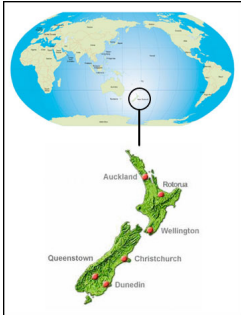


# New Zealand

## Where is New Zealand?



New Zealand is located in the South Pacific and lies southeast of Australia.

Approximate flight times are:

- Sydney to Auckland - 3½ hours
- Sydney to Christchurch - 3½ hours
- Los Angeles to Auckland - 13 hours
- Bangkok to Auckland - 12 hours
- Frankfurt to Auckland - 21 hours plus stop over
- London to Auckland - 23 hours plus stop over
- Auckland to Christchurch - 1½ hours

## Entry requirements

People from the US, Canada, Britain, Germany and most Western countries will be issued a 90 day visitor's permit upon arrival in New Zealand. Provided your passport is up to date, you will not need anything else to get into the country. Hunters will require a [visitor's licence & import permit](#) for their firearms.

Please note that hunting with pistols is prohibited.

New Zealand is one of the safest countries in the world and therefore no vaccinations are required.

Boots and camping gear must be cleaned and declared to Customs to avoid any problems. It is also illegal to bring any fresh food or produce into New Zealand. If you have any perishable goods, please declare these to avoid a large fine.

Comprehensive advice for travellers is available on the [New Zealand Customs Service Web](#)

[site](#)

### Physical New Zealand

New Zealand has an area of 270,534 sq km (104,454 sq mi), stretching from the sub-tropical north 1,600 km (1,000 mi) to the cooler south. Our country comprises the North and South Islands plus numerous outer islands, including Stewart and Chatham Islands.

With a very long coastline, 14 national parks and many conservation areas, New Zealand has a high percentage of open space for the enjoyment of outdoor enthusiasts. From the highest snow-covered peaks (Mt Cook / Aoraki 3,754 metres), volcanic mountains down through open tussock lands, lush rain forests, sparkling lakes and wild rivers to either golden sand beaches or wild coastlines, New Zealand has it all.

### Cultural New Zealand

While New Zealand /Aotearoa (described by our indigenous Maori as: the land of the long white cloud) is increasingly a multi-cultural society, it is officially considered bi-cultural with its Maori people and its people of European ancestry. This rich social fabric makes New Zealand very special. English and Maori are the official languages.

The North Island is the more heavily populated of the two main islands. Auckland (the City of Sails) is known as the gate way city and is the largest city, while Wellington, the cultural hub, is New Zealand's capital.

The South Island is dominated by its mountainous backbone with its own gate way city, Christchurch, centrally located.



New Zealand Flag

Population 4,315,800 (2009)

### Transport

There is an excellent network of roads and we drive on the left. All main roads are tar-sealed. Access roads to many wilderness areas are metaled and suitable for most rental vehicles. International road signs are used with all points of interest signposted. An International Driving

Permit or your current driver’s license from your home country (English translation) is required and must be carried with you while driving.

Check out the New Zealand Land Transport Authority [www.ltsa.govt.nz](http://www.ltsa.govt.nz) for details on the New Zealand Road Code, cycle safety and other general motoring information.

Rail is available on selected main trunk lines.

Air travel is widely available, including smaller airlines and charter flights.  
Ferries connect the main islands.

**Driving Distances**

The following chart gives you an approximate indication of distances between main centres:

<b>North Island</b>	
<b>South Island</b>	
Distance	Driving
Distance	Driving
miles/km	
hours	
miles/km	
hours	
<b>Auckland to:</b>	
<b>Christchurch to:</b>	
Napier	
262/422	
6:35	
Milford Sound	
480/772	
10:40	
Paihia	
149/240	
4:15	
Mount Cook	
206/331	
4:55	
Rotorua	

145/233	
3:35	
Nelson	
263/423	
6:15	
Waitomo	
124/200	3:10
Picton	
209/336	
5:00	
Wellington	
409/658	
9:15	
Queenstown	
302/486	
7:15	
Napier to:	
Nelson to:	
Auckland	
262/422	
6:35	
Christchurch	263/423
6:15	
Paihia	411/661
9:50	
Milford Sound	712/1146
18:35	
Rotorua	139/224
3:50	
Mount Cook	469/775
10:30	
Waitomo	
190/306	
5:05	
Picton	68/109
2:10	
Wellington	
201/323	

4:50	
Queenstown	431/693
12:45	

**Rotorua to:****Mount Cook to:**

Auckland	145/233
3:35	
Christchurch	206/331
4:55	

Napier	
139/224	
3:50	
Milford Sound	342/550
8:55	

Paihia	295/475
7:50	
Nelson	469/755
10:30	

Waitomo	103/166
2:45	
Picton	414/666
9:45	

Wellington	
286/460	
6:30	
Queenstown	163/262
3:50	

**Waitomo to:****Picton to:**

Auckland	124/200
3:10	
Christchurch	209/336
5:00	

Napier	
190/306	
5:05	
Milford Sound	689/1109
18:25	

Paihia	273/439
7:25	
Mount Cook	414/666
9:45	

Rotorua	103/166
2:45	
Nelson	68/109
2:10	

Wellington	
294/473	
7:10	
Queenstown	511/822
13:20	

**Wellington:**

**Queenstown to:**

Auckland	409/658
9:15	
Christchurch	
302/486	
7:15	

Napier	
201/323	
4:50	
Milford Sound	181/291
5:05	

Paihia	558/898
13:30	
Mount Cook	163/262
3:50	

Rotorua	286/460
6:30	
Nelson	431/693
12:45	

Waitomo	294/473
7:10	
Picton	511/822
13:20	

## **Measurements and quantities**

We use the metric system; the same as Australia and Europe.

## **Banking**

All but the smallest towns are well served with ATMs and banks. Most retailers will accept eftpos or credit cards. Carrying some well-concealed cash would also be useful. You will be able to exchange your own currency into New Zealand dollars (NZ\$) on arrival.

Tipping is not routinely required in New Zealand but, for very good service, is appreciated.

## **Food/water**

There is a great selection of fresh food available with fantastic cafés in most towns and many isolated locations. The cities have some of the best restaurants and chefs in the world utilising New Zealand's best ingredients and wines. Supermarkets have everything you want if you wish to create your own banquet or snack. All tap water is safe to drink throughout New Zealand, as is water from most wilderness streams and rivers.

## **Electricity**

New Zealand voltage is 240 AC. We use a three prong plug that is the same as Australia, but different from North America and Europe. Adapters are available at travel and outdoor stores.

## **Telephones/Internet**

There is an excellent land line service throughout the country, with cell phone coverage very good in built up areas, but generally non-existent in the remoter regions. Internet facilities are available in most towns and tourist locations. To fully appreciate and to maximise your wilderness experience, we recommend leaving the outside world behind you until re-emerging.

## **Environmental Care Code**

As New Zealanders, we are very proud and very protective of our beautiful environment. It is

important to dispose of rubbish and human waste in the environmentally correct way. Please refer to the [Environmental Care Code](#) .

### **Dangers**

New Zealand is fortunate to have no snakes or other fatally dangerous species in the wilderness. The most annoying problems are sandflies, a very small insect that bites you and leaves a smaller, itchy lump than a mosquito. Please bring a strong insect repellent for these and for mosquitoes, which frequent some regions.