

special New Zealand

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"Ambition leads me not only farther than any other man has been before me, but as far as I think it possible for man to go."

James Cook



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# NORTH ISLAND





**A**uckland is New Zealand's largest city and main transport hub. The region is home to some 1.5 million people and is also the largest Polynesian city in the world. 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 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.**

# AUCKLAND

## CITY OF SAILS



**A**stunning natural playground. Auckland's diverse landscapes provide countless opportunities to get immersed in nature. In the west, lush native rainforest plunges down the hills to meet the sea on dramatic black sand beaches, while the east's sheltered golden sand beaches are fringed with red-flowering pohutukawa trees. To the north the rolling hills of wine country meet stunning coastlines and in

the south you'll find picturesque country gardens, unspoilt forest and tranquil bays to explore. **V**olcanoes New Zealand's Auckland region is dotted with 48 volcanic cones, which provide spectacular panoramic views of the city and harbour. Many are surrounded by lush parkland, making them perfect picnic spots. Rangitoto Island, just a 25-minute ferry ride from downtown Auckland, is the

region's most iconic volcano and a favourite day trip destination for visitors, hikers and bird watchers. **H**auraki Gulf and Islands Auckland's Hauraki Gulf Marine Park encompasses an incredible 1.2 million hectares of coast, sea and islands – and there are so many ways to explore it. The jewel of the Hauraki Gulf is Waiheke Island, a haven of beautiful vineyards, olive

groves, farm land and golden beaches - and only a 35-minute ferry ride away from downtown Auckland. Sip on award-winning wines at some of the 30 boutique vineyards and wineries, enjoy fine dining and pick up superb local artwork. Make sure you get out on the water while you're here, whether it's a relaxing harbour cruise, a fishing charter, whale and dolphin spotting, kayaking or surfing.





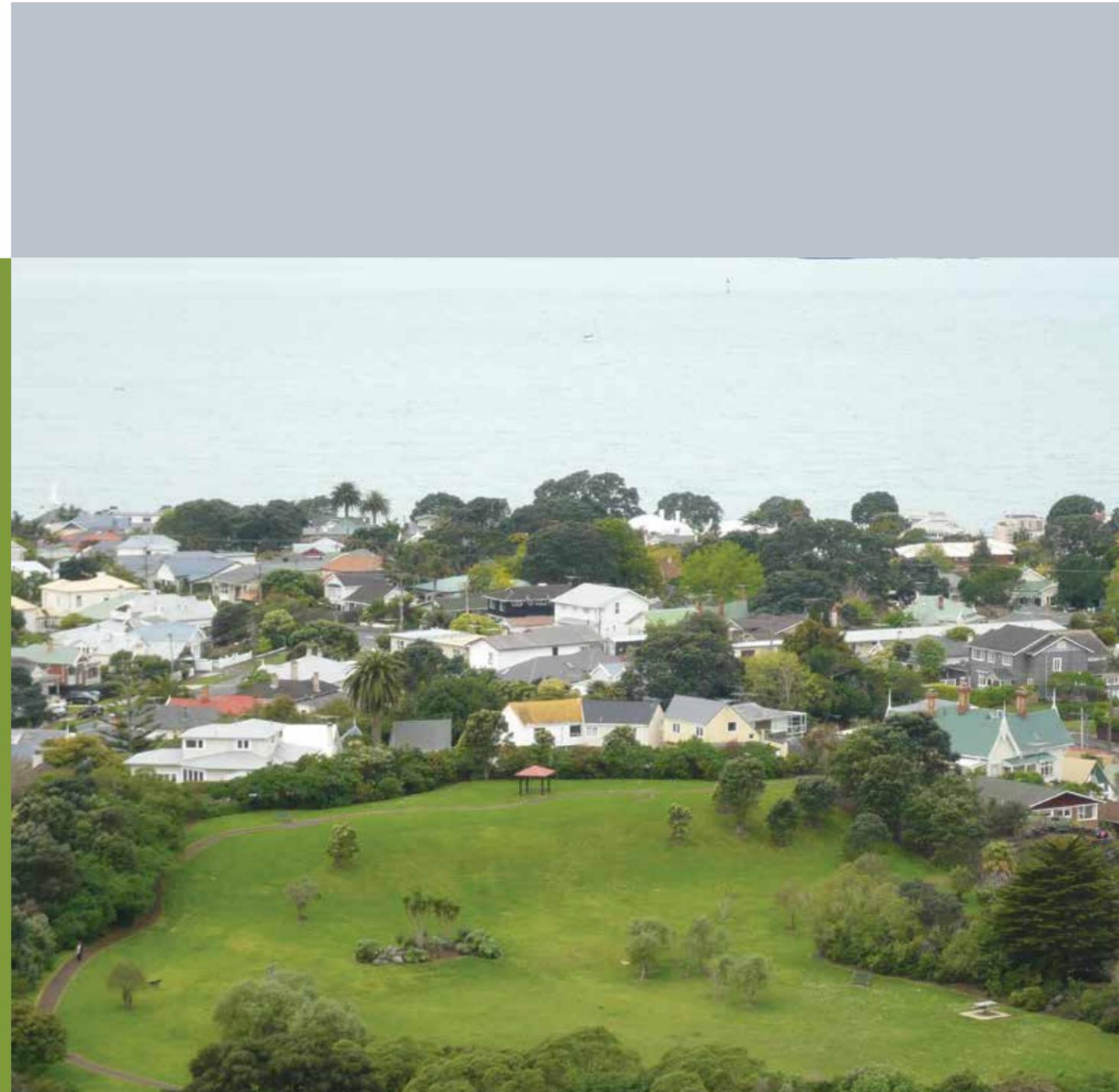
## DEVONPORT

**There's much to see and do in Devonport. Visit this quiet Victorian seaside village, it's just a short 12 minute journey from Downtown Auckland by ferry.**

Playing with the kids next door, going on mad bike rides with your flatmates, winter walks with someone special. Devonport is just the kind of place where those memories are made.

Taking a short ferry trip to Devonport is the easiest of days out. No crowded theme parks with long queues, no need to suffer angst looking for a parking space and no chain stores. Devonport village has an eclectic retro feel about it with boutique stores, galleries, parks, cafes and museums.

Exploring around the village you'll see superbly restored Victorian homes, hotels and restaurants.



# SHAKESPEAR

## REGIONAL PARK



### Shakespear Regional Park: beach, farm and ecological sanctuary.

Shakespear is one of over 30 Regional Parks in the Auckland Region. It's a 50 minute drive from central Auckland, long enough for an in-the-car nap for smaller kids and short enough for not too many 'are we there yet's from bigger kids. The weather looked great so we decided to make a weekend of it and stay at the campground.

Shakespear is a farm park (lambs in Spring!) with three safe sandy beaches with the advantage of being north and south facing – if it's windy at one, it's likely to be sheltered on another.

Shakespear is an open sanctuary (dogs need to stay at

home) and regenerating native forest provides shelter and food for native bird species migrating from nearby Tiritiri Matangi Island. You'll hear bellbirds and tui and might see a kakariki or kereru.

The beach front reserve at Haruhi Bay has great spots for picnicking, with shady trees, picnic tables and nearby toilets. If you are after picnicking supplies there are shops at Manly and a dairy/ takeaways just off the main road before you get to the park.

There are 3 walks in the park offering panoramic views over Auckland city and the Hauraki Gulf.

# 4



**Great Barrier Island is a large island with a small population. The forests, beaches and bays provide scope for all kinds of wilderness adventures.**

## GREAT BARRIER OF ISLAND

Great Barrier Island is the largest and most seaward of the Hauraki Gulf islands in Auckland region. For thousands of years it has sheltered the gulf from the relentless swells of the Pacific Ocean, creating a boating paradise.

The eastern shore of Great Barrier Island faces the ocean with high cliffs and long white surf beaches; the western side offers deep sheltered harbours and calm sandy bays.

More than 60 per cent of the island's 285 square kilometres is public land administered by the Department of Conservation. The native forest is laced with beautiful walking tracks, which lead to secluded natural hot springs and an historic Kauri dam. These wilderness areas, foreshores and estuaries are home to several unique plant and bird species. Rising 627 metres above the sea, Hiramata (Mount Hobson) beckons the hiker with a promise of 360 degree views that will never leave the mind. Great Barrier Island is a popular destination for

diving, fishing, surfing, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking and camping. Accommodation options range from tent sites to luxury eco lodges.

Tryphena is the largest settlement on the island and is situated on the west coast. Home to a number of picturesque family-friendly beaches, dolphins are often spotted here close to the shoreline.

A number of events are held on the island every year, including the delicious FitzRoy Mussel Fest, which celebrates the mouth-watering mussels the area is known for. There's also the wharf2wharf, a marathon-length sporting event where athletes walk, run or cycle across the island, and the Great Barrier garden tour, which showcases the island's stunning residential gardens.

Other settlements include Whangaparapara and Tryphena on the western side; Claris on the eastern side. The 90 kilometre journey from Auckland city takes about 3.5 hours by fast ferry or you can catch a 30 minute flight.



## WAIHEKE

**W**aiheke is in the Hauraki Gulf of New Zealand, about 17.7 km from Auckland.

It is the second-largest island in the gulf, after Great Barrier Island. It is the most populated, with nearly 8,730 permanent residents plus another estimated 3,400 who have second or holiday homes on the island. It is New Zealand's most densely populated island, with 83.58 people/km, and the third most populated after the North and South Islands.





# COROMENDEL

## REGIONAL PARK

**The Coromandel, with its pristine beaches, native forests and laid-back vibe, is one of New Zealand's most popular and best-loved holiday destinations.**



Coromandel is a town on the Coromandel Harbour, on the western side of the Coromandel Peninsula, which is on the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand. It is 75 kilometres east of the city of Auckland, although the road between them, which winds around the Firth of Thames and Hauraki Gulf coasts, is 190 km long.

A binocular's view across the gulf from Auckland, the Coromandel is everything that a big city isn't. Cloaked in native rainforest with dazzling white sand beaches, it is rustic, unspoiled and relaxed.

You could wander among the coolness of the pristine bush; the Coromandel is a walker's paradise. Explore the relics from the area's gold mining heritage, follow the Karangahake Gorge and Coromandel coastal walkway, hike the Pinnacles, or hop on your bike and cycle the Hauraki Rail Trail. Or simply sit and relax in a warm bubbling pool at Hot Water Beach where you can dig your own spa two hours either side of low tide. Don't miss the spectacular Cathedral Cove, the jewel of a protected marine reserve.





# TAURANGA

**The sunny city of Tauranga will tempt you with marine adventures. Go sailing, fishing or dolphin watching to appreciate the coastal environment.**

**T**auranga is the most populous city in the Bay of Plenty region of the North Island of New Zealand.

It was settled by Maori late in the 13th century and by Europeans in the early 19th century and was constituted as a city in 1963. Tauranga City is the centre of the sixth largest urban area in New Zealand.

Tauranga is one of New Zealand's main centres for business, international trade, culture, fashion and horticultural science. The Port of Tauranga is New Zealand's largest port in terms of gross export tonnage and efficiency.

Downtown Tauranga has several historically significant areas to view during a scenic walk around the area. The Strand waterfront area has undergone a major redevelopment in the past few years, and is home to a number of cafés, restaurants, pubs and nightclubs, as well as a range of accommodation options.



Rotorua is known for bubbling mud pools, shooting geysers and natural hot springs, as well as showcasing our fascinating Maori culture.



# ROTORUA



From crystal-clear streams and magical forests, to epic biking trails and explosive geysers, Rotorua has it all. The city offers a raft of attractions and experiences for everyone from adventure-seekers to those just looking to unwind.

Sitting within the Pacific Rim of Fire, Rotorua is a geothermal wonderland with bubbling mud pools, clouds of steam, and natural hot springs perfect for bathing and relaxing in. After marveling at the distinctive landscapes and volcanic activity within a geothermal park, enjoy a simple soak in a natural hot stream or indulge in a wellness getaway at a luxurious spa.

Experience Maori culture, hospitality and food here - try a hangi feast cooked in the steaming ground or take a tour of an authentic pre-European village.

The city is surrounded by mountains, rivers, native forests and 18 fresh water lakes, making it the perfect place to reconnect with nature.



# TAUPO



The beautiful Lake Taupo is about the size of Singapore – more of an inland sea really.



**T**aupo is a town on the shore of Lake Taupo in the centre of the North Island of New Zealand. It is the seat of the Taupo District Council and lies in the southern Waikato Region.

It was created nearly two thousand years ago by a volcanic eruption so big it darkened the skies in Europe and China. Visit the Craters of the Moon and you'll see evidence of the lake's fiery birth in the geysers, steaming craters and boiling mud pools. At some of Lake Taupo's beaches, swimmers and paddlers can enjoy warm, geothermal water currents.

Just north of Lake Taupo you'll find New Zealand's most visited attraction, the magnificent Huka Falls, where more than 220,000 litres of water thunder over the cliff face every second.

The Maori rock carvings at Mine Bay, which can only be seen from the water, make for a great boat trip or kayaking excursion. The forests surrounding the lake offer hiking and mountain biking to suit all levels of experience.

# TONGARIRO

## NATIONAL PARC

**The Tongariro National Park encircles the volcanoes of Tongariro, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu and features some of New Zealand's most contrasting landscapes.**

**T**ongariro National Park is the oldest national park in New Zealand, located in the central North Island. It has been acknowledged by UNESCO as one of the 28 mixed cultural and natural World Heritage Sites.

Tongariro National Park was the fourth national park established in the world. The active volcanic mountains Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe, and Tongariro are located in the centre of the park.

There are a number of Maori religious sites within the park and the summits of Tongariro, including Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu, are tapu (sacred).

Tongariro National Park – covering almost 80,000 hectares – was gifted to the nation by Maori chief Te Heuheu Tukino IV in 1887. Just over a hundred years later, the park was awarded dual World Heritage Site status.

Emerald lakes, alpine meadows and hot springs surround the largest volcanoes in the North Island, offering an environment of stunning diversity.

All three volcanoes are very much alive, with Mount Tongariro erupting as recently as August 2012. But this doesn't deter people from skiing down the slopes and hiking to the craters – a monitoring system provides early warning of eruptions.

### **H**ighlights

At 2797, 2291 and 1968 metres respectively, Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro are sizeable volcanoes. Tongariro's huge massif extends over 18 kilometres in length - classic, cone-shaped Ngauruhoe is actually one of Tongariro's vents. Ruapehu had the honour of playing Mordor and the Eryn Muil in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, and the near-perfect conical shape of Ngauruhoe was the basis for Mount Doom.

The mountains of this national park have deep spiritual significance for the Maori people. Legend has it that the high priest Ngatoroirangi was frozen in a snowstorm while exploring Tongariro and called to Hawaiki, the traditional Polynesian homeland of the Maori, for fire. His prayer was answered, via the channel we now call the Pacific Rim of Fire, and the mountain erupted.

The lower slopes of the mountains are blanketed with forest where alpine herbs, tussocks, flax and low-growing shrubs provide a habitat for many native birds. New Zealand's only native mammals, short and long tailed bats, also live in the park.

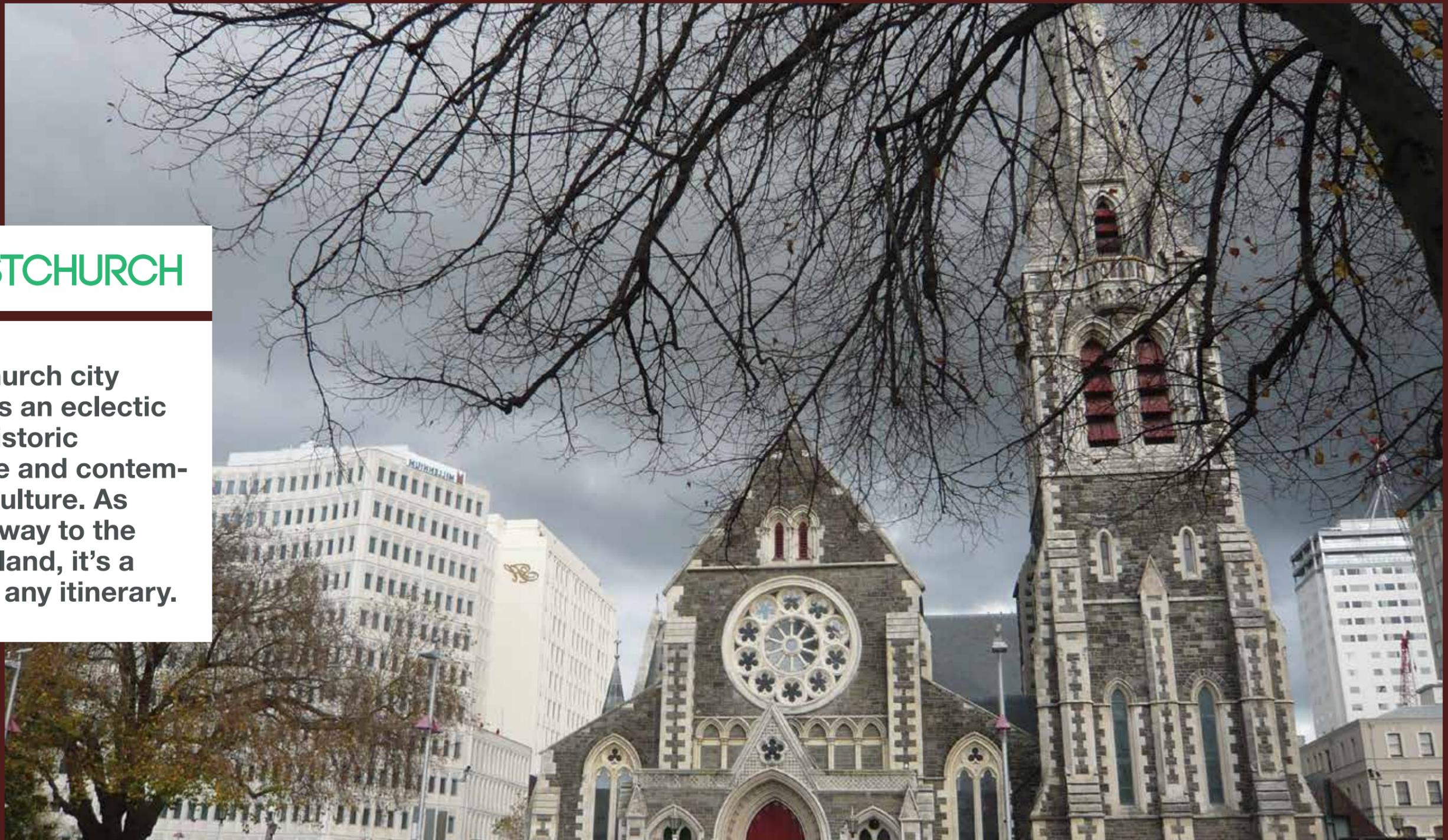




**SOUTH**  
ISLAND

## CHRISTCHURCH

**Christchurch city promises an eclectic mix of historic elegance and contemporary culture. As the gateway to the South Island, it's a must on any itinerary.**



**C**hristchurch is the largest city in the South Island of New Zealand, and the country's third-most populous urban area. It lies one third of the way down the South Island's east coast, just north of Banks Peninsula, which itself, since 2006, lies within the formal limits of Christchurch

Christchurch is interwoven by two rivers linking parks, gardens and avenues. Bordered by the

Port Hills and the Pacific Ocean, it is situated on the Canterbury Plains with the Southern Alps as a majestic backdrop.

Traditionally known as the Garden City, Christchurch's award winning Botanic Gardens are over 150 years old and boast an enviable collection of exotic and native plants.

**T**he Avon River flows gently through the city centre, making Edwardian punt rides an iconic way to sightsee. Alternatively, catch a ride aboard the Historic Tram or take a bicycle tour to learn about Christchurch's history.

Other popular activities include the International Antarctic Centre, Orana Wildlife Park and walking, mountain biking or

driving through the Port Hills for stunning views of the city and coast.

Lonely Planet listed Christchurch as one of the top 10 cities to visit in 2013 and the New York Times ranked Christchurch second on its list of 52 Places to Go in 2014.





**The picturesque coastal town of Kaikoura is the perfect place for marine life encounters, coastal walks, and tucking into a plate of crayfish.**

**K**aikoura is a base for wildlife experiences– it’s also a great place to eat crayfish (in the Maori language ‘kai’ means food, ‘koura’ means crayfish). An easy two-hour drive north of Christchurch, Kaikoura makes for a great day trip or a fun stop on your way to Marlborough.

Kaikoura’s environment is truly spectacular – the village is caught between the rugged Seaward Kaikoura Range and

the Pacific Ocean. In winter the mountains are covered with snow, adding to the drama of the landscape.

Kaikoura’s special talent is marine mammal encounters – whales, fur seals and dolphins live permanently in the coastal waters. Whale watching trips leave the town several times a day and the local seal colony is always entertaining.

**KAIKOURA**





## WESPORT

The coal mining museum provides a glimpse of what it's like to work underground. Westport is also a centre for outdoor adventures – jet boating, underground rafting, caving, white water rafting and kayaking.

Scenic highlights include old coal towns, goldmining relics, forest hikes and coastal walks. There is a seal colony nearby at Cape Foulwind. Depending on the season, there can be up to 100 New Zealand fur seals in the vicinity. Browse the local arts and crafts galleries – much of the work is produced locally.

**Westport was first a gold town and then a coal town.**

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## FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER

**Witness the puzzle of huge valleys of ice that extend well below the snowline, almost to the sea. Here the ice age is still underway.**

**W**hile glaciers around the world are retreating, the Franz Josef glaciers still flow almost to sea level. The temperate climate at this low altitude means these glaciers are among the most convenient to visit in the world. Easy walks to the foot of the glaciers pass along ancient river valleys with steep sides bearing gigantic horizontal scars from when the glaciers have retreated and advanced over millennia. When you stand close to the foot of these glaciers, their sheer enormity is very humbling.

This ice slides down hill to the more level river valley below, where it is still 300 metres thick. The movement is lubricated by ice that melts under pressure between the glacier and the steep valley floor. This effect, combined with the high snowfall feeding the top of the glacier, means the Franz Josef Glaciers flow around ten times faster than most valley glaciers.



WANAKA

MIRROR LAKE



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**Small lakes provide outstanding reflective views of the Earl Mountains. Water fowl and wetland plants can be seen against a backdrop of beech forest.**

WANAKA

NELSON LAKE

**The Nelson Lakes National Park is an enchanting alpine landscape of rugged peaks, forests and stunning glacial lakes.**

**A** compact area of mountain ranges separated by forested valleys, the Nelson Lakes National Park is home to the beginning of the awe-inspiring Southern Alps. Promising everything from easy lakeside walking tracks to challenging alpine hikes, this national park has something on offer for everyone.

**T**he spectacular landscape of Nelson Lakes National Park was sculpted by massive glaciers during the most recent ice ages. The honeydew found in the park's beech forests is formed in droplets poised on the end of a threadlike tube that protrudes from each tree trunk. It is created by scale insects, which process the tree sap into pure sugar. For many native birds, lizards and insects, the honeydew is a source of high-energy food.





## QUEENSTOWN

**Queenstown is one of New Zealand's top visitor destinations and if you come to the region you'll understand why.**

**C**aptivated by the majestic beauty of the surrounding mountains and rivers, it's rumoured that gold prospectors gave this now cosmopolitan town its name.

Queenstown sits on the shore of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu among dramatic alpine ranges. World famous for its

iconic scenery, friendly people, golf courses, wineries and smorgas-bord of outdoor activities, you'll never be short of things to do in Queenstown. And of course, it's the home of the ultimate adventure bucket list. There's skiing in the winter and activities such as bungy jumping, sky diving,

canyon swinging, jet boating, horse trekking and river rafting all year round.

If you're a Lord of the Rings fan you'll recognise many of the locations of Middle-earth here.



## DUNEDIN

**Dunedin is a region of unique landscapes and fascinating cultural history. Enjoy getting close to rare wild-life and soaking up the quirky city vibe.**

**K**nown as the Edinburgh of New Zealand, Dunedin is the country's city of the south, wearing its Scottish heritage with pride. Surrounded by dramatic hills and at the foot of a long, picturesque harbour, Dunedin is one of the best-preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities in the Southern Hemisphere. The accommodation is good and plentiful; the nightlife buzzes with funky bars and delicious restaurants and the natural attractions are unique and fascinating.

Don't miss a drive up the Otago Peninsula - the views are endless and the beaches are beautifully rugged. Nestled at the foot of Tairaroa Head is the Royal Albatross Centre, the only place in the world on the mainland where you can view Northern Royal Albatross in their natural habitat. On Dunedin's doorstep you will also find incredible wild-life including the world's rarest penguin colonies.





# INVERCARGILL

**It's easy to navigate around the wide streets of Invercargill. New Zealand's southernmost city has plenty of character and a warm, friendly heart.**



**I**nvercargill is New Zealand's southernmost city. It dates back to the 1850s, when people from the Scottish settlement of Dunedin began buying land for sheep runs in the far south.

From a visitor's point of view, Invercargill is well-equipped. It has an excellent range of shops and a selection of lively bars and restaurants. Victorian, Edwardian and Art Deco heritage buildings give the city a charming old-world character.

At Queens Park you'll find lovely rose gardens, a golf course, and the Southland Museum and Art Gallery. The museum is home to some interesting artefacts, as well as live tuatara lizards.

Just north of the city, Anderson Park is a 24-hectare estate with a Georgian residence at its centre. Here, Anderson Park Art Gallery exhibits quality art from the far south and throughout New Zealand.

Natural beauty abounds in and around Invercargill, with Oreti Beach and Sandy Point Reserve favourite spots.

# THE CATLINS

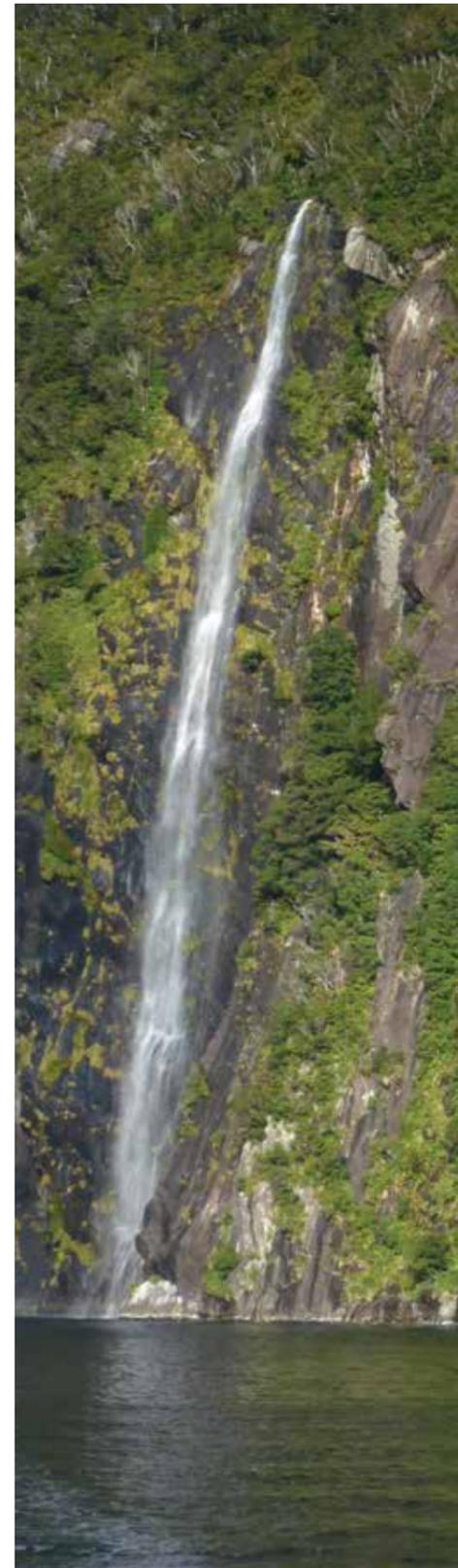
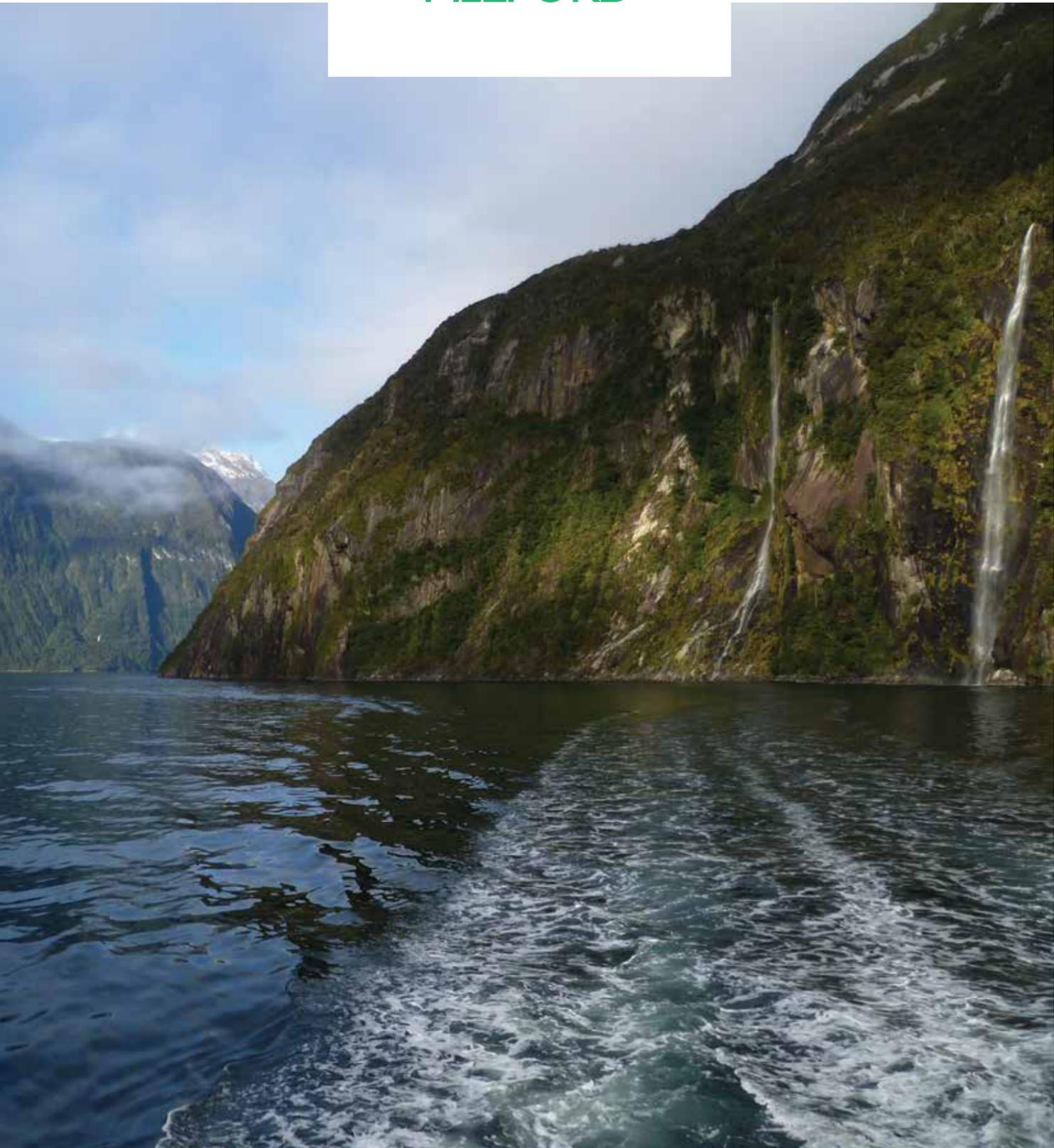
**The Catlins are often overlooked by travellers, and they don't even know what they're missing out on in this vast and remote area of rugged, natural beauty**

**T**he Catlins are a sparsely populated area in the south of New Zealand's South Island.

The Catlins comprise rugged coasts with wide deserted beaches, endless green hills, wild weather and lots of marine wildlife such as sea lions, penguins and dolphins. These landscapes alone are reason enough to venture to that rather remote area of the country, but there are many more attractions waiting for its visitors.



# MILFORD



**New Zealand's most famous walk, the Milford Track has been thrilling hikers for more than 150 years. The alpine and fiord scenery is as perfect as ever.**

Around 100 years ago, in an article that appeared in the London Spectator, the poet Blanche Baughan declared the Milford Track to be 'the finest walk in the world'.

Arguably New Zealand's most famous walk, the 53 kilometre journey begins at the head of Lake Te Anau, and leads you across suspension bridges, board walks and a mountain pass. The Milford Track will show you pristine lakes,

sky-scraping mountain peaks and enormous valley views; and it will take you to feel the misty breath of Sutherland Falls, the tallest waterfall in New Zealand.

On a sunny day it is post-card perfect but some walkers say that only when it rains, and torrents of water cascade down the steep mountainsides, have you truly experienced the magic of the Milford Track.





All the present photos  
in this magazine were  
taken by myself.

Larbi maud

***New zealand 2009/2010***