

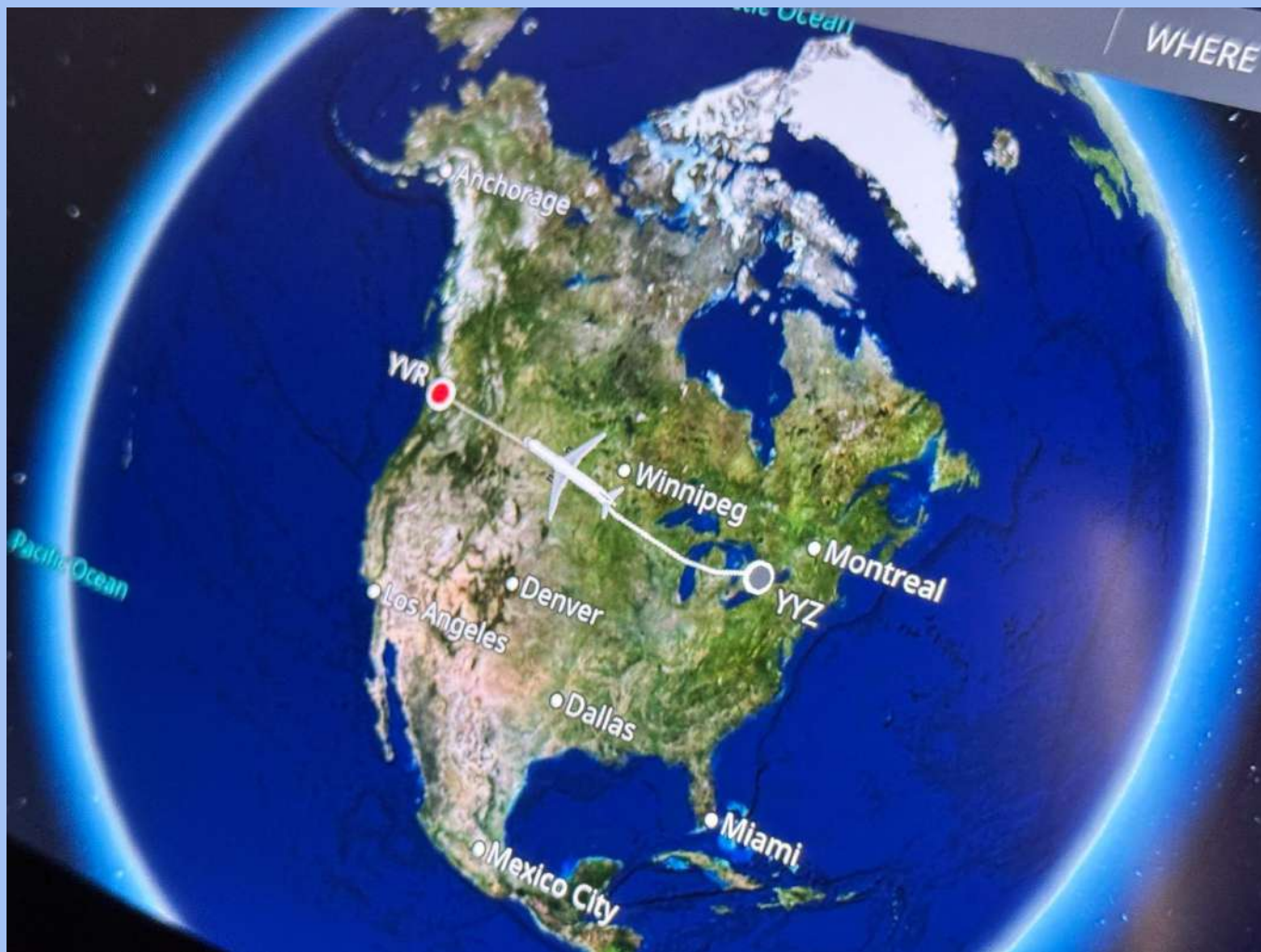


Exploring New Zealand: Lavender Farms and the Magic Beyond

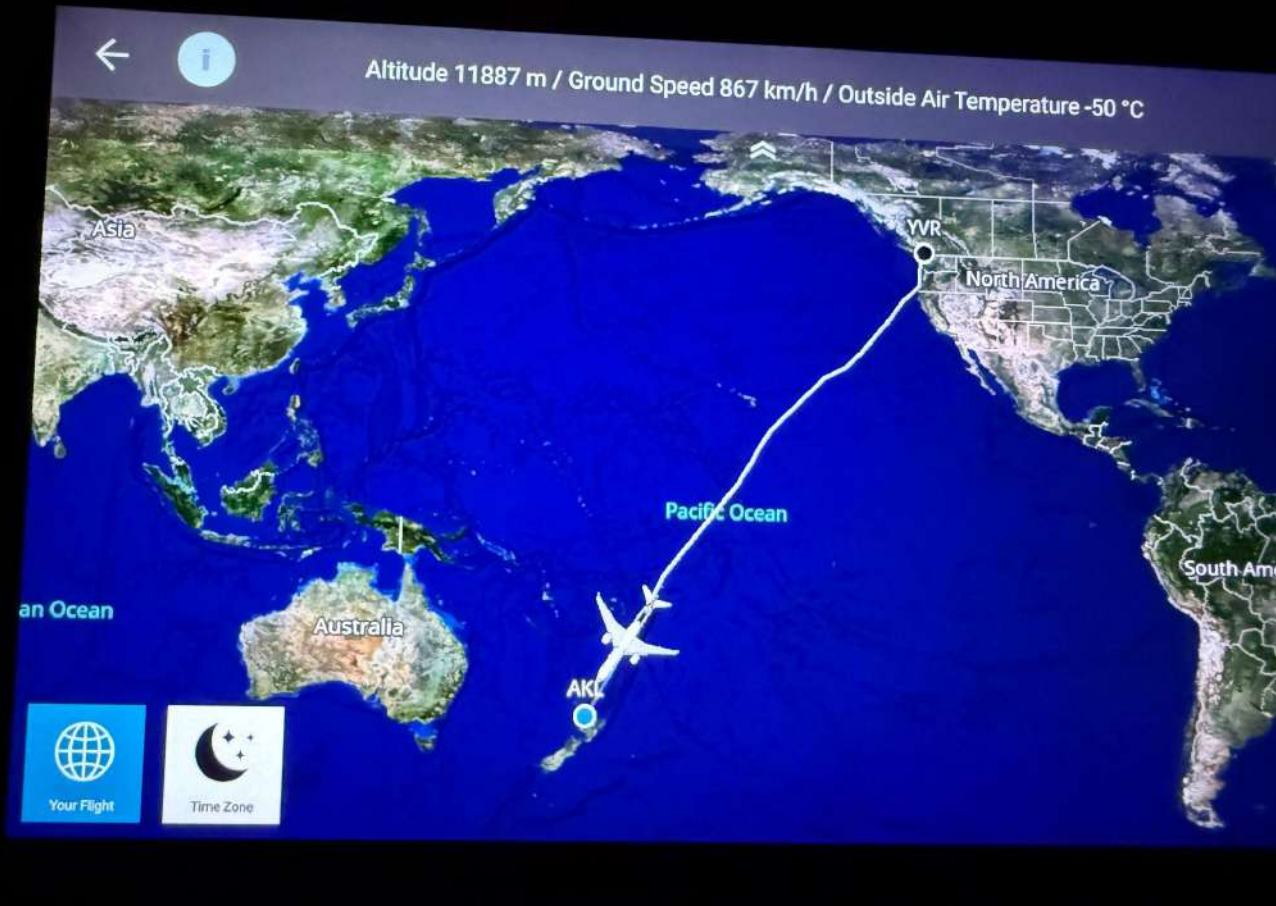
Nancy Astin • June 2, 2025



New Zealand is an island country in the South Pacific Ocean, the southwesternmost part of Polynesia. The country comprises two main islands—the [North](#) and the [South Island](#)—and a number of small islands, some of them hundreds of miles from the main group. The capital city is [Wellington](#) and the largest urban area [Auckland](#); both are located on the North Island.



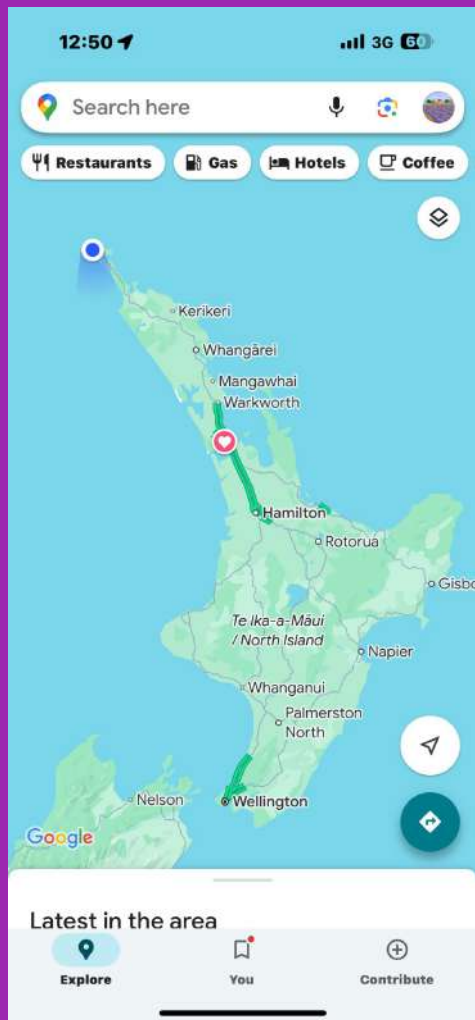
First we flew from Toronto to Vancouver, leaving on January 6, 2025. That flight was 5 hours. We stayed in Vancouver for 2 nights, just to rest up for the long flight!!



The next part of our journey was the flight from Vancouver to Auckland. We departed Vancouver on Wednesday January 8 at 8:00pm and landed in Auckland on Friday January 10 at 6:00am. Somewhere in there we lost a whole day on a 14 hour flight!



Pink Lamington





Lavender Backyard Garden was the first lavender farm I visited in Hamilton, NZ, the North Island.



The height of
the lavender
was
monumental. It
took my breath
away!



Super Lavender

The Only Lavender & Blueberry Farm in New Zealand

Escape to the serene countryside near Hamilton, New Zealand, and explore **Lavender Backyard Garden**—a hidden gem for nature lovers. Stroll through our lush **lavender fields**, experience the calming aroma of **freshly distilled essential oils**, and shop our handcrafted **aromatherapy and skincare products**, all made in New Zealand. We also grow **blueberries**, adding to the charm of this countryside retreat.







Inside Lavender Backyard Garden's lovely shop!









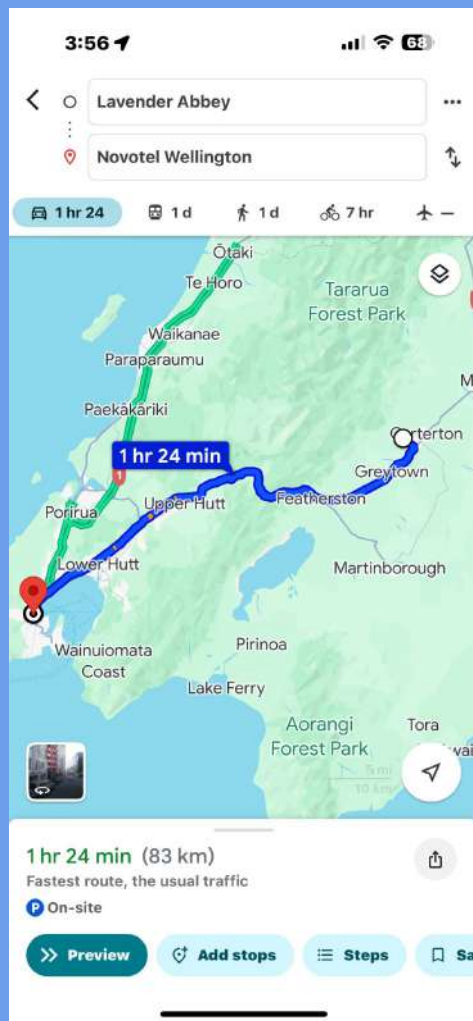


Examples of grow cloth and mounded plant rows, blueberries and the cultivar “Super” in the fields.





Custard Square



Grosso Lavender

LAVENDER ABBEY, CARTERTON

Welcome to Lavender Abbey – where you can buy some of the worlds freshest, most fragrant boutique lavender.

Grown in the wild, natural environment of New Zealand's Wairarapa district, Lavender Abbey products are available for sale from our online shop and weekend market stalls.

You can also Pick Your Own lavender at the height of the growing season, with the added benefit of viewing the entire product range, including some "limited Pick Your Own day" products.

If it's high-quality, New Zealand-grown boutique lavender you're after, you've come to the right place.



Our next stop was to Lavender Abbey in Carterton on the North Island, an award-winning lavender farm owned by Stuart and Jan Abernathy, president of the NZLGA.







Jan and Stuart graciously took hours out of their busy day to show us around their amazing farm. We had to drive through big mountains to get here, but it was so worth it! We learned a lot about growing and harvesting lavender at Lavender Abbey!

Lavender Abbey, New Zealand

Lavender Abbey – Pick Your Own Lavender

Lavender Abbey started their Pick Your Own Lavender in 2011, initially around 50 people per day, whereas now we would average 300-400 people per day depending on the weather and other events in the area.

Our Pick Your Own (PYO) is open weekends only, 10am-3pm, during 5 weeks in summer when the flowers are in bloom. We originally started with free entry and \$5 PYO Bunch, now we charge \$5 per entry, kids free, and \$5 PYO Bunch, payable by EFTPOS or Cash.

Visitors are invited to bring a picnic lunch and spend as long as they like within the lavender field.

We discuss with the visitors how to pick and demonstrate to them a sample bunch size that we charge \$5 for. We also provide scissors and rubber bands for their picking experience. We also provide some picnic tables, umbrellas, some games and of course farm animals to look at.

People are drawn to the mass lavender in bloom, resulting in lots of photos, especially sharing their experience on social media, which results in extra marketing for us.

Outside of PYO hours, we hire the field out privately by the hour, often used for private picnics or private photoshoots like weddings, sunsets, etc.

In 2022, we opened our onsite shop, which is open every weekend 10am-3pm. Having the shop available during our PYO weekends has also contributed to the experience visitors have and it provides us with a permanent weatherproof place to display our products.

Our PYO weekends is a very profitable time for our business. This is due to our visitor numbers, seeking out a memorable family and friends experience, during the holiday season.



Some learnings are:

Providing onsite parking – we use one of our paddocks.

Providing a toilet for people – we use a compostable toilet

Dealing with visitor rubbish.

Traffic control as people come on and off the access road.

Protecting your privacy, we erect temporary fences to keep people out of areas that we don't want them – for example people like to pick fruit, whether it is ripe or not!

Protecting people from Hazards on the farm – for example we disconnect our electric fence from the mains

Weather conditions can cause issues on the day as well as leading up to the event – for example, too much rain can cause issues in our paddock we use for parking.

We allow dogs on leads, as people also love to take photos of pets in the lavender.

Drones, we don't allow these, to protect other visitors privacy.

The Big Box of Lavender is the on-site store constructed from a container—brilliant! A great way to showcase product!



The fields were very busy during our visit with pick your own guests and many guests taking pictures!



All of the guests were greeted at the entrance to the field. There was an entry fee of \$5.00 NZD





The shop was full of products made by Lavender Abbey. We saw how the lavender was hung to dry in the back, potpourri made of onsite, dried flowers and dried bundles of lavender for sale. I noticed that the colour was retained richer than my own Lavandins dried here on the farm.

Lavender Abbey, New Zealand



Jan and Stuart have won many awards for their essential oils in the New Zealand Lavender Growers Essential Oil Competition, held annually. I took samples of Lavender North Oil with me on the trip and am now entered into this very same competition, taking place in August 2025, how exciting to be in a global competition!!



The lavender
harvesting machine
used by many growers
in New Zealand!





The onsite composting toilet for agritourism, very clean and no smell!!



The entrance to the farm highlighted with a market tent and supplies for cut your own lavender!



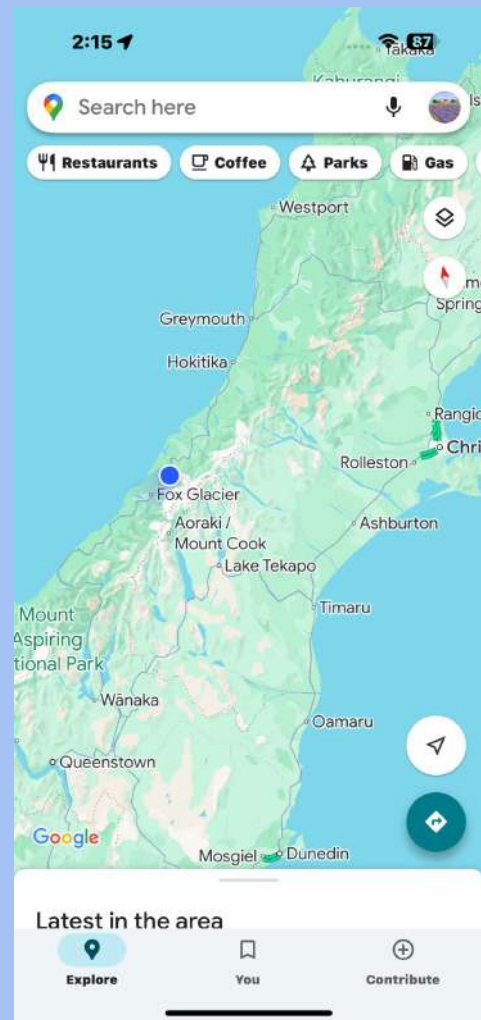
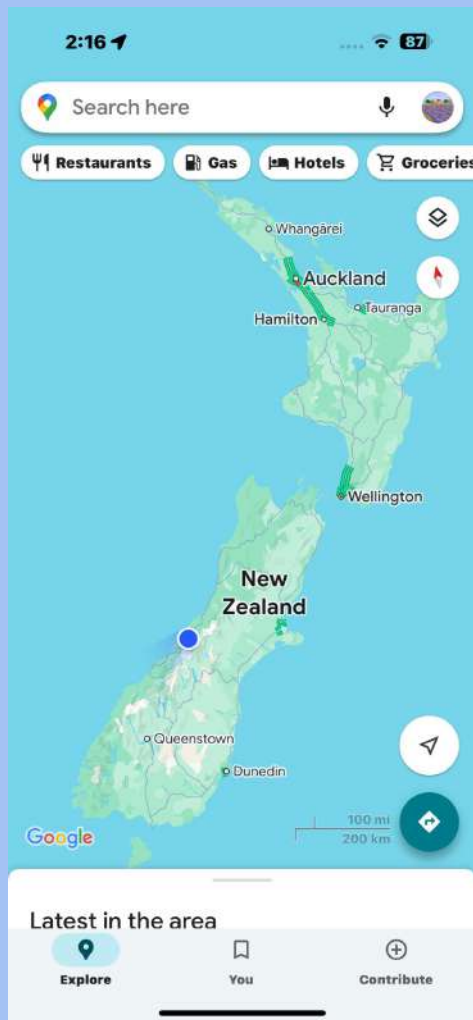


The fields were full of lots of bees doing what they do best. The guests were not bothered at all by the sheer number of them!





YoYo









Lavender used everywhere in Wanaka in parking lots, roundabouts and roadside plantings!

Wanaka Lavender farm located in Wanaka on the South Island, a very picturesque location in the mountains!



Experience 20 acres of stunning lavender fields, farm animals & display gardens at Wānaka Lavender Farm. Enjoy a walk through the flowers, meet our friendly farm animals, play some giant games, unwind over a cup of herbal tea & indulge in our lavender ice creams. The many fragrant & colourful gardens throughout the farm are ever changing throughout Wānaka's four distinct seasons. Sample our Lakes Honey and the many Wānaka Lavender Farm products that are lovingly made on-site.

Wanaka Lavender Farm

The Purple Door





The layout of the lavender rows at Wanaka was so visually appealing, on hills, flats and in all different directions!



There was a comprehensive map of the farm at the entrance, with an entry fee of \$15.00 NZD charged per person. The farm was large with many different areas on it, including farm animals, an apiary, lavender rows of course and native plant gardens.





Creative pathways led the visitors to the different areas on the farm. The native plant gardens were beautiful and full of vibrant colours. A scarecrow warded off pests from fruit trees on the farm.





**The lavender shop
featured many
different products
and also a small
dining area with
detailed product
descriptions!**



Lavender Hydrosol Description

LAVENDER WATER SPRAY

Indulge in the simple luxury of our refreshing and relaxing Lavender Hydrosol Spray.

Hydrosols, often referred to as 'flower waters' are created through the process of steam passing through the flowers, which picks up the floral fragrance of the flower. Our Lavender Water Spray has a soft subtle scent, much less concentrated than essential oils but with similar therapeutic and calming properties. The Lavender Water fragrance has an extremely relaxing natural aroma, is great for cooling and soothing irritated skin, and has anti-inflammatory properties to help reduce redness. Hydrosols can be used multiple times a day, as they are very gentle and can be applied directly to the skin. Use to spritz your face and body to keep it nourished and hydrated. Freshen up your linen, or spray as an air freshener, or light body perfume.

LAVENDER WATER SPRAY
200 ml

100% PURE LAVENDER ESSENTIAL OIL

Wānaka Lavender Farm grows & distils four varieties of Lavender on site; Grosso, Super, Pacific Blue & Violet Intrigue.

Lavender pure essential oil can make an important contribution to the health & well-being of those who use it, as it is gentle on skin, soothes and calms the emotions.

Diffusing Lavender pure essential oil may be used to relax the mind & body as well as blended to create many beautiful products; creams, oils & soaps to name a few.

Topically, pure essential Lavender oil may be used in many applications; spots & pimples, athlete's foot, closed cuts, insect bites/stings, insomnia, warts & minor burns.

(provided no allergic reaction is foreseeable)
Violet Intrigue & Pacific Blue may additionally be used for food flavouring.

Sachets, sachets, sachets!

LAVENDER BAG

SMALL

\$8

MEDIUM

\$11

LARGE

\$17.50

Hanging bundles





LAVENDER BATH OIL

A bath provides you with a pleasant element of relaxation, and a moment of self-care to take your mind off things. Formulated with a calming combination of fresh Lavender and Geranium, our Lavender Bath Oil is perfect for adding into your bath as a marvellous lubrication for drying, ageing or damaged skin. Lavender essential oil can help to soothe the skin, while Geranium is recommended for balancing mood swings and relieving anxiety. Wheat germ oil being rich in Vitamin E is able to soothe and soften prematurely ageing skin, and having Almond oil as the carrier oil can help to nourish dry and sensitive skin. Simply pour a few drops in a steaming tub and enjoy the skin-detoxifying effects while you sit back and relax.

BATH TEA & SALT SOAK

Treat yourself to a peaceful spa experience at home. Infused with a collection of luxurious salts and flowers, this soak offers an excellent skin treatment and can improve internal processes. The mineral powers of the Dead Sea, Himalayan and Epsom salts hydrate, cleanse and detoxify your body from the inside out. Awaken your senses and feel calm as you enjoy the gentle aroma of essential oils and floral herbs. Simply place a scoop of Bath Tea & Salt Soak in the bag provided, hang underneath warm running water, then sit back and relax.

BATH TEA & SALT SOAK

HANDS IN THE DIRT Leah Evans

New Zealand Gardens to Visit Juliet Nicolson
Rosemary Brown

New Zealand Gardens to Visit Juliet Nicolson
Rosemary Brown

LOST & FOUND





BEARD OIL

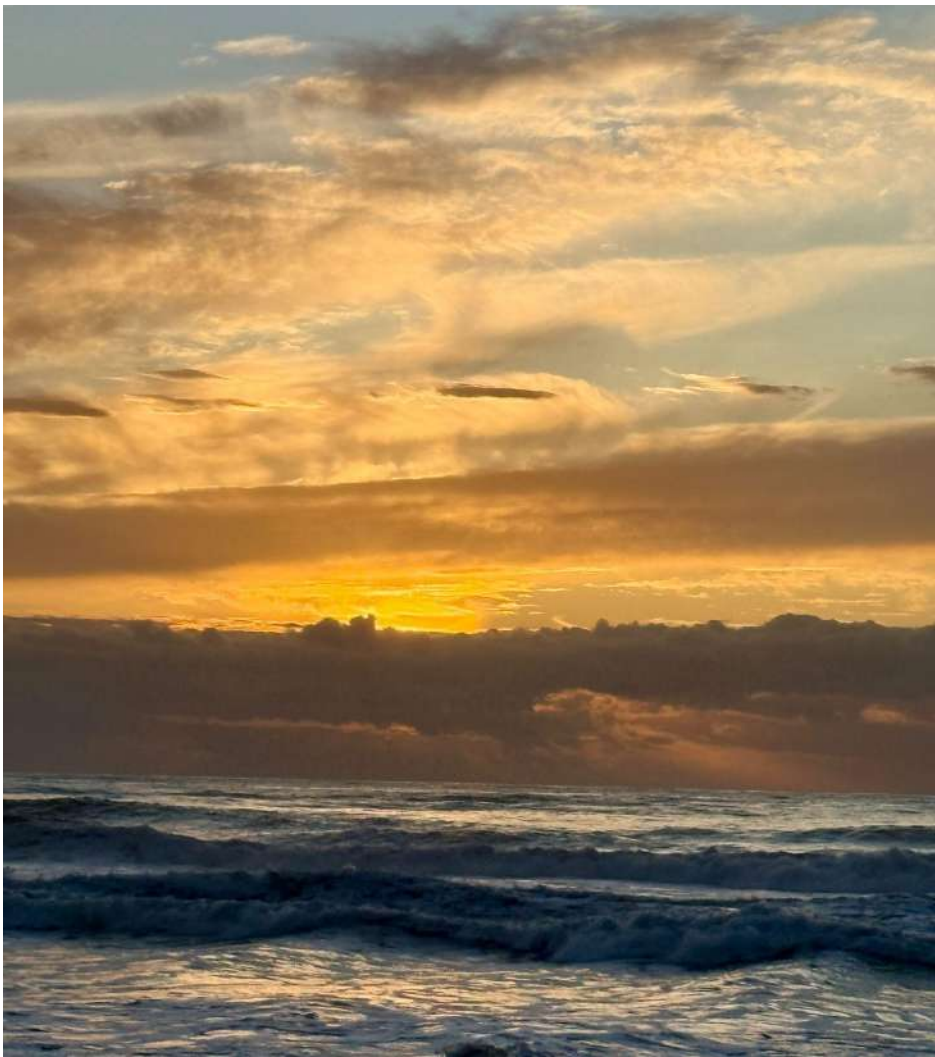
Our Lavender Beard Oil was formulated with an appreciation for wonderful beards and healthy skin. With healthy skin, comes a healthy beard. The gentle and aromatic blend of essential oils provide calming, skin-softening, vitamin E boosting and anti-aging properties that sink in and protect the skin, leaving your beard truly soft and manageable. Apply Lavender Beard Oil while your skin is still warm and damp from a recent shower, as the pores are open the oil will work itself into the skin to rejuvenate.

Simply rub 3-10 drops (depending on the length of your beard) between your hands to evenly distribute, and work the oil into your skin, and onto your beard. Make sure you don't neglect the moustache area.

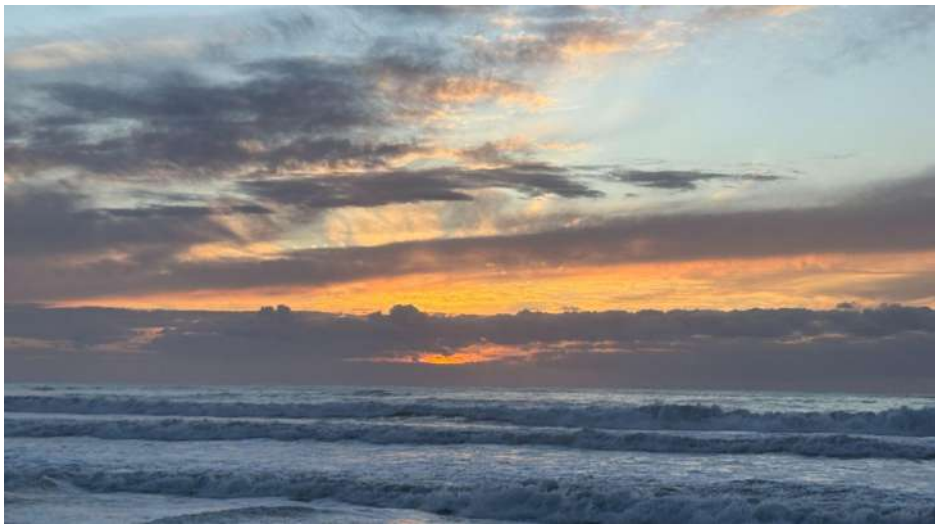




NZ Savoury



**New Zealand is
the most amazing
place in the
world, full of
absolute beauty at
every corner!**



<https://www.lavender.org.nz/>

<https://www.lavenderbackyard.co.nz/>

<https://www.lavenderabbey.co.nz/>

<https://www.wanakalavenderfarm.com/>