

Comparison of GPS Maps of New Zealand

In this document, I review Garmin® City Navigator® for Australia and New Zealand and Brent's NZ Map, comparing map detail, routing calculations, and points of interest (POI).

General Map Features



Both maps feature similar road and POI detail. The Garmin map includes Australia. Brent's map is only for New Zealand, but includes topographic detail of the North and South Islands.













	Brent's NZ Map (New Zealand Only)	Garmin® City Navigator® Australia and New Zealand NT
Displays Turn-by-turn directions, searchable POIs, address and street-level detail.	Yes	Yes
Includes highways, interstates, business and residential roads in metropolitan and rural areas.	Yes	Yes
Provides detailed road coverage in major metropolitan areas.	Yes	Yes
Provides topographic contour intervals	Yes	No
Version Reviewed	Version 5.4 (608,624KB)	Version 2011.30 (171,064KB)

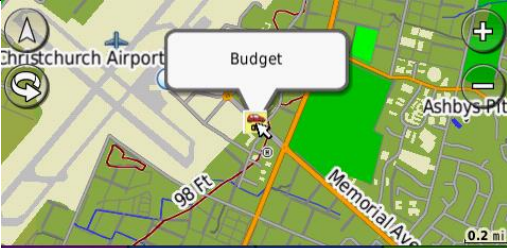
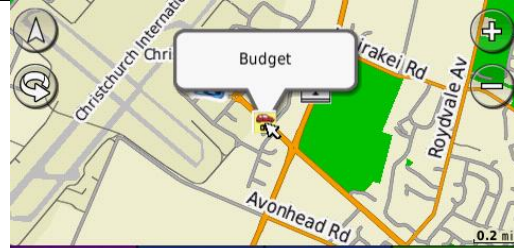










Map Detail

A list of popular places to visit, from travel information web sites like Lonely Planet and Frommer's, was used to focus where I looked to compare map detail. The following table shows screenshots of the two maps taken in the vicinity of these popular places.

North Island


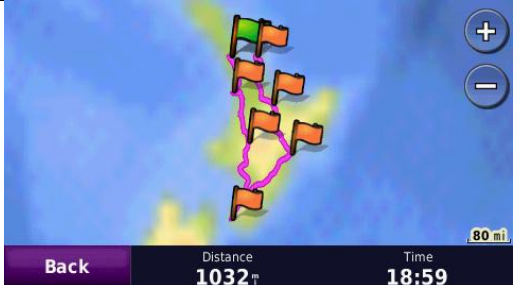


North Island	Brent's NZ Map (New Zealand Only)	Garmin® City Navigator® Australia and New Zealand NT
Auckland		

Whitanga		
Rotorua		
Napier		
Wellington		
Whanganui tongariro		
Ragland		
Comments	<p>Brent's map shows what appears to be water inundation in Whitanga and Ragland. Roads appear differently near the Polynesian Spa in Rotorua.</p>	

South Island	Garmin® City Navigator® Australia and New Zealand NT	Brent's NZ Map (New Zealand Only)
Christchurch	 <p>Garmin map of Christchurch showing the location of Budget. The map includes labels for Christchurch Airport, Memorial Ave, and Ashbys Pt. A callout box points to Budget. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>	 <p>Brent's NZ Map of Christchurch showing the location of Budget. The map includes labels for Christchurch International Airport, Avonhead Rd, and Roydvale Av. A callout box points to Budget. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>
Milford Sound	 <p>Garmin map of Milford Sound showing the location of Milford Sound, South Island. The map includes labels for Milford Sound Airport, Scrub, and Payphone. A callout box points to Milford Sound, South Island. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>	 <p>Brent's NZ Map of Milford Sound. The map shows the coastline and road network. A callout box points to Milford Sound. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>
Queenstown	 <p>Garmin map of Queenstown showing St Josephs School and other POIs. The map includes labels for St Josephs School, Queenstown, and several Payphone icons. Elevation contours are visible. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>	 <p>Brent's NZ Map of Queenstown showing Queenstown Lakes. The map includes labels for Queenstown Lakes and Suburb. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>
Fox Glacier	 <p>Garmin map of Fox Glacier showing Fox Glacier and other POIs. The map includes labels for Fox Glacier, a bus stop, and a car icon. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>	 <p>Brent's NZ Map of Fox Glacier. The map shows the road network and a car icon. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>
Abel Tasman	 <p>Garmin map of Abel Tasman National Park. The map includes labels for Abel Tasman National Park and Totoranui. A callout box points to Abel Tasman National Park. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>	 <p>Brent's NZ Map of Abel Tasman National Park. The map includes labels for Abel Tasman National Park and Totoranui Rd. A callout box points to Abel Tasman National Park. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>
Kaikoura	 <p>Garmin map of Kaikoura I-Site Visitor Centre. The map includes labels for Kaikoura I-Site Visitor Centre and Payphone. A callout box points to Kaikoura I-Site Visitor Centre. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>	 <p>Brent's NZ Map of Kaikoura I-Site Visitor Centre. The map includes labels for Kaikoura I-Site Visitor Centre and a reserve. A callout box points to Kaikoura I-Site Visitor Centre. Navigation controls and a bottom menu (Back, Save, Set Loc., Go!) are visible.</p>
Comments	<p>Brent's map shows what appears to be water inundation in Queenstown. Brent's map shows several more POIs in Fox Glacier. The Garmin map shows several more POIs in Kaikoura.</p>	



Auto Routing

Garmin GPS units with advanced navigation, like the nuvi 755 used to review these maps, is capable of creating a multi-destination route. Different route time and distance may result depending on which map is loaded.

	Brent's NZ Map (New Zealand Only)	Garmin® City Navigator® Australia and New Zealand NT
North Island Route		
South Island Route		
Comments:	<p>In this comparison, the routing for the North Island appears to be the same for both the Garmin map and Brents map. The South Island routing also appears to be the same, but the time and distance calculated is significantly different. These differences may be due to differences between speed limits, simplification of road alignment, and elevation change.</p> <p>Note: In simulation mode, I discovered an error in Brent's map, when leaving the Budget rental car location at the Christchurch airport. I do not know what would happen if I were actually driving the route, but the simulation had me continuously circling in a roundabout.</p>	

Points-of-Interest

Premium maps include points of interest (POI) for tourism.

	Brent's NZ Map (New Zealand Only)	Garmin® City Navigator® Australia and New Zealand NT
Queenstown Lodging 1-4	<p>Resort Lodge 6 Henry St, Queenstown/ Ba 0.1 ^m N</p> <hr/> <p>The Glebe Apartments Corner Stanley & Beetham S 0.1 ^m SE</p> <hr/> <p>The Last Resort Queenstown 6 Memorial St, Queenstown/ 0.1 ^m NW</p> <hr/> <p>Scenic Circle A-Line Hotel 27 Stanley St, Queenstown/ 0.1 ^m SE</p>	<p>The Glebe Apartments 0.1 ^m SE 2 Beetham Street</p> <hr/> <p>Resort Lodge 0.1 ^m N 6 Henry Street</p> <hr/> <p>The Spire Hotel 0.1 ^m S 3-5 Church Lane</p> <hr/> <p>Crowne Plaza Queenstown 0.1 ^m W Beach Street</p>
		

Queenstown Lodging 5-8	<p>Eichardt's Private Hotel 0.2^m SW Marine Parade, Queenstown/</p> <p>Novotel Queenstown Gardens 0.2^m S Corner of Earl St and Mari</p> <p>1v Four Seasons Motel 0.2^m SE 12 Stanley St, Queenstown/</p> <p>Coronation Lodge 0.2^m SE 10 Coronation Dr, Queensto</p> <p>↻ Spell ↑ ↓</p>	<p>Amber Motor Lodge 0.1^m N 1 Gorge Road</p> <p>Wakatipu Tavern 0.1^m W 47 Camp Street</p> <p>Hulbert House (1888) 0.1^m NE 68 Ballarat Street</p> <p>Caples Court Motel 0.1^m SE 20 Stanley Street</p> <p>↻ Spell ↑ ↓</p>
Queenstown Lodging 9-12	<p>Aspen Lodge 0.2^m N 11 Gorge Rd, Queenstown/ B</p> <p>Yha Queenstown Central 0.2^m W 48A Shotover St, Queenstow</p> <p>Thomas's Hotel 0.2^m SW 50 Beach St, Queenstown, D</p> <p>Alpine Lodge 0.2^m N 13 Gorge Rd, Queenstown/ B</p> <p>↻ Spell ↑ ↓</p>	<p>Turner Lodge 0.1^m N 2 Turner Street</p> <p>The Last Resort Queenstown 0.1^m NW 6 Memorial Street</p> <p>Comfort Inn Melbourne Lodge 0.1^m E 35 Melbourne Street</p> <p>Melbourne Motor Lodge and G... 0.1^m E 35 Melbourne Street</p> <p>↻ Spell ↑ ↓</p>
Queenstown Restaurants 1-4	<p>Guilty Bar 0^m S 45 Ballarat St, Queenstown</p> <p>KFC - Queenstown 0.1^m W 27 Camp St, Queenstown/ Fa</p> <p>Starbucks Queenstown 0.1^m SW Cnr The Mall & Camp St, Qu</p> <p>McDonald's Restaurant - Queen... 0.1^m W O'Connell's Pavilion, Camp</p> <p>↻ Spell ↑ ↓</p>	<p>Kappa Sushi Cafe 0.1^m SW 36 The Mall</p> <p>KFC 0.1^m W 27 Camp Street</p> <p>Post Masters Cafe 0.1^m SW 22 Camp Street</p> <p>The Sandwich Bar 0.1^m W 30 Camp Street</p> <p>↻ Spell ↑ ↓</p>
Queenstown Restaurants 5-8	<p>Pj's Fish & Chips 0.1^m W 37 Camp St, Queenstown/ fi</p> <p>Subway Queenstown 0.1^m W Shop 5 Lakeland House, 36</p> <p>Fishbone Bar & Grill 0.1^m W 7 Beach St, Queenstown/ Re</p> <p>?joe's Garage 0.1^m SW Searle Lane, Queenstown/ F</p> <p>↻ Spell ↑ ↓</p>	<p>Arirang Korean Restaurant 0.1^m SW 34 Ballarat Street</p> <p>Dux de Lux 0.1^m S 1 Church Street</p> <p>Forge Cafe 0.1^m NW 18 Athol Street</p> <p>Subway-Queenstown 0.1^m W 36 Camp Street</p> <p>↻ Spell ↑ ↓</p>
Queenstown Restaurants 9-12	<p>Vudu Cafe 0.1^m W 23 Beach St, Queenstown/ C</p> <p>Slice 0.1^m W 34E Shotover St, Queenstow</p> <p>Winnies 0.1^m SW 7-9 The Mall, Queenstown/</p> <p>Dux de Lux Queenstown 0.1^m SW 14-16 Church St, Queenstow</p> <p>↻ Spell ↑ ↓</p>	<p>Bobs Weigh Cafe 0.1^m NW 6 Shotover Street</p> <p>Kens Noodle Cafe 0.1^m W 37 Camp Street</p> <p>Fishbone Bar & Grill 0.1^m W 7 Beach Street</p> <p>The Spire Inspire Restaurant &... 0.1^m S 3 Church Lane</p> <p>↻ Spell ↑ ↓</p>
Comments:	Both the Garmin and Brent's map have many points of interest in the vicinity of downtown Queenstown. Several are the same, several are different. The Garmin map appears to have more. Without local knowledge, I do not know which of these POI listings are more accurate.	

Summary

Both of these maps of New Zealand are very good. The Garmin product is more refined, but Brent's topographic coverage adds detail that better illustrates the lay of the land. I found some errors in Brent's map, especially in the water layer, but nothing that appears to affect route calculation. The Garmin map appears to have more POIs and even though the Garmin product includes all of Australia, the file size is considerably smaller.

Bottom line: If I were traveling to New Zealand for some off-road adventure and my trip included Australia, I would have both maps: I would use Brent's map in my handheld GPS for backcountry adventure in New Zealand, and I would have the Garmin map in my nuvi for navigating streets. If I was only traveling to New Zealand, and I could only afford one map, I would buy Brent's.

To purchase Brent's Map, please follow this link:

[Brent's NZ Map at Travel By GPS](#)

To purchase the Garmin product follow this link:

[Garmin City Navigator Australia & New Zealand NT \(microSD/SD card\)](#)

User Comments

Brent's Map

"One more piece of advice that may or may be helpful to you. When searching for an address here in Auckland I often come up with a blank - no such road. I have found that I have to use the suburb name in the "city" input here in Auckland and only then can I get my desired destination. So **this map set uses suburbs as city names**, which would be very frustrating for foreign users, I imagine. Today I wanted an address in Great South Road, one of the major arterials in Auckland. The assumption for most people is that they are here in Auckland, and not Greenlane, which is what I had to type in for the city name. "

" I have enjoyed your topo details, though the peak heights can sometimes seem overly conspicuous compared with the rest of the information. I like the vineyards and forestry popping up as we drive by."