New Zealand

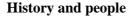
Basic facts

New Zealand is located in the south-western Pacific Ocean and features two main

islands, the North Island and the South Island, as well as other smaller ones. Other smaller islands include Stewart Island,

Waiheke Island, Chatham Island, Great Barrier Island and more, although many are uninhabited. The capital city of New Zealand is Wellington while the largest city is Auckland. Other major cities include Christchurch, Hamilton and Dunedin. New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy, although its constitution is not codified. Elizabeth II is the Queen of New Zealand and the head of state The official spoken languages of New Zealand are English and te reo Maori, with English being the most widely used. Maori are the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand. The Maori name for New

Zealand is Aotearoa. New Zealand is one of only three countries that have two official (and of equal standing) national Anthems. The first is God Save the Queen (the English National Anthem) and the other is God Defend New Zealand. The other two countries with two anthems are Denmark and Canada which both have a Royal Anthem and a State anthem. Located in the South Island, the highest mountain in New Zealand is Aoraki Mount Cook which reaches 3,754 metres in height.



The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between the British and Maori, making New Zealand a colony of the British Empire. In 1893 New Zealand became the first country in the world to give all women the right to vote. First settlers were the Maori, followed by large numbers of immigrants from the United

Kingdom, people from neighbouring Pacific Islands including Samoa and Tonga, Chinese and Korean migrants, and new residents from a wide range of countries such as the US, South Africa, Zimbabwe and India. In 1947 the country adopted the Statute of Westminster, confirming that the British parliament could no longer legislate for New Zealand without the consent of New Zealand.

Weather

It could be sunny and warm on the East Coast, while pouring with rain on the West Coast. Maximum temperature during summer ranges between 20-30°C. In winter, the average maximum temperature ranges between 10-15°C. The northern half of the North Island is the warmest part of the country throughout the year, which is perfect for outdoor activities

Wildlife

- Unlike Australia, New Zealand does not have any dangerous or poisonous animals (with the one tiny exception of the Katipo Spider).
- There are 9 sheep per each person in New Zealand, making it the highest ratio in the world.
 - The most famous animals are: kiwi, kakapo, weka, tuataras, skinks,
- The kiwi fruit is not native from New Zealand. It's actually from China, but it was named after the kiwi bird.
- Bats are the only native land mammals in the country. The rest were introduced by Maoris and Europeans
- The Kiwi, which is a little flightless bird native to New Zealand, lays eggs that are about 20% of the mother's body. Kiwi eggs are six times as big as normal for a bird of its size.









- The kea, a bird native to New Zealand, is known for pulling windscreen wipers off cars and eating the strips of rubber from windows. In fact, many tourists suffer damages on their car rentals thanks to this little bird.
- More penguin species are found in New Zealand than in any other country
 - New Zealand is

home to the giant weta, the heaviest insect in the world. It is heavier than a sparrow and looks like a giant cockroach.



Sports

Most of the major sporting codes played in New Zealand have British origins. Golf, netball, tennis and cricket have the highest rates of adult participation, while netball, rugby union and football (soccer) is popular among young people. New Zealand has competitive international teams in rugby union, netball, cricket, rugby league, and softball and has traditionally done well in triathlons, rowing, yachting and cycling.

New Zealand cuisine

Present day Māori cuisine is a mixture of Māori tradition, old-fashioned English cookery, and contemporary dishes.

• Succulent and tender, roast lamb is a Kiwi favourite. New Zealand lamb is held in high esteem throughout the



- world and is one of the country's top export meats. Best enjoyed flavoured with rosemary and plenty of seasonal veggies, roast lamb is a meal that is sure to impress.
- The hangi was the most widely used method of cooking by Maori for more than 2000 years. Now saved mainly for special occasions, foods cooked in a hangi include chicken, pork and mutton, as well as various vegetables.
- For those with a sweet tooth, the indigenous chocolate fish has been a long-time favourite. The
- chocolate-coated marshmallow fish comes individually wrapped.
- The Pineapple Lump is another favourite New Zealand treat. A square pineapple candy coated in chocolate, the Pineapple Lump has been on sale since 1935.

