

# THE GREAT NEW ZEALAND GETAWAY

We've scoured the country for what we consider to be some of our best-kept accommodation secrets. What are you waiting for? Lock in that annual leave and hit the road



If you've just finished planning your next nature walk or bike ride (thanks to the previous article), finding accommodation will be next on your list. And while you may already have a few favourites you're fond of frequenting, we thought it was high time we brought a few outside-the-box options to your attention. Seriously, how sweet does an overnight stay in a Raglan yurt sound? Or an old converted jailhouse in Christchurch, for a bit of history with your hostel? If we've piqued your interest, take a look at these...

## WHEN A REGULAR BACH JUST WON'T DO

**Canopy Camping** | Locations throughout New Zealand  
If beautiful tents surrounded by nature, quirky cabins packed with personality and secret hideaways sound like your cup of tea, Canopy Camping could be right up your alley. From Northland to Banks Peninsula, you'll find a number of private, secluded, off-the-grid glamping spots ready to accommodate your great escape, all hand-picked by two friends who love the outdoors (but with a hint of luxury for guaranteed comfort).  
> **COSTS:** Prices vary according to location  
> **BOOK:** [canopycamping.co.nz](http://canopycamping.co.nz)

### SiloStay | Little River, Christchurch

For something outside the square, it always pays to look a-round... like a silo! At SiloStay in Little River, you'll find two converted silos - one which sleeps two for a romantic weekend away, and another which can accommodate two adults and two children. Clever design is evident in the configuration of the silos, which feature sculptural steel staircases up to the second-level bedroom and even space to store your bike or kayak.

- > **COSTS:** From \$180 per night
- > **SLEEPS:** Two to four people
- > **BOOK:** [silostay.kiwi.nz](http://silostay.kiwi.nz) or via [booking.com](http://booking.com)

### WagonStays Luxury Escape | Kirwee, Canterbury

No traffic, no distractions, no pollution - just peace and quiet. That's the promise made by WagonStays and it sounds pretty great to us. This Wild West-style wagon with a luxury twist was built in 2005 with the frontier in mind, and sits on a secluded corner of a 51-hectare working farm 30 minutes from Christchurch. While on the farm, be prepared to meet Bud the friendly Labrador and over 100 ewes and lambs on the adjacent paddock.

- > **COSTS:** From \$345 for a single night, or \$300 per night for two nights or more. Both options include breakfast
- > **SLEEPS:** Two people
- > **BOOK:** [wagonstays.co.nz](http://wagonstays.co.nz) or via [booking.com](http://booking.com)



### The Raglan Yurt | Raglan, Waikato

Within a five-minute stroll of Raglan's main shops, you'll find a beautiful yurt just perfect for a getaway of the totally Zen kind. This yurt has been designed with sustainability in mind and was constructed using upcycled and recycled materials. Upon arrival you'll find locally produced foodie treats to keep your taste buds satisfied during your stay. Get in touch with nature and make the most of the barbecue and outdoor bamboo shower while you're there.

- > **COSTS:** From \$189 per night
- > **SLEEPS:** Two people
- > **BOOK:** [airbnb.co.nz/rooms/11257631](http://airbnb.co.nz/rooms/11257631)

## WHEN YOU WANT A SLICE OF HISTORY WITH YOUR STAY

### Jailhouse Accommodation | Addington, Christchurch

On a budget? We've got just the place. Voted Top Backpacker Hostel in Oceania in 2013 by Hostelworld, Christchurch's Jailhouse Accommodation is a must-stay if you're on the backpacker circuit. Formerly Addington Prison (from 1874 to 1999), the building was refurbished in 2006 as a hostel and has been a hit with people of all ages ever since. The prison was built under the guidance of Benjamin W Mountfort, who also designed the Christchurch Cathedral

and Canterbury Museum, and its 60cm-thick concrete walls mean the building has been able to survive in pristine condition. Bright, colourful and with the promise of comfy beds, you won't find any iron bars or barbed wire here - just a budget-friendly rest stop with a fascinating history.

- > **COSTS:** Prices start from \$29 per night
- > **SLEEPS:** Rooms range from singles to 10-bed dormitories
- > **BOOK:** [jail.co.nz](http://jail.co.nz) or via [booking.com](http://booking.com)

### The Stone Temple | Cromwell

Positioned next to Lake Dunstan, the 140-year-old St John's Presbyterian Church was reborn as the Stone Temple after a 10-year renovation project. Originally built during the Otago gold rush of the 1860s, the building was - and still is - a prominent Central Otago landmark. Leadlight windows bathe the rooms in beautiful, washed light and two separate living areas allow ample space to spread out. The Stone Temple is the perfect base while you explore the area, with cafes, art boutiques, vineyards and other historical buildings just a stone's throw away.

- > **COSTS:** From \$750 per night
- > **SLEEPS:** Up to four people
- > **BOOK:** [stonetemplelodge.com](http://stonetemplelodge.com) or [booking.com](http://booking.com)

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Lidgard House



Hill House Queensberry



PurePods



Raglan Treehouse



Tiny House Retreat



The Boatshed



Down the Road

**Lidgard House | Kawau Island**

Refurbished Lidgard House, owned by the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, is a seafaring family's dream. Sleeping up to eight guests in three rooms, this historical beach house in Smelting House Bay on Kawau Island is accessible only by boat, making getting there all part of the maritime adventure. There's a ferry running from Sandspit Wharf (40 minutes' drive north of Auckland) that can get you there in a jiffy. As far as food goes, it pays to take your own if you want to make use of the barbecue facilities for a classic Kiwi cook-up, or follow the boaties' path around to the Kawau Boating Club if you fancy dining out.

- > **COSTS:** From \$450 per night for eight guests (non RNZYS members) or \$350 per night for members, with a minimum two-night stay
- > **SLEEPS:** Up to eight people
- > **BOOK:** [rnzys.org.nz/the-squadron/lidgard-house](http://rnzys.org.nz/the-squadron/lidgard-house)

*WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE BEING IMMERSED IN NATURE (MINUS THE TENT)*

**Raglan Treehouse in the Woods | Raglan, Waikato**

Like something out of a childhood dream, this off-the-grid treehouse 12km from Raglan has all the makings of a classic adventure. Bring your gumboots and stomp around in the fields, sit on the private deck and enjoy the view of pasture and native bush along the 15-hectare property, and take a break from life - and technology, while you're at it.

Let the kids tag along for some seriously outdoorsy fun or indulge in a quiet weekend for two.

- > **COSTS:** From \$146 per night
- > **SLEEPS:** Two to four people
- > **BOOK:** [airbnb.co.nz/rooms/16176341](http://airbnb.co.nz/rooms/16176341)

**The Boatshed | Tauranga, Bay of Plenty**

Enjoy serene harbour vistas from this architecturally designed, award-winning converted boatshed right on the Tauranga waterfront. Boaties can moor their boats at the private mooring or make use of the shed's own dinghy and kayak to cruise around the harbour. You can even grab the fishing tackle and catch your own dinner. With a barbecue, pizza oven and some of the best restaurants in town within walking distance, you definitely won't be short of options when it comes to dining either.

- > **COSTS:** \$335-\$550 per night
- > **SLEEPS:** Up to four people
- > **BOOK:** [bachcare.co.nz](http://bachcare.co.nz) (ID 2601)

**Tiny House Retreat | Kaiteriteri, Abel Tasman National Park**

Tiny houses are big news in the property world right now, so why not get a taste of compact living by renting one for a weekend? This wee gem may look minute, but it boasts two loft bedrooms overlooking the living space and can accommodate one or two couples with ease. You'll find everything you need for a self-catered stay, including plenty

of outdoor seating and a barbecue. And with Kaiteriteri Beach at your doorstep and Abel Tasman National Park and Golden Bay within driving distance, you can truly make the most of this little slice of paradise.

- > **COSTS:** \$140-\$240 per night
- > **SLEEPS:** Up to four people
- > **BOOK:** [bachcare.co.nz](http://bachcare.co.nz) (ID 4427)

*WHEN YOU HANKER FOR A LITTLE LUXURY OFF THE BEATEN TRACK*

**Down the Road | Whangarei, Northland**

Just a 30-minute drive from Whangarei Airport, Down the Road is a family-run orchard cottage which has been repurposed from its former life as a croquet clubrooms. With views of swaying gum trees and across the beautiful bush valley, it will be tempting to simply indulge in all the cottage has to offer and stay put for a couple of days. If that takes your fancy, the lovely owners can supply a provisions basket filled with local produce to enjoy for brekkie or take to a picturesque spot for a picnic lunch.

- > **COSTS:** From \$160 per night (for two people) for the Orchard Cottage; \$180 including breakfast or picnic provisions of local produce.
- > **SLEEPS:** Up to four people
- > **BOOK:** [downtheroad.kiwi](http://downtheroad.kiwi)

**Hill House Queensberry | Central Otago**

A holiday home boasting seriously impressive architecture and stunning scenic surrounds, Hill House Queensberry is one very special piece of real estate. Located an hour from Queenstown Airport, this gem is a foodie's dream, with a goomm-wide oven in a new, commercial-quality kitchen. Take in the Southern Alps and all they have to offer or hunker down by the wood-burning fire with a warming glass of mulled wine...

- > **COSTS:** Standard rates start at \$295 per night
- > **SLEEPS:** Up to four people
- > **BOOK:** [hillhousequeensberry.com](http://hillhousequeensberry.com)

**PurePods | Waipara, Banks Peninsula and two locations just outside Kaikoura**

Immerse yourself in a totally private slice of New Zealand paradise in a PurePod. These glass structures allow you to experience the wilderness from the inside, or you can pull back sliding doors on three sides for total oneness with your surroundings. Each of the four PurePods promises a unique New Zealand wilderness experience and has been designed for environmental sustainability. The pods are raised off the ground so no vegetation is impacted, so you can see native plants growing under your feet by day and the twinkling stars above you at night.

- > **COSTS:** Rates start at \$490 per night
- > **SLEEPS:** Up to two people per PurePod
- > **BOOK:** [purepods.com](http://purepods.com)