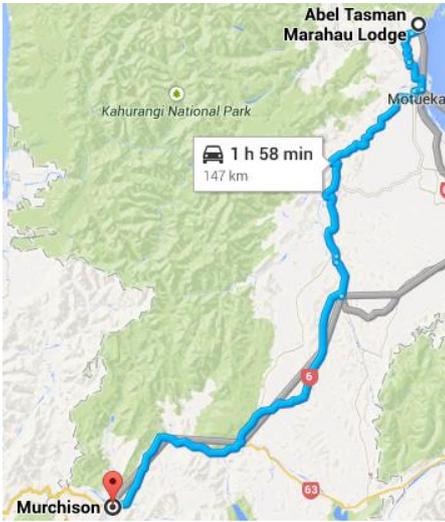


DRIVING TO PUNAKĀIKI (WEST COAST)

Approximately a 4 hour drive (non-stop)

Abel Tasman Lodge to Murchison (2 hrs approx.)



Go back through Riwaka to Motueka. Turn right at the clock tower in Motueka. It's well sign posted for Murchison.

Drive for about 55kms (40 mins) to the intersection with SH6 (State Highway 6). Turn right onto SH6.

There is a lovely historic pub/café here, Kōhatu Flat Rock Café, which has great food and coffee. So if you need a break, this is a nice choice. It's just before the intersection.

Once on SH6 drive for about 73km (50 mins) until you reach Murchison.

Murchison

Murchison has a couple of cafés, a pub and a service station. It's worth a stop for a coffee at either:

- **The Vault Café** (on the right as you are driving through town) next door to the i-Site
- **Rivers Café**, which has a small but nice gift shop (turn left just past the Four Square store)

Murchison to Punakiki

Once you leave Murchison drive for 10 minutes then turn right (this is still SH6). It's signposted for the West Coast.

Buller

Five minutes past the turnoff you will see some signage for the Buller Gorge Swing Bridge - the longest swing-bridge in New Zealand with great views over the Buller River. It's well signposted and there is good parking. You might see some cute weka birds here.

Next, drive through the small settlement of Inangahua and then cross a bridge. At the intersection turn right towards Westport, Karamea and Punakāiki.

Lower Buller Gorge

The drive from here is stunning with beautiful trees, rivers and the mountains next to the sea!



Westport is a small detour from the main road, so not something you necessarily need to see. But there are some interesting sights relating to the gold mining in this area.

If you don't go to Westport, you need to turn left towards Punakāiki (well signed). You will start to follow the coastline south.

4 kms down the coast road you will see a sign for Cape Foulwind. Drive down this road (for about 10 min) to visit the seals and The Bayhouse, considered one of the best restaurants on the West Coast - a detour but some say it's worth it.

Staying on SH6 you will reach Punakāiki in about 25 minutes.

Punakāiki

Things worth seeing here are Truman's Walk and of course the Pancake Rocks. There isn't much else other than a decent arts and craft shop, a pub with typical 'pub' food and Jacobs Grill at the Punakāiki Resort.

If you want to self-cater then you should pick up groceries in Motueka or Westport as there is no supermarket in Punakāiki.