

# Classic New Zealand Wine Trail

An indulgent self-drive journey



## The Classic New Zealand Wine Trail

The Classic New Zealand Wine Trail is a sign-posted 380km (240 mile) self-drive touring route that leads visitors off the beaten track. Travel through five of New Zealand's most interesting and scenic regions, including three major wine growing regions that account for more than 70% of the country's wine production. Go slow and savour the **regions of Hawke's Bay, Tararua, Wairarapa, Wellington and Marlborough.**

### Suggested itinerary inclusions:

#### - Getting outdoors and having an adventure

Adventure comes in every shape and size along the Trail. Roar down a river in a rubber raft, try a tandem sky-dive or blast across the country on a quad bike. At the other end of the spectrum, there are wildlife sanctuaries to visit, forest tracks to hike and kayak-friendly coasts to explore.

### HAWKE'S BAY

Arrive in the Hawke's Bay Region and spend time on the Mohaka River at Mountain Valley Adventure Lodge, choosing from a range of activities such as white water rafting, kayaking, horse trekking, fishing, tramping and mountain biking.

[www.mountainvalley.co.nz](http://www.mountainvalley.co.nz)

Or enjoy a rural experience tour to a sheep or deer farm, or trout fishing trip on some of Hawke's Bay's beautiful rivers with Prinsy's Tours. [www.prinsyexperience.co.nz](http://www.prinsyexperience.co.nz)

Get some fresh by cycling through vineyards from winery to winery, sampling wines at the cellar doors and gathering a few bottles as you go with On Yer Bike Winery Tours [www.onyerbikehb.co.nz](http://www.onyerbikehb.co.nz).

Or take a tour with Wilderness Safari's Ltd over dunes systems containing many native plants, the bones of Moa and other extinct birds and numerous archaeological sites, some dating back 600 years. You'll also travel through regenerating Kanuka Forests, now a reserve for kiwi and other forest birds. [www.kidnappersafaris.co.nz](http://www.kidnappersafaris.co.nz)

Visit the National Aquarium of New Zealand for a 'behind the scenes' tour where you will get the chance to see up close, some of the species living there or for those with a diving certificate, get adventurous and swim with the sharks!

[www.nationalaquarium.co.nz](http://www.nationalaquarium.co.nz)

#### Trade support:

For more information, advice or resources on the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail contact:

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#### Building a Classic New Zealand Wine Trail itinerary:

1. Start with the "Must Do" experiences that your clients simply don't want to miss.
2. Use the special interest itinerary suggestions to create a tailor-made itinerary, Wine and food, Art Culture and Heritage, Adventure and Outdoors, Luxury indulgence and romance

#### Hawke's Bay accommodation to escape to:

Arapata Lodge, Havelock North [www.arapatalodge.co.nz](http://www.arapatalodge.co.nz)

Ballina Motel, Taradale [www.ballinamotel.co.nz](http://www.ballinamotel.co.nz)

Driftwood Cottages [www.driftwoodcottages.co.nz](http://www.driftwoodcottages.co.nz)

Mountain Valley Adventure Lodge [www.mountainvalley.co.nz](http://www.mountainvalley.co.nz)

Scenic Circle Te Pania Hotel, Napier [www.scenic-circle.co.nz](http://www.scenic-circle.co.nz)

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If time permits:

- Take to the tracks at one of New Zealand's largest mountain biking parks - the Eskdale Mountain Bike Park. Set amongst 600ha of the privately owned Pan Pac Tangoio Forest, the trails are the Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Clubs purpose built area.
- For the ultra adventurous, tandem paraglide off Te Mata Peak and enjoy panoramic views of the region or jump out of a plane with the Sky Diving Team.
- Visit Te Mata Peak in Havelock North, which rises 400 metres above sea level and offers panoramic views of the Hawke's Bay Region, surrounding mountain ranges and the Pacific Ocean along with a variety of walking tracks

## HAWKE'S BAY – WAIRARAPA via the TARARUA DISTRICT

Drive south along State Highway 2 through the Tararua District to the Wairarapa following the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail signs. Drive an easy circuit through pastoral landscapes to outlying vineyard clusters and charming small villages.

Spend time at Pukaha Mt Bruce, a wildlife sanctuary that specialises in breeding rare species. Pukaha Mount Bruce has an informative visitor centre, cafe and education programmes. Surrounded by ancient forest trees and free flying native birds, you get a sense of how New Zealand used to be. [www.mtbruce.org.nz](http://www.mtbruce.org.nz)

If time permits:

- Take a rod and fish one of the many rivers in the Tararua District
- Saddle up for a big adventure. Timeless Horse Treks has Clydesdales, wagons and riding horses [www.timelesshorsetreks.co.nz](http://www.timelesshorsetreks.co.nz)
- Blast across the pastures on a quad bike to see the awesome Tararua Windfarm. Try the Turbines to Tui Quad Bike Adventure, riding through farmland from the Tararua Windfarm to the Tui Brewery [go4wheels@inspire.co.nz](mailto:go4wheels@inspire.co.nz)
- Tandem Skydive with Cloud 9 Skydiving [www.goiump.co.nz](http://www.goiump.co.nz)

## WAIRARAPA

Drive to Cape Palliser where you will find a variety of adventures. Walk to the intriguing Putangirua Pinnacles, see the fishing settlement of Ngawi, spy on the North Island's largest colony of fur seals, and walk the 258 steps of the historic Cape Palliser lighthouse for an incredible view at the Lake Ferry Hotel with views across Lake Onoke.

If time permits:

- Visit Featherston's Fell Engine, the last of its kind in the world. The Rimutaka Incline, the Engine's former routes, is walked and biked by thousands of visitors each year.
- Waiohine Gorge, south of Carterton is a popular picnic and hiking destination. Walk across one of the longest swing bridges in New Zealand
- From Masterton drive to the popular beach destinations of Riversdale and Castlepoint for superb scenery, fishing, surfing and summer-patrolled beaches.

### Wairarapa accommodation to escape to...

Copthorne Solway Park  
[www.millenniumhotels.co.nz/copthornewairarapa](http://www.millenniumhotels.co.nz/copthornewairarapa)

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## WELLINGTON

Travel across the bush clad Rimutaka Ranges to Wellington. Even though you've arrived in the capital city, New Zealand's stunning scenery and nature is right on your doorstep.

Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings films showcased Wellington's stunning natural scenery on the world stage. Explore the film locations from "The Lord of the Rings" on half or full day tours with:

Flat Earth New Zealand Experiences [www.flatearth.co.nz](http://www.flatearth.co.nz)  
Hammonds Scenic Tours [www.wellingtonsightseeingtours.com](http://www.wellingtonsightseeingtours.com)  
Wellington Movie Tours [www.adventuresafari.co.nz](http://www.adventuresafari.co.nz)  
Wellington Rover Tours [www.wellingtonrover.co.nz](http://www.wellingtonrover.co.nz)

Visit the Karori Sanctuary, a world first conservation attraction and home to some of New Zealand's rarest and most endangered wildlife. It's a great spot for a picnic lunch or take a Sanctuary by Night escorted tour at dusk and try to spot Kiwi.  
[www.sanctuary.org.nz](http://www.sanctuary.org.nz)

Drive an hour out of Wellington along the Kapiti Coast to visit Kapiti Island Alive; a unique opportunity in New Zealand to view endangered and rare birds in a completely natural setting. You'll need to stay overnight if you want to try kiwi spotting – but staying on the island with a Maori family is something you'll never forget!

Take a Seal Coast Safari across the rugged and remote south coast of Wellington. On a clear day, you'll be able to see the South Island. The South Coast is even more inspiring on a blustery day! [www.sealcoast.com](http://www.sealcoast.com)

Take a guided walk of Wellington, a fantastic way to learn about the city's key sights, culture history and what's happening today. [www.wellingtonnz.com/walkwellington](http://www.wellingtonnz.com/walkwellington)

Visit Te Papa National Museum to learn about New Zealand's unique geology, fauna and flora. [www.tepapa.govt.nz](http://www.tepapa.govt.nz)

If time permits:

- Wellington puts its hills to great use with fantastic mountain biking. There's great tracks on Mount Victoria, Battle Hill Farm Forest near Porirua, out to the Pencarrow Lighthouse from Eastbourne or a dedicated mountain bike park at Makara.

## WELLINGTON to MARLBOROUGH

Fly or cruise across Cook Strait to Marlborough.

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## MARLBOROUGH

Venture out into the renowned Queen Charlotte Track which leads walkers and cyclists over 71km into the Marlborough Sounds. There are a wide range of guided and unguided options available for all fitness levels from 2 hours to 5 days.

[www.qctrack.co.nz](http://www.qctrack.co.nz)

Swim with the dolphins guided by trained marine biologists then take a guided walk on Motuara Island bird sanctuary in Queen Charlotte Sound with Dolphin Watch Ecotours

[www.naturetours.co.nz](http://www.naturetours.co.nz)

Head out for fly fishing or hunting tours with Windhawk Helicopters

[www.windhawkhelicopters.com](http://www.windhawkhelicopters.com)

If time permits:

- Take a walk through Wither Hills Farm Park, a network of walks with views over the vineyard-studded Wairau Plains.
- Take a tour through Molesworth Station, New Zealand's largest and most iconic cattle station. Molesworth Tour Company offers a range of options between one and four days exploring the area and the high country station. [www.molesworthtours.co.nz](http://www.molesworthtours.co.nz)
- Take a day or evening guided kayak trip down the Opawa River and Vernon Lagoon just 10 minutes from Blenheim, view birds close up and hear stories of the Moa Hunters to present day. A wonderful opportunity for taking photographs along the way [www.driftwoodecotours.co.nz](http://www.driftwoodecotours.co.nz)
- Saddle up for a guided horse trek on spectacular backcountry trails.

## The Classic New Zealand Wine Trail Guide

This 50 page booklet includes a Wine Trail Map, along with pages of ideas of things to do and places to see along the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail.

Use as a planning tool with your clients to tailor-make their itinerary or include a copy in client documentation, it makes an ideal travel companion to help add value to any itinerary.

## Marlborough accommodation to escape to:

Bay of Many Coves Resort, Queen Charlotte Sound

[www.bayofmanycovesresort.co.nz](http://www.bayofmanycovesresort.co.nz)

The Portage Resort Hotel, Kenepuru Sound

[www.portage.co.nz](http://www.portage.co.nz)

Raetihi Lodge

[www.raetihilodge.co.nz](http://www.raetihilodge.co.nz)

Furneaux Lodge

[www.furneaux.co.nz](http://www.furneaux.co.nz)

