



FACTSHEET

PLACES YOU CAN CAMP IN YOUR MOTORHOME OR CARAVAN

One of the great things about owning a motorhome or caravan is the ability to camp at little, or sometimes, no cost.

If your vehicle is self-contained certified, there are several options available to you other than standard camping grounds.

Department of Conservation (DOC) sites

There are over 200 vehicle-accessible DOC camping grounds in New Zealand. The cost is usually \$7 to \$15 per night, per person, with payment sometimes collected by a DOC worker or by way of an honesty envelope. However annual passes are available to NZMCA members. If you buy an annual pass (\$175) or a 5-month pass (\$100), you can stay at these sites for no extra charge.

The facilities at DOC sites can range from a simple stream, to showers, toilets and a kitchen.

New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) sites

For a joining fee of \$130 and an annual subscription of \$90, you can stay, at NZMCA sites for a 'gold coin'. They will also supply a book listing over 2500 places to park throughout the country.

Park-over properties (POPs)

Listed in the NZMCA's book are over 300 park-over properties. These are properties owned by members who allow other members to stay for a nominal fee. A POP could be a paddock or someone's back yard. Sometimes the property will have no facilities, but some include power, laundry, toilet and showers.

Clubs

Another option is to stay in the car park of clubs, like the RSA, Cosmopolitan Clubs or golf clubs. To do this you need to be a member of the NZMCA or an affiliated member of the particular club you're staying with. Often there is no additional charge to stay at these places, but most people buy a drink or meal if staying at an RSA or Cosmopolitan Club.

Local authority parks

Many parks are owned by local authorities. The Auckland Regional Council (ARC), for example, has a network of 26 different parks spanning 40,000 hectares of land. Like DOC, you can either pay a small charge or buy an annual self-containment pass for \$128.

Other options

Once upon a time you could camp virtually anywhere you liked. Sadly, due to bad behavior by some campers, this is no longer the case. However, there are still many parts of the country (particularly in the South Island) where you can camp at designated areas, like the side of the road or near a lake.

Most councils have designated areas to stay, many in beautiful locations. Always follow the rules.

To enjoy motorhoming to the fullest, it is important to have a properly self-contained vehicle. This way you can stay at the places listed and enjoy a truly liberating lifestyle.

Please note all prices and all information is subject to change at any time and was accurate at time of printing. Please do not use this information as a complete resource, always do your own research. TrailLite has researched this information and is a guide only.

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