

# 1 Upper South Island travel guide

## PLAN YOUR JOURNEY – PICTON TO CHRISTCHURCH

State Highway 1 (SH1) north of Kaikōura will open to daytime traffic on Friday 15 December, restoring the coastal highway link from Picton to Christchurch. The re-opening of SH1 will give people two viable options for travel around the upper South Island, with the alternate route (via state highways 63, 6, 65 and 7 through Lewis Pass) remaining a reliable 24/7 option.

### IMPORTANT BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Check routes are open and get estimated travel times.

For real-time travel information visit [www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c) or freephone **0800 4 HIGHWAYS** (0800 44 44 49).

Make sure you allow enough time for your journey, whichever route you chose. Unexpected events such as a crash, high volumes of traffic, ongoing wet weather or seismic activity can cause delays. Ongoing roadworks and reduced speed limits in places mean that it won't be possible to make up time.

Be prepared with food, water and a fully charged cell phone.

**Do not rely on your GPS or Google Maps - things can change at short notice.**

## WHAT TO EXPECT ON SH1

Parts of the road will still be under construction, so there will be some unsealed sections, lane closures with Stop/Go controls and speed restrictions. There will be night closures north of Kaikōura between Clarence and Mangamaunu, and between Goose Bay and Peketa in the south. Closure points will be monitored 24/7. Consider road closure hours before undertaking your journey and leave enough time to be clear of these sections so you can continue on to your destination.

The opening hours are subject to adverse weather and seismic activity. If there is a lot of rain or another significant event, we may have to close the road for short periods of time. It's important to remember, the safety of those using the highway and working on it will always be our top priority.

## BE ROAD COURTEOUS

- **No stopping on SH1** within the closure areas outside of designated stop bays.
- Be patient and cautious. Road conditions will be unfamiliar to many drivers, so **a little bit of patience will go a long way**.
- **Follow all traffic signs** and any instruction given by road crew.
- **Obey speed limits** to keep all road users safe.
- Stay focused around rail lines. **Expect trains at any time**.
- **Keep fresh by taking breaks** and supporting communities on the route.



## WHO CAN TRAVEL ON THE RE-OPENED SH1?



**Cars** (including vans, 4wd, 2wd cars)



**Motorcyclists** (take extra care on unsealed and uneven surfaces)



**Vehicles towing caravans, boats and trailers**



**Campervans**



**Trucks** (restrictions apply - check [www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c))



**Bus/coach**



**Cyclists** (take extra care on unsealed and uneven surfaces. Cyclists may need assistance or be escorted in some areas. Follow road crew instructions on the day)



**NO CAMPING** (within closure areas)



**No pedestrians**