

New Zealand Road Rules

IF YOU ARE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU **TAKE A LITTLE TIME TO LEARN THE LOCAL ROAD RULES AND REGULATIONS** – FOR YOUR OWN AND OTHERS' SAFETY. TO HELP YOU DO THIS, HERE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE ROAD CODE.

NEED TO KNOW

DRIVING LICENCES

- A current licence and/or international licence are acceptable.
- Minimum age for rental car hiring is generally 21 years.

AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

- The AA provides a road map and breakdown service.
- Free reciprocal membership privileges are offered to members of equivalent overseas organisations.

HIGHWAYS

- New Zealand highways are mainly of a high standard but are not divided; most main highways are sealed and offer

no difficulty for motorists from other countries. Those routes not sealed are generally well graded and maintained.

- All distances are shown in metres or kilometres.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

- New Zealand's emergency phone number is 111 or *555 from a cellphone (not all areas have cellphone coverage).
- For road conditions, AA Members can phone 0800 500 543 or *223 from mobile; non-members 0900 33 222 or alternatively for state highways phone 0800 4 HIGHWAY (0800 44 44 49).

IMPAIRED DRIVING

- Drugs or medication which impairs your driving are not permitted.
- There is a zero alcohol limit for drivers under 20 years of age; drivers aged 20 or more are recommended to consume no more than two standard drinks before driving.
- You must not drive if fatigue or poor health impairs your driving.

SEAT BELTS

- All modern cars and campervans are fitted with seat belts for all occupants. In New Zealand it is compulsory to wear them. Failing to do this can incur a \$150 fine.

CELLPHONES

- Drivers must not use a hand-held mobile phone, unless the device is completely hands-free or mounted securely to the vehicle and touched infrequently and briefly. Writing, reading or sending text messages while driving is illegal. Offences incur a fine of \$80 and 20 demerit points.

INTERSECTIONS

Look in all directions and slow down so you can stop if required. Obey any traffic lights or road signs and any directions shown by words or arrows on the road. If traffic lights or road signs do not determine which vehicle has the right of way, use the following rules:

- If you are turning, give way to vehicles going straight.
- When turning right, give way to vehicles coming towards you turning left.
- At a T intersection (and all driveways), traffic on the side road gives way to traffic continuing along the main road.
- In all other situations, give way to vehicles coming from your right.

SPEED LIMITS

Whatever speed you travel, always leave enough room between you and the vehicle ahead, so you can stop in half the length of clear road you can see in front of you, to avoid collision if you have to stop suddenly.

- New Zealand speed limits are in kilometres per hour not miles.



- Built-up areas normally have a 50km/h speed limit although lower signed limits can apply.



"OPEN ROAD" SPEED LIMITS APPLY:

- Cars, vans, motorcycles 100km/h

- Heavy motor vehicles 90km/h
- Vehicle towing trailer or caravan 90km/h



KEEP LEFT

IN NEW ZEALAND, TRAFFIC TRAVELS ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE OF THE ROAD.

If your speed is impeding following traffic, you must allow them to pass as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so. A good rule of thumb is to not let more than four cars build up behind you. Pull to the left when there is sufficient width to allow the vehicle to safely pass you. At slow vehicle bays and passing lanes, you must use the left lane and allow traffic to pass you. Failure to do so can incur a \$150 fine.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

AT TRAFFIC LIGHTS THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:



- **RED** means stop. You may not turn on the red as some countries permit.
- **YELLOW** means stop if you can safely bring your vehicle to a halt.
- **GREEN** means go if it is safe to do so.



RED ARROW means stop and do not turn.



YELLOW ARROW means stop if you can safely.



GREEN ARROW means you can turn if it is safe.

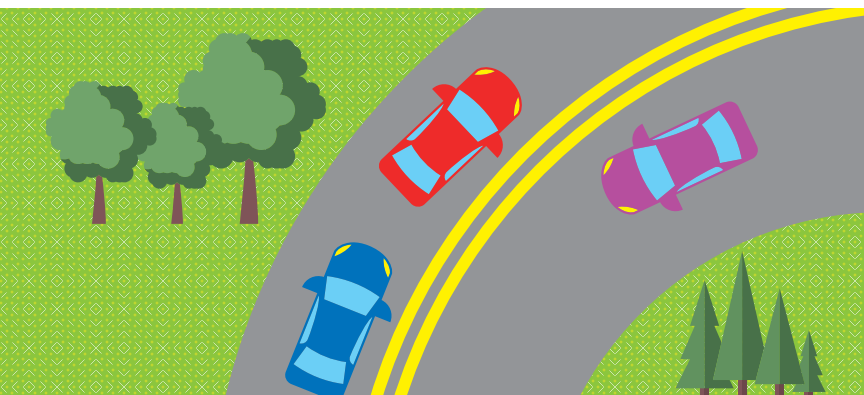
You must signal for at least 3 seconds before turning.

OVERTAKING

- You may overtake to the right of a slow moving vehicle if safe to do so and you have 100m clear visibility throughout the entire manoeuvre. Always turn your indicator on at least 3 seconds before you start to overtake.

YOU MAY NOT OVERTAKE:

- At a no-overtaking line marked by a yellow line on your side of the centreline.
- Approaching a pedestrian crossing, a railway crossing or an intersection.
- At any curve, crest of a hill where you cannot see more than 100m throughout the entire manoeuvre and cannot conduct the whole movement safely.



MOTORWAYS

Keep left unless overtaking and always indicate at least three seconds before changing lanes.

ON A MOTORWAY YOU MUST NOT:

- walk or cycle
- stop your vehicle
- make a U turn



See www.aa.co.nz for road rules and driving tips.



Cycling Landscapes Ride
Tuki Tuki Valley, Hawke's Bay
© Hawke's Bay Tourism

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

- Parking is not permitted where the road is marked by a broken yellow line.
- Parking is not permitted within 6 metres of an intersection or pedestrian crossing.
- Parking facing oncoming traffic is not permitted.



You may not stop, stand or park in the area indicated by No Stopping signs.



You may not stop, stand or park in the area indicated by the sign in the time period stated. You may park in the area outside of the specified times.



You may park for up to 30 minutes in the location indicated by the sign in the time period stated. You may park for an unlimited period outside the specified time.

RAILWAY CROSSINGS



New Zealand has a significant number of rail crossings. You must give way to all rail traffic at all times. Some crossings are provided with bells, lights or barrier arms. You must stop as soon as these devices begin to operate.

At other crossings stop signs may be used. You must stop and not proceed until you are sure there are no trains coming from either direction. Proceed only when certain you can complete the crossing safely.

At all other crossings you are required to slow and make certain that there are no trains approaching from either direction. Proceed only when certain you can complete the crossing safely.

ROAD SIGNS



You must stop completely, then give way to all traffic. There are one or two yellow lines on the road showing you where to stop.



Slow down, be ready to stop and give way to traffic not controlled by Stop or Give Way signs. There are one or two white lines signalling the stopping point.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS



SCHOOL

- When approaching a pedestrian crossing slow down and be prepared to stop.
- Do not overtake anyone near a crossing and give way to any pedestrians on both sides of the pedestrian crossing.



CRASHES

- If you are involved in a crash or encounter a crash you must stop and help and call the police if someone is hurt.
- Obtain the vehicle registration numbers, names and addresses of involved parties and their insurance companies. Do not discuss blame or liability with other parties.
- You are required to report the detail of the crash to your insurance company within 24 hours and complete an accident report. Rental companies also require you report details of the crash to them.
- If no one is hurt, you must give your name and address to the property owner, or the police if the owner cannot be found.

ONE-WAY BRIDGES



GIVE WAY

The circular sign with the red arrow means you must give way to oncoming traffic. The large black arrow reinforces that oncoming traffic have right of way.



The rectangular sign with the large arrow in your direction shows you have the right of way. However if a vehicle is on the bridge or cannot reasonably stop entering onto the bridge, you must give way.

ROUNDBABOUTS

- Signal at a roundabout if you wish to turn, give way to traffic on the right, and turn left into roundabout.
- Signal as you pass the exit before the one you wish to take.



Thames Coast Road
© Destination Coromandel