GREAT KIWI TRIPS

How we plan and book your New Zealand trip

The only thing you need to book is your international flights. Tell us what you'd love to see and how you like to travel. We'll work out how it all fits together, book the New Zealand side and leave you time for the things you find along the way. Then you arrive and travel at your own pace.

See a sample itinerary

How the Journey Planning Deposit works

Tell us a little about your trip. We'll confirm the planning deposit by email before you decide whether to start. The amount depends on the length of your trip and what you'd like us to arrange.

JOURNEY PLANNING DEPOSIT
Once you've paid it, we'll design your route and send you a proposed itinerary with pricing. We'll refine it together.

BOOKING DEPOSIT
Once you're happy with the proposal, the booking deposit lets us go ahead and secure your arrangements. We'll send you a day-by-day itinerary with your booking details, tickets and vouchers.

If you book your trip with Great Kiwi Trips, the full planning deposit goes towards your trip cost. If you decide against booking, the deposit pays for the planning work and is non-refundable.

Good people and places worth staying for

Over the years, we've got to know some good people around New Zealand. The hosts who make you feel at home, the guides who know where to look for wildlife, and the drivers who can tell you a bit about the country you're passing through. We book with tried-and-tested operators who've earned a good name with travellers. We'll pick the ones that suit your trip and your budget.

You might splash out for a night or two somewhere you'll want to get to early, just to sit and take in the view. A good little motel can be just right when you're arriving late and heading off again after breakfast. And sometimes it's the cottage among the vines you'll still be talking about when you get home.

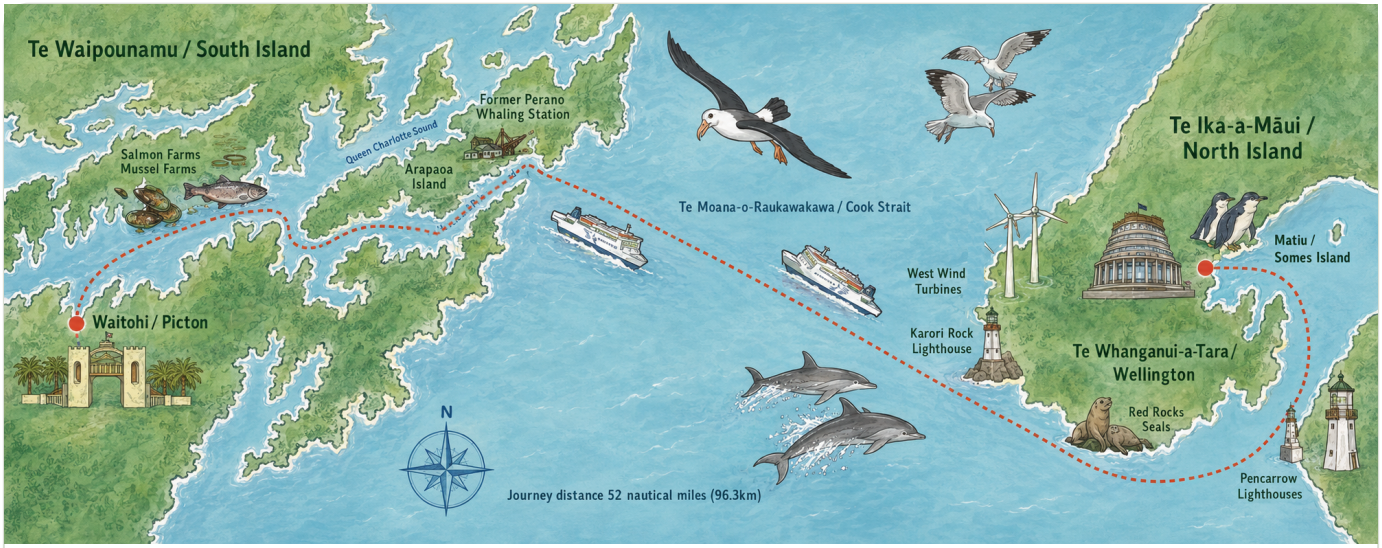


Luke from Great Kiwi Trips, out exploring the Ashburton Lakes.

What you'll have in hand before you leave

Once your arrangements are confirmed, we put them into one day-by-day itinerary. You'll see what's booked, where you need to be and when, and what you need at check-in. We'll include booking references, tickets or vouchers where applicable, plus local suggestions for the time you have to yourself.

Here's how a ferry crossing, a place to stay and a couple of days out might look in your itinerary. The times and arrangements are illustrative.



Read our guide to crossing between the islands

SAMPLE ITINERARY · TRAVEL DAY

Crossing the Cook Strait

WELLINGTON TO PICTON · BLUEBRIDGE FERRY

Travellers · Ms Ann Example, Ms Bea Inspired, and Mr Finn Tastic

You've got the morning in Wellington, so there's time for a coffee and a wander along the waterfront before you head to the ferry. Once you're in the Sounds, it's worth putting your book down for a bit. The hills come right down to the water here, and there's usually another little bay around the bend.

12.15 PM · CHECK IN

Bluebridge passenger terminal, 50 Waterloo Quay, Wellington. Open your ferry ticket for check-in and luggage details.

📎 **Open sample ferry voucher**

1.30 PM · SAIL FROM WELLINGTON

You'll be travelling without a car today. Allow about three and a half hours for the crossing.

5.00 PM · ARRIVE IN PICTON

After you collect your luggage, look for your driver at the arrivals exit holding a sign with your family names. From there, it's a short ride to your accommodation.

ARRANGED BY GREAT KIWI TRIPS

Bluebridge ferry tickets and your onward transfer in Picton.

On-trip support · Call Great Kiwi Trips on +64 2040608011

SAMPLE ITINERARY · THREE-NIGHT STAY

Abel Tasman Lodge

MĀRAHAU · 295 SANDY BAY–MĀRAHAU ROAD

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT
Tuesday, 20 January 2026	**Friday, 23 January 2026**

YOUR STAY

3 nights in a Two Bedroom Chalet
Triple share
Super king bed plus 2 single beds

GUEST NAMES

Ms Ann Example, Ms Bea Inspired, and Mr Finn Tastic

CONFIRMATION #

GKT-LODGE-DEMO Sample

Abel Tasman Lodge is tucked into native gardens in Mārahau. You've got two bedrooms to spread out in and a kitchen of your own, so there's room to settle in for a few days. On your first afternoon, put the kettle on and take your cuppa outside. If there's still a bit of daylight left, wander down to the waterfront before dinner.

Bonus · The Abel Tasman Coast Track starts just a short walk from the lodge.



Studio Chalet pictured · Abel Tasman Lodge

On-trip support · Call Great Kiwi Trips on +64 2040608011

WEDNESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2026

A day on the Abel Tasman Coast Track

Take your booked water taxi from Mārahau to Anchorage. Give yourself a minute on the beach when you arrive. Then follow the Coast Track back to Mārahau, with time to stop for lunch or take a breather overlooking one of the bays.

CHECK IN BY	DEPARTS
9.10 am	**9.30 am**

BOOKED FOR YOU

Mārahau to Anchorage water taxi

One way · 3 adults

MEETING POINT

Water taxi check-in desk on the Mārahau waterfront. Give your family names and show your booking reference at the desk.

BOOKING REFERENCE

GKT-WATER-DEMO Sample



THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2026

A day to potter about

Today's yours to spend. See which of these takes your fancy over breakfast.



Riuwaka Resurgence

Drive up the valley and follow the short bush track to where the river comes out of the hillside. Have a look at how clear the water is.



Māpua Village

Head to the wharf for a wander around the shops and galleries. If you're there around lunchtime, find a table by the water.



Kaiteretere Beach

For an easy afternoon close to Mārahau, pop over to Kaiteretere. Get an ice cream and find a spot overlooking the beach.

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GREAT KIWI TRIPS · FICTIONAL EXAMPLE

Sample ferry travel voucher

This one's just for a look. If we book a ferry crossing for you, your real voucher will be with your final travel documents.

Sample reference GKT-DEMO

Booking summary
Bluebridge · Wellington to Picton · 3 adults, no vehicle

Check in by 12.15 pm · 50 Waterloo Quay, Wellington
Departs 1.30 pm · **Arrives 5.00 pm** in Picton

Passenger details
Ms Ann Example
Ms Bea Inspired
Mr Finn Tastic

Take your luggage to the check-in counter. Your issued voucher will show the baggage details for your sailing.

What would you love to do while you're here?

Tell us what's caught your eye so far, even if it's just one place or something you've always wanted to try. We can take it from there.

Tell us about your trip



What we take care of

Your New Zealand trip, planned and booked around you.

✓ **Your route and pace**	We work out where to go, how long to stay and where it's worth giving yourself another night.
✓ **Places to stay**	We recommend and book accommodation and room types that suit your group, budget and travel style.
✓ **Getting around**	We book airport transfers, rental cars, domestic flights, scenic trains, ferries, coaches and private transfers as needed.
✓ **Things to see and do**	We recommend experiences that suit you and book the tours, cruises and activities you choose.
✓ **Ideas for your free time**	We point you towards places worth a stop, from a short bush walk to a good spot for lunch.
✓ **Your day-by-day itinerary**	We put timings, meeting points, booking references, tickets and vouchers in one place.
✓ **On-trip support**	If you need a hand while you're here, give us a ring. You'll have our New Zealand number in your itinerary.

You book your international flights.
We can help you choose where to fly into and out of New Zealand.

See what your itinerary could look like →



Castlepoint, Wairarapa · Photo: Daniel Rood