kaitiaki Rafting and Sledging 0800 33 87 36</p>	<p><b>Rotorna / Christchurch</b></p> <p>10% OFF Tamaki Heritage Experiences 0508 TAMAKI</p>	<p><b>Rotorna</b></p> <p>10% OFF Rainbow Springs Kivi Wildlife Park 0800 72 46 26</p>
<p><b>Taupo</b></p> <p>10% OFF Tongariro River Rafting 0800 10 10 24</p>	<p><b>Taupo</b></p> <p>10% OFF Hukafalls Jet 0800 4THRILLS</p>	<p><b>Whanganui River</b></p> <p>10% OFF Blazing Paddles Canoe Adventures 0800 BLAZING</p>	<p><b>Whanganui River</b></p> <p>10% OFF Spirit of the River Jet 0800 JET TOUR</p>
<p><b>Marlborough Sounds</b></p> <p>10% OFF Beachcomber Fun Cruises 0800 624 526</p>	<p><b>Abel Tasman</b></p> <p>10% OFF Abel Tasman Sea Swims 0800 25 29 25</p>	<p><b>Abel Tasman</b></p> <p>10% OFF Abel Tasman Aqua Taxis 0800 AQUA TAXI</p>	<p><b>Abel Tasman</b></p> <p>10% OFF Kaiteriteri Kayaks 0800 2 KAYAK</p>
<p><b>Abel Tasman</b></p> <p>10% OFF Tasman Sky Adventures 0800 114 386</p>	<p><b>Abel Tasman</b></p> <p>10% OFF U-fly Extreme - Pilot a Stunt Plane 0800 360 180</p>	<p><b>Abel Tasman</b></p> <p>10% OFF Kahu Kayaks 0800 300 101</p>	<p><b>Abel Tasman</b></p> <p>10% OFF Marahau Sea Kayaks 0800 80 80 18</p>
<p><b>Abel Tasman</b></p> <p>10% OFF Skydive Abel Tasman 0800 4 A BUZZ</p>	<p><b>Fox Glacier</b></p> <p>10% OFF Mountain Helicopters 0800 369 423</p>	<p><b>Westport</b></p> <p>10% OFF Buller Adventures Tours 0800 697 286</p>	<p><b>Murchison</b></p> <p>10% OFF Ultimate Descents 0800 RIVERS</p>
<p><b>Murchison</b></p> <p>10% OFF White Water Action Rafting Tours 0800 100 582</p>	<p><b>Franz Josef Glacier</b></p> <p>10% OFF Franz Josef Glacier Guides 0800 GUIDES</p>	<p><b>Franz Josef Glacier</b></p> <p>10% OFF Glacier Hot Pools 0800 044 044</p>	<p><b>Kaikoura</b></p> <p>10% OFF Fish Kaikoura 0800 768 020</p>
<p><b>Akaroa / Lyttelton</b></p> <p>10% OFF Black Cat Cruises &amp; Dolphin Swim 0800 346 574</p>	<p><b>Wanaka</b></p> <p>10% OFF Skydive Lake Wanaka 0800 78 68 77</p>	<p><b>Wanaka</b></p> <p>10% OFF Stuart Landsboroughs Puzzling World 03 443 7489</p>	<p><b>Queenstown</b></p> <p>10% OFF NZONE Skydive Queenstown 0800 DROP ZONE</p>
<p><b>Queenstown</b></p> <p>10% OFF Kawarau Jet Queenstown 0800 KAWARAU</p>	<p><b>Queenstown</b></p> <p>10% OFF Dart River Safaris 0800 DARTJET</p>	<p><b>Milford Sound</b></p> <p>10% OFF Milford Sound Day Cruises, Real Journeys 0800 65 65 01</p>	<p>&lt;</p>