

TOP GOLF GOURSES OF NEW ZEALAND



Introduction to New Zealand golf

New Zealand is a compact country of two main islands stretching 1600 km/ 990 mi (north to south) and up to 400 km / 250 mi (east to west). With a relatively small population of just over 4.5 million people, there's plenty of room in this green and spectacular land for fairways and greens.

All told, New Zealand has just over 400 golf courses, spread evenly from one end of the country to the other, and the second highest number of courses per capita in the world.

The thin coastal topography of the land coupled with its hilly interior has produced a rich legacy of varied courses from classical seaside links, to the more traditional parkland courses further inland.

Over the past 20 years, the New Zealand golfing landscape has been greatly enhanced by the work of world-class architects such as Tom Doak, Robert Trent Jones Jnr, Jack Nicklaus and David Harman who have designed at least 12 courses (complete with five-star accommodation and cuisine).

Strategically located near either snow capped mountains or isolated coastal stretches (and in some cases both) these locations provide not only superb natural backdrops for playing golf but the added bonus of breathtaking scenery.





Lydia Ko

Lydia Ko is a New Zealand golfer. She was the world's top amateur when she turned professional in 2013, and is the youngest ever winner of a professional golf event.

"New Zealand is simply an amazing golf destination. It has some of the best golf courses I have ever played. It should be a must-visit place for golfers from all over the world. You won't be disappointed."



North Island Golf Trail

Active volcanoes, island sanctuaries and history top the list when visiting New Zealand's North Island.

From the far north where New Zealand's political history began, journey through landscapes that blend magnificent coast, sprawling farmlands and geothermal wonders. Māori culture is rich and ever-present in many parts of the North Island.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIMES

3.5 hours	Kauri Cliffs to Gulf Harbour Country Club
1 hour	Gulf Harbour Country Club to Titirangi Golf Club
3.25 hours	Titirangi Golf Club to Wairakei Golf & Sanctuary
20 mins	Wairakei Golf & Sanctuary to The Kinloch Club
2 hours	Kinloch Golf Club to Cape Kidnappers
3.5 hours	Cape Kidnappers to Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club
1 hour	Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club to Royal Wellington Golf Club





South Island Golf Trail

A palette of dramatic scenes, New Zealand's South Island boasts the purest natural landscapes you'll ever experience.

The South Island showcases the best of nature's assets, where towering alps meet peaceful sounds, and rugged coastlines merge with sweeping plains. The backbone of the island has the most down-to-earth locals you'll ever meet.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIMES

6 hours	Clearwater Golf Club to Millbrook Resort
5 mins	Millbrook Resort to The Hills
25 mins	The Hills to Jack's Point



Northland – the home of many important historic sites – is a place of deep significance for New Zealanders.

The region is a story of two coastlines – the west coast is rugged and soulful while the east coast is sophisticated and urbane.





Top courses of the region



1. Kauri Cliffs

This is one of New Zealand's, and the world's most acclaimed golf courses, currently ranked #39 in the world by Golf Digest.

kauricliffs.com



2. Carrington Club

Located on 3300 acres on the Karikari Peninsula, Carrington offers views out to the Pacific Ocean.

Kerikeri Airport, 1 hour

peppers.co.nz/carrington



3. The Bay of Islands **Golf Club**

At 6,700 yards, this "locals" course offers tree-lined fairways and great vear-round conditions.

\chi Kerikeri Airport, 10 mins

bayofislandsgolf.co.nz



4. Waitangi Golf Club

Elevated above the beautiful Bay of Islands, Waitangi offers wide sea views and a challenging layout.

Kerikeri Airport, 20 mins

waitangigolf.co.nz



5. Waipu Golf Club

Located on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, this classical coastal links layout features natural terrain and views of sparkling Bream Bay.

Whangarei Airport, 45 mins

waipugolfclub.org.nz



6. Mangawhai Golf Club

One of Northland's renowned links courses. Mangawhai Golf Club sits beside one of the region's finest surfing beaches.

mangawhaigolf.co.nz



7. Kaitaia Golf Club

Located on the shores of 90 Mile Beach, the course provides a true links experience with magnificent views to the Tasman Sea and enormous sand dunes.

Kerikeri Airport, 1.5 hours

kaitaiagolfclub.co.nz

Kauri Cliffs

Arguably New Zealand's finest allround course, Kauri Cliffs – and the five-star luxury lodge of the same name – sits on a cliff-top near the northern tip of the North Island. The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs and golf course were developed by US hedge fund founder Julian Robertson.

Designed by the late David Harman to feature the natural landscape, Kauri Cliffs was opened in 1999. Since then, it has earned the admiration of many world-class golfers and consistently rates in the world's top 50 golf courses as selected by golf publications and websites.

Along with the challenge, golfers can enjoy majestic views of the Pacific Ocean from at least 15 holes – including six holes on the edge of the cliff-top. At the end of the day, you can relax in the award-winning lodge and enjoy beautifully crafted food and wine before retiring to your luxury accommodation.

Kauri Cliffs is currently ranked the 39th best golf course in the world by Golf Digest.

kauricliffs.com

















As New Zealand's largest city and international gateway, Auckland has something for everyone – relaxing or invigorating.

Take in the sun at one of the many restaurants, cafés or bars; savour some of New Zealand's best wine at a vineyard, or take a short ferry ride to explore the islands of the surrounding Hauraki Gulf.





Top courses of the region



1. Gulf Harbour **Country Club**

This championship course was designed by top architect Robert Trent Jones Jnr, and has hosted the World Cup of Golf and New Zealand Open.

Auckland Airport, 1 hour

gulfharbourcountryclub.co.nz



2. Titirangi Golf Club

This is a New Zealand golfing gem designed by renowned British golf designer, Dr Alister MacKenzie.

Auckland Airport, 20 mins

titirangigolf.co.nz



3. Royal Auckland

One of two New Zealand golf courses that carry the official Royal seal in its title, this is a handsome private members club with long history and tradition.

aucklandgolfclub.co.nz



4. The Grange

Centrally located, this is a classic parkland course that has hosted the New Zealand Open on numerous occasions.

Auckland Airport, 15 mins

thegrangegolfclub.co.nz



5. Remuera Golf Club

This picturesque parkland course features tight tree-lined fairways which demand accuracy from tee to green.

Auckland Airport, 25 mins

remueragolfclub.com



6. Muriwai Golf Club

This bold and brilliant links layout takes nature head on with prevailing wind that delivers a different challenge every day.

Auckland Airport, 55 mins

muriwaigolfclub.co.nz



7. Omaha Beach **Golf Club**

Less than an hour north of Auckland, Omaha Golf Club offers 18 holes bordered by the sea on one side and estuary on the other.

omahagolf.co.nz

Gulf Harbour Country Club

On the Whangaparaoa Peninsula – 40 minutes drive from downtown Auckland – Gulf Harbour was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jnr and opened in 1998.

With many outstanding sea views, Gulf Harbour has a links-style feel. Trent Jones Jnr kept this course mostly open to the elements so that when the wind blows, par or a score anywhere near that represents a fine day's golf.

The signature hole is the 16th – a 460 yard par 4 dogleg along the cliff tops. John Daly took the short cut across the sea during the 1998 World Cup of Golf, and on one occasion nearly drove the green.

gulfharbourcountryclub.co.nz







Auckland Airport, 1 hour





Titirangi Golf Club

Titirangi – 15 minutes drive from downtown Auckland – is a well-protected golf course designed by renowned British designer Dr Alister MacKenzie.

Opened in the 1920s, this is a shot maker's course that features MacKenzie's signature bunkering.

Though not long, this course is described as brutally strategic. The most memorable hole, the par 5 13th, is short but demanding with a narrow fairway and a tee box placed behind a tree-shrouded gully which obscures both the green and the fairway.

titirangigolf.co.nz







Auckland Airport, 20 mins

Central North Island

The central North Island is abundant with crystal clear lakes, bubbling mud pools and snow-capped mountains.

In Rotorua or Taupō, take your pick from one of the many heart-racing adventure activities in the region, immerse yourself in the Māori culture or soak in a naturally-heated thermal pool to rejuvenate your body.

Hawke's Bay is renowned for its local food and wine, and the Art Deco architecture and culture of the main city of Napier which was rebuilt after an earthquake in 1931. Out of the city, there is an abundance of outdoor activities.





Top courses of the region



1. Cape Kidnappers

This cliff-top beauty on the North Island's rugged coast is one of New Zealand's most spectacular and dramatic courses.

capekidnappers.com



2. The Kinloch Club

The only Jack Nicklaus Signature Course in New Zealand, Kinloch offers views of the surrounding mountains and Great Lake Taupo.

thekinlochclub.com



3. Wairakei Golf & Sanctuary

The first course to put New Zealand golf on the map, Wairakei has developed into a delightful mature course set in thick native forest.

Taupō Airport, 15 mins

wairakeigolfcourse.co.nz



4. Taupo Golf Club

Taupo's local course complements its famous near neighbours by offering the New Zealand version of Augusta's famous 'Amen Corner'.

Taupō Airport, 10 mins

taupogolf.co.nz



5. Hastings Golf Club

This beautiful parkland course presents a tree-lined challenge set in the food and wine region of Hawke's Bay.

hastingsgolfclub.co.nz



6. Ohope Golf Club

A beautiful seaside links course, Ohope offers superb views of both the Pacific Ocean and New Zealand's active volcanic island. White Island.

Rotorua Airport, 1.5 hours

ohopegolfclub.co.nz



7. Rotorua Golf Club

Its original name, Arikikapakapa, means "the gentle sound of plopping mud", and the name is derived from the course playing through, and around, dormant and active thermal areas.

Rotorua Airport, 10 mins

rotoruagolfclub.co.nz



8. New Plymouth Golf Club

The course offers sweeping views of the Tasman Sea on one side and conical Mt. Taranaki on the other.

New Plymouth Airport, 10 mins

newplymouthgolf.co.nz

Cape Kidnappers

A sister property to Kauri Cliffs,
Cape Kidnappers brings together
a world-class golf course and
five-star luxury lodge accommodation
in a spectacular location. Cape
Kidnappers is an iconic promontory
of rugged cliffs and farmland
overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Designed by respected US architect Tom Doak, the superbly challenging course is the result of clever design and respect for the natural landscape.

The Farm at Cape Kidnappers is the on-site, super luxury award-winning lodge. Opened in 2007, it is one of New Zealand's most exclusive and highly acclaimed resort accommodations.

Cape Kidnappers is currently ranked 22nd on Golf Digest's prestigious 'World Top 100' list.

capekidnappers.com















Wairakei Golf & Sanctuary

Wairakei – a golf course in a sanctuary – has to be the quintessential New Zealand golf experience.

Only 10 minutes by road from the popular tourist mecca of Lake Taupō, Wairakei sits apart inside a predator-free sanctuary. This could be the quietest course ever with the only sounds from the protected native birds and the echo of club on ball.

Gorgeous golf holes here wind their way one after the other through deep native bush.

wairakeigolfcourse.co.nz







Taupō Airport, 15 mins





The Kinloch Club

Designed by 18 time Major winner Jack Nicklaus, The Kinloch Club offers unique design features, with every hole requiring strategic thought and patience.

The course is a fantastic test for all golfing abilities, and has been recognised worldwide with numerous accolades including a Top 100 in the World ranking from Golf Course Architecture Magazine.

In discovering Kinloch, the overall experience will pleasantly surprise golfers for the unique challenge that the course presents. It is fair to say that at Kinloch, Nicklaus has created one of the world's great modern designs to date.

thekinlochclub.com







Taupō Airport, 30 mins

Wellington and surrounds

Wellington - New Zealand's capital and government centre - also claims the title of artistic capital. Lonely Planet has described Wellington as the 'World's coolest capital'.

Indulge in fine wine and exquisite food, then take time exploring the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, where creative technology and design tell New Zealand stories and history. Close at hand, the Royal Wellington Golf Club is one of the finest private members club in the country, while Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club has New Zealand's leading links layout.





Top courses of the region



1. Royal Wellington

Newly designed in 2013 by Turner MacPherson, the championship parkland course was founded in 1895 and was the first club in New Zealand to receive Royal status.

rwgc.co.nz



4. Manawatu Golf Club

This parkland layout, the oldest course on the North Island, has a proud history including five NZ Open Championships and eight NZ Amateur Championships.

Palmerston North Airport, 15 mins

manawatugolfclub.co.nz



2. Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club

Long recognized as the best links layout in the country, Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club has a rich collection of classic links holes situated on the undulating dune land of the Kapiti Coast.

paraparaumubeachgolfclub.co.nz





3. Miramar

The central location of Miramar makes it popular with both visitors and locals. While short in length, the narrow course is guarded by deep pot bunkers and exposed to the elements.

miramargolfclub.co.nz



Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club

The Paraparaumu course – an hour by road north of Wellington – is considered New Zealand's leading links layout. The course was designed just after World War II by Australian Open winner, Alex Russell.

Fellow Australian and British Open winner Peter Thompson described Paraparaumu as a "Gem of enjoyment, a monument to the game and a gift to the future". Paraparam, as it is known locally, has featured in seven different World Top 100 lists over the past 20 years. The short par-3's are a distinctive feature, often played with a stiff breeze to contend with.

paraparaumubeachgolfclub.co.nz







Wellington Airport, 1 hour Paraparaumu Airport, 5 mins





Royal Wellington

Royal Wellington has recently undergone a significant redevelopment resulting in a challenging new championship course.

Set in beautiful parklands, next to a river with dominant native trees and bush, the gentle contoured fairways are laced together by streams and lakes.

The course contains many distinctive holes, including the par 5 4th, which sees the fairway split on either side of a stream. Designers Greg Turner and Scott Macpherson have succeeded in their desire to create New Zealand's finest private members course with an equally grand old club house to match.

rwgc.co.nz







Wellington Airport, 40 mins

Activities in the North Island



Dolphin watching in Northland

Northland is home to large populations of friendly, playful dolphins who flock to the region for its warm waters and sheltered coastline.



Food and wine in Auckland

Auckland is home to award-winning wineries, delicious local produce and buzzing restaurants in the inner-city precincts.



Visit Hobbiton in Waikato

Experience the real Middle-earth with a visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set™, featured in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*trilogies.



Geothermal in Rotorua

Get up close to spectacular geysers and colourful crater lakes, relax in a mud bath or enjoy a simple soak in a natural hot stream.



Fishing in Lake Taupō

Clear, fast rivers run throughout the volcanic Lake Taupō region, making the area an internationally renowned trout fishery.



Hiking in Ruapehu

The Ruapehu region is home to many walking and hiking opportunities, including the spectacular Tongariro Alpine Crossing.



Cycling in Hawke's Bay

Hawke's Bay's bike-friendly terrain, stable climate and stunning scenery make it a prime cycling destination.



Culture in Wellington

Wellington is home to the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, as well as many other fascinating cultural attractions.

Activities in the South Island



Wining in Marlborough

Marlborough is one of New Zealand's premier wine regions and is world-famous for its Sauvignon Blanc.



Abel Tasman National Park

Abel Tasman National Park is a paradise of white-sand beaches. Home to native seals, dolphins and sea birds, it's the perfect place for a kayak or hiking trip.



Whale watch in Kaikoura

Kaikoura is known as New Zealand's whalewatching mecca. Get up close with majestic Giant Sperm Whales; as well as Humpbacks, Pilot Whales and Orcas.



Journey through the Southern Alps

The TranzAlpine is one of the world's greatest train journeys, travelling coast to coast through forest and farmland and over the spectacular Southern Alps.



Hike the West Coast Glaciers

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.



Cycling the Otago Rail Trail

Rich in history, the Otago Central Rail Trail is a 150km journey through charming Central Otago country. Explore 20 or more townships located near or on the trail and meet with pioneer spirited locals.



Adventure in Queenstown

Queenstown is New Zealand's adventure capital, with a host of activities on land, water and in the air to thrill, challenge and inspire you.



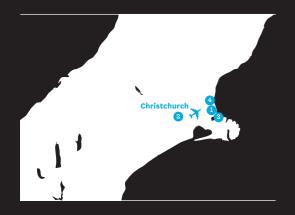
Scenic flight over Milford Sound

From the air, Fiordland's spectacular mountains, waterfalls and alpine lakes are breath-taking – a scenic flight over the area is unforgettable.



Journeying through Canterbury's abundant natural highlights, is a breathtaking experience.

Canterbury's patchwork plains are framed by the ocean and the Southern Alps, bringing together a wide variety of attractions for visitors. There are numerous outdoor activities – all within a two-hour drive from the international airport.





Top courses of the region



1. Clearwater Golf Club

Clearwater's mix of links and parkland features, offer a stimulating round of golf. The spring-fed lakes and distant backdrop of the Southern Alps offer wonderful characteristics for the golf round.

clearwatergolf.co.nz



3. Pegasus Golf and Sport Club

Pegasus – Canterbury's newest golfing addition – is 20 minutes by road north of Christchurch. This open parkland course measures 7000 yds off the back tees and has a distinct links feel.

pegasus-golfclub.co.nz



2. Terrace Downs

At the foot of the Southern Alps, Terrace Downs has breathtaking alpine views that can be a major distraction for players. The prevailing nor'wester wind can add some challenge to your game.

terracedowns.co.nz



4. Harewood Golf Club

The Woodlands Course, recently redesigned by Greg Turner and Scott McPherson, features 18 new greens and 18 new tee complexes, as well as a challenging new layout. The course has a new rustic feel, and is certainly a great test.

harewoodgolf.co.nz





Clearwater Golf Club

Clearwater lies 15 minutes drive from the centre of Christchurch and just a few minutes from the city's international airport.

The designers Sir Bob Charles and John Darby have succeeded in developing an inland course which has a distinctive links feel about it. One of the benefits of the openness is to enable golfers during their rounds to enjoy the breathtaking views of the South Island's Southern Alps mountain range.

For over 10 years, Clearwater has featured as a popular stop on several different international professional golf tours – from the USPGA Nationwide (now web.com) tour to the Australasian Men's tour and the European Ladies Tour.

Water is a strong feature of the course particularly on all four par 3's as well as the long par 4 finishing hole. This is a strategic layout with play influenced by the changing winds throughout the year.

clearwatergolf.co.nz















Queenstown and surrounds

Queenstown is the South Island's premium tourist destination. It offers three championship golf courses along with at least six other top courses nearby.

Adventure tourism has long been a key focal attraction offering everything from bungy-jumping, jet boating, and skiing to white water rafting in and around Queenstown. The region is now also home to world-class vineyards and hospitality experiences.





Top courses of the region



1. The Hills

The Hills, a private club allowing limited guest play, is dotted with unique sculpture and currently hosts the New Zealand Open.

thehills.co.nz



2. Millbrook Resort

Millbrook Resort is one of New Zealand's first championship courses. The recent addition of a new nine holes gives golfers a choice of three different 18-hole layouts.

millbrook.co.nz



3. Jack's Point

Jack's Point, considered by many the #1 course in the South Island, is renowned for its outstanding landscape and presentation.

jackspoint.com



4. Arrowtown Golf Club

Opened in 1937, Arrowtown features natural schist and fescue grasses creating a unique golf experience.

Queenstown Airport, 15 mins

arrowtowngolf.co.nz



5. Oreti Sands

Oreti Sands is the world's southernmost links course. Measuring 6400 metres from the tips, it can be a windswept test of golf!

nzgolfcourses.co.nz/southland



6. Cromwell **Golf Club**

One of New Zealand's best country golf courses, the Cromwell Golf Club offers a delightful rural golfing experience.

cromwellgolf.co.nz



7. Otago Golf Club

The Otago Golf Club was established in 1871 and is hailed today as New Zealand's oldest course, as well as being one of the oldest in the Southern Hemisphere.

Dunedin Airport, 30 mins

otagogolfclub.co.nz



8. Chisholm Park

Chisholm Park, one of the best links courses in New Zealand, offers wonderful golf, cliff top holes, and beautiful views.

Dunedin Airport, 30 mins

chisholmparkgolfclub.co.nz

Millbrook Resort

Set in a dramatic natural amphitheatre of bare rock surrounded by the high snowcapped peaks of the Remarkables mountain range, a round of golf at Millbrook is both a test of golfing skills and an exploration of a unique natural environment.

The new nine holes have been designed with a common distinctive feature – multiple options from tee to green. Designers Greg Turner and Scott Macpherson have laid out the challenge through their works. A golfer who plays shots successfully will be rewarded. With the recent addition of a further nine holes to the existing 18, golfers now have a choice of three different 18-hole courses.

millbrook.co.nz













The Hills

This is a stunning course that has been created out of unique natural combinations of farmland, wetlands, tussocks and schist rocks. It also serves as an outdoor art gallery of artworks and sculptures by local and international artists.

The Hills has a challenging layout with the diversion of many elevated tees offering breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. The course hosts many significant professional golf tournaments including the New Zealand Open.

The Lodge at The Hills is an impressive luxury lodge offering exclusive experiences for up to 12 guests.

thehills.co.nz







Queenstown Airport, 15 mins

Jack's Point

Designed by New Zealand golf course architect John Darby, Jack's Point is one of New Zealand's most exhilarating golf courses.

The striking natural setting allows for a course created through minimal earth movement to harmonise with nature.

Just 15 minutes drive from downtown Queenstown, and located beneath the Remarkables mountain range on the edge of beautiful Lake Wakatipu, the course winds its way through a variety of schist outcrops, native wetland and bush areas along with local wildlife which make Jack's Point their home.

Fescue fairways, brown top greens, and four teeing options ensure that golfers of all skill levels can enjoy Jack's Point. This is truly an opportunity to enjoy 360 degree views of the South Island's most amazing scenery.

jackspoint.com





Getting to New Zealand

New Zealand is approximately a three hour flight from the eastern seaboard of Australia, and approximately a ten hour direct flight from most places in the Pacific Rim, including; Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo and the west coast of the USA.

Flights from UK and Europe to New Zealand will usually have one or more stopovers with the total flight time approximately 24 hours.

New Zealand's bio-security

New Zealand's rural-based economy requires strict bio-security, so it is important for golfers to enter the country with clean golf shoes and clean golf clubs, or risk being diverted to quarantine inspection upon arrival in New Zealand.

Driving in New Zealand

Driving in a new country can be challenging, especially if you are tired. Consider staying a night or two in your arrival city before collecting a rental vehicle.

You must obey all road rules and signs at all times. Always drive on the left side of the road and do not exceed the speed limit.

New Zealand roads may be narrower than you're used to, cover hilly terrain and vary from motorways (freeways) to unsealed gravel roads. Allow plenty of time to get to your intended destination and plan to take regular rest breaks.

For more information about driving in New Zealand, visit nzta.govt.nz



For more information on golf holidays in New Zealand, please contact your nearest travel agent.



newzealand.com