



driving safely in New Zealand

Kia ora, welcome to New Zealand.

Driving is a great way to see our beautiful country! However, there are a few things that you may not be used to when driving in New Zealand. For example:

- we drive on the left side of the road
- we have a unique give way rule at intersections
- hilly, narrow or winding roads mean that your journey may take longer than you expect.

Make sure you have a safe and enjoyable journey - please take a few minutes to read this before starting out.

keep left



Always drive on the left side of the road. If you drive on the right hand side in your own country, please take a moment to re-familiarise yourself with this rule before pulling out onto the road after a break - it's easy to forget where you are!

giving way at intersections



Always use your indicators when turning.

Stop completely then give way (yield) to all traffic.

Slow down and be ready to stop and give way to all traffic.

At an intersection where one vehicle will cross the path of another, and both are waiting on stop or give way signs (or where there are no signs), special give way rules apply.

In general:

- if you're turning, give way to all vehicles that are not turning
- in all other situations, give way to vehicles crossing or coming from your right.



no left turn on red

In New Zealand you're not allowed to turn left at an intersection when the traffic lights are red.

travelling times

It's easy to underestimate travelling times in New Zealand.

Although distances may seem short on paper, New Zealand roads may be narrower than you are used to, cover hilly terrain and vary from motorways to unsealed gravel roads.

If you're tired you're much more likely to have a crash. Here are some tips to help you stay alert.

- Get lots of rest before a long drive.
- Take a break from driving every two hours.
- If possible, share the driving with someone else.
- Avoid large meals and drink plenty of fluid.
- If you begin to feel sleepy, try to nap for up to 40 minutes.
- If you're feeling very tired - find a place to stay overnight.

driving speeds

Speed limit signs show the maximum speed you can travel. However, at times you may need to drive at a slower speed due to road or weather conditions.

Different speed limits apply throughout New Zealand - look out for the speed limit signs.

On most of New Zealand's main roads the speed limit is 100 km/h unless a sign says a lower speed applies.



In urban areas, the speed limit is usually 50 km/h unless a sign says otherwise.



safety belts



By law, everyone in the vehicle must wear a safety belt - whether they're in the front or the back.

alcohol

Don't drink and drive - the laws against this are strictly enforced in New Zealand and penalties are severe.

overtaking



Most roads in New Zealand have a single lane each way, but provide passing lanes at regular intervals – these should be used where possible. You must not cross a solid yellow line on your side of the centre-line, as this indicates it's too dangerous to overtake.

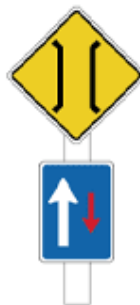
one lane bridges

Many roads in New Zealand have one lane bridges on them. At one lane bridges, vehicles travelling in one direction must give way to vehicles going in the other direction.

Any of the signs shown below indicate that you are approaching a one lane bridge. Slow down and check for traffic coming the other way. The smaller red arrow shows which direction has to give way.



These two signs show you must give way to traffic coming the other way across the bridge.



This sign indicates you can proceed across the bridge.

animals on the road



Watch out for farm animals and horses on the road, particularly in rural areas. When you see them slow down and do not sound your horn - it may startle them. You may need to stop and let the animals go past you or move slowly up behind and follow the farmer's instructions.

winter driving



Snow is common in the South Island and in mountainous areas of the North Island from late June to October each year. Heavy snowfalls (or rainfalls) can close roads, so it pays not to plan a rushed itinerary during winter months. Beware of icy roads in the evening and in the morning. Nationwide provides snow chains which are kept in the boot of your vehicle until required. We will show you how to fit chains to your tyres when you collect your vehicle.

Up-to-date road conditions: www.aaroadwatch.co.nz

AA Roadwatch telephone while in New Zealand: 0900 33 222 (this is not a free call)

unsealed (gravel) roads



Avoid unsealed roads if possible. If you need to drive on them, remember they can be very narrow. Reduce your speed to below 40-50 km/h and slow down even further when approaching oncoming traffic as the dust will obscure your vision.

parking



In New Zealand, you can be fined or towed away for parallel parking on the wrong side of the road. You may only park in the direction of traffic flow on your side of the road (ie on the left side, unless it is a one-way street).

driving distances and times

Auckland:	449	127	325	423	357	241	537	234	280	206	202	457	658
	8.20	1.55	6.00	6.35	6.20	4.15	7.40	3.35	4.05	3.20	3.10	8.00	9.15
Gisborne:	394	823	216	585	739	394	287	332	298	445	468	538	
	6.30	14.20	3.25	10.25	12.35	6.05	4.50	5.25	5.00	7.30	7.15	8.15	
Hamilton:	452	296	231	368	411	107	153	107	75	331	532		
	7.55	4.40	4.25	6.10	5.45	1.40	2.10	1.55	1.15	6.05	7.30		
Kaitiaki:	748	681	108	861	558	602	531	524	779	983			
	12.35	12.20	2.15	13.40	9.35	10.05	9.20	9.10	14.00	15.15			
Napier:	412	661	178	225	143	299	307	252	323				
	6.15	10.50	2.40	3.50	2.30	4.55	5.05	3.50	4.50				
New Plymouth:	597	234	299	296	308	173	160	355					
	10.35	3.35	5.35	5.25	5.40	3.30	2.25	5.10					
Paihia (Bay of Islands):	777	474	518	445	440	697	898						
	11.55	7.50	8.20	7.35	7.25	12.15	13.30						
Palmerston North:	339	259	415	342	74	145							
	4.55	3.35	6.00	6.20	1.10	2.10							
Rotorua:	80	86	166	309	460								
	1.20	1.30	2.45	4.25	6.30								
Taupo:	156	163	229	380									
	2.25	2.35	3.05	5.10									
Tauranga:	151	439	545										
	2.30	6.35	8.00										
Waitomo Caves:	273	473											
	5.10	7.10											
Wanganui:	195												
	2.45												
Wellington:													
Blenheim	321												
	4.35												
Christchurch	683	361											
	9.35	5.00											
Dunedin	520	408	570										
	8.00	6.15	10.30										
Franz Josef	331	255	565	189									
	5.05	4.10	9.10	3.15									
Greymouth	666	554	424	146	335								
	10.50	9.05	7.40	2.30	5.45								
Haast	899	578	217	542	731	396							
	12.45	8.10	3.10	10.40	13.55	8.10							
Invercargill	1092	771	410	660	849	514	280						
	16.10	11.35	6.35	12.45	16.00	10.15	4.45						
Milford Sound	651	330	319	506	524	360	445	578					
	9.20	4.45	4.35	8.55	12.10	6.25	6.25	8.55					
Mount Cook	117	417	799	485	296	631	1016	1145	747				
	1.45	6.20	11.20	7.50	4.35	10.20	14.30	16.10	11.10				
Nelson	29	350	711	549	360	695	928	1121	680	113			
	0.25	5.00	10.00	8.45	5.30	11.15	13.50	16.35	9.50	2.10			
Picton	808	487	281	365	554	219	189	307	271	850	837		
	11.50	7.15	4.25	7.40	10.55	5.10	3.00	5.05	3.50	15.00	12.15		
Queenstown	971	650	289	539	728	393	159	121	426	1024	1000	166	
	13.50	9.15	4.15	10.25	13.40	7.55	2.25	2.20	6.35	13.50	14.15	2.45	
Te Anau	749	428	276	294	483	148	248	366	212	779	778	71	245
	11.05	6.30	4.20	5.50	9.05	3.20	4.50	6.55	3.05	13.10	11.30	1.50	4.35
Wanaka	265	336	670	294	105	440	836	954	629	230	294	659	823
	4.15	5.10	10.10	5.00	1.45	7.30	15.40	17.45	13.55	3.45	5.55	12.40	15.25
Westport													588
													10.50