

# UPPER SOUTH ISLAND SUMMER HOLIDAY TRAVEL

## TOP SUMMER 2016/17 TRAVEL TIPS

Be patient, cautious and courteous - please pull over and let traffic behind you pass

Slow down and take your time - be prepared for the unexpected

Adhere to all road signage and speed restrictions

Remember: share the road and take responsibility for ensuring everyone gets to their destination safely

Do not drive when you're tired - you're slower to react, make poor judgement decisions and find it harder to concentrate

Take regular breaks - there are plenty of rest stops along the way with fuel, cafes and toilet facilities

Be prepared for delays and bad weather - ensure you have water, food and warm clothing in the event of bad weather or an incident resulting in delays

## STAYING SAFE ON OUR ROADS

All travellers on the alternate route (state highways 7, 65, 6, and 63) between Christchurch and Picton these summer holidays are being asked to take extra care, be prepared for delays and to be patient.

The average journey time between Christchurch and Picton is currently seven and a half hours. Everyone is urged to allow extra time for delays and the greater volumes of traffic. This is now the main freight route for the South Island - expect a lot more trucks than normal.

With currently four times the usual volume of vehicles travelling the alternate route since the Kaikōura earthquake, and numbers expected to continue to increase as families head away for their traditional Christmas/summer break, travel times and delays will only get worse.

Much of the route is not suitable for cyclists. We therefore recommend taking the longer touring route down the West Coast. Refer to the touring route map online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/eq-travel](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/eq-travel). If wanting to head to Christchurch, please contact a public transport provider and travel by bus to Christchurch to keep safe.

Everyone needs to slow down, take their time and strictly adhere to all road signage and speed restrictions.

The alternate route over Lewis Pass and through Murchison is challenging to drive: it's narrow and windy in many places and there are few safe places to overtake. Please pull over and let traffic behind you pass when it is safe to do so; this prevents drivers becoming frustrated and making poor overtaking decisions.

There are also a number of roadwork sites along the route as we repair and reseal many sections of the road and widen it where possible, to make it safer for the greater volumes of traffic which will need to use the alternate route for some months yet.

We're asking you to remember to share the road with all vehicles and cyclists, and take joint responsibility for ensuring everyone gets to their destination safely this holiday season.

Stop for regular breaks and make the journey itself part of your holiday.

There are rest stops with fuel, food, coffee and toilets at Culverden, Springs Junction, Murchison and St Arnaud.

## CONSIDER THE OPTIONS

Those travelling from Picton to Christchurch have the option of three routes:

- › The alternate route (state highways 63, 6, 65 and 7) via Murchison and Lewis Pass - an average trip of seven and a half hours.
- › Via Nelson and then along state highways 6, 65 and 7 via Murchison and Lewis Pass - an average eight and a half hours. An overnight stop en route is recommended.
- › Via Greymouth on the West Coast (state highways 6, 63, 6, 69, 7 and 73) - an average trip of 10 hours. An overnight stop en route is recommended.

## ROADS INTO KAIKOURA RE-OPEN

Road access is being restored to Kaikōura this week. The Inland Route 70 re-opened on Monday and State Highway 1 to the south of the seaside town is expected to open this afternoon (Wednesday 21 December).

The Inland Route, between Waiau and Kaikōura, is now open 24/7 with unrestricted access both ways. There are speed restrictions and no stopping areas which everyone using the route is asked to strictly adhere to. The average travel time for the 90km route from Waiau to Kaikōura is about two hours.

The route remains hazardous and fragile and all road users are asked to take extra care and be prepared for the unexpected.

Access along State Highway 1 to the south of Kaikōura is expected to be restored this afternoon but with

night-time restrictions until all slip faces have been stabilised and traffic signals have been installed along a 1km coastal section of the route where we have single-lane access only.

Access will be two-way and only during daylight hours, 6am to 8pm. The last vehicles will be admitted to travel along SH1 south from Peketa at 7.30pm. Vehicles travelling north from Christchurch are advised to leave the city by 5.30pm to ensure they get through to Kaikōura before the road closes at Oaro at 7.15pm.

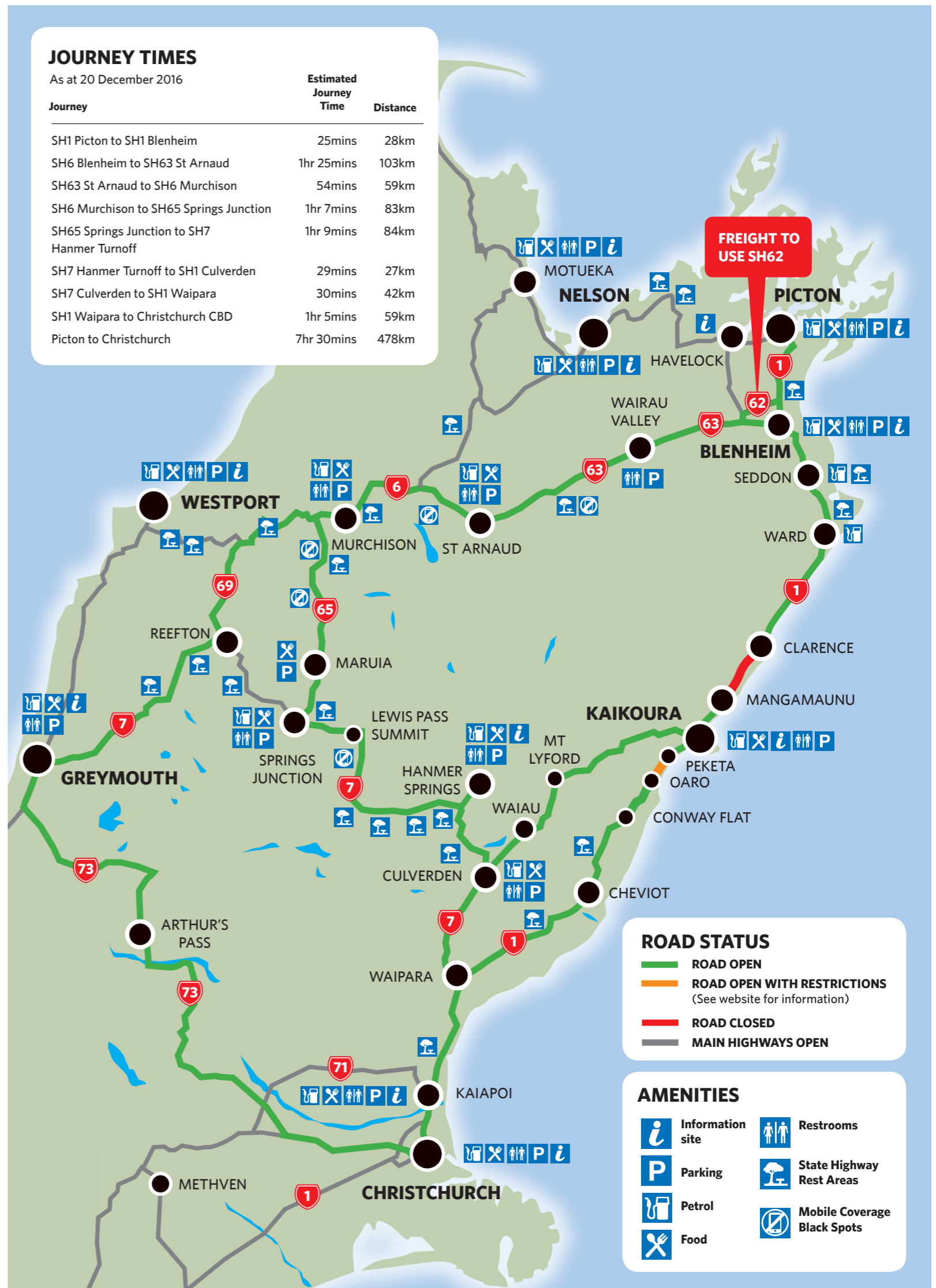
There is no stopping or camping along the route because of the risk from potential rockfall in the event of any further seismic activity or heavy rain.

Before you go, check daily road conditions on the website: [www.nzta.govt.nz/eq-travel](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/eq-travel)

## JOURNEY TIMES

As at 20 December 2016

Journey	Estimated Journey Time	Distance
SH1 Picton to SH1 Blenheim	25mins	28km
SH6 Blenheim to SH63 St Arnaud	1hr 25mins	103km
SH63 St Arnaud to SH6 Murchison	54mins	59km
SH6 Murchison to SH65 Springs Junction	1hr 7mins	83km
SH65 Springs Junction to SH7 Hanmer Turnoff	1hr 9mins	84km
SH7 Hanmer Turnoff to SH1 Culverden	29mins	27km
SH7 Culverden to SH1 Waipara	30mins	42km
SH1 Waipara to Christchurch CBD	1hr 5mins	59km
Picton to Christchurch	7hr 30mins	478km



## PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

For the latest real time traffic and travel road information:

Website: [www.nzta.govt.nz/eq-travel](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/eq-travel)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nztasouthisland](https://www.facebook.com/nztasouthisland)

Call: **0800 4 HIGHWAYS**  
(0800 44 44 49)

Congestion hotspots: [www.nzta.govt.nz/hotspots](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/hotspots)

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