



# Tips for driving safely in summer

New Zealand experiences a range of weather conditions during the summer. While it may not face extreme heat like some other countries, there are still hazards to be aware of on the roads.

Here are some summer driving tips to keep in mind.



## **New Zealand's weather can change rapidly**

Be prepared for variable weather by carrying an umbrella, extra clothing, and ensuring your vehicle's tyres have sufficient tread for wet conditions. Check weather forecasts before embarking on a journey.



## **Wildlife on the roads**

New Zealand is home to unique wildlife, and some species may venture onto roads. Drive cautiously, especially in areas known for wildlife crossings. Be particularly alert during dawn and dusk when animals are more active.



## **Sun glare and intense UV radiation**

Wear sunglasses with UV protection, and keep your windshield clean to minimise glare. Consider installing sunshades on side windows.



## **Electric Vehicle (EV) specific tips**

- ▶ EV charging speed might slow in very hot conditions. Some EVs and charging stations have systems in place to manage this automatically.
- ▶ You can precondition the interior temperature while your vehicle is still plugged in to help cool down the cabin without draining the EV battery.
- ▶ Hot weather can affect the estimated range of an EV due to increased use of air conditioning.



## **Gravel roads and loose surfaces**

Many scenic routes in New Zealand include gravel roads or loose surfaces, especially in rural areas. Reduce your speed on gravel roads and keep a safe following distance. Gravel roads can become more challenging to navigate after rain.



## **Tourist traffic and rural roads**

New Zealand is a popular destination for tourists. In Summer this can mean increased traffic in rural areas. Be patient, and drive at a safe speed on unfamiliar roads.



## **Maintain your regular service schedule**

Fleet vehicle drivers should always ensure routine maintenance is completed. If you have any concerns regarding the drivability of your vehicle, book it into a dealership or service centre to be inspected.

On the road, you can always contact **Custom Fleet roadside assistance** for support.