

OFF THE BEATEN PATH GUIDE TO

NEW ZEALAND

EXPLORE SPOTS THAT NOT EVERYONE GETS TO SEE!





WELCOME TO YOUR GUIDE!

WHERE YOU WILL DISCOVER SPOTS AROUND NZ THAT NOT EVERYONE GETS TO SEE!

Ever seen a New Zealand Must Do list and felt overwhelmed? I feel ya. There are endless opportunities to explore NZ and at times it can feel a little daunting. How on earth are you going to fit everything in?!

My advice to you is ...Don't.

Don't fit it all in because you simply won't get to see New Zealand at its best. I know this sounds a bit stupid but seriously, do you enjoy waiting 30 minutes to take a photo that looks just as good a little further down the path or, from a slightly different angle? Let me assure you, you are not missing out if you don't get to all of the 'Must See' locations. There are countless spots just as good as the ones you see in top magazines.

In order to find some calm in the chaos I have created this 'off the beaten path' guidebook for you.

Meaning, there are a whole lot less tourists exploring these spots than in your typical 'Must Do' list so, you can simply enjoy NZ at its best without being bombarded with endless tourists!

Get stuck in!



Spot #1

THE CLAY CLIFFS, OMARAMA

These incredible gravel and silt pinnacles take you on a time travelling journey to Utah! But are located just 10km west of Omarama.

Seriously, these awesome structures will take you to a distant land and the best part is they don't require a marathon flight. They are easily accessible off SH8. Just turn onto Quailburn Road and travel down Henburn Road until you reach the car park (Henburn Road is an unsealed/gravel road).

Beware:

There is an honesty box at one of the gates along your way where you are supposed to deposit \$5.



Spot #2

CURIO/PORPOISE BAY, THE CATLINS

I have lived 5 hours drive away from the Catlins my whole life and have never even heard of these bays! They are definitely a well kept secret by local holiday goers which means you're in for an authentic kiwi experience.

The photo above is of Porpoise Bay and if you walk about 5 minutes around the corner you will arrive at Curio Bay.

If the cribs along the way don't catch your eye then maybe the light golden sand beach will attract your attention. If you're not into lazing on the beach, uncovering a petrified forest (Curio bay) or viewing native birds and seals, I'm sure the dolphins swimming in Porpoise bay will amaze you! One local told me that dolphins come into the bay and people can easily swim with them (for free). I didn't really believe this until I saw it with my own eyes! Yes, the water is bloody freezing but swimming with dolphins in their natural habitat is nothing short of incredible!



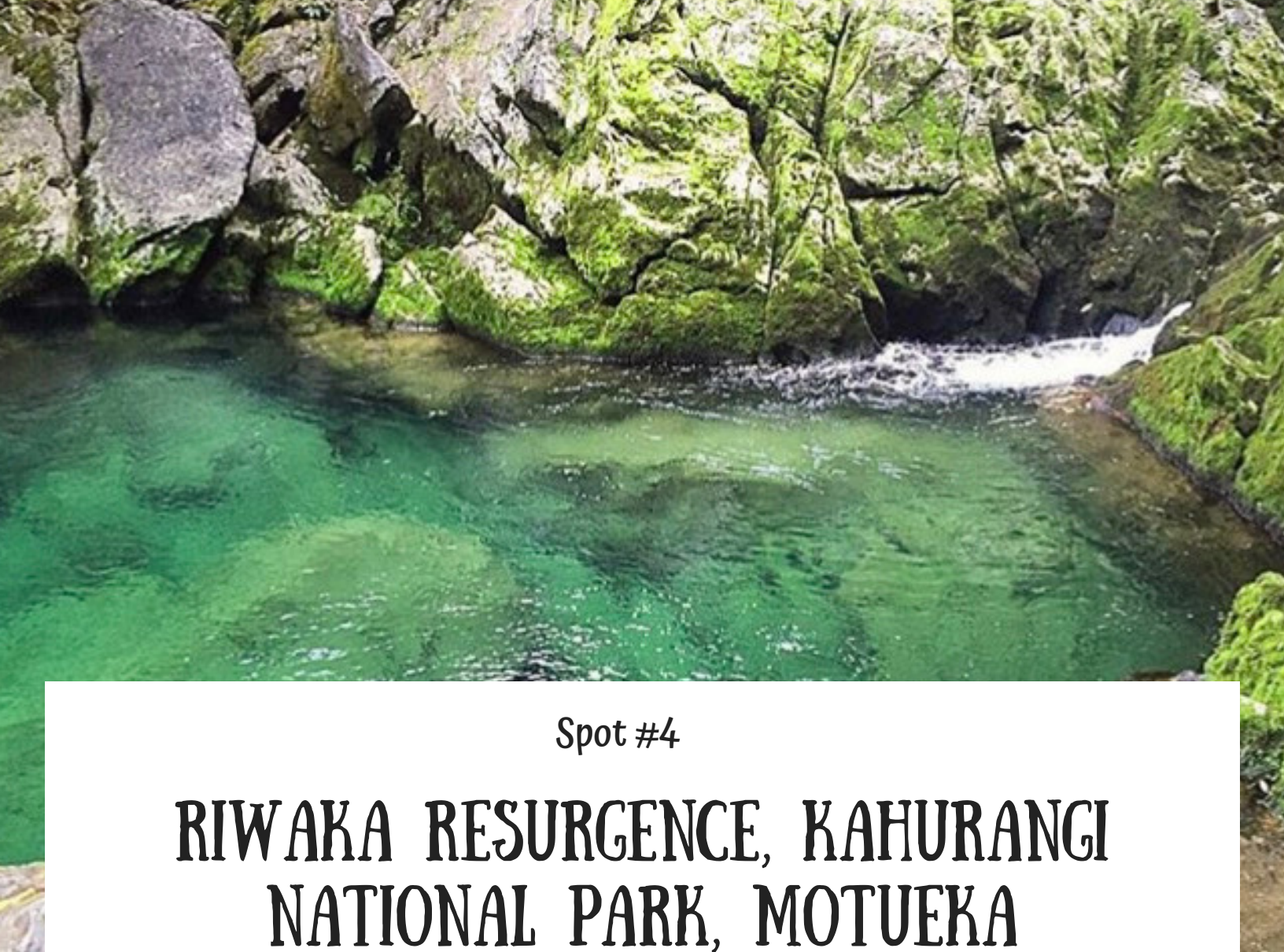
Spot #3

HOT WATER BEACH (TE RATA BAY), LAKE TARAWERA

Okay, so this is not the hot water beach often talked about in NZ where you dig a hole and sit in a stream on the beach (located in the Coromandel). This one is a little different, located in Lake Tarawera (Rotorua) and in my view far more incredible than the seaside version.

Firstly, because hot water beach is located at the edge of the lake making your bathing experience absolutely picturesque. The 86 degree hot water thermal stream trickles down right into the lake. Obviously, you can not bathe in the stream itself and you have to be aware of the extremely hot water patches in the lake but, you should be able to find a happy medium somewhere a few metres off the shore line. You can get there by water taxi (\$45 return) or by hiking 15 km to hot water beach campsite.

Enjoy!



Spot #4

RIWAKA RESURGENCE, KAHURANGI NATIONAL PARK, MOTUEKA

The Nelson/Tasman region is full of epic spots to explore. But, this one is one of my favs because of its beauty, calmness and quietness. Just off the main tourist route makes it is easily accessible down Riwaka Resurgence road. Carry on till you reach a car park just below the Takaka hill (15 minutes drive out of Motueka).

You can take a short 5 minute walk to the start of the crystal clear water escaping the limestone caves that move underneath the Takaka hill. Take a picnic lunch or dive into the amazingly clear (freezing) water. The choice is yours!



Spot #5

MISTLETOE BAY, QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUNDS

Seriously a hidden gem! If you're interested in a beautiful stop over on your Queen Charlotte hike or keen to camp at an Eco Village for a night then this is the place for you! The bay is absolutely stunning with many opportunities to explore. Take a kayak, loop walk, swim or be amazed at the beautiful phosphorescence at night.

Getting there isn't too tricky if you're prepared for the windy Kenepuru road and a narrow gravel, down hill road to the camp.

It'll be worth it once you arrive, trust me!



Spot #6

WHARARIKI BEACH, GOLDEN BAY

One of the most incredible coastlines in NZ. Fancy a swim with baby seals or a cheeky frolic down some sand dunes? Perhaps you're keen to take in an incredible sunset? Even the 20 minute walk to the beach through paddocks is picturesque.

This spot has it all, just be prepared for the wind!

To get there you will need to head down the gravel Wharariki Road right to its end. From the car park you can do various walks or take the easiest 20 minute walk straight to the beach.



Spot #7

NEW CHUMS BEACH, COROMANDEL

New Chums beach is a hidden gem because it takes a good 30 minute rock hopping adventure to get there. The beach itself is absolutely breathtaking. When you arrive, I dare you to get straight in the water and try to stand up against the waves! It makes for some fun and bonding with other beach goers. Or, you could just laze on the beach, have a picnic and read a book.

Definitely take some water along with you and go to the toilet before hand as Whangapoua/ New Chums beach carpark is your last option.

From New Chums Beach car park take a stroll across Whangapoua beach straight to the rock boulders to your left. From there you will be able to see a path that weaves between boulders and Nikau palms, up a wee hill and down into paradise!



Spot #8

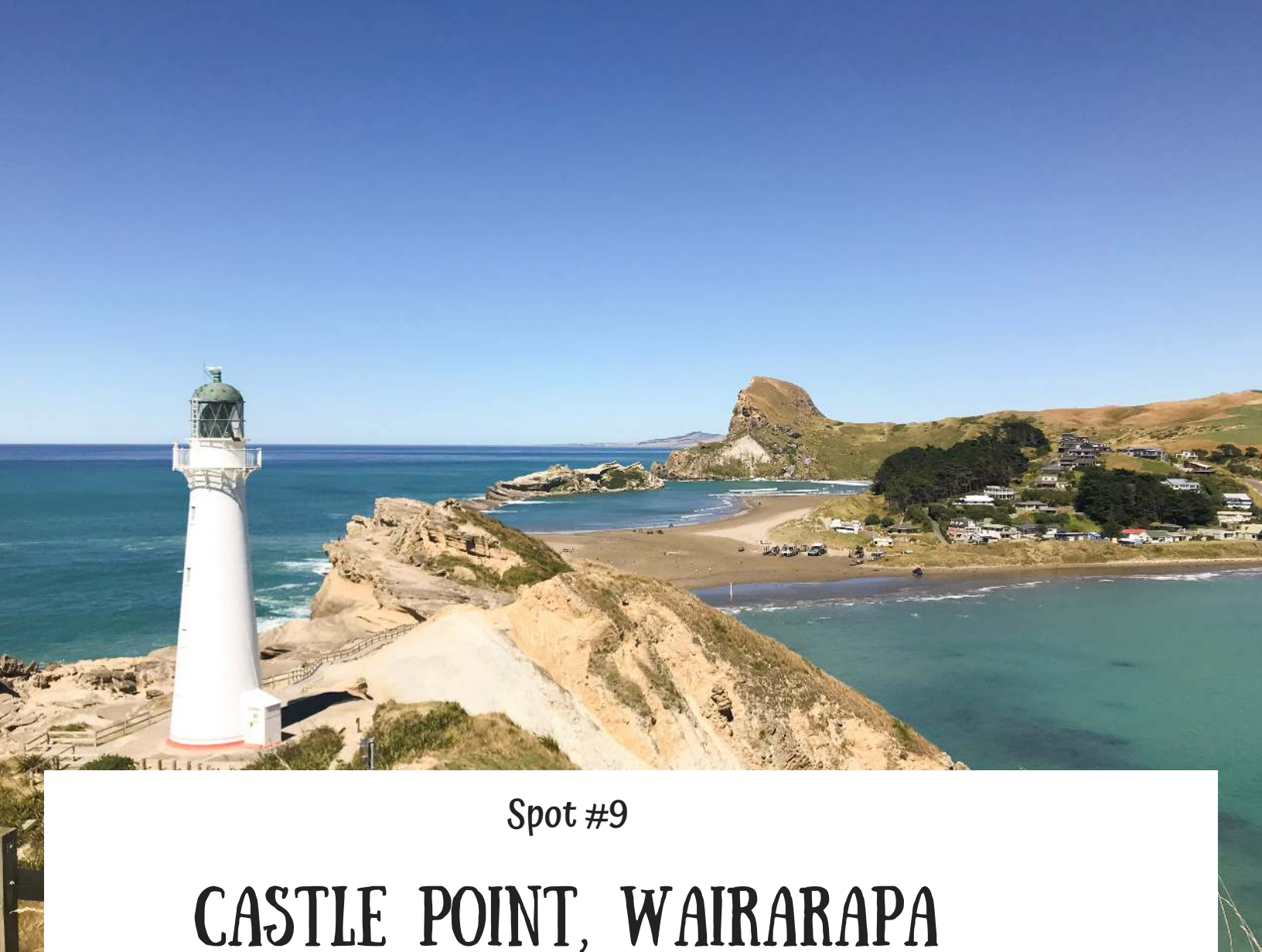
LAKE HAWEA

Just around the corner from the hub that is Wanaka! Lake Hawea is less of a hub but definitely more picturesque.

Lake Hawea is one of the clearest fresh water swims I have ever had IN MY LIFE! You will be blown away with how see-through the water is and being able to swim while seeing your toes! Head to one of the many picnic areas and walk down a bank to your paradise!

Beware:

It does get very windy there so try your best to go on a good day otherwise you will be greeted with lots of waves and very little calmness and serenity.



Spot #9

CASTLE POINT, WAIRARAPA

Definitely off the beaten path and a absolutely incredible, rugged, classic kiwi location.

Walk to the lighthouse, take in the beautiful rock structures and deep blue water. Or, grab an ice cream or some fish and chips and watch the surfers do their thing! A great holiday spot and one not everyone and their dog knows about!

Located 1 hours drive from Masterton.



Spot #10

TANE MAHUTA, WAIPOUA FOREST, NORTHLAND

Driving through Waipoua forest is an experience in itself for its incredible natural beauty. But stopping by the 'Lord of the Forest', the oldest living Kauri Tree in NZ will blow your mind. You are guaranteed to get a good feel as to why Maori used these trees to make Wakas and trade with Europeans for ship masts, because Tane Mahuta really is enormous!

Tip:

To take a photo of Tane Mahuta you will need to put your phone on Panorama mode and keep it vertical- it really is that big photos can't do it justice!



AND THAT'S A WRAP!

My top 10 off the beaten path options for you while travelling through New Zealand! I hope you enjoy these spots just as much as I did and gain a good sense of New Zealand's beauty without being trapped by all of the tourists!

See ya out there!

Lee X