## Hide and Seek

new zealand

# Exquisite private lodges house adventure seekers down under.

THE SHEEP MAY OUTNUMBER PEOPLE FOUR-TO-ONE, but New Zealand remains an alchemy of dramatic scenery and rich culture. Rolling green hills lure nature lovers, active explorers, foodies, and oeonophiles who have the opportunity to stay at some of the coolest hideaway lodges in the world. This beautiful country delivers postcard views at every turn—from the jagged coastlines, serene lakes, and neverending pastoral farmland in the North Island, to the majestic glaciers, active volcanoes, and sleepy towns in the South Island. New Zealand's charms are limitless, and its people are kind, generous, and with good humor.

You can relax in healing thermal springs, explore mysterious geysers, forage and cook with Maori chefs, hike the 33-mile Milford Track in Fiordland National Park, pass through extraordinary forests, lakes, and river valleys, visit private ranches, jet by snow-capped mountains on Dart River's ever-changing braided waters, and re-imagine The Lord of the Rings in a private helicopter. Wherever your passions may lead you, it's good to come home to these lodges high on the lists of the world's most discriminating travelers who come to these havens to immerse themselves in New Zealand's culinary adventures and active pursuits.

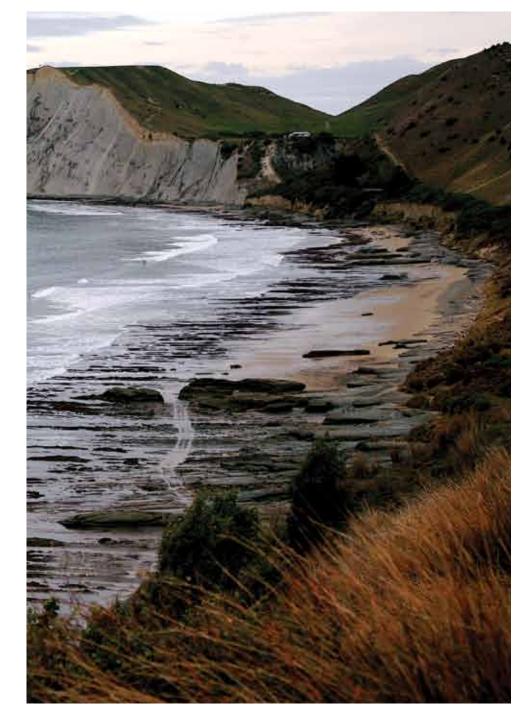
## north island



### Kauri Cliffs

### kauricliffs.com

Avid golfer and investor Julian Robertson Jr. fell in love with New Zealand during a 1978 sabbatical from Wall Street. Never forgeting the powerful impact the country and land had on him and his family, he returned to New Zealand in 1995 to buy a 6,500-acre cattle farm nestled on the edge of a native forest. In 2001, this remote family retreat transformed into one of New Zealand's most sought-after havens. Its Dave Harman-designed 18-hole golf course is immaculately groomed and challenges even the most accomplished golfer. Getting to Kauri Cliffs is a well-rewarded effort. A 30-minute winding drive begins in the quaint town of KeriKeri, which itself is a short flight from Auckland. The road is sometimes unpaved, but you'll go past serene sheep farms and sweetly fragrant mandarin orange, lemon, persimmon, and kiwi groves. Each cottage at Kauri Cliffs has a private veranda with overwhelming ocean views and green hills. New Zealander Virginia Fisher and Robertson's wife, Josie, designed the personal cottages, which feel more like a comfortable home than a hotel with his and hers dressing rooms, deep soaking tubs, and even deeper quilted king beds. If adventure's worn you out, retreat to your cottage to spend the day reading in front of the fireplace. You can be as active or relaxed as you like here.





## The Farm at Cape Kidnappers

capekidnappers.com

An easy helicopter hop away from Kauri Cliffs lies Julian and Josie Robertson's second New Zealand property on Hawke's Bay. Built around a sprawling 6,000-acre working sheep and cattle farm, the Farm at Cape Kidnappers is in one of New Zealands top food and wine regions. Each of the 24 spacious suites come with sweeping views, private verandas, and every amenity and convenience imaginable.

Meals are served in the light-drenched Loggia. Guests dress formally here for dinner, and you can expect to languish for hours over excellent wine and chef Dale Gartland's locally influenced seafood and meat dishes. Cape Kidnappers is surrounded by a wide array of farms, and there is no better place to enjoy the bounty than at Hawke's Bay Farmers Market, where cheerful, colorful locals trade tales, and friendly farmers offer samples and sell fresh fruit, flowers, hand-pressed olive oils, and meats.

Throughout the region, adventures are limitless with the opportunity to paraglide, trout fish, and play the seaside Tom Doak-designed golf couse. The unspoiled grounds are a roamer's paradise, with plenty of majestic cliffs and bush trails to discover. (The farm's concierge provides maps and snack bags for your walkabout.) And don't miss greeting the world's largest colony Australasian gannets.



### Eagles Nest

eaglesnest.co.nz

Outside New Zealand's first capital, Russell, is the North Island's chic Eagles Nest. Catering to celebrities and industry captains, these exceptional villas, perched on a peninsula overlooking the Bay of Islands, are a poem to modernity. Glass walls offer a nearly 360-degree view of the bay, while your villa's heated outdoor 80-foot infinity lap pool and hot tub beckon. Winding wood walkways lead to the private beach below. For an extravagent stay, consider the Rahimoana Villa, a four bedroom paradise with an infrared sauna, gym, display of regional art, home theater, and private chef who prepares meals with local roots and a global reach. Your Porsche Cayenne and driver stand at the ready to whisk you away to whatever land, air, or sea adventure your personal butler has arranged.





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The majestic view of the cliff
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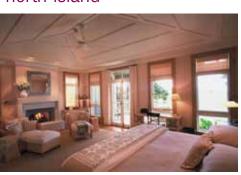
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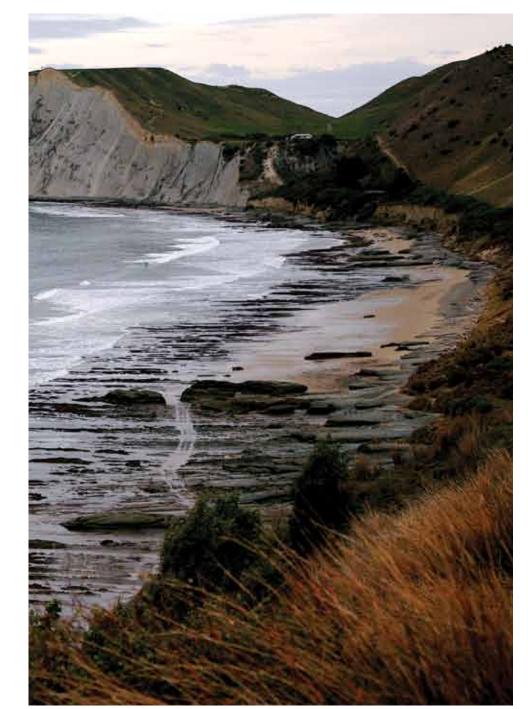
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### Mollies

mollies.co.nz

"Auckland," declared Rudyard Kipling, is the "loveliest, exquisite, apart." And the most delightful accomodation in all of New Zealand's Gotham is the Mollies, located in the stylish Ponsonby neighborhood. Opera recordings sweep through each suite decorated and named after a famed musician. The two-level Pablo Casals suite, in honor of the beloved Spanish cellist, is bedecked with sensual fabrics, fine antiques, and eclectic furniture lovingly curated during owners Frances Wilson and Stephen Fitzgerald's world travels. A lit fireplace surrounded by books and magazines calls one to the living room's deep couch, soft throws, and pillows. Competing for your attention is a luxurious bathtub stocked with Molton Brown bath oils. Mollies' attention to detail is impeccable, and its discreet but attentive staff delight in pampering guests. The Dining Room restaurant beckons foodies with tempura quail with wasabi aioli, rhubarb, and oven-baked hapuka with miso beurre blanc. A piano awaits in the conservatory for talented fingers or spontaneous post-meal performances. It's no wonder that the Rolling Stones' Keith Richards chose to recuperate at Mollies after an operation a few years back or that celebrated artists and discerning travelers are drawn to the hotel's magic.



## Treetops Lodge & Wilderness Estate

treetops.co.nz

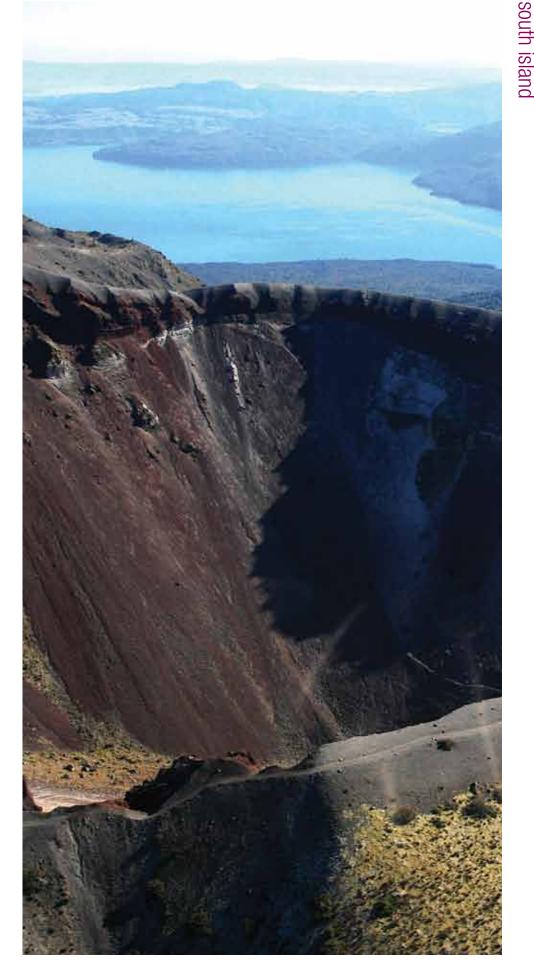
The inspiring drive up to Rotorua's elegant Treetops Lodge & Wilderness Estate takes you past 800-year-old virgin native forests, streams, lakes, valley, and therapeutic thermal baths. Set on 2,500 acres and built with nearby rock, stone, and timber, this ecolodge truly celebrates nature.

Guests fish for trout in the lodge's seven streams, swim in the lakes, ride horses and mountain bikes, and hike the area's 44 miles of trails. Residing on the property is a family of deer who, if you're lucky, gently feed from your hand. Staff can even take you hunting for possums, considered a nuisance but good source of fur on the island.

Treetop's talented head chef, Bruce Thomason, expertly cooks wild game and uses locally collected ingredients. Other highlights include meeting Maori chef Eru Tutaki Sous, who leads guests to forage in the lush gardens and nearby forest for lunch ingredients. Sous regales guests with stories of his rich Maori culture as he prepares simple, yet delicious Maori hangi (barbecue) with indigenous herbs. When it comes time to leave, Sous' beautiful voice might delight you with a departure song and blessing. Say goodbye-for-now back by pressing your nose against new friends' to breathe in each other's souls.



Left: Mollies has a neighborhood feel that makes you feel right at home. Right:
See the sites, beginning with Rotorua Volcano. Opposite page (bottom): The view from the Azur in Queenstown.



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#### Azur

azur.co.nz

One of Queenstown's newest luxury lodges is located just minutes from the city's center. Entering Azur feels like arriving at a good friend's intimate estate. You're welcomed with tea and a freshly baked treat from the lodge's Swiss-trained pastry chef. You're then escorted to your freestanding 900-square-foot beechwood villa with uninterruupted views of azure Lake Wakatipu. If you have good books on hand, you might not want to leave your villa's vaulted ceilings, huge gas fireplace, living area, and extra-deep soaking tubs next to oversized windows that let nature enter. The glass-enclosed outdoor deck is a perfect perch from which to enjoy a spectacular sunrise over jagged mountains. Queenstown's excellent shopping, world-class restaurants, and dramatic scenery lure guests, and Azur's hands-on staff help satisfy any adventurous urges with private heli-skiing lessons, jaunts to remote rivers, and hikes through glacial valleys. Afternoon tea and aperitifs are served at the minimalist main lodge. And if you ask nicely, the chef will share her recipe for addictive lemon crepes or teach you how to make them in the lodge's well-stocked kitchen.



view from azur lodge

# Total Package

KAURI CLIFFS, CAPE KIDNAPPERS, AND NEW ZEALAND'S LUXURY LODG-ING PIONEER HUKA LODGE IN TAUPO have joined forces to offer lucky travelers an exceptional experience: Spend three immensely relaxing days at each of these properties during New Zealand's summer (the U.S.'s winter). This excursion starts at Kauri Cliffs, where guests picnic on a gourmet lunch for two, enjoy a multiple course dinner, three rounds of golf, and two 50-minute spa treatments. Breakfast is included.

The pampering continues at Huka Lodge for multi-course dinners, 18 holes of golf for two at renowned Wairakei Golf Course, and a four-hour Lake Taupo cruise complete with trout fishing and clay target shooting. Lunch is served along with fishing licenses. And for the hopeless romantics, grand Cape Kidnappers awaits with three nights in an exquisite Hilltop suite, relaxing massages, picnic lunches, and golfing for two.

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