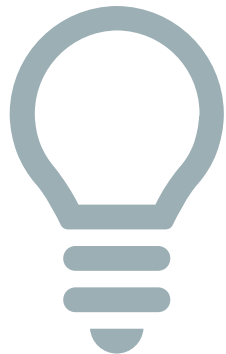


NEW ZEALAND

WHERE TO GO

WHERE TO STAY

WHERE TO EAT



NZ Tour ideas for



Workshop Camera Club

USEFUL RESOURCES

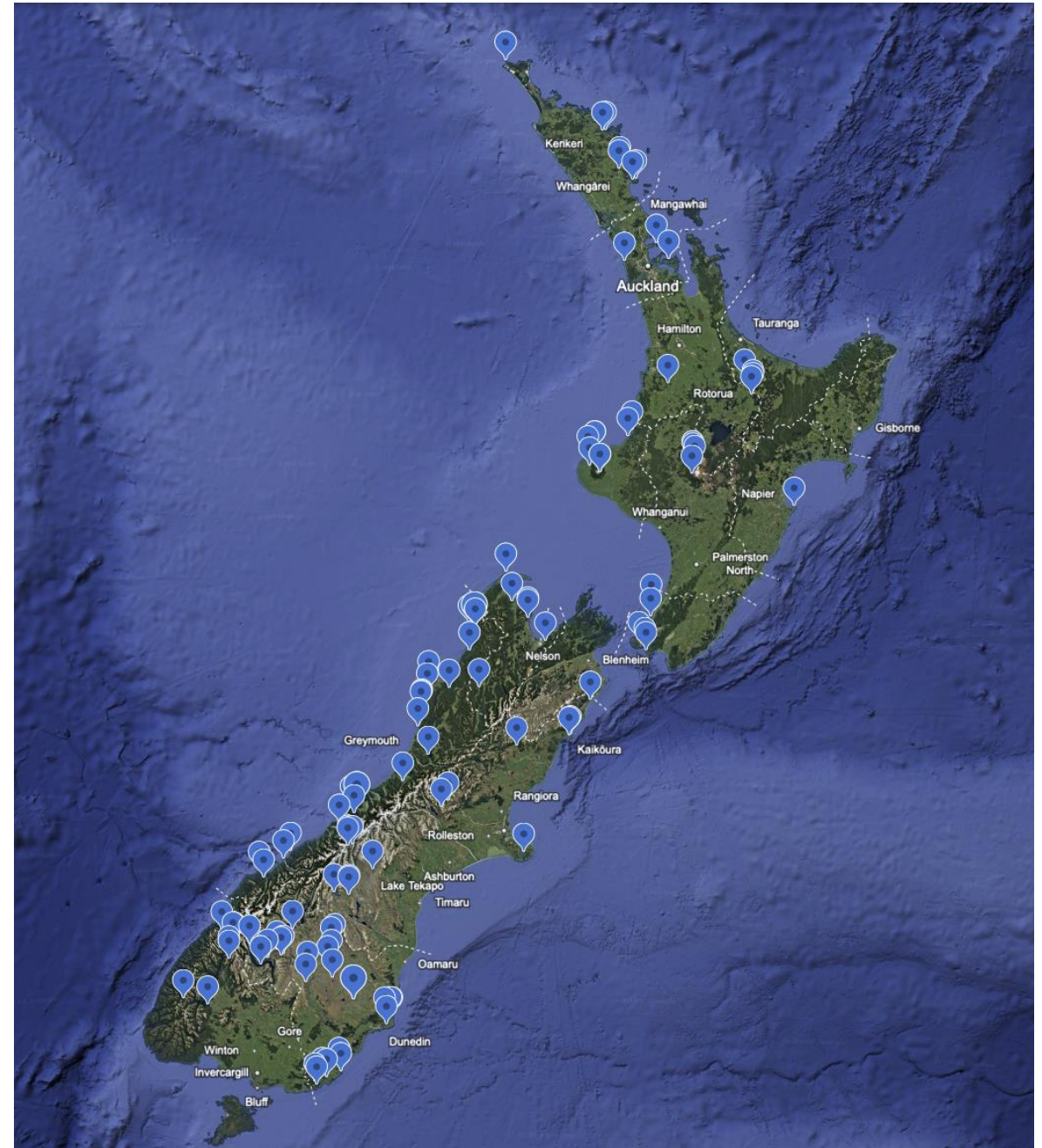
MapApp SI, MapApp NI – digital download onto phone, ipad – cheap to buy

Stories from our **BACK ROADS** *The South Island*. Ray Stone (especially if you have a 4wd or vehicle with good ground clearance).

Clear map routes away off the main roads, vehicle suitability (many routes good for standard car), travel times, short historical inclusions.

KML file for Google Maps with place names, comments. PDF of camping sites across the S.I.

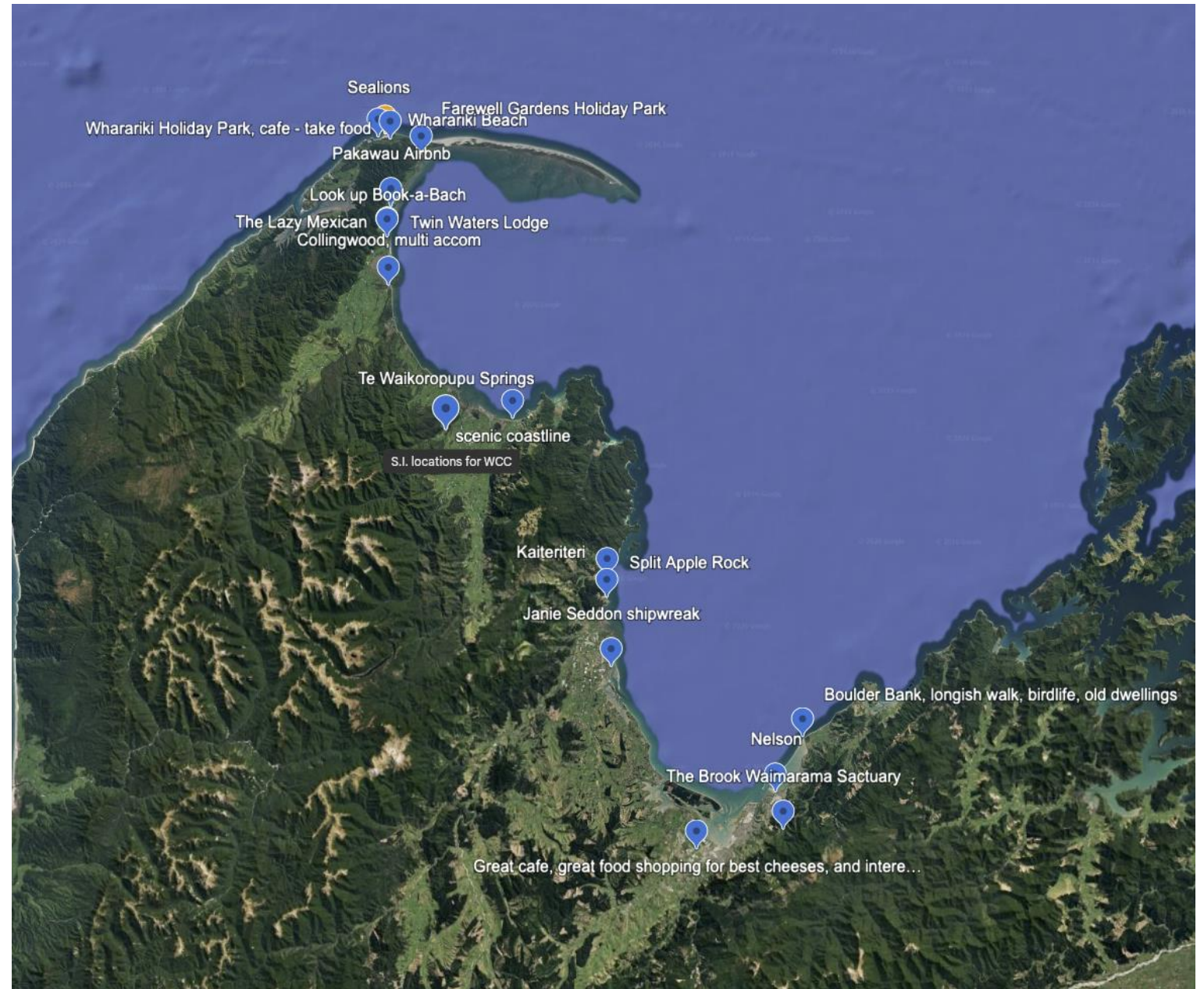
Please note re accommodation and eating suggestions: some places may close in winter or open times more restricted. Places I have suggested normally are open throughout the year. There will be seasonal price changes in accommodation.



SOUTH ISLAND



TASMAN



BASE : Pakawau



Wharariki Beach, Farewell Spit, Takaka Hill, Takaka, Te Waikoropupu Springs, Split Apple Rock, Kaiteriteri, Janie Seddon Wreck, Boulder Bank, Brook Waimarama Sanctuary.

Wharariki Beach – numerous photo ops of native trees, dunes vegetation. Better at **sunrise** than sunset.

Archway Islands best at **sunrise** and low tide

Travel to SW end of the beach for NZ fur seals and pups in the tidal pools.

Take self-guided or guided walks along Farewell Spit – depending on season, a bit barren or v.g for birdlife.



Wharariki Beach

BASE : Pakawau



Puponga and Pakawau – changing opportunities to photograph as the tide changes – substantive beach exposed at low tide. Expansive vistas, remnants of an old pier.

Clearest water and vibrant colour at Te Waikoropupa Springs, beautiful nature walk.





Pukawau

STAY :

Pakawau – check [Airbnb](#) and [Book-a-Bach](#) for a place along the Waikato Spit and on the beach – plan to take your own food. Twin Waters Lodge good but expensive.

Kiln Side Cottage – one-bedroom apartment, Riwaka.

Eden's Edge Lodge, Riwaka – for Kaiteriteri and Motueka - less expensive.

Marahau Beach and Kaiteriteri – mostly expensive through summer months, Kaiteriteri reasonable in off-season.

EAT :

Old School Café / Bar / Restaurant,
Pakawau

Collingwood Tavern

GK Eatery, Motueka for dinner, but many places to choose from.

BASE : PAKAWAU & RIWAKA



Split Apple Rock



Janie Seddon Wreck, Motueka

MARLBOROUGH - CANTERBURY



BASE : Kaikoura



Along the east coast from Picton (Ferry Terminal) to Kaikoura.

Picton is picturesque, good coastal walk along the RHS of the Sound from the small boats harbour.

Blenheim to Kaikoura - Stunning coastline, NZ fur seals basking on rocks close at hand.

Kekerengu – café stop, walk to beach for birdlife.

Nins Binn on the way - an icon – stop for crayfish, fish & chips

Kaikoura – dynamic coastline against the Seaward Kaikoura Range, rock shelves, fur seal colonies, whale watching. Head to the wharf at the south end, then Point Kean – easy walk around small bays and seal colony. Can walk all the way to South Bay, or drive to South Bay – very scenic. Backdrop = Seaward Kaikoura Range.

BASE : Kaikoura



Picton - Bay Vista Waterfront Motel, Waikawa (few minutes drive from Picton. Really lovely spot by the water, quiet (Jolly Roger Bar & Restaurant close by). Broadway Motel – in town, good value, easy walk to restaurants.

Eating - Oxleys Bar & Restaurant, Sisu Eatery & Bar is popular.

Kekerengu - excellent café, very limited accommodation but can camp near the café.

Stay : Kaikoura – south end of the township – many places on the esplanade. There is a lot of very basic accommodation.

Kaikoura Waterfront Apartments, The Peninsula Kaikoura.

Eating - The Pier Hotel – meet the locals, historic, good food, accommodation okay, located by the wharf – it's the heart of what 'is' Kaikoura.

Zephyrs Restaurant. Donegal House – just out of town, 10 mins NW, great atmosphere.



Rach Stewart Photography

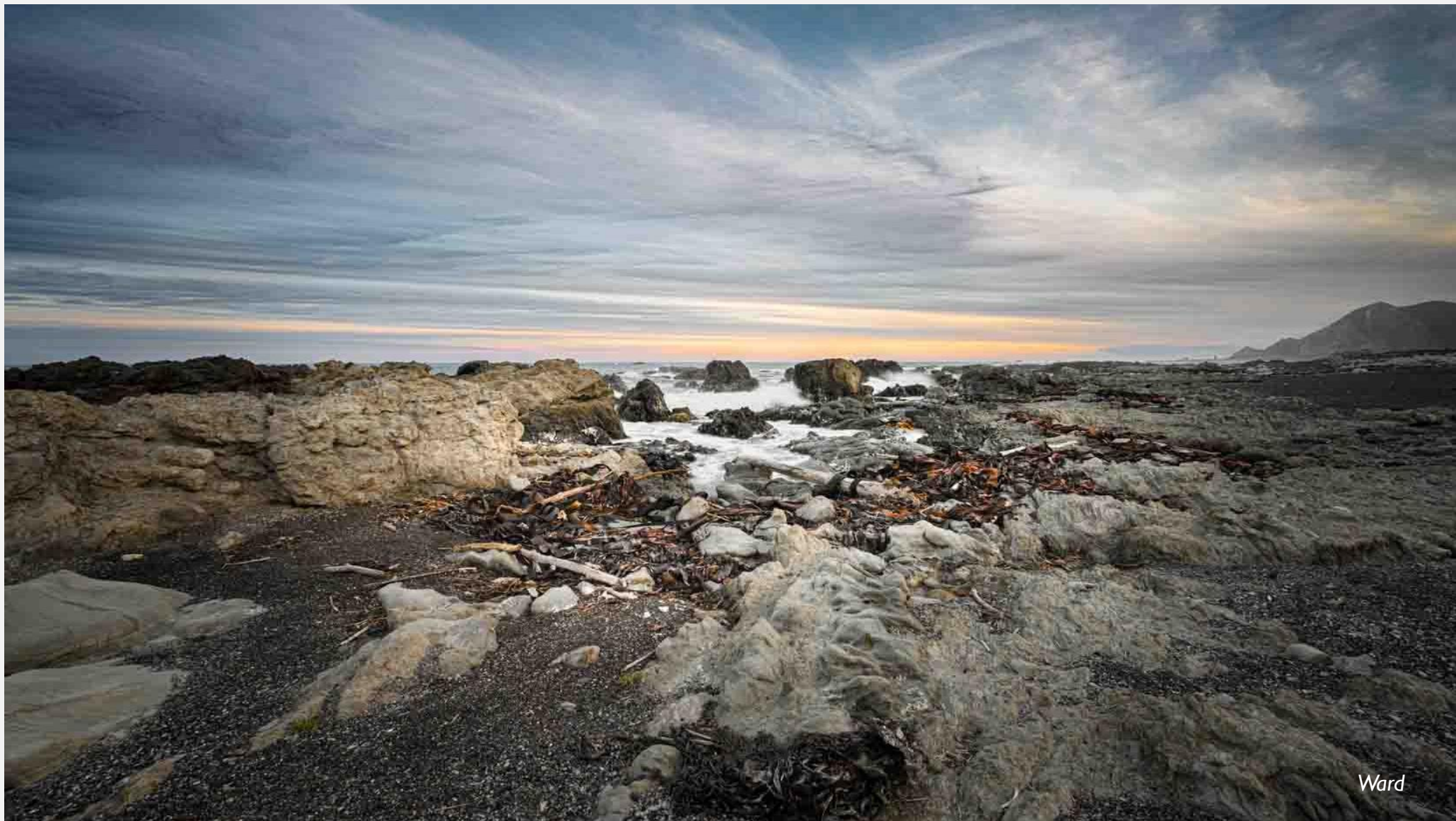
RSNZ

[@rachstewartnz](#)



Rach Stewart Photography





Ward

BASE : Middlehurst Station



BASE : Middlehurst Station



Awatere Valley to Hanmer Springs – good metal road, well graded, only the first 20% is sealed.

Signpost at the turnoff before reaching Seddon says ‘Road Closed’. Only in Winter a gate is locked at Molesworth but still able to travel most of the valley throughout the year. Autumn-Winter is a great time to travel the valley.

In winter, enquire locally if there had been very recent storms for road washouts.

Wineries for several kms, then raw scenery of mountains – the Schooner Range and Inland Kaikoura Range.

BASE : Middlehurst Station



Middlehurst Station - halfway down the valley – excellent accommodation including v. nice single room shearers quarters. Meals catered for (Bfast & dinner – lunch on request), excellent. Phone them directly - Willie and Sue.

Other Accommodation down the valley
Camden Cookshop – Byo food
Camp at Acheron House Campsite on Molesworth Station.

Molesworth Tours from Hanmer Springs to Molesworth Station, Rainbow Station = alternative way to see some of the valley. Tours arranged on demand.

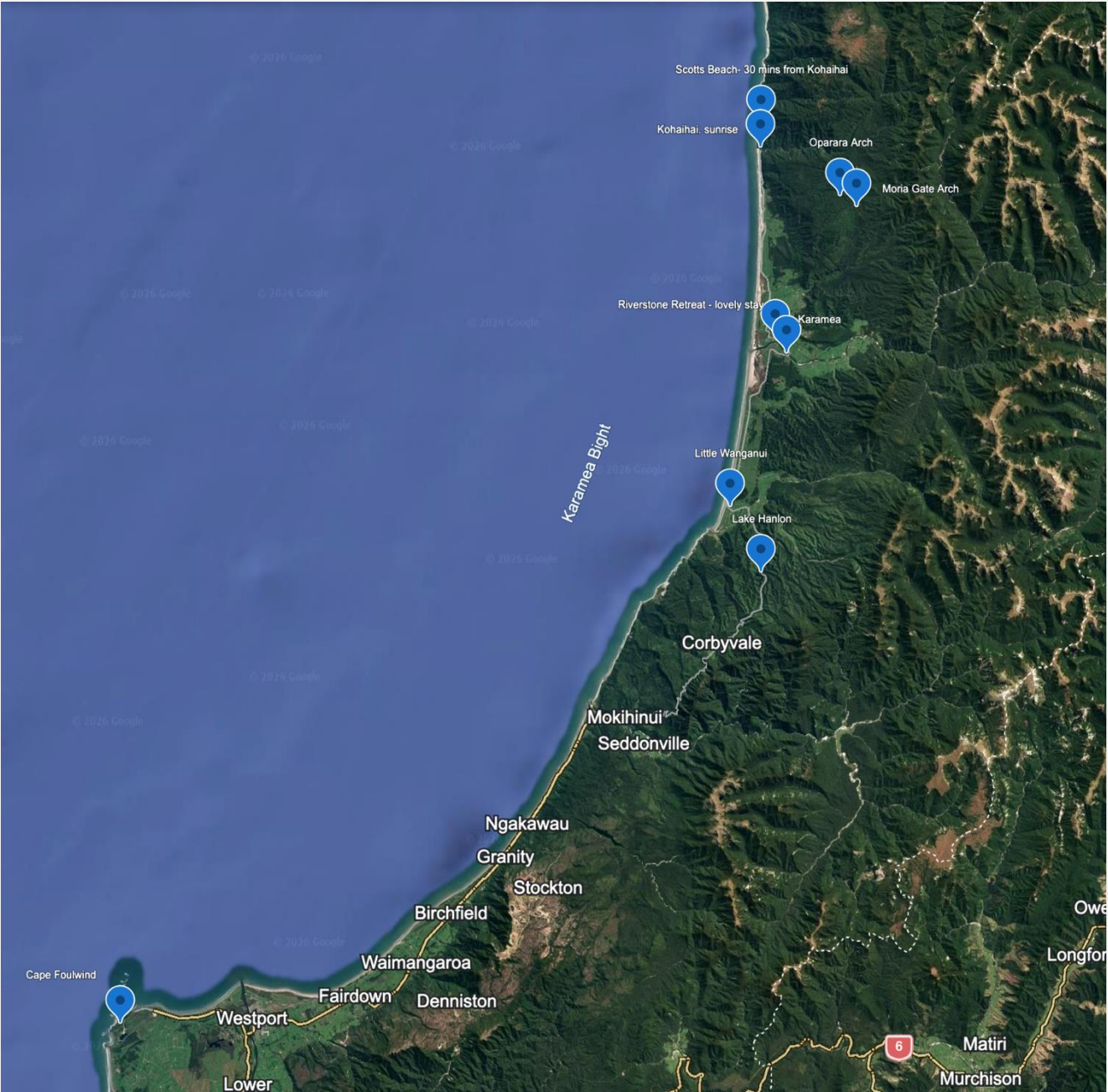
There is also a short loop road out of Hanmer Springs for a half day drive.







WEST COAST - NORTH



West Coast via the Lewis Pass:

Inland Kaikoura road via Mt Lyford (fantastic café stop) joining Lewis Pass at Mount Culverden.

At Springs Junction either continue NW on the main Hwy or turn north to Maruia Falls, (ditto if leaving from Hanmer Springs) then on to the Buller Gorge to Westport.



Good drone opportunities for braided mtn rivers along the Waiau River at Emu Plain.

Inungahua – old NZ town – you wonder why its there.

Hawks Crag – great photo spot. Single lane around the crag so park and walk to the bend.

Look out for the T-Rex tree a small distance NW of Hawks Crag.

BASE : Karamea



Westport to Karamea follows coast then diverts inland to cross the ranges – sealed road, windy, often single lane due to constant road slips in steep country, returning to the coast at Little Wanganui.

Stop at Lake Hanlon – short walk with superb forest reflections.

At Karamea

Karamea Estuary Walk, The Walking Tree

Oparara Basin Arches

Moria Gate Arch, Oparara Arch, Mirror Tarn

Kohaihai – road ends and Heaphy track commences. Head across the suspension bridge and along the track to Scotts Beach – easy walk through native forest, picturesque.

Kohaihai - good photo ops where river issues into the sea, stunning sunrises, plenty of Weka + NZ Robin to photograph.

BASE: Karamea



Karamea is the only other place to stay unless camping.

Stay - Riverstone Retreat

Eat - Karamea Hotel is the only place for dinner
Dutch Oven café – no dinner

Little Wanganui Hotel is character filled, friendly owners, some basic accommodation and food.

Camp ground at Kohaihai – very basic facilities, no food.







BASE : Punakaiki

Cape Foulwind

Charleston

Rocky shore platforms at Fox River

Punakaiki

Pororari Track

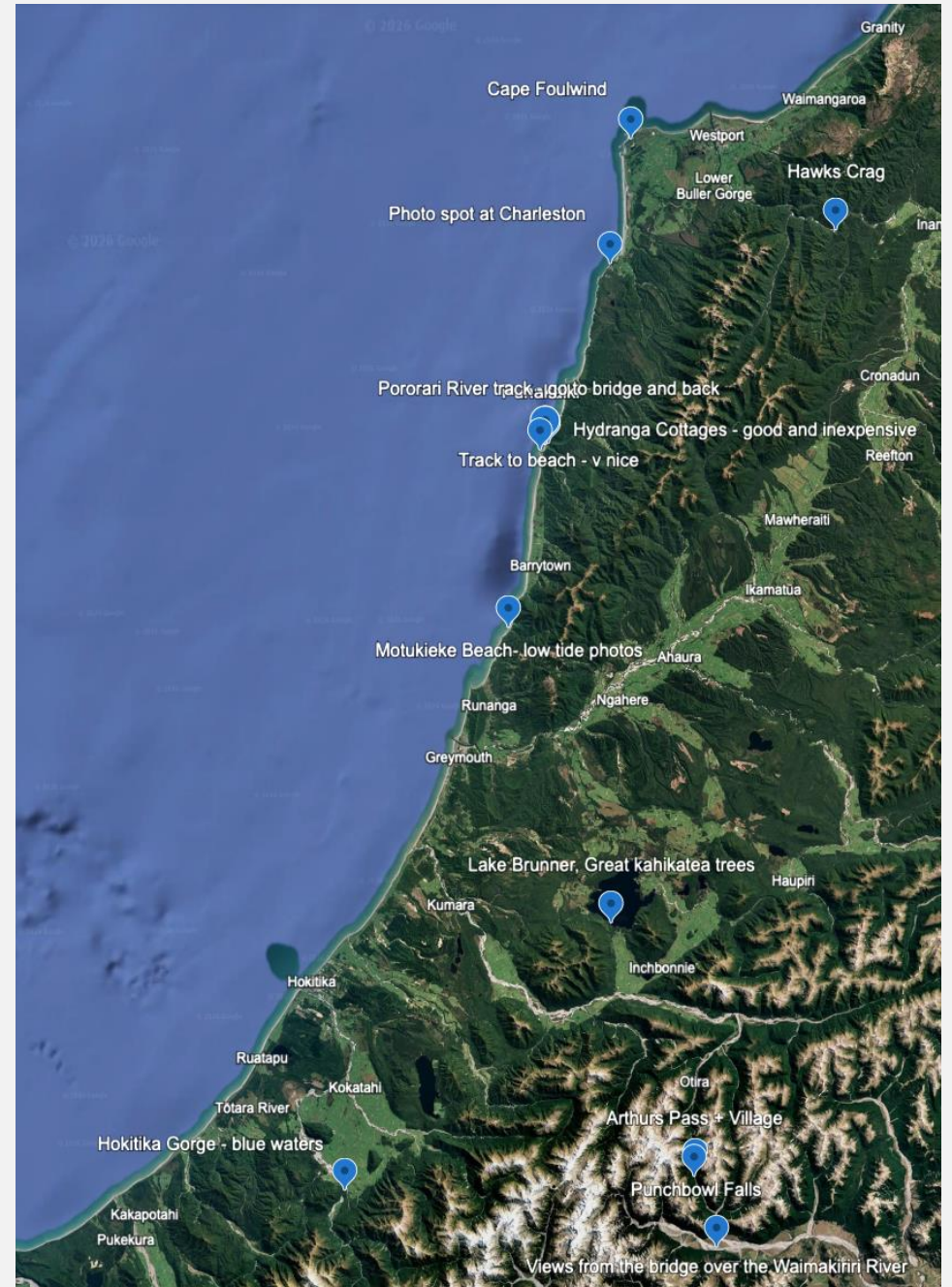
Truman Track

Motukieke Beach

Hokitika Gorge

Lake Brunner

Lake Kaniere



BASE : Punakaiki

N-S coastline of rocky shores and numerous photo ops.

Cape Foulwind - coastal walk, seal colony, beaches, sunrise and sunset.

Charleston - high energy, rocky, black sand inlets & headland coastal walk.

Punakaiki - limestone cliffs, pancake rocks and blowholes, rainforest, - easy walk around the main area at Punakaiki town. High tide best for dramatic blowhole activity. Explore the beach immediately south of the town.

Truman Track – easy delightful walk from the main road to the beach.

Pororari River Track – a must do. Take the track at the northern end of the town. Walk to the first swing bridge and return the same way rather than walking the whole circuit. This is the best part of the walk.

Motukieke Beach – beach walk = spectacular – sea stacks, rock platforms, caves, natural arches, ropes and ladders to aid accessing areas. **GO AT LOW TIDE, WEAR GOOD FOOTWEAR.**

Alternatively, just walk along the beach to the rock platforms and the stacks.

Hokitika Gorge – Known for its stunning blue water.

BASE : Punakaiki

Stay:

Hydranga Cottages - inexpensive, has character

Scenic Hotel Punakaiki

Punakaiki Beachfront Motel

Punakaiki Bech Hostel

Eat:

Ocean View Restaurant

Punakaiki Rocks Hotel & Garden Bar





Starfish at Motukiekie Beach

Christian Klepp



Charleston



Pororari River walk





Hokitika Gorge

BASE : Franz Josef

Arthurs Pass if crossing over to the East Coast from Punakaiki or Hokitika.

Okarito, esp. the boathouse

Lake Mapourika – pier and kahikatea trees

Organized trips from Whataroa to the white Kotuku (Heron) Sanctuary. Can photograph also from a Hide.

Fox Glacier

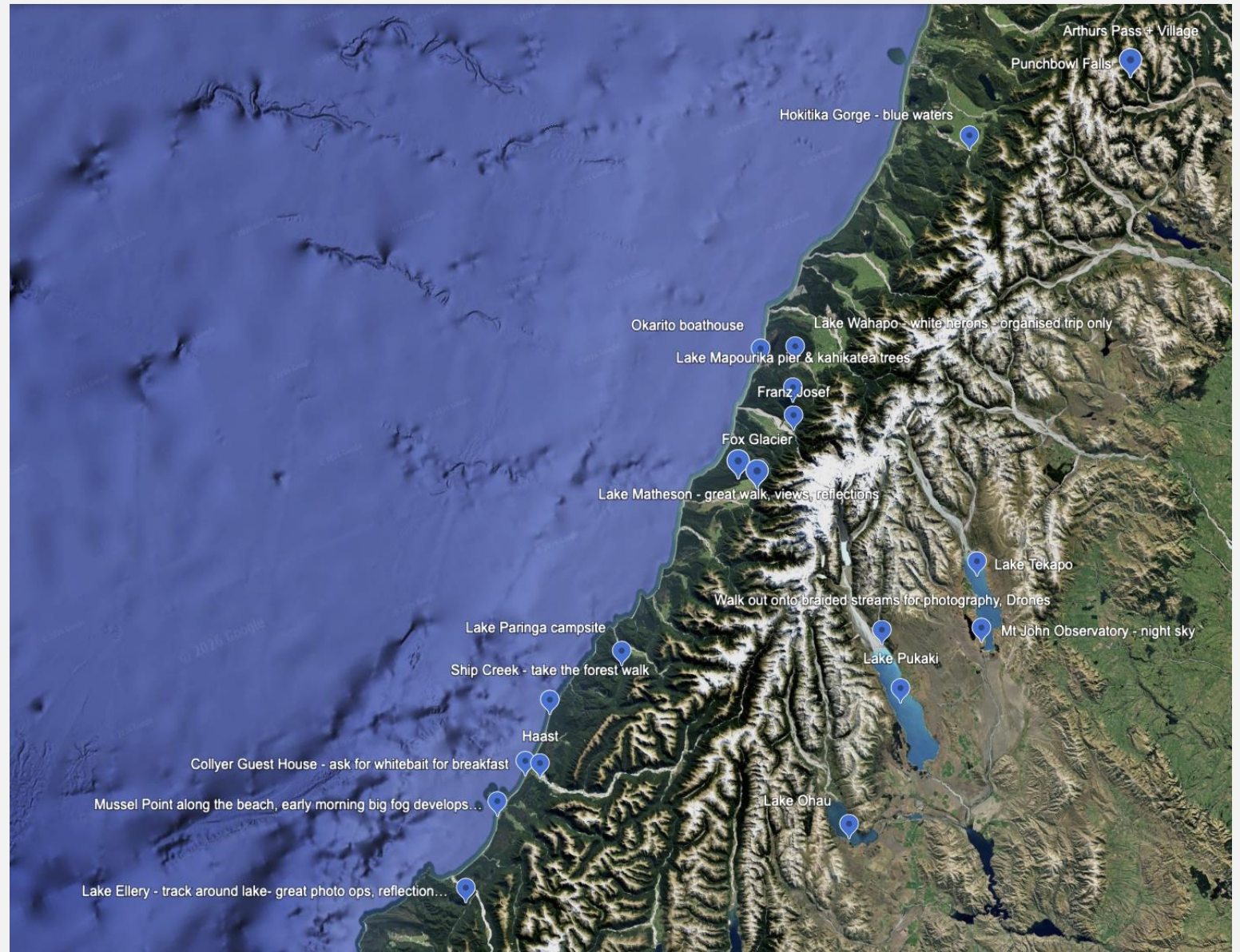
Minnehaha walk = easy 1.2km round trip walk to lookout platform.

Moraine walk 4km return.

Peter's Pool Walk 1.1km

Lake Gault Walk – 8km return

Lake Matheson – 4.4km loop track - easy, great ancient forest and mountain reflections.



BASE : Franz Josef

STAY :

Franz Josef : seasonal variations in prices – off season very inexpensive.

Alpine Glacier Motel – inexpensive, comfortable and functional but not flash.

Bella Vista Motel – v. Good

10 Cottages – very pleasant cottages

EAT :

no cordon bleu here – think reasonable pub food.

Alice May Restaurant,

Snakebite Brewery





Fox Glacier



Okarito



Lake Matheson



Lake Matheson reflections



Lake Mapourika



Kahikatea Trees

BASE : Haast

Lake Paringa – stunning with Mtns and glacier background. Great lake reflections and kahikatea trees.

Ship Creek – coastal walkway, and boardwalk through swampy native forest – excellent photo ops – take a tripod + CPL – low light.

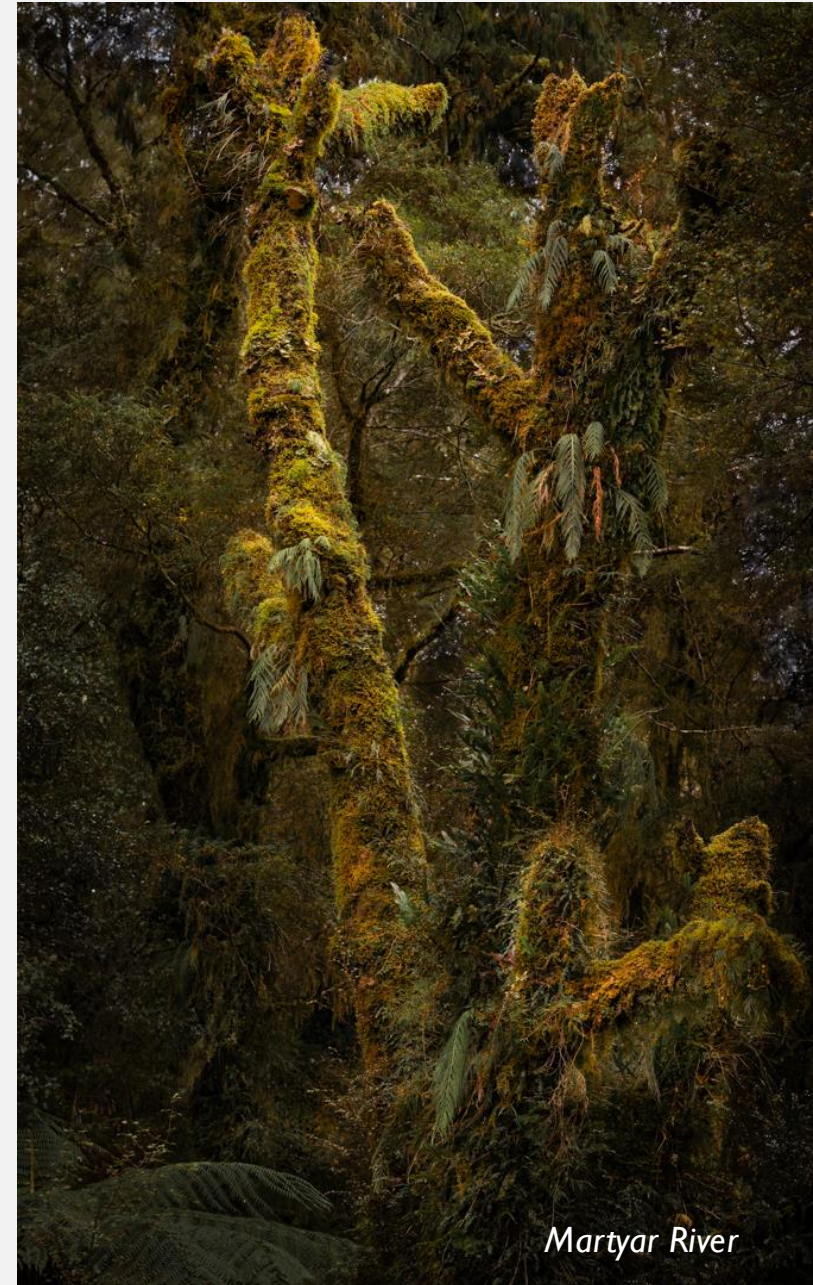
Mussel Point – sea stacks at/near the shore at the beach just south of Haast township; excellent for sunrise; hang around and a strange mist rolls in over the water and beach due to temperature differences. Sunset also good.



BASE : Haast

Lake Ellery – Stunning drive, two major river systems with great photo ops on the way.

Easy 2.7km return walk to Lake Ellery -river ops, reflections in ancient forest. Drive on to Jackson Bay for beautiful bay, small working community, wharf & super café. Day trip. Some accommodation nearby.



Martyar River



Ship Creek



Haast Beach



Arawhata River



Lake Ellery

BASE : Haast

STAY: Collyer House Guest Lodge, along the beach road heading S from Haast. Naroli makes the the worlds most generous whitebait omelette.

EAT : Heartland Hotel, Hard Antler Bar & Restaurant.
Keep an eye out for Crepe & Snow, 5 Marks Rd.

Eating: If out at Jackson Bay, make lunch your dinner at the Craypot.
Views are magnificent.



BASE : Twizel

Mt Cook/Aoraki, Lake Pukaki, Lake Tekapo, Lake Ohau, Lake Ruataniwha, Wairepo Arm, the Old Iron (Ohau) Bridge, Benmore

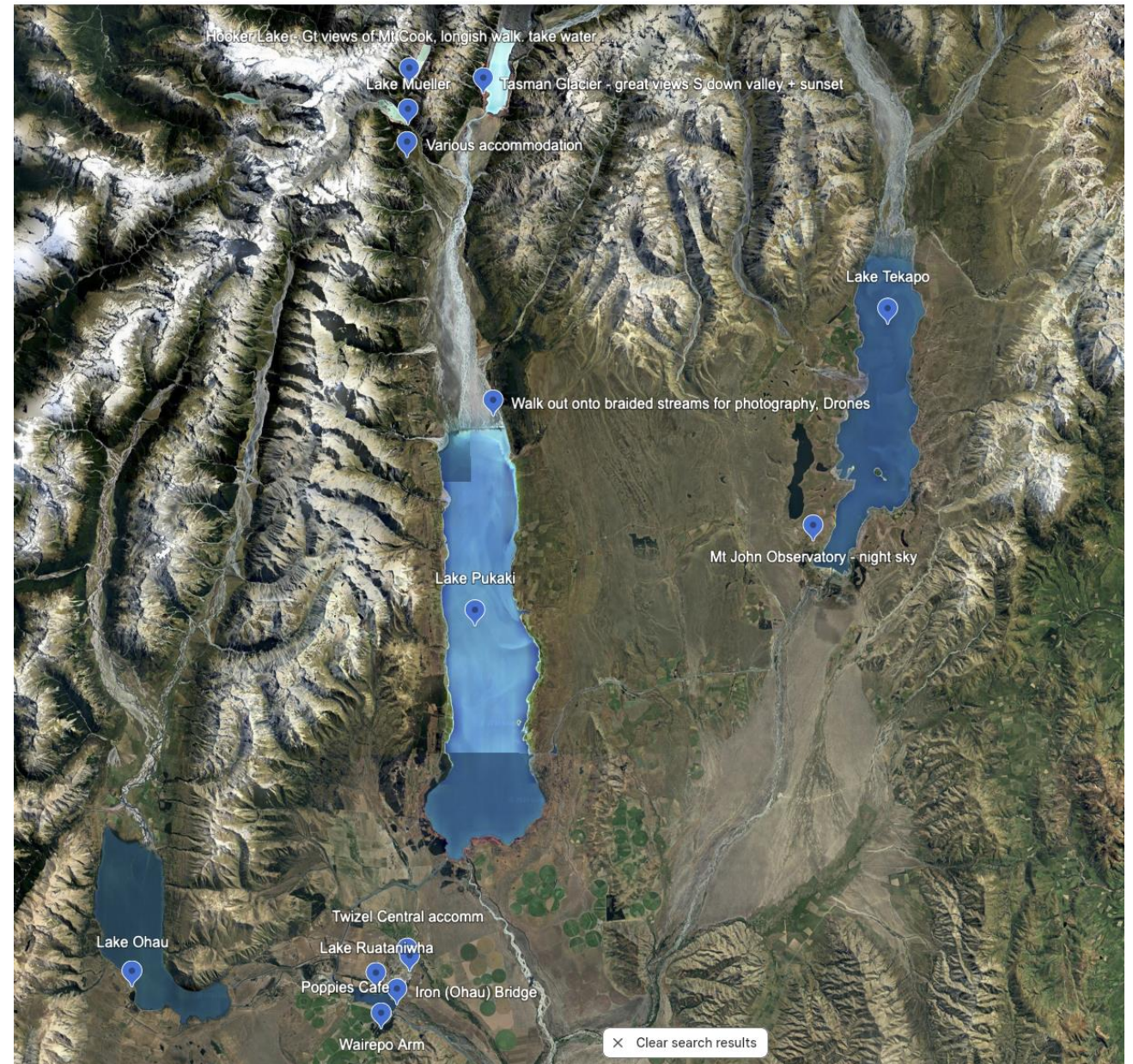
Mt Cook – Great **sunset** views of Mt Cook from half-way down the road at the Hermitage

Sunrise only from the Tasman Glacier

Often dynamic skies and Mtn views at **sunrise** from the Mt Cook village/motels

Tasman Glacier viewpoint, Leibig Range (The Nuns Veil, Mt Biretta, Monastery Peak on RHS, Mt Cook Range on the LHS) and valley best at **sunset**, also wait for post-sunset white glow.

Hooker Track for Lake Mueller, Hooker Glacier + lake, Mt Cook.



STAY :

Twizel Central Motel

Closer to Mt Cook :

Glentanner Station – need to book

Aoraki Court Motel, Mt Cook Lodge & Motels

The Hermitage if you feel like splashing out.

EAT : Restaurant: Poppies Café, Twizel
(breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Book for dinner – excellent food.

Hermitage, Mt Cook - restaurant and buffet = expensive, the Edmund Hillary café reasonable but no dinner.

Old Mountaineers Café, Mt Cook - Wed-Sat, closes 7pm – check if open in winter.





Lake Ohau



Lake Pukaki





Hooker River



Hooker River



Lake Pukaki



Lake
Tekapo

BASE : Fiordland

Lake Manapouri / Doubtful Sound - great boat and car trip through the Wilmot Pass, over the Matterhorm Mtns.

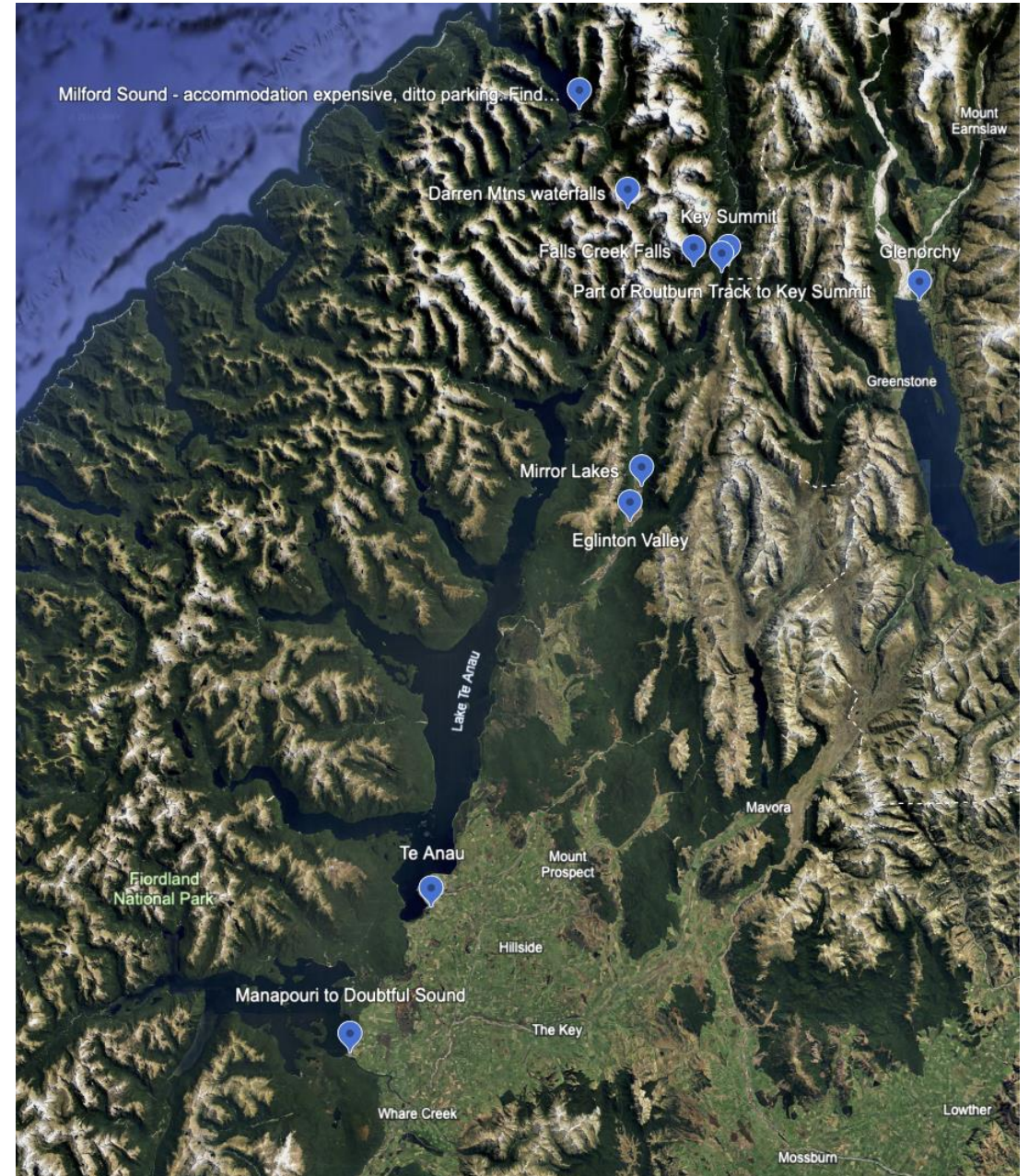
Te Anau – take the boat trip to the other side of the lake – beautiful nature walk in native forest.

Eglinton Valley – wide vista down the valley for minimalist imagery

Mirror Lakes - reflections

Drive to the end of the Lower Holyford Road (just E of Falls Creek Falls) – good river photo ops. 30 min walk to the Humbolt Falls

Darran Mountains waterfalls (just before the tunnel).
Need to park back from the tunnel.



BASE : Fiordland

Milford Sound – walk around first as there are many spots to get good images.

Sunrise and sunset, also mid to late afternoon for orange light to pour through the fiord.

Beware the tide – quiet, no waves and creeps up on you.

Parking is expensive. Try parking where the lodge is to escape fees.





Mitre Peak, Milford Sound

STAY :

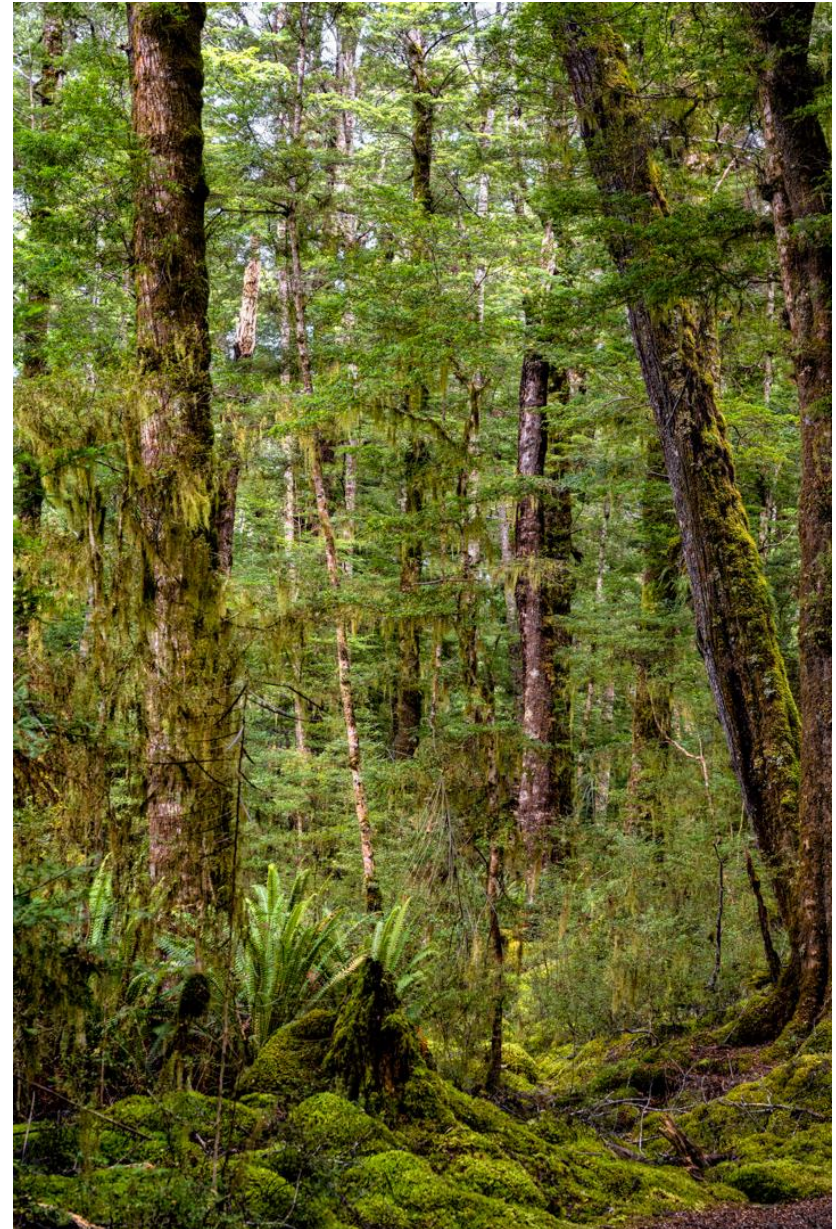
Camping ground near the lodge but you need to be self sufficient.

Milford Lodge – excellent, albeit expensive.

EAT :

Pio Pio Restaurant - near the Lodge – very good, albeit expensive.

Café at the information centre.





Darren Mtn Falls



THE CATLINS, SOUTHLAND

BASE : Owaka

The place of waterfalls: the spectacular ones are:

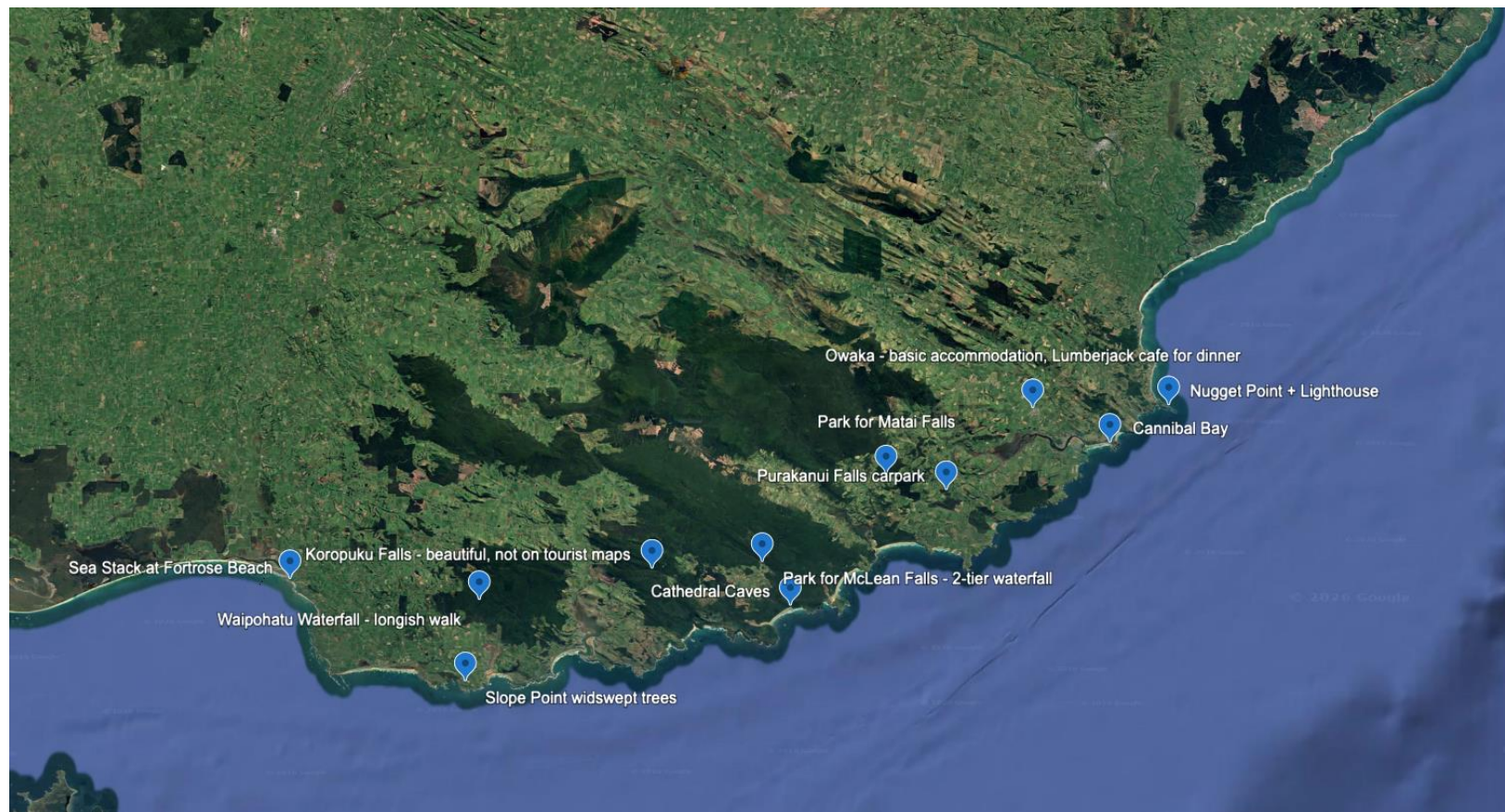
Purukanui Falls
McLean Falls
Matai Falls
Koropuku Falls
Waipohatu Falls

Slope Point for wind blown trees

Cannibal Bay for rock platforms and kelp

Nugget Point for Lighthouse and rugged coastline

The bays for fur seals ± penguins, sea stacks



BASE : Owaka

Stay :
Catlins Area Motel – pleasantly
basic, clean, comfortable.

Eat :
Lumberjack Café & Restaurant,
Owaka – exceptional food

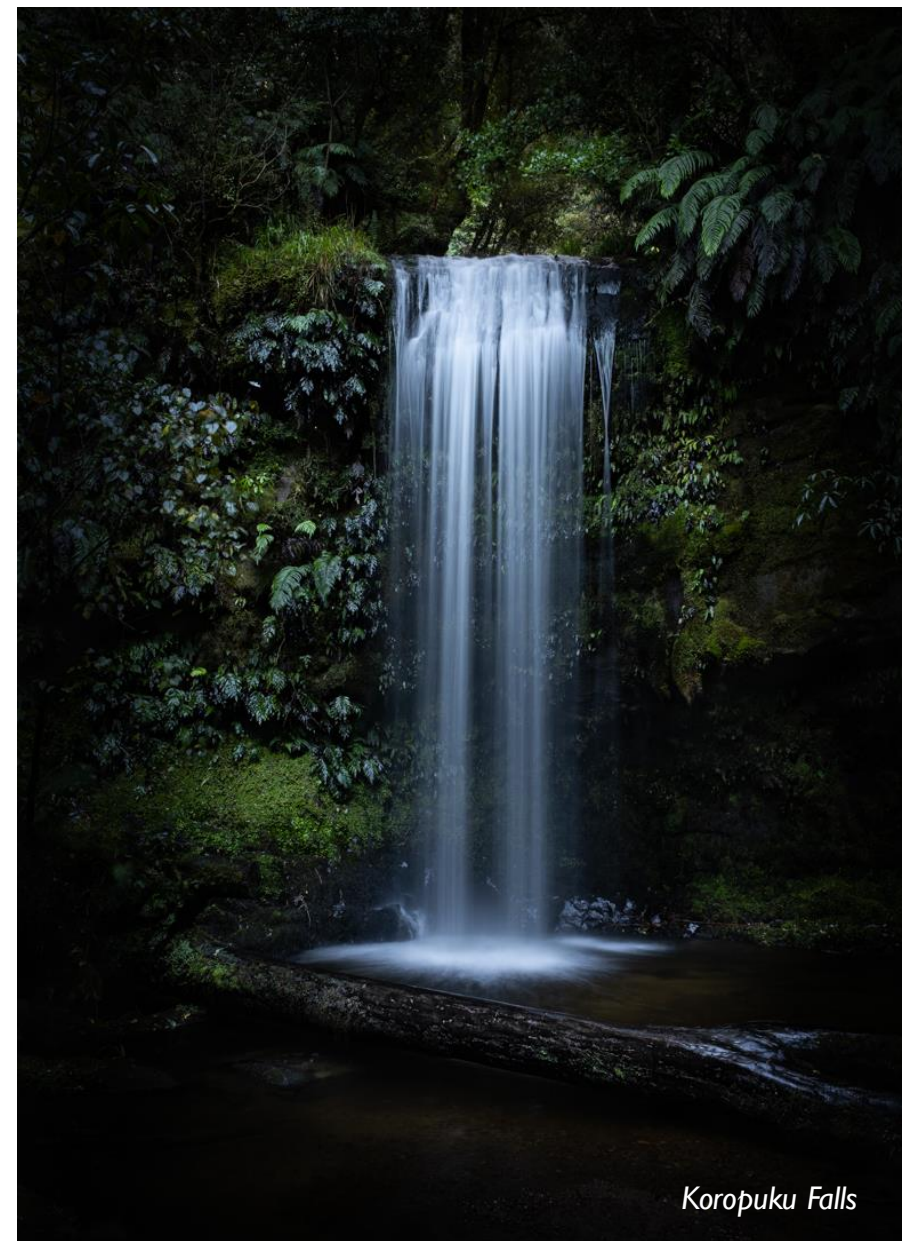
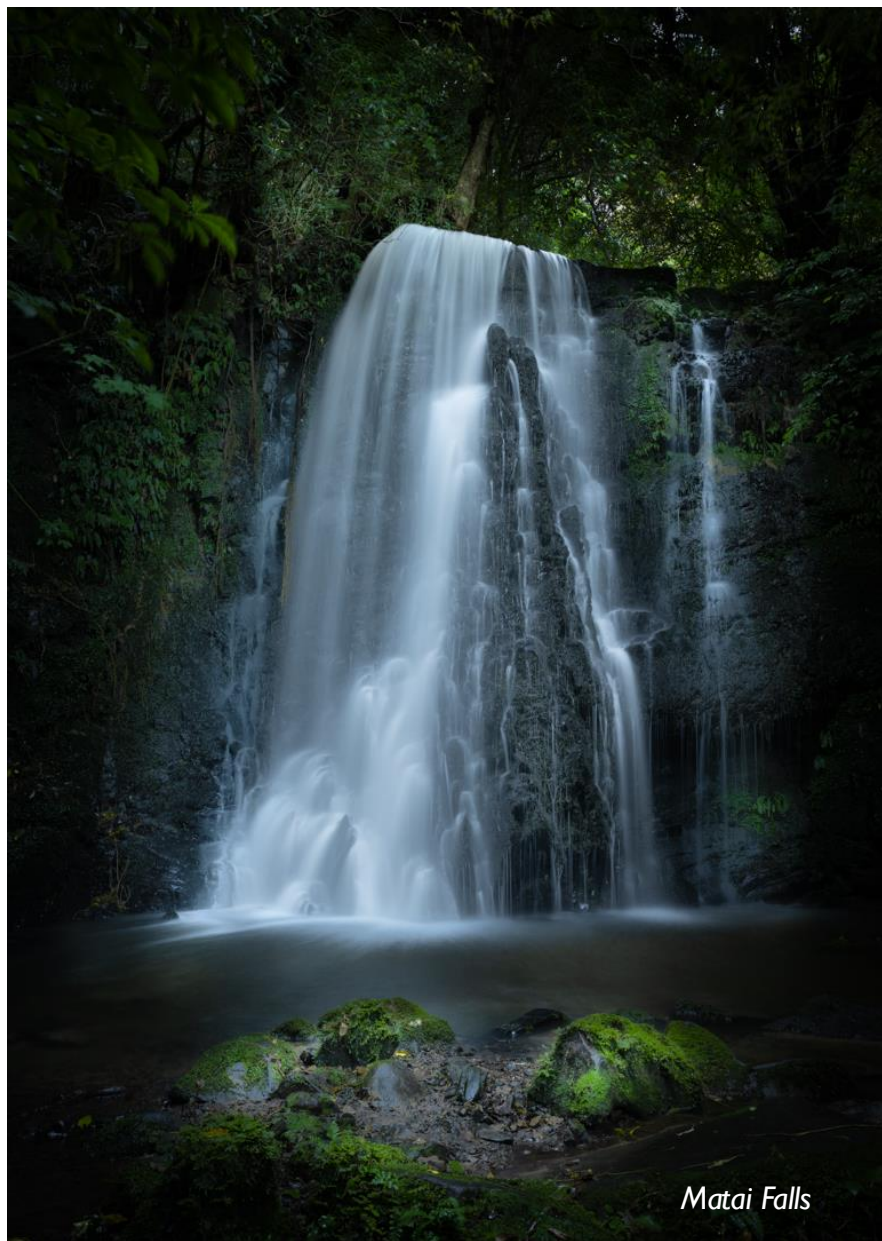




Slope Point



Slope Point





Purukanui Falls

OTAGO

BASE : Dunedin

Dunedin is an attractive, older city, known as the university town.

Moeraki Boulders – Reasonable drive north of Dunedin.

Sunrise and need either the mid-incoming or mid-outgoing tide as new boulders appear and ability to move around the boulders. Popular place for photographers.

Orokonui Ecosanctuary – excellent birdlife including takahe, kaka, tieke, korimoko (bellbird), Tui, Kereru (wood pidgeon), kiwi, S.I. robin, NZ falcon, silver eye, shining cuckoo + Tuatara, skinks, jewelled geko + other lizards





Moeraki Boulders





Moeraki

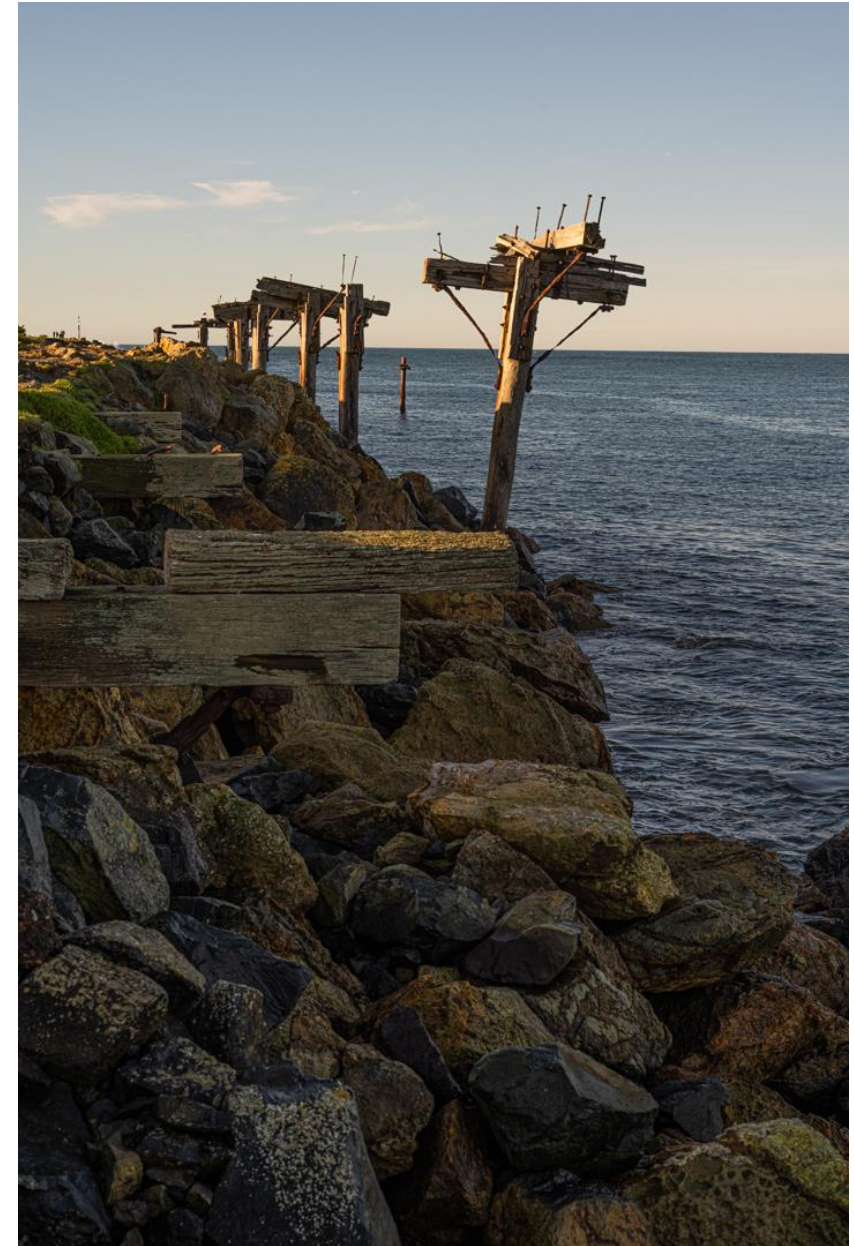
BASE : Dunedin

Left side of inlet:

Port Chalmers – old delightful town + port
Good photo ops at Careys Bay – small active
fishing wharf, shipyard a little further on.

Aromoana – long pier with abundance of bird life
– mostly terns and gulls. Good views across to
the Taiaroa Lighthouse – sunset.

Worth a drive to Purakaunui and nearby beaches.
Estuary area is very scenic.



BASE : Dunedin

Right side of inlet:
Lanachs Castle – entry fee

Excellent coastal drive with photogenic boat-houses dotted along the road.

Albatross Centre – check if there are lots of albatross about – need to shoot from indoors – variable as to photo ops.

Taiaroa Head – lighthouse. Walk S along the cliff top for great views of cliffs and lighthouse, amazing floating kelp. Numerous headlands

Allens Beach – seals, sea lions

Sandfly Bay - seals, sea lions

Sandymount – excellent scenic views



BASE : Dunedin

Stay :

Kakianau Retreat (along the peninsula NE of Portobello)

Lanarch Lodge (nr the castle, not castle accommodation)

Lots of options within the city - check if there is parking at or near the motel.

Eat :

Careys Restaurant at Careys Bay – fantastic + scenic + great atmosphere.

Moons Restaurant and Bar

Graze & Glow



Taiaroa Head



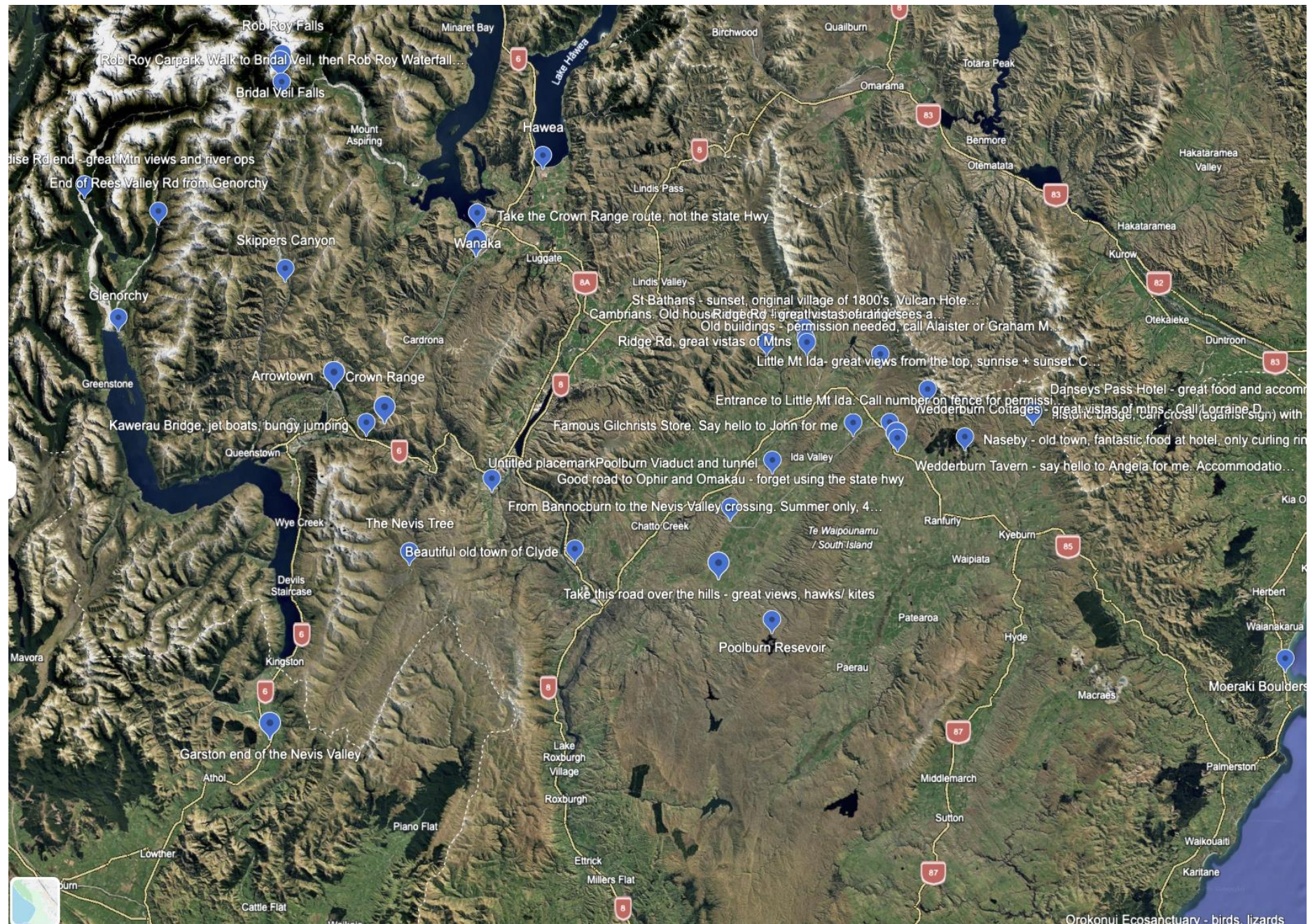
Cribbs along the bays



Fishing boat harbour, Carey's Bay



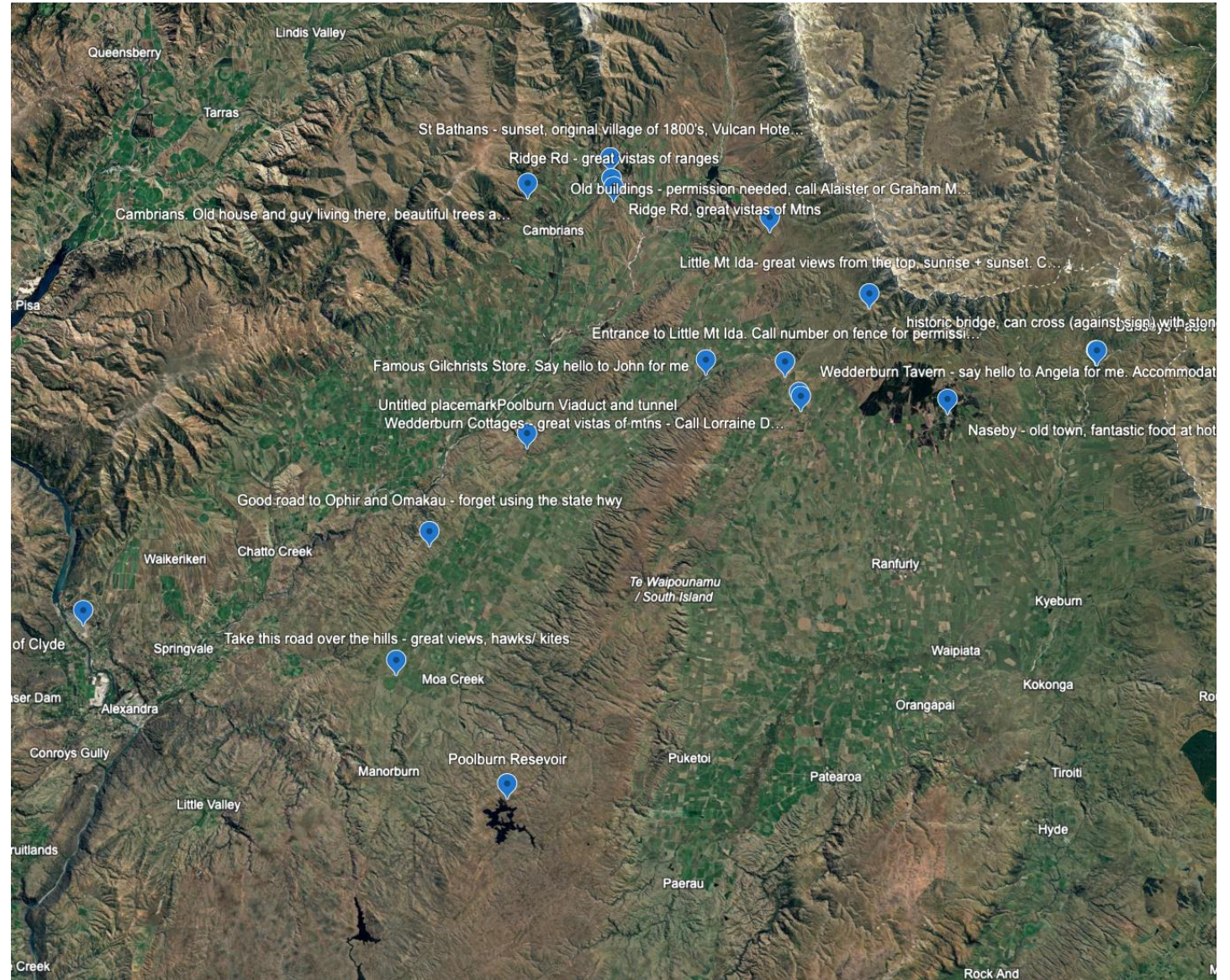
CENTRAL OTAGO



CENTRAL OTAGO

Maniototo

Picturesque Mtn ranges – Kakanui Mtns, Ida Range, Hawkdun Range, St Bathans Range, Dunstan Mtns, Rough Ridge.



BASE : Ranfurly or Wedderburn

St Bathans – Blue Lake, old original town and dwellings, historic (working) hotel. Easy walk around the lake. Sunset ideal time for photos.

Naseby – original architecture, curling rink, great views from Ridge Rd of Ida Range, Mt Kyburn, Kakanui's

Head over to Danseys Pass Hotel from Ranfurly or Naseby. Consider staying the night as the hotel is steeped in history and very comfortable. Walk to the old bridge – photo op + old mining remnants in the river, cross bridge (at own risk) to stone house. If 4wd, drive up to the Buster diggings.

To travel over the top of the Hawkdun Range, contact George Lindsay in Ranfurly. He will also do tours around the area.

Oturehua – Gilchrists Store – crazy store of a past time with all manner of articles, famous store. Nearby Hayes Engineering – excellent tour and great café – closed in winter.



BASE : Ranfurly or Wedderburn

Head up to Little Mt Ida for views along the Ida and Hawkdun Ranges – sunrise and sunset. Call the number on the entrance fence (Mt Ida Station) for permission.

Walk up the hill at the Wedderburn Cottages for an expansive vista of the Ida and Hawkdun Ranges – sunset.

Old buildings along Home Hills Runs Rd (contact Braeside Farm for permission). Sunset for photos.

Falls Dam cribs and the lake – sunrise and sunset.

Ranfurly - art deco, cafes, photographic studio (Janyne Fletcher)

BASE : Wedderburn

Poolburn viaduct – easy 2km walk from the carpark; can continue on to the tunnel.

Poolburn reservoir – lake, character cribs, wide mtn vistas. If in a 2wd vehicle, advise not to drive down the steep slope to the dam. Sunrise is best time.

Ophir – character town, old bridge. Often has morning mist.

Check out the old pubs along the way – Becks, Chatto Creek

Use the Ida Valley-Omakau Rd over the hills to and from Ophir & Omakau – scenic and photo ops of NZ falcons.

Take the Crawford Water Race Road from Moa Creek to Galloway/Alexandra. – get high elevation, views, falcons/kites.

BASE : Wedderburn

Stay:

Ranfurly – Hawkdun Lodge – most competitively priced in the region, very nice. No place to eat dinner in Ranfurly, so must go to Wedderburn or Naseby or Waipiata. The Ranfurly hotel is not for eating at.

Wedderburn - Wedderburn Tavern – historic tavern and buildings, great atmosphere and locals come from around. Food is v. good, wine is exceptional.

Wedderburn Cottages – opposite the tavern – self contained units of 2 different sizes, a bit expensive but views exceptional, owners fantastic. To go cheaper, there are miners huts – need to walk 25m to the shower/toilet block.

Poolburn Adventure Hub, esp. for Poolburn resevoir – the oldest pub in the district, run by two brothers – accommodation rustic, atmosphere great, homely, food onsite – need to book. The title of the place doesn't reflect the pub.

BASE : Wedderburn

Eat:

Naseby Pub – excellent food

Wedderburn Tavern, very good food

Waipiata Pub – speciality = pies – about 20 to choose from, very good.

Floral & Feast Café – open Wed-Fri. Run by young local Mums, excellent freshly baked scrumptious things and good coffee.

Maniototo Café – open every day, v. good





St Bathans — Blue Lake



Linnburn Woolsheds



Buster track



Home Hills



Home Hills



Danseys Pass

Queenstown

Clyde – beautiful old town, wander down the two main streets, good cafes.

Cromwell – Heritage precinct by the river – small area and only requires a few hours.

Arrowtown – old part of town preserved, good river walks, organized tours to Macetown – it's the trip there and back along the Arrow River rather than Macetown itself. Can do the trip on your own but need a 4wd and river crossing experience.

Queenstown – Cable car, Kawerau Gorge for jet boats and bungy jumping, Skippers Canyon – day long outing. SS Earnslaw paddle steamer across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak – great day out.



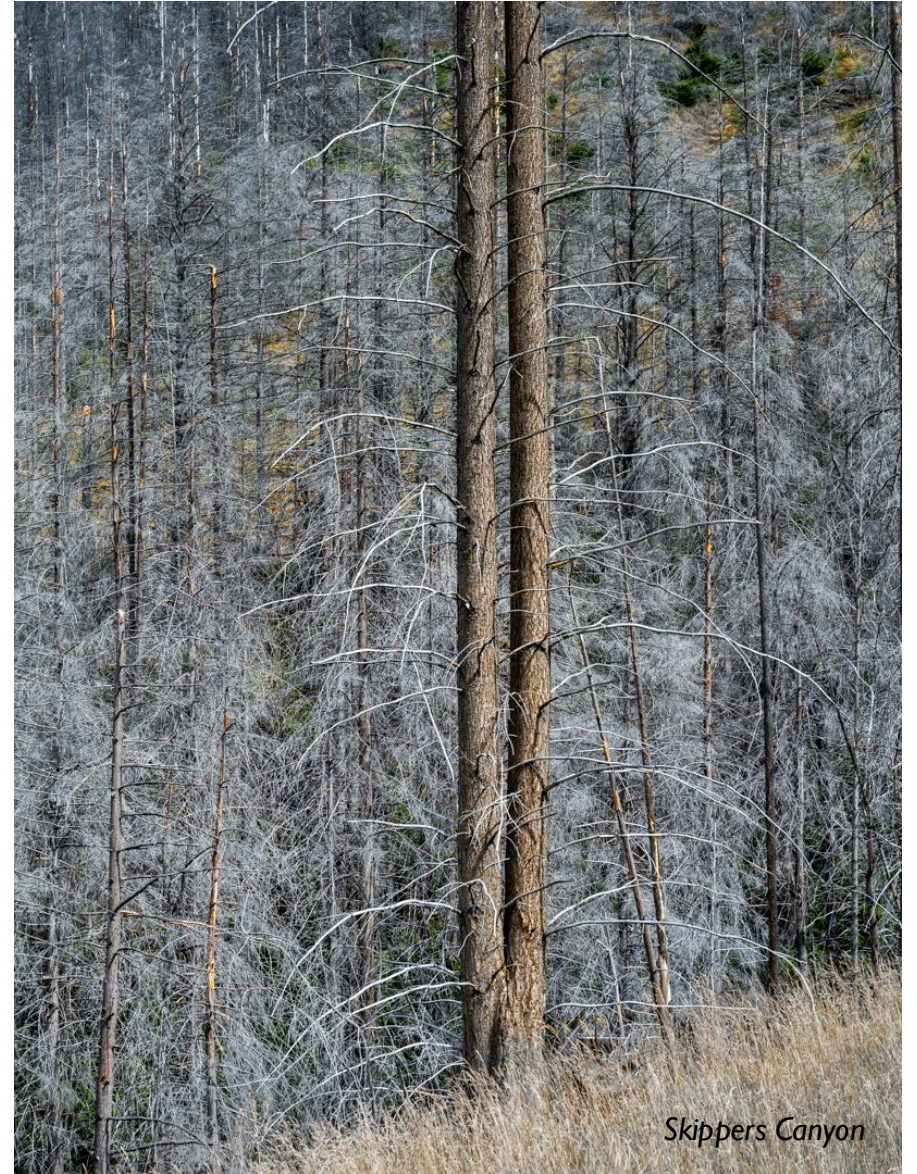
BASE : Queenstown



BASE : Queenstown



Arrowtown



Skippers Canyon

BASE : Queenstown

Glenorchy, - a great drive along the Rees Valley and along the Dart River on the Glenorchy-Paradise Rd. Good drone ops. Great mountain views.

Can stay in Glenorchy but accommodation is very expensive (Glenorchy Alpine is the only place at a reasonable price).

Nevis Valley – can go in either direction – Garston – Bannockburn. Have marked the famous Nevis tree on the Google map kml file. I think it is better toward the southern (Garston) end.

Expensive to stay in the valley – Ben Nevis station.



Nevis Valley

Queenstown



Queenstown

Stay and Eat – too many to choose from and many are very good.

In winter choose a restaurant with an wood fire burning bright – these places always have a great atmosphere.

Pinot Noir is the regions speciality.



BASE : Wanaka

Queenstown to Wanaka via the Crown Range – spectacular road, sealed. Can also drive up to the Cadrona Skifield for elevated views, also opposite side is the winter vehicle testing circuit for elevated views.

Drive the Matutituki River road to the Rob Roy carpark – beautiful wild river of Mt Aspiring National Park. Walk over the swing bridge and walk for great mountain views and if keen, to Bridal Veil Falls.

The Wanaka Tree (if you must).

Pleasant drive to Neck Creek waterfall – not spectacular falls but pleasant river walk.





Lake Wanaka

ASHBURTON DISTRICT

BASE : Mount Somers

Lake Clearwater – southern side of the alps, spectacular drive, mountain reflections – Mount Guy and the Dogs Range in the lake, smaller lakes nearby. Sunrise best for photos. Can take the track up Mt Guy if energetic.

Continue on toward Erewhon towards the mountain range. Walk up Mt Sunday (Edoras Lord of the Rings) – good 360° views. 2wd should be fine to here. Stay on the track – it is impossible to cut across.

End of the road at Erewhon Station – the road can get a bit difficult in a 2wd.

Difficult to get classic sunrise and sunset images once past the Potts River due to the orientation of the mountains.

Lake Heron – splendid drive with the Clent Hills and Taylor Range on the RHS. Wonderful bird life lives on the lake.

Note the road is mostly unsealed – metal road in good condition.

BASE : Mount Somers

Stay + Eat:

Stronechrubie – basic, comfortable, basic cooking facilities.

Restaurant may or may not be open. The tavern is the only other option for dinner.

Pleasant daytime café.

Mt Potts Lodge – check to see if it is open and if food is supplied.

Stunning bungalow/cribb and location at Lake Heron Station – minimum 2 night stay, reasonable price. Their other accommodation is very expensive. This is a get-away-from-it-all place – beautiful. Check food requirements.





Cloudy Peak range, Erewhon



Cloudy Peak Range, Erewhon



Lake Clearwater

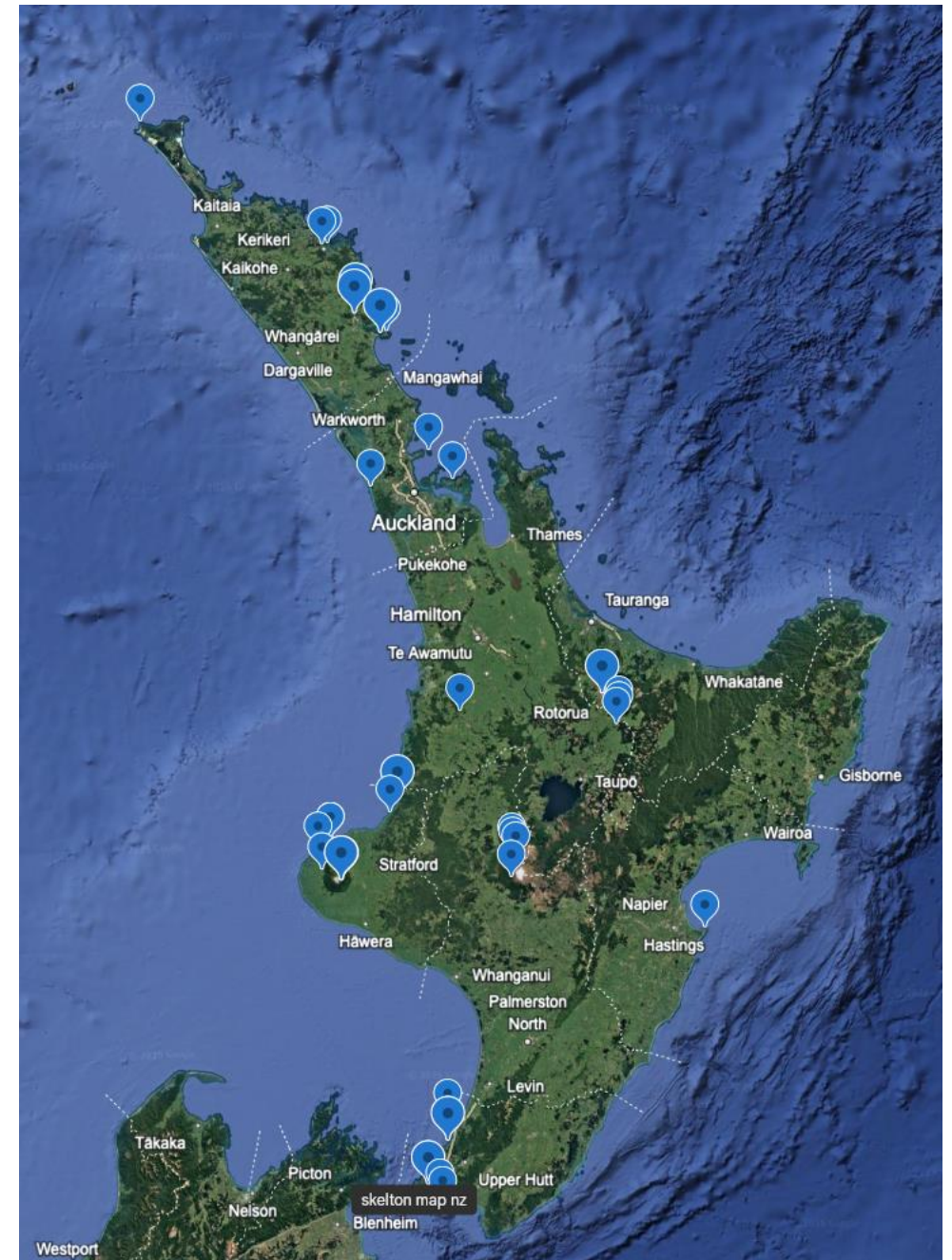


Lake Heron



Taylor Range, Hakatere

NORTH ISLAND



Southern North Island

BASE :Wellington

Zelandia Wildlife Sanctuary – kaka, taonga, kiwi, kakariki, takahe, rifleman, saddleback, stitchbird, tuatara 32 km tracks, tours, night tours.

Kapiti Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Kapiti Island – regular tours available.

Coastal drive along the Kapiti Coast is very picturesque and easy to drop off the road into small bays. If feeling fit, the Paekakariki Escarpment Track.

Stunning coastal drive around Princess Bay - Island Bay – Owhiro Bay to Red Rocks. Many excellent photo ops of the coastline bays and rocks. Seals and seabirds

Cable car to the Botanic Gardens and city views
Te Papa Museum

Wellington City is worth a tour – brightly coloured houses, steep streets, beautiful old wooden houses, good eating places.



BASE :Waikanae, Wellington

Stay:

Waikanae - Near the Shore – excellent place – 3 mins to the beach.

Wellington – Costs highly variable depending on Parliamentary sitting and season, and often difficult to get accommodation. Always expensive and parking often an issue. I usually stay just outside of Wellington – Lower Hutt or Waikanae if coming from the North.

TARANAKI / NEW PLYMOUTH

BASE : New Plymouth

Paritutu Rock - short steep climb with chain to help – easily doable and great views from the top.

Views to Moturoa and Lion Rocks

Back Beach Cove – black sand beach with changing shoreline of rocks

SS Gairlock wreck – need low tide to see most of the wreck.

Stony River – good views to Mt Egmont and downstream to the coast, good photo ops. Drive to the end of the road and duck down to the river.





Moturoa from Paritutu



Stony River



Stony River

BASE : New Plymouth

Cape Egmont Lighthouse

Lake Mangamahoe Lookout – good views of the volcano

Dawsons Falls & Wilkies Pools - a sealed road take you there with a short walk. Good views of Mt Egmont from the eastern side of the volcano. Pleasant native forest walks.

Stay: many good places to choose from in New Plymouth, ditto to eat.



Sunset at Cape Egmont Lighthouse



Dawsons Falls



Native forest on the volcanic slope



Enchanted Forest



Flora on the volcanic slopes

Taranaki / New Plymouth

BASE : Mokau

Tongaporutu:

The Three Sisters
Elephant Rocks

Great shoreline and views to Mt Egmont.

Must go 2 hours either side of low or high tide.
Need to walk a muddy and wet section from the carpark to the beach – wear gumboots or sandals.

Stay: Mokau Motel

Eat: Limited, café and small convenience store, restaurant closes early – 5-6pm. Have food ready to heat up for the evening. Owner of the motel may drop of free fish if he has been fishing. Full kitchen in motel room.

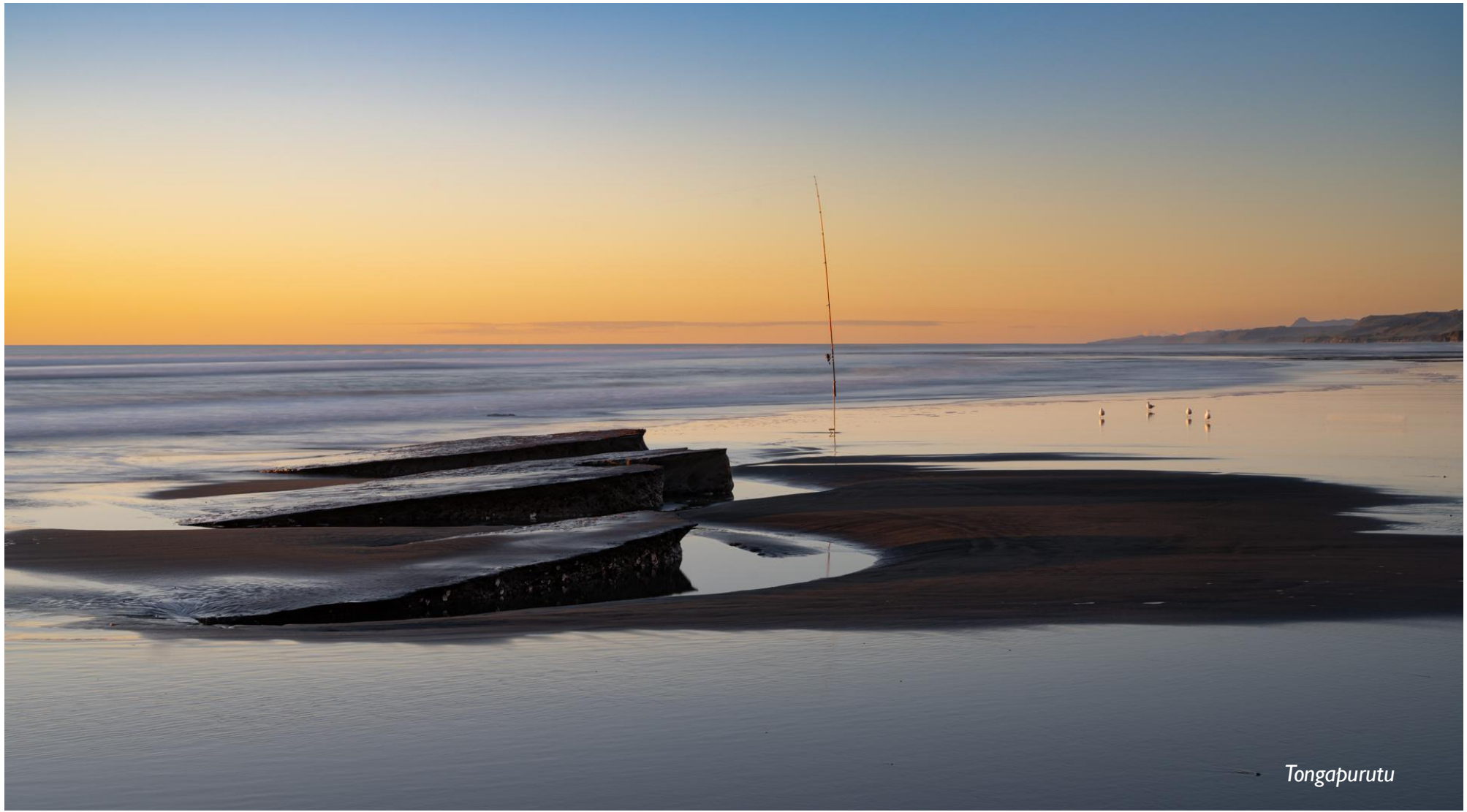




Tongapurutu



Tongapurutu



Tongapurutu

TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

BASE : OHAKUNE

Three volcanoes ,Tongariro, Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe

Day trip: Tongariro Alpine Crossing (walking). This can be done alone or with a guided tour.

Mahuia Rapids – On the northern side of the bridge, take the narrow track (off the main road) for about 100m and park. Can walk along the riverbank and scout for river images. Walk back to the road for the falls – water flow extremely fast and canyon-like.

Tawhai Falls – easy 15 minute walk from the carpark. Beautiful waterfall.

Silica Rapids – moderate hike, 7km round trip from the Whakapapa visitor centre. Colourful tarn, worth the walk



BASE : OHAKUNE

Mangawhero Falls – 5 minute walk to the viewpoint –
Steep drive up the volcano with excellent views across
to Mt Egmont on a good day. Sunset is a good time for
photos.

Taranaki Falls – moderate, morning walk from the
Chateau walking over lava fields.

Bruce Road – great road up the mountain to the
Whakapapa skifield with lots of places to stop and
wander off – very scenic volcanic terrain.

Stay : Ohakune Central Motels

Park Hotel Ruapehu

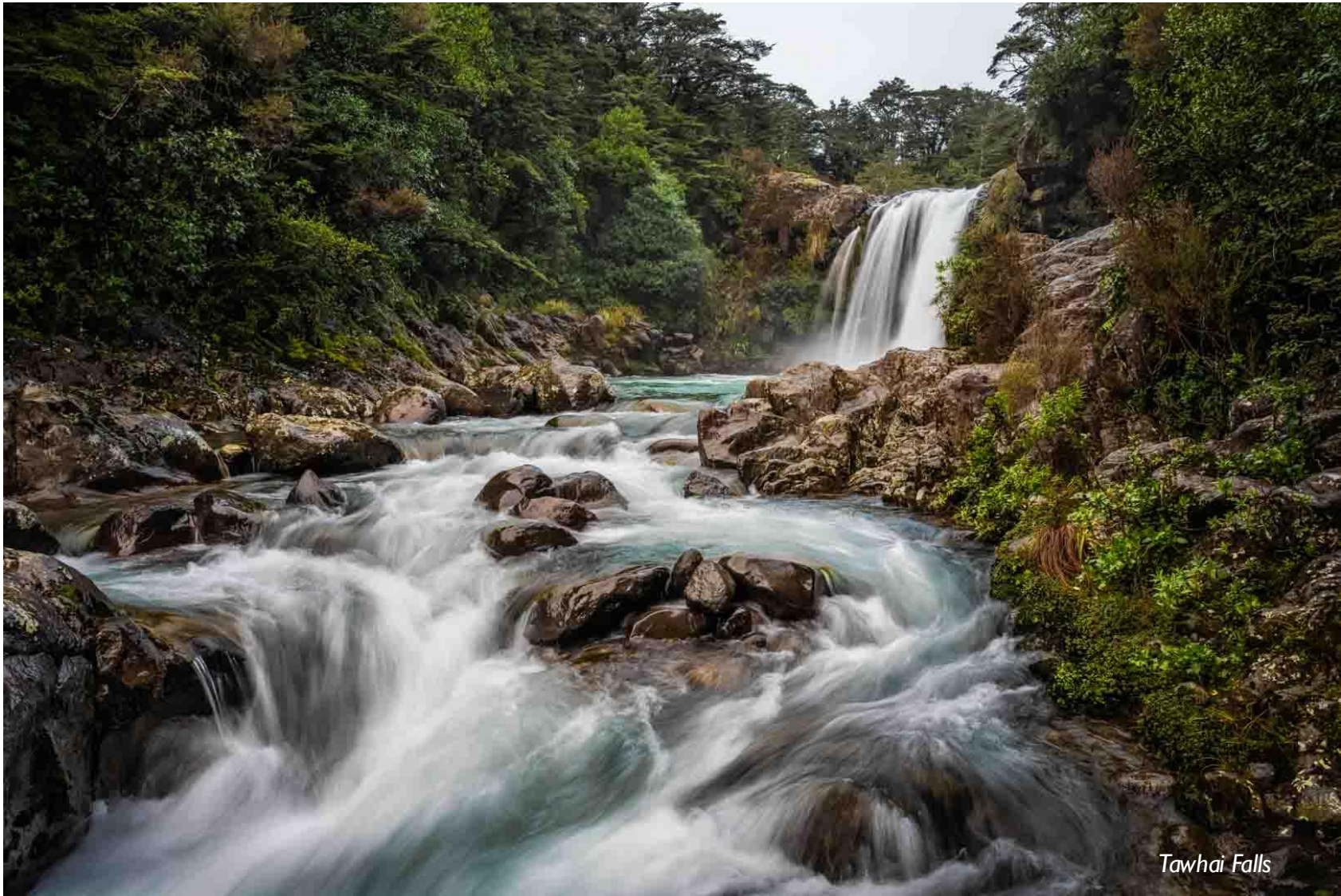
Alpine Chalets – Waimarino = turnoff into the park

Eat : moderately good

Osteria Ohakune, The Cyprus Tree Restaurant



Ruapehu



Tawhai Falls



Mahuia Rapids



Mahuia Rapids

ROTORUA GEOTHERMAL

BASE : Rotorua

Rotorua – walk along the lake is picturesque.
There are areas of silica platforms – best not to walk on them.

Waiotapu - spectacular

Orakei Korako - spectacular

Waimungu – walk downhill and bus brings you back up. Also a lake cruise around the steaming walls of the lake

Te Puia – can do a night tour – so so.

Redwoods tree walk at Whakarewarewa.

Waitomo Caves – glow worms – spectacular, taken through the cave in a small boat.

Hobbiton – if you like hobbits.



Best to arrive at opening time to get some soft light for an hour or so and/or as close to closing time.

At champagne Pool, the steam makes for many ethereal images at different locations around the pool. The colours are metals depositing from an epithermal gold system. At Wairakei the steam is used for energy and gold is periodically scraped from the large tubes carrying the steam.





Redwoods



Redwoods



Orakei Korako



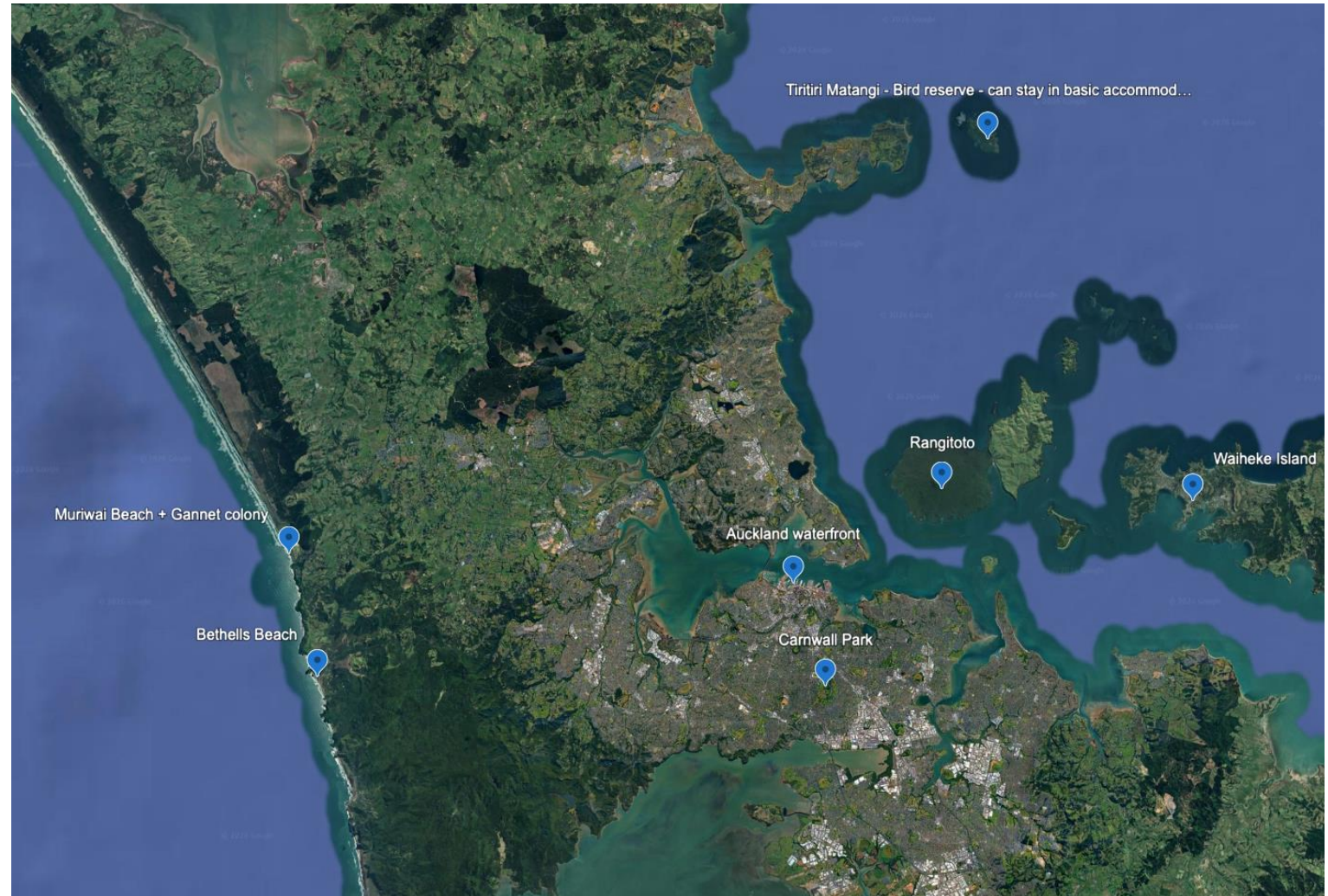
Orakei Korako



Te Puia

AUCKLAND REGION

BASE : Auckland



BASE : Auckland

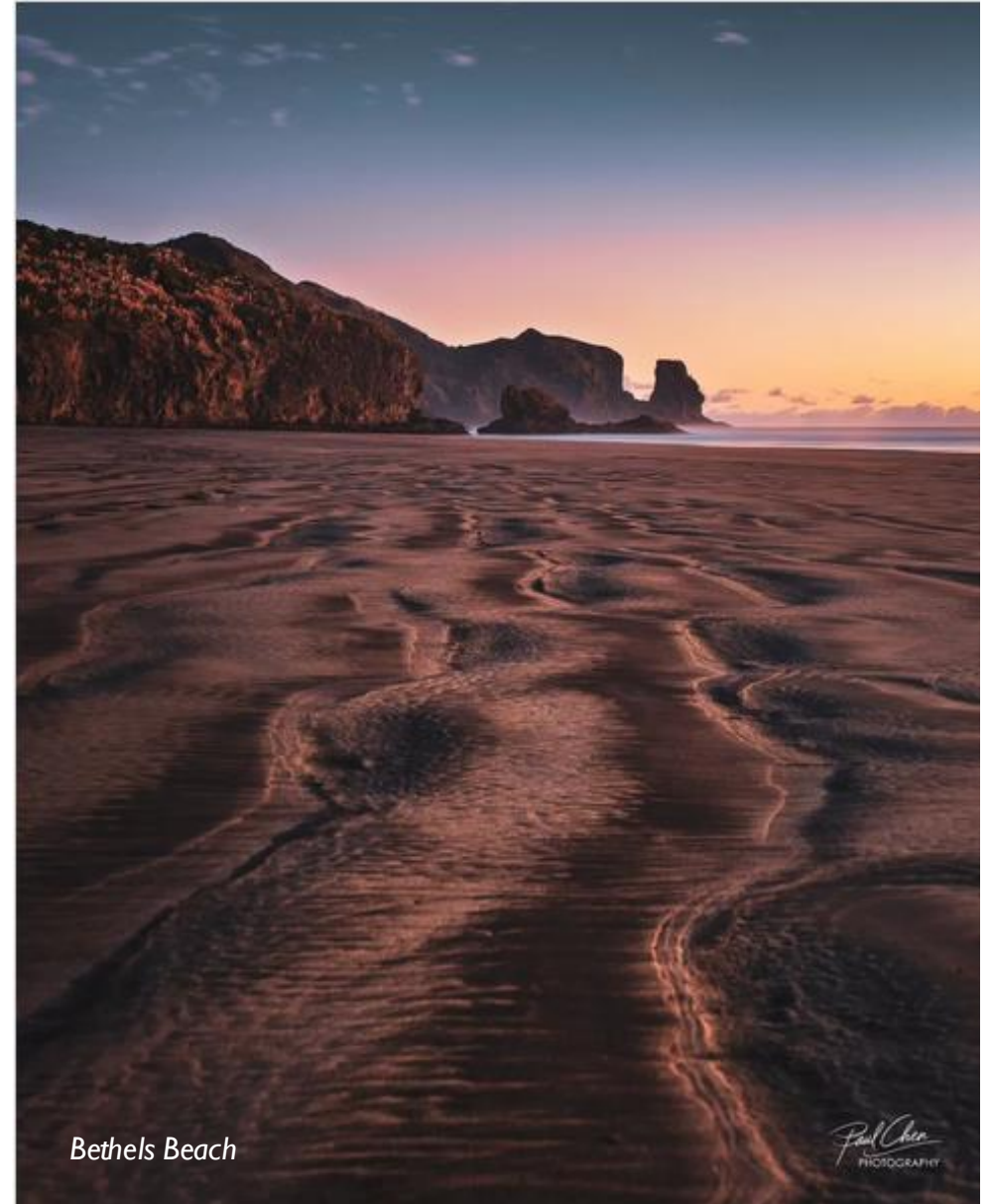
Bethells Beach (Te Henga) – Wide black sand beach, cliffs & sea stacks.

Muriwai – gannet colony – best in spring and summer for birds and black sand beach. Surfers beach.

Rangitoto Island – walk around the volcano and through native bush – need to take food and water. No facilities.

Tiritiri Matangi - bird sanctuary with many endangered species. Can stay on the island – basic but very good for bird photography. Leave from AKL ferry terminal.

Waiheke Island – wino's dream – excellent wines. Vineyard tours and great places for lunch and dinner. Beaches are very popular, safe. Travel by ferry, 35 minute trip. Rent a bike.





MURIWAI GANNET COLONY SUNSET
Sunset at the Muriwai Gannet Colony, Auckland



TAKAPUNA BEACH SUNRISE, AUCKLAND
Sunrise from Takapuna beach with Rangitoto Island, Auckland

Muriwai – Large gannet and tern colonies. About a 45 minute drive from Auckland to the west coast.





Auckland

BASE : Auckland

Sky Tower – tallest building in Auckland, 360° views. See the many volcanoes of Auckland

Can sky jump off the tower – 192m controlled base jump – plummet at 85km/hr for 11 secs.

Auckland waterfront – Queens wharf to Viaduct Harbour to Wynyard Quarter. A boaties paradise. Also look into the foyers of some of the larger hotels in this area – fantastic artworks. Many cafes and restaurants.

Maritime Museum

Try ice-cream from Giapo. 12 Gore St, just off Customs St E. Not far from the ferry terminals.

Mission Bay / Kohimarama – nice walk along the beach, views to Rangitoto. Popular, vibrant restaurant and cafe scene



An assortment of amazing ice cream creations at Giapo



Stay:

QT Auckland - located near the viaduct – very central for walking

The Sebel Auckland on Customs St - very central for walking.

Quest Carlaw Park – located beside the Auckland Domain, Museum, Wintergardens. Also close to Parnell. Parnell Rd has a fantastic shopping precinct of old buildings, excellent art galleries and cafes.

Eat:

Baduzzi, Jellicoe St – always good – Italian

Onslow, Princes St - expensive



Whangarei

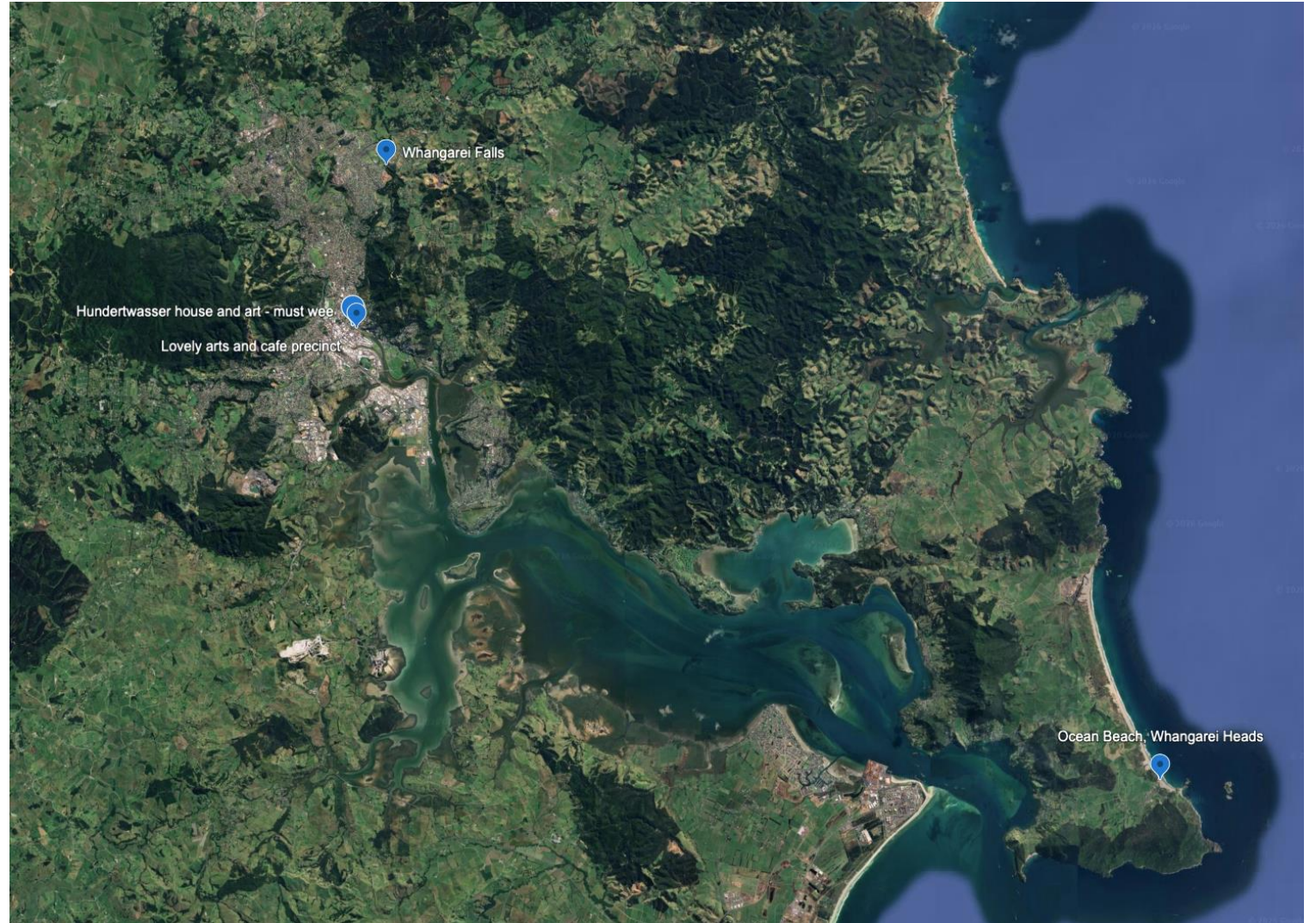
BASE : Whangarei

Town Basin – many quality art shops, jewellery, specialist food shops, cafes and restaurants along the Hatea River in central Whangarei. Many boats tied up, some permanently inhabited, character-filled.

Hundertwasser Art Centre – unique building, colourful, vaguely Gaudiesque with quality art works. Has a good café-restaurant.

Whangarei Falls – picturesque, best after rain, 26m high, located in the northern part of the town

Walk up Mt Manaia – about 30-40mins up – steep, but rewarding.



Walk:

Easy walk from Urquharts Bay to the gun emplacements – Busby Heads – Smugglers Bay – across to Urquharts.

There is a strenuous walk from Urquharts to Peach Cove – Radar Station – Ocean Beach. Need to be picked up at Ocean Beach.

Ocean Beach – long stretching beach with small rocky headlands – very pictureque. Pre-sunrise and sunrise is the best time for photo ops.

Easy walk over a hill on the S-side of the beach or over the rocks at low tide for Moturaka Island and Tarakanahi Island.



MEGHAN MALONEY
PHOTOGRAPHY

Whangarei Falls



Old battlement lookouts



Ocean Beach



Ocean Beach

Stay :

Check out Airbnb for Whangarei Heads, Ocean Beach, Parua Bay, also Book-a-Bach. These are fully complete holiday homes.

Most of these are quite expensive in this area in summer. Off season try Breeze Inn, at Parua Bay, Taurikura Bay Relax & Explore – on the beachfront and best located for the area.

It is a half hour drive from Whangarei where there are plenty of options.

Eat: The Deck Café for breakfast and lunch (also a vg fish and chip shop here), Parua Bay Tavern. Best to take some food.

Whangarei City – plenty of accommodation to choose from.



Native vegetation along the walk

Northland

BASE : Russell or Paihia

Sub-tropical region with good beaches, dolphin swimming, Hole-in-the-Rock cruise at Cape Brett, diving, snorkeling, tall ship sailing.

Waitangi Grounds – where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed, which said equality for all.

Opuia Kauri Walk – walk through kauri forest.

Russell – one of the most delightful towns in the country, a former whaling station. It has its own vibe, friendly, lay back. Stay at The Duke of Marlborough – its on the beach, beautiful building and modestly price in shoulder and off season. Food is very good as well. Russell is the best place on all of Bay of Islands. Can drive or take the car on the ferry. Take a walk along the Tapeke Point Track.



Northland

BASE : Kerikeri & Ahipara

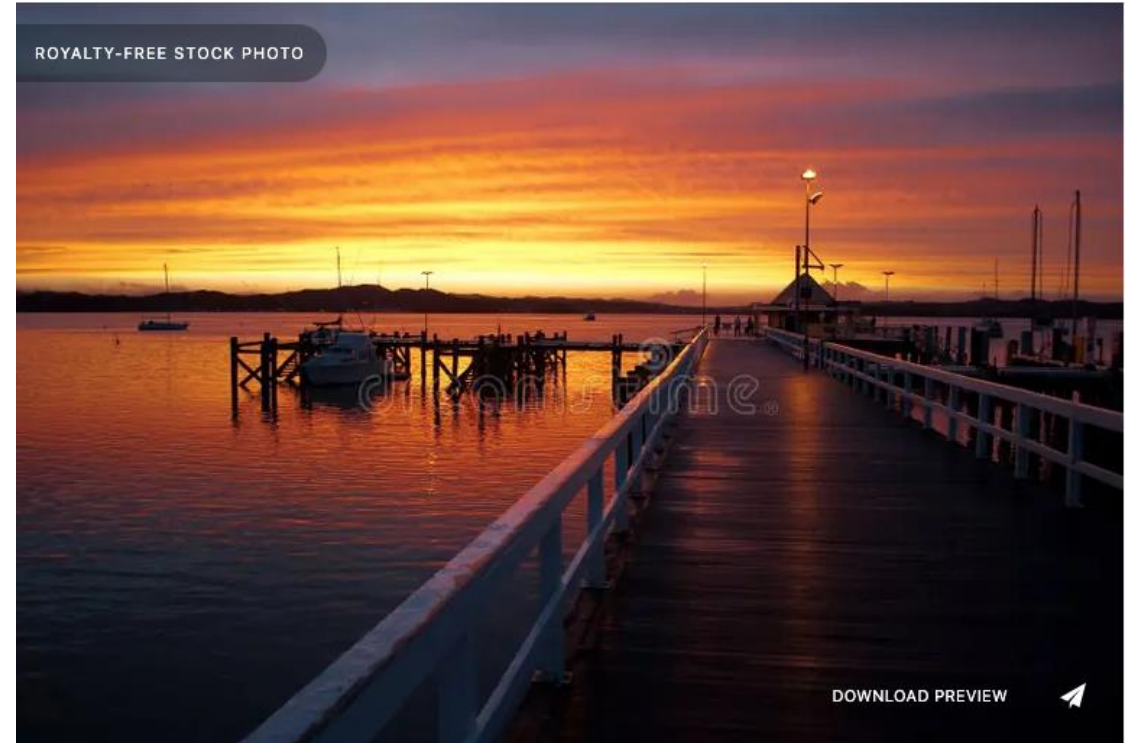
Kerikeri - great place to explore the coastline beaches and coves.

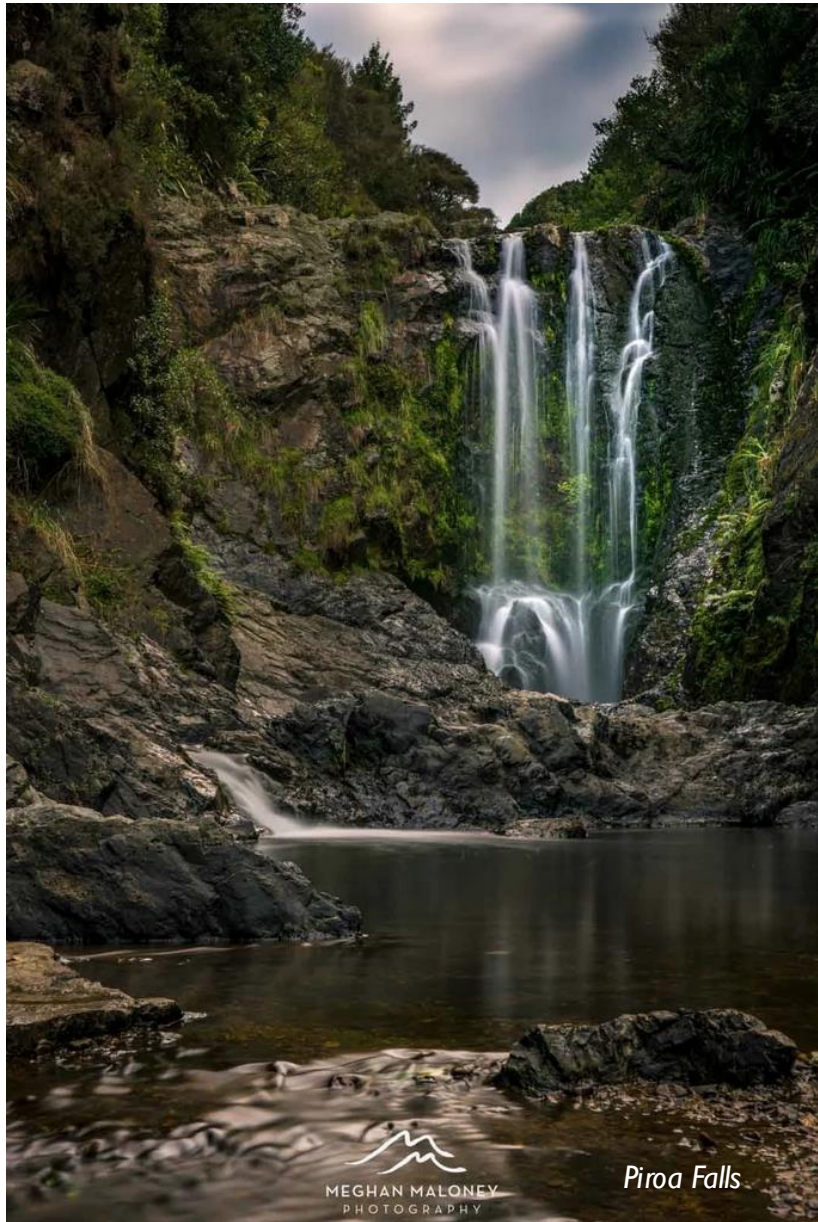
Kemp House

Charlies Rock Waterfall

Rainbow Falls

Karikari Peninsula – Many beautiful bays - Maitai Bay, Tokerau Beach





Images taken from the internet

Northland

BASE : Ahipara

Ninety Mile Beach and Cape Reinga:
Self drive the main road or take a tour that drives the beach and up to Cape Reinga and stop at the Te Paki Sand dunes to slide the slopes.

Stay at Ahipara. Ahipara Bay Motel – clean, comfortable, nothing flash
Eating places limited – Bayview restaurant for dinner, North Drift Café for breakfast.

