

DRIVESAFE

Driving in New Zealand may be different. Visit drivesafe.org.nz to learn about our road rules and conditions.

drivesafe.org.nz

ON THE ROAD

About to set off on your New Zealand driving adventure? You must understand New Zealand's road rules, signs and driving laws before you set off.



KEEP LEFT!

We drive on the left-hand side of the road.



Stay well rested

Plan to drive for only 1-2 hours at a time, and take regular breaks during your journey to stretch your legs.



Wear seatbelts and use child seats

Everyone in your vehicle must wear a seatbelt, and children must be secured in an approved child seat. Your rental vehicle company can rent child seats to you if you didn't bring your own.



Drive to the conditions

You'll need to reduce your speed if it's raining, icy, snowing, windy or if you're in a roadworks area. Refer to journeys.nzta.govt.nz for up-to-date information on road closures and conditions.



Don't exceed the posted speed limit

Don't exceed the posted speed limit. Always stop at red traffic lights and STOP signs.



Plan your journey

Use the Driving Time and Distance Calculator on the DriveSafe website. Driving in New Zealand can often take longer than expected due to winding roads.



Slow down around bends and bridges

Always slow down to observe recommended speeds around bends and check for oncoming traffic on one-lane bridges.



Do not drink and drive

Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a crime in New Zealand and strictly enforced by police, with severe penalties for offenders.



Overtake other vehicles only when it's safe to do so

Overtake other vehicles only when safe to do so. Use passing lanes whenever possible, and never cross a solid yellow line on your side of the centre line.



Do not use a mobile phone while driving

If you need to make a call or send a message, pull over at a rest area or in a safe place.