

## Surf Highway 45 - Taranaki New Plymouth, Hawera and Mt Taranaki

*Surf and black sand beaches – combine these with a dormant volcanic cone that is almost the twin of Japan’s Mt Fujiyama, and a surfeit of outstanding parks and gardens and you have Taranaki, an area that should not be missed*

### Commence New Plymouth

New Plymouth is the holiday destination with something for everyone: sun, sea, sand and snow. A spectacular cone mountain, magnificent parks, gardens and walking tracks, great shopping, New Zealand’s premier contemporary art museum and a vibrant nightlife all make New Plymouth one of New Zealand’s best kept secrets. From its stunning coastline that offers some of the best surfing conditions in the country and a Marine Park conservation area, to beautiful, brooding Mount Taranaki and the Egmont National Park, a mecca for trampers and climbers, New Plymouth’s natural environment will never fail to impress.

#### Overnight stop suggestions:

- New Plymouth Top 10 Holiday Park
- Belt Road Seaside Holiday Park, New Plymouth

### New Plymouth – Hawera

*(104 kms - 1 hr 20 mins)*

It would be hard to get lost on Surf Highway 45 - the route simply follows the coast. Side roads take you down to the sea or up to the mountain. If you begin in New Plymouth, you’ll pass the settlements of Oakura, Okato, Pungarehu and Oanui before you reach Opunake, the largest population centre before Hawera - home to the world’s largest single dairy factory.

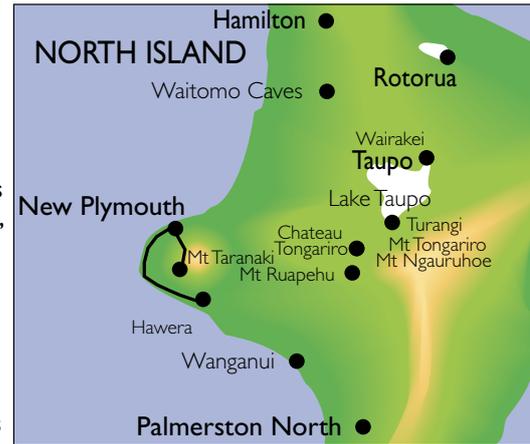
Taranaki’s coast collects 180 degrees of ocean swells, so you can be almost certain that the surf will be pumping somewhere between New Plymouth and Hawera. As some of the best surfing beaches in New Zealand are to be found along this coast, surf competitions are regularly staged in the region. The best wave venues on Surf Highway 45 have names that you’ll never forget. There’s Back Beach, Kumara Patch, Graveyard and the Dump to name just a few. But waves are not the only reason to take this route.



Taranaki has more gardens of significance than any other area of New Zealand, and New Plymouth’s Pukekura Park and adjoining Brooklands Park with its beautiful outdoor venue, the Brooklands Bowl, are two of the most popular. Pukekura Park was recently named by Wisden Cricketers’ Almanac as one of the top 6 cricketing grounds in the world.

#### Overnight stop suggestions:

- Oakura Beach Motor Camp
- Opunake Beach Holiday Park



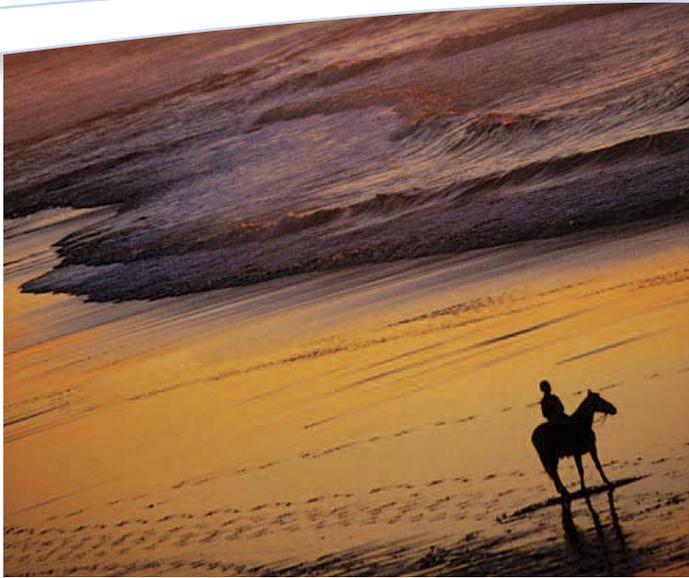
### New Plymouth – Mt Taranaki (North Egmont) *(29kms - 30 mins)*

Recommended is a short side excursion to Mount Taranaki. Follow Egmont Road (State Highway 3) out of New Plymouth to Egmont Village and from there take North Egmont Road to the road end. Worth a visit is the Visitors’ Centre which has track and walk information, and displays on the history of the area.

Mount Taranaki (2,518 metres high) is a huge volcano that last erupted 250 years ago. The mountain’s magnificent cone sits in the center of the Egmont National Park with its comprehensive network of hiking tracks that take you up and around the mountain’s ever looming shape.

It is possible to climb to the summit, but beware! This mountain should never be taken lightly, and any attempt at the summit should be done with all due care and attention. Obtain information and advice on conditions before setting out as weather conditions can change suddenly.





## THINGS TO SEE AND DO

- Visit New Plymouth's magnificent Pukekura Park with its 52 hectares of gardens and bush. The Fernery and Begonia House displays a wide variety of indoor and outdoor plants from around the world and the moss lined tunnels taking you through the various levels give a sense of old- world charm.
- From mid December through January the annual Festival of Lights provides a magical backdrop to free concerts in the Park.
- Wander along the 11 kilometres of walkway following the foreshore in New Plymouth.
- From October to November witness the annual rhododendron displays. Pukeiti Rhododendron Gardens alone have over 10,000 rhododendrons

### Travel Tips

- Surf Highway 45 can be driven safely at any time of the year - snow doesn't fall at the coast
- Surf lifesavers patrol the beaches of Oakura and Opunake during summer
- Spring in Taranaki is rhododendron time

- Remarkably similar in shape to Japan's Mt Fujiyama, Mt Taranaki in Egmont National Park is one of New Zealand's most accessible alpine areas. There are 180 kilometres of walking tracks throughout the park.
- 20 minutes drive from New Plymouth along Surf Highway 45 is Oakura, a small town with a beautiful beach considered one of the best on the Taranaki Coast. Relax with a "bevy" at the local hotel or a coffee at one of the cafes and enjoy the slow-paced seaside village life
- Tawhiti Museum in Hawera is acclaimed as the best private museum in the country. Life size exhibits and scale models present New Zealand's heritage in a series of super realistic and engaging displays. The creation of a local artist, the attention to detail is simply stunning
- The Govett-Brewster Gallery, New Zealand's premier contemporary art museum
- Puke Ariki, a striking two-wing complex in the heart of the city housing New Plymouth's museum, library and Information Centre
- Brooklands Zoo, a family focused zoo situated next to the Bowl of Brooklands
- 105 kilometres of prime surfing spots along Highway 45 between New Plymouth and Hawera.
- 10 minutes south of New Plymouth city is peaceful Lake Mangamahoe, a haven for wildlife. It's a perfect spot to pull in for a cup of tea and share a crust with the ducks. Meander up the hill to the lookout for an impressive view of Mt Taranaki. Keep an eye out for cheeky fantails.
- During March the very popular WOMAD (World of Music and Dance) takes place. This is considered a MUST DO if visiting Taranaki at this time. Be sure to book your motorhome site in New Plymouth well ahead of time as the province has a bulging population over the 3 days this event is held.



## Surf Highway 45 - Taranaki New Plymouth, Hawera and Mt Taranaki



United Campervans and Alpha Campervans  
are divisions of United Vehicle Rentals



www.campervan.co.nz