

Driving instructions from Auckland

Auckland to Russell driving time: approx. 3.5 hours (233 km / 145 miles).

Please note that these instructions describe a direct route, however, the drive is scenic and detours to explore various towns and beaches are recommended! These might include the Matakana area, Mangawhai and Waipu Cove and/or beyond Whangarei - Tutukaka and Matapouri beach.

Join the Northern Motorway (which is also SH1), heading north; direction Whangarei.

Northern Gateway Toll Road

Just beyond Auckland is a short stretch of extended motorway and a tunnel known as the Northern Gateway Toll Road. The toll for a car is \$2.30 each way and can be paid at BP or Caltex petrol stations or online (www.tollroad.govt.nz) within 5 days of using the toll road (if it turns out to be inconvenient, we can pay your toll upon arrival at the lodge). Cameras capture images of all vehicles using the toll road and bills will be sent to the registered owners/rental company (with administrative fees added if payment is not made within the 5 days). Toll-free alternative routes are marked on the signs (exit 398 to Silverdale or exit 394 to Orewa, both of which re-join SH1 just south of Puhoi) and either of these routes will take just an additional 15 minutes or so. The alternative routes are quite scenic and the payment systems are such, that you will not save any significant time by using the tunnel.

Continue past Whangarei to Kawakawa on SH 1. At the turnoff into Kawakawa, bear right and the road becomes SH11; direction Russell/Paihia and Opuia.

Continue on SH11 for approx 11 km after which you will take a right hand turn to Opuia and the Opuia to Okiato ferry. Follow this road down the hill to the ferry.

The car ferry ticket is \$12.50 one-way, you can pay by cash or by credit card. Ferries shuttle back and forth from 6:40 am to 10 pm. No pre-booking is required.

On leaving the ferry, follow the signs to Russell village, approx 8 km. Stay on the main road (York Street) and Flagstaff Lodge is just beyond the shops, on a large section on the right hand corner – you will see the sign.

Complimentary parking is available on-site.

For SatNav Users

Please note that some versions of SatNavs will route via the slow coastal road north of Whangarei. Whilst scenic, this is not direct and is a narrow winding road. To avoid this, ensure that your route brings you via Opuia (to catch the car ferry) or set your destination as Franklin Street, Opuia.



Flying and driving times from Kerikeri and Whangarei

Auckland to Kerikeri Flight time: 40 minutes
Kerikeri to Opuia Driving time: 40 minutes
Opuia to Russell Via vehicle ferry: approx. 15 minutes

Auckland to Whangarei Flight time: 25 minutes
Whangarei to Opuia Driving time: 60 minutes
Opuia to Russell Via vehicle ferry: approx. 15 minutes

Rental cars are available from both Kerikeri and Whangarei airports.

Flagstaff Lodge can arrange airport transfers if needed.