PLANNING YOUR SELF-DRIVE HOLIDAY

It’s easy to underestimate travelling times in New Zealand. Distances may seem short on paper, but New Zealand roads may be narrower than you’re used to, cover hilly terrain and vary from motorways (freeways) to unsealed gravel roads. Use the travel time and distance calculator, under the ‘recommended trips’ tab, on newzealand.com to plan your journey.

DRIVER LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

You can drive in New Zealand as long as you have a current and valid driver licence. If your licence isn’t in English you will also need an accurate English translation or international driving permit.

The translation must be provided by:

- A NZ Transport Agency authorised translation service;
- a diplomatic representative at a high commission, embassy or consulate; or
- the authority that issued your overseas licence.

For more information and a list of authorised translation services visit nzta.govt.nz

USEFUL TIPS

Drive refreshed: If arriving off a long flight ensure you are suitably rested, by staying a night at your arrival destination, before collecting a rental vehicle.

Parallel parking: You can be fined or towed away for parallel parking on the wrong side of the road. You may only park on the left side of the road, unless it is a one-way street.

Off-road driving: Rental vehicle insurance does not usually cover driving on unformed roads, for example Ninety Mile Beach (Northland) and Skipper’s Canyon (Queenstown). Always check the terms and conditions of your rental vehicle contract.

Cook Strait ferries: Interislander and Bluebridge operate regular passenger and vehicle ferries between Wellington and Picton. If hiring a rental car you may be required to drop it off at the Wellington ferry terminal and pick up a new vehicle in Picton, or vice versa. You may take your campervan on the ferry, rates vary according to the season and size of your campervan. Pre-booking is recommended.

Minimum age: The minimum age to rent a vehicle in New Zealand is 21 years.

Seasons: During New Zealand’s peak season (November to March), pre-booking accommodation, transport and activities is recommended. Spring and autumn are quieter, with fewer drivers on the road.

Safety Tips: For more information on staying safe on New Zealand’s roads, go to drivesafe.org.nz
**CHOOSING A RENTAL VEHICLE**

New Zealand has a good range of rental vehicle companies, including international and local operators. Rates vary according to the season and in most cases the longer you hire a rental car, the cheaper the daily rate.

Vehicles with either manual or automatic transmissions are available. Typical fleets include sedans, hatchbacks, 4WD wagons, SUVs, minivans and even specialty coupes.

**RESponsible CAMPING**

Responsible (freedom) camping is permitted on public conservation land, except in areas where it is expressly prohibited or restricted to self-contained vehicles. This is indicated by signage.

Each region in New Zealand has different rules around where camping is permitted, so ask at the local i-SITE Visitor Centre if you are unsure. Be responsible with your waste wherever you camp. Carry in, carry out. Leave no trace. See [camping.org.nz](http://camping.org.nz) for more information.

New Zealand also has a range of independently owned holiday parks and camping grounds, with powered and non-powered sites. For more details visit [holidayparks.co.nz](http://holidayparks.co.nz)

**CAMPSITE PASS**

Visitors travelling New Zealand by campervan or rental vehicle can save up to 50% on campsite fees with the weekly campsite pass. The pass gives visitors access to more than 100 of Department of Conservation’s (DOC) most popular and scenic campsites. For more details visit, [doc.govt.nz/campsitepass](http://doc.govt.nz/campsitepass)

**TOURING ROUTES (THEMED HIGHWAYS)**

New Zealand’s themed highways travel through some of the country’s most famous landscapes. Follow coastal highways with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean; travel the road that leads to volcanoes, ancient caves and bubbling mud pools; or taste your way through signature New Zealand wine regions. The routes are marked with distinctive brown signs making them easy to follow. Find out more at [newzealand.com](http://newzealand.com)

**CAMPERVANS**

A campervan is the ultimate accommodation choice for flexibility on a driving holiday. Enjoy the freedom of roaming around New Zealand and discovering remote and beautiful places.

**CHOOSING A CAMPERVAN**

There is a range of campervan companies to suit all budgets. Daily rental rates are usually based on unlimited kilometres per day, and vary according to the season. Minimum rental periods may apply.

Campervans are available in various sizes ranging from 2 to 6 berths. If you want the comforts of home while on the road, choose a campervan offering conveniences such as stove, fridge, bed linen, TV, shower and toilet.

**WHAT IS A CERTIFIED SELF-CONTAINED VEHICLE?**

A campervan that has on board waste water storage and a toilet is considered self-contained. This type of campervan gives you more flexibility when choosing where you stay.

**TIPS FOR DRIVING YOUR CAMPERVAN**

Campervans may be longer, higher and wider than vehicles you are used to, so take extra care on the road.

- Familiarise yourself with the vehicle before setting off.
- Watch out for low hanging branches and shop fronts, and be cautious when using underground car parks or going through drive-thrus.
- Take care reversing; it may be useful to have someone guide you.
- Give yourself lots of room when turning corners.
- Secure all cupboards and belongings.

Kaikoura Beach, Canterbury

Maui River 6 berth campervan

For more information on driving in New Zealand, go to [drivesafe.org.nz](http://drivesafe.org.nz)