

THE GREAT KIWI

SPACE ROAD TRIP

Visit New Zealand space facilities after IAC 2025

3–10 October 2025

SPACEOPS
NEW ZEALAND



WELCOME TO AOTEAROA – NEW ZEALAND

Kia ora!

Just three hours from IAC 2025 is Queenstown International Airport. If you came to IAC from the other side of the planet, here is your chance to easily follow up and visit New Zealand's space-related locations and businesses while you are in the vicinity. It's your very good fortune that to do so requires travelling through some of the most beautiful tourist destinations in the world... and although you won't likely see any hobbits, you will see where they were.

It can be a bit of a mission to find your way around New Zealand if you are short of time, so here at Space Operations New Zealand we cordially invite you to join our *Great Kiwi Space Road Trip*, a self-drive, semi-guided tour of Southland and Warkworth so you can come and visit us.

On behalf of Aerospace New Zealand, we also invite you to attend the New Zealand Aerospace Summit in Christchurch as part of your tour.

Not everyone can join all of our itinerary, so if you want to drive around New Zealand at your own pace, bear in mind that we will be hosting "Open Homes" at Warkworth Space Centre and Awarua Satellite Ground Station for all of the week following IAC.

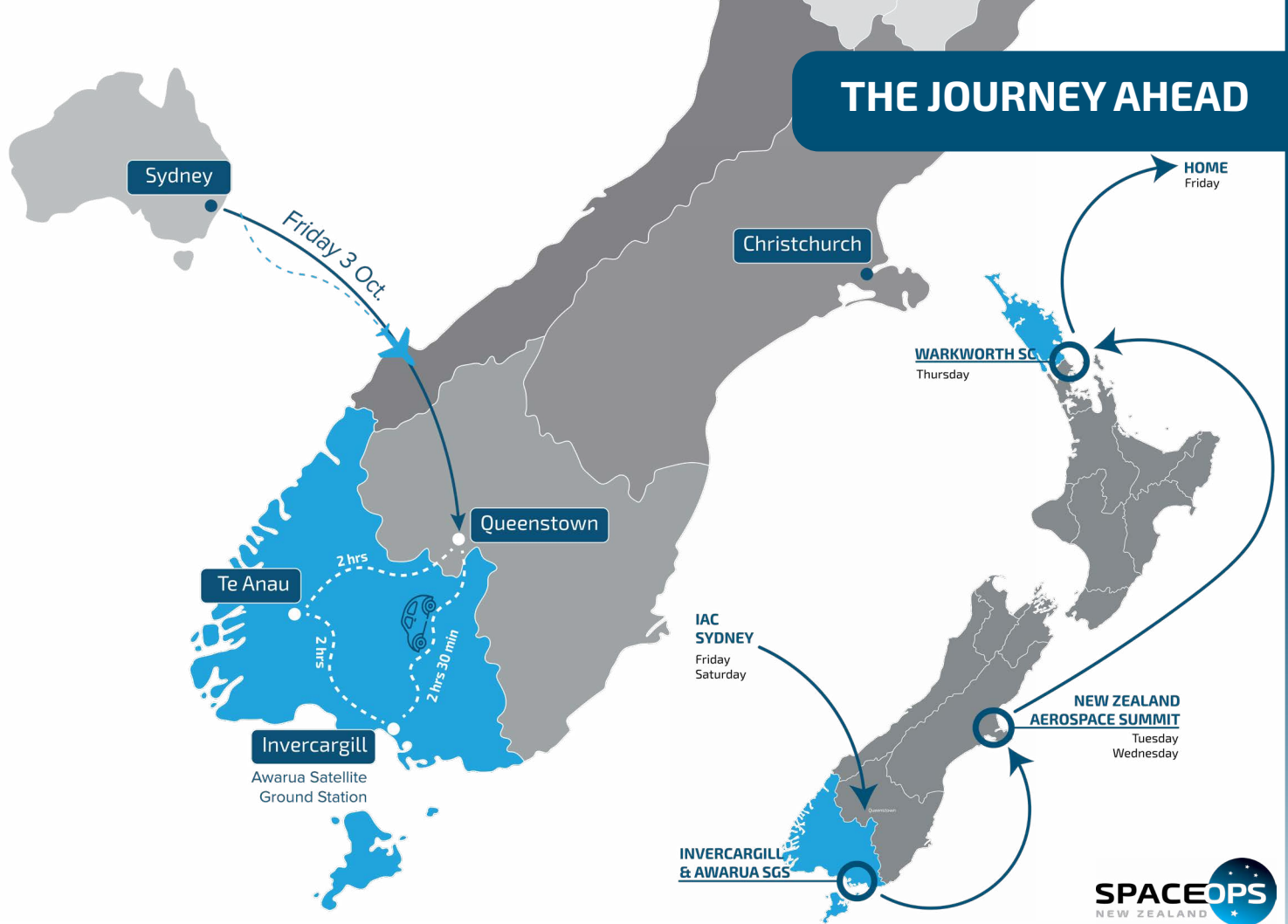
We would love you to join our Great Kiwi Space Road Trip, or visit our stations, so please register at office@spaceops.nz. Send any questions you may have to that address, too.

Ka kite,

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Robin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robin McNeill MNZM
CEO

THE JOURNEY AHEAD



ARRIVE QUEENSTOWN AIRPORT

IAC ends at lunchtime

Friday, October 3

Arrive in Queenstown

Recommended flight:

Qantas Sydney (SYD) Queenstown (ZQN) 15:10 – 21:15

Pick up a rental car to your chosen accommodation

Queenstown

Accommodation: Settlers Cottage Motel, Arrowtown, or hotels in Queenstown.



Queenstown



Routerburn Track

📍 Arrowtown



REHAB SATURDAY

Recover from your frenetic week at IAC by relaxing in Queenstown and environs, by wine tasting, taking gentle or not so gentle walks, or sightseeing.

Saturday, October 4

Explore Queenstown, Arrowtown and Glenorchy

Options:

Wine tasting, bungee jumping, or day trip for a picnic in Mt Aspiring National Park

Evening:

Kiwi BBQ dinner in Arrowtown (approx. 30 guests)

Suggested activities:

- We like Chard Farm and Ayrburn vineyards
- Golf (choose from 5 golf links)
- Walk the Routerburn Track to Flats Hut
- Bungee jumping
- Jet boating
- White water rafting

DRIVE TO INVERCARGILL

Sunday, October 5

Te Anau / Milford Sound/ Invercargill

Choose your travel route:

➤ Option 1: The Big Day Out



It is a long, but rewarding road trip to Milford Sound, at the heart of Fiordland National Park. Be stunned by spectacular wilderness scenery the whole day. Spend the night in Te Anau and drive to Invercargill on Monday morning.

➤ Option 2: Queenstown Adventure



Wind up your adrenaline by bungee jumping, jet boating or white water rafting. You can drive to Invercargill tomorrow!

➤ Option 3: Southern Scenic Route



Enjoy a leisurely drive to Invercargill through rolling farmland and along the wild South Coast of the South Island.

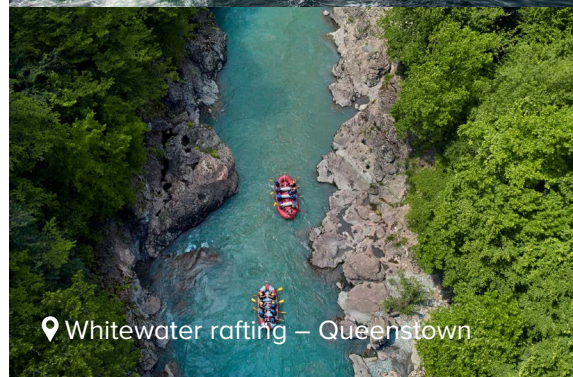
➤ Drive Times



Queenstown	➔	Invercargill via South Coast: 4hrs.
Queenstown	➔	Milford Sound: 3:50hrs.
Milford Sound	➔	Te Anau: 2:00hrs.
Te Anau	➔	Invercargill: 2:00hrs.



📍 Milford Sound



📍 Whitewater rafting – Queenstown



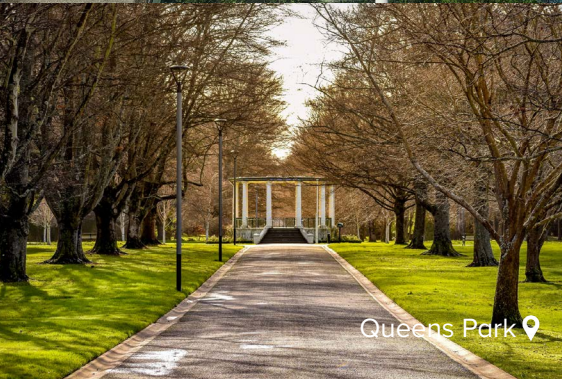
📍 South Coast



Water tower



Stirling Point



Queens Park

EXPLORE INVERCARGILL & BLUFF

Monday, October 6 (morning)

Take the morning to relax or explore at your own pace. Enjoy local cafes, take a walk in Bluff, or discover hidden gems in Invercargill before the afternoon tour begins.

Cafes in Invercargill:

- The Batch Cafe
- The Auction House Cafe
- Black Shag Boutique Cafe
- Kanki's Cafe – Latin flavours

Invercargill highlights:

- Southland Museum & Art Gallery
- E Hayes Motorworks
- Queens Park
- Transport World

In Bluff:

- Stirling Point & signpost
- Bluff Hill Lookout



AWARUA SATELLITE GROUND STATION TOUR

Monday, October 6



● 11:30 – Meet at *The Grille* cafe

*Travel to Bluff



● 12:00 – Lunch at *The Anchorage* restaurant, Bluff



● 13:00 – Traditional Welcome by local iwi-Maori



● 15:30 – Awarua Satellite Ground Station tour



● 19:00 – Dinner at *Elegance at 148 on Elles* restaurant

We will all rendezvous at *The Grille Cafe* at 11:30am, giving time for those spending Sunday night in Te Anau and Queenstown to comfortably arrive. Others can spend the morning visiting Transport World, E Hayes & Sons to see “*The World’s Fastest Indian*” motorcycle, or find the subantarctic mega-plants and native birds in Queens Park.

CHRISTCHURCH + AEROSPACE SUMMIT

Tuesday, October 7



8:25 – Flight: Air New Zealand IVC → CHC



10:00 – Day 1 at New Zealand Aerospace Summit

Wednesday, October 8



Day 2 at the New Zealand Aerospace Summit



Evening options

<https://www.aerospace.org.nz/summit>

The *New Zealand Aerospace Summit 2025* is the premier gathering showcasing Aotearoa's emergence as a global space leader. This year's theme is "Open Skies", exploring low air traffic, rapid regulation, sustainable aerospace, and orbital innovation.



Scan to register

WARKWORTH SPACE CENTRE TOUR

Thursday, October 9



● 8:05 - 9:30 Air New Zealand Flight: CHC → AKL



● Visit Warkworth Space Centre



● Accommodation: Auckland or Warkworth

Warkworth Space Centre

Located 1 hour's drive north of Auckland, Warkworth is home to Spaces Ops NZ's large aperture antennas.

PLAN YOUR TRIP



TRAVEL DIRECTORY

Flights & Transport

- Domestic flights: Air New Zealand, Jetstar
- Rental cars: Avis, Hertz, Ezi Car

Accommodation Options (per region)

- Arrowtown Settlers Cottage Motel, Arrowtown Motel
- Te Anau: Distinction Lakefront, Fiordland Lodge
- Invercargill: Langlands, Quest
- Christchurch: The George, Sudima
- Auckland: Hotel Britomart, Ramada

Travel Tips & Links

- newzealand.com
- aa.co.nz/travel
- <https://greatsouth.nz/>
- metSERVICE.com – weather
- Plug type: Type I | Currency: NZD

More Information



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