

Car Hire Cheat Sheet

Why Hire a Car in NZ?

- Freedom to explore at your own pace.
- Access to remote locations not covered by public transport.
- Stunning scenic drives, from coastal roads to alpine passes.

Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will have an excess which will vary depending on which car hire company the client chooses.
Inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces excess down to NIL • Some of the larger or premium vehicles will only reduce the excess to a reduced amount, not entirely NIL.

Car hire companies

- **Europcar:** Has the highest quality and newest fleet in the market, fitted with the latest technology and safety features. Range of fully electric vehicles, small to large passenger vehicles, people movers & luxury vehicles
- **Hertz:** Offers premium rental cars at competitive prices combined with 24-hour assistance. Hertz also have a large range of electric vehicles on their fleet
- **Budget:** Complete range of the latest, high specification cars, with the reliability and efficiency to ensure you enjoy the perfect way to experience New Zealand
- **Ezi Car Rentals:** Fleet ranges from compact cars to SUVs and Utes, and provides child seats and ski racks
- **Go Rentals:** Choose from a wide selection of vehicles, including small cars, large cars, SUVs, electric vehicles, hybrid cars, 4WDs, and vans or people carriers. Go rentals is the only company to offer car rentals on Waiheke Island

Dual Island Hire

- Budget, Avis, Ezi and Go Rentals you can take on the ferry
- Hertz and Europcar must be hired only on the same island, therefore clients will have to drop off on one island and pick up another hire. These hires have to be done as 2 separate island hires and not as a through-hire

Pick-Up & Drop-Off

- Depots located at major airports and city centres
- Complimentary shuttle services available for off-airport locations
- One-way hires are available but may incur a relocation fee
- Pick-up & Drop-off Tip: Most depots close at 5 pm; for late arrivals, consider booking an airport hotel for the first night. Most car hire companies have pick up desks on airport grounds to meet every flight, and drop boxes for early departures

Driving in New Zealand – Key Tips

- Drive on the left-hand side of the road
- Seatbelts are mandatory for all passengers
- Speed limits: 50 km/h in urban areas, 100 km/h on highways (unless signposted otherwise)
- Rural roads can be narrow and winding – allow extra time for travel
- Many scenic routes have single-lane bridges – give way as per signage
- No mobile phone use while driving unless hands-free
- Be cautious of wildlife & livestock on rural roads
- Winter driving: Chains required for some alpine routes (e.g., Milford Road, ski fields)

Vehicle Type	Best for	Key Features
Economy Car	Budget travellers, city driving	Fuel-efficient, compact size
Compact Sedan	Couples, solo travellers	Comfortable, affordable
Intermediate Sedan	Small families	More space, good for longer drives
SUV	Families, adventure seekers	Extra storage, higher seating position
4WD	Off-road travel, winter conditions	Suitable for gravel roads & ski trips
People Mover	Large groups	7-8 seats, extra luggage space