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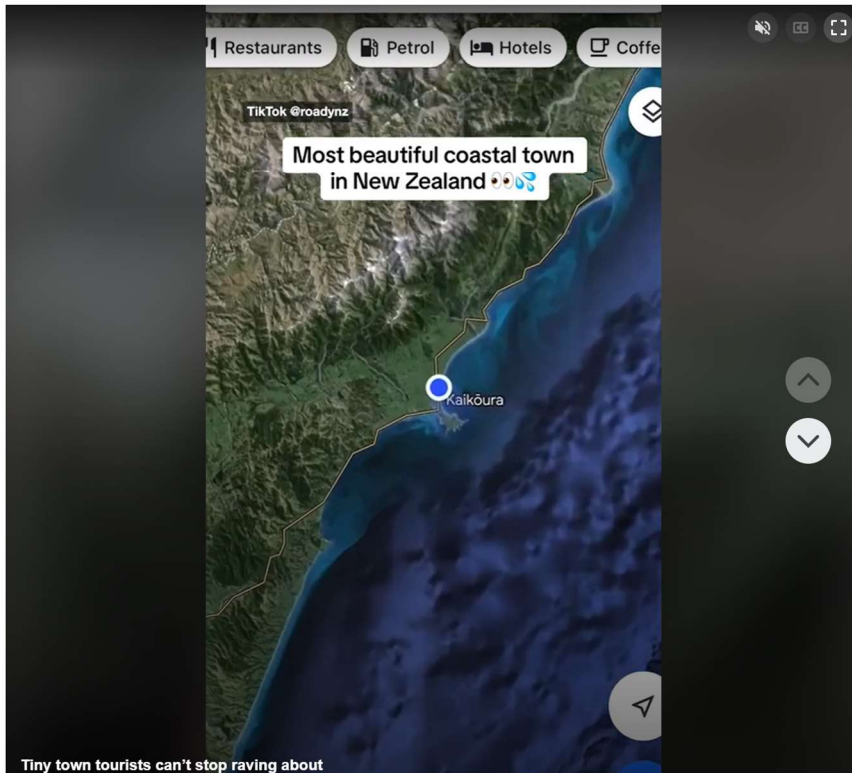
New Zealand: 'Dark' town tourists can't stop raving about

There's a reason tourists are obsessed with this tiny town, describing it as unlike anything they've seen before.



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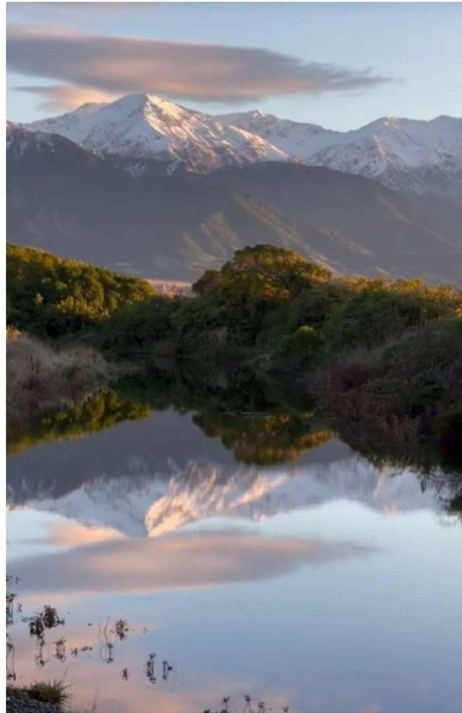
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New Zealand is undoubtedly one of the most picturesque countries in the world, boasting stunning scenery no matter where you are on the north or south islands.

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But outside the usual suspects and popular tourists hotspots is a "dark" town travellers are learning more about — and can't get enough of.

TikTok is awash with clips of Kaikōura, a coastal town on the South Island, a 2.5 hour drive from Christchurch known for its spectacular marine life. It's also a great place to eat crayfish with plenty of clips showing tourists tucking into seafood.



Kaikōura is a coastal town on the South Island of New Zealand, a 2.5 hour drive from Christchurch. Picture: TikTok/roadynz

“Out of everywhere I've been in New Zealand so far, I think this is my favourite,” one traveller captioned a TikTok video.

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Another described it as the “most surprising” location on their NZ trip.

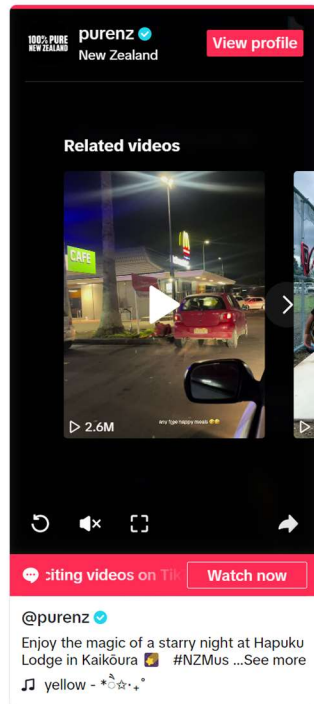
“This quaint ocean town was the very last stop on our journey through the South Island, and it was enchanting. The wildlife was amazing, the ocean had a wild mountain backdrop, and the entire place felt ethereal at golden hour. Counting the days until I get the chance to come back.”



DarkSky International has officially designated Kaikōura as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary.

In the Māori language ‘kai’ means food, ‘kōura’ means crayfish.

The small town also boasts a spectacular night sky that has earned it a prestigious accolade. Its majestic mountains lie within two ranges rising straight from the Pacific Ocean — and if you look up at night, you’ll see a sky filled with stars, celestial wonders and a stunningly clear Milky Way.



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Kaikōura celebrates pristine dark skies that have a sky quality measuring on average 21.58 magnitude per square arcsecond (mag/arcsec²) – and for this, last week it was officially designated as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary making it the 22nd location globally to earn this recognition.

Link: <https://www.news.com.au/travel/travel-updates/travel-stories/new-zealand-dark-town-tourists-cant-stop-raving-about/news-story/5a6b146197f586f914377563c72987e5>