

Indagare Matchmaker: New Zealand



Annadale

Here are four of [New Zealand](#)'s most special properties in extraordinary locations, offering one-of-a-kind experiences.

Annandale, South Island

Best for: High-end glamping



Imagine four villas, ranging from a historic homestead to an ultramodern showstopper, set on a 4,000-acre working farm on one of New Zealand's most picturesque bays, and you have a sense of how amazingly special [Annandale](#) is.

- **Best for:** Couples, groups of friends and families who want bragging rights to having stayed in one of New Zealand's most unusual villa collections; travelers who are looking for a remote getaway
- **Room to Book:** Seascape, a couples-only haven with a spectacular layout

designed by award-winning Auckland architect Andrew Patterson

- **Top Activities:** Clay pigeon shooting, farm tours, hiking, kayaking
- **Keep in Mind:** This is a getaway for those seeking solitude. Guests prepare their own meals, unless they hire a private chef, and all activities except hiking involve a forty-five-minute drive.

Hapuku, South Island

Best for: Treetop Glamour



Located ten minutes by car north of the seaside town of Kaikoura (epicenter of the Kaikoura District), in a serene spot flanked by a deer farm and olive groves, [Hapuku](#) is known for its übercool tree houses. The food is a delight, as is friendly manager Chris Sturgeon, who is passionate about the area and will happily recommend activities.

- **Best for:** Families and couples interested in whale watching and other ocean wildlife experiences for which the Kaikoura region is renowned
- **Room to Book:** The *Swiss Family Robinson*-style tree houses, which nest in the thirty-foot-high canopy.
- **Top Activities:** Sea kayaking, fishing, swimming with dolphins, visiting seal colonies
- **Keep in Mind:** Some seasons are better than other for marine mammal viewing. Find out if whale, orca and dolphin sightings have been good before committing half a day to a sea cruise.

Solitaire Lodge, North Island

Best for: Lakeside Retreat



The aptly named [Solitaire Lodge](#), New Zealand's second-oldest (after Taupo's Huka), sits on the edge of Lake Tarawera surrounded by a lush, serene landscape.

- **Best for:** Travelers who don't mind driving themselves to a remote location or who have access to a helicopter, particularly couples and families with older children who can entertain themselves despite a lack of activities tailored to them

- **Room to Book:** The Tarawera Suite, whose big sitting/living room and sizeable bedroom afford gorgeous views
- **Top Activities:** Visiting Rotorua and its excellent museum; mountain biking through a thermal forest; hiking to a secluded waterfall; taking a helicopter tour of White Island, with its active, smoking volcano
- **Keep in Mind:** The lodge has been around since 1980 and looks a bit dated. The current owners have wisely invested in the room interiors, which feel fresh and modern.

Bay of Many Coves, South Island

Best for: Remote Relaxation



Accessible only by water taxi, helicopter or seaplane, the [Bay of Many Coves Resort](#), on the shore of the Queens Charlotte Sound, offers seclusion and lush greenery.

- **Best for:** Couples and families with older children who enjoy outdoor activities like hiking and boating, which are about all there is to do.
- **Room to Book:** Indagare can help recommend ones that suit your preference, whether you want privacy or a great view.
- **Top Activities:** Advanced hiking, fishing, stargazing, touring Motuara Island (home to blue penguins), visiting mussel and salmon farms
- **Keep in Mind:** The resort is built into a steep hillside, and although golf carts are available, it's not recommended for anyone with difficulty climbing stairs or hills.

- Simone Girner on September 3, 2015