

## NEW ZEALAND



# Welcome to New Zealand

"I found my time working with kids in such a beautiful setting fantastically rewarding. I also made great friends and gained some very useful life-skills along the way."

New Zealand comprises of two large islands; the North Island and the South Island, separated by the Cook Strait, together with numerous smaller islands. These outlying islands are so scattered that they range from the tropical to the Antarctic. The Mori name for the country, Aotearoa, translates as "The land of the Long White Cloud".

Renowned for its dramatic landscapes and striking scenery made famous by films including the Lord of the Rings trilogy, New Zealand boasts geological phenomena including coastal fiords, glaciers, active volcanoes and boiling mud. This together with its unique flora and fauna make it a haven for adventure-seekers and conservationists alike.

## Know your History

Polynesian migrations around 700 years ago resulted in a the first settlement of the country, making it one of the last places in the world to become occupied by humans. These settlers developed the unique Mori culture over the next few hundred years, which consisted of sub-tribes that co-operated with each other and sometimes fought.

The first Europeans reached the country in 1642, resulting in bloody battle with the Moris. No Europeans returned until the late 1700s when James Cook and his crew mapped out most of the coastline. From this point on, whalers, traders and missionaries established settlements and a series of conflicts with the Mori people commenced.

By the late 19th century, New Zealand was essentially a self-governing country, and in 1893 became the first country in the world to grant women the right to vote. It wasn't until 1947 that New Zealand became a fully independent nation, and this political change led to further economic development. Today, New Zealand has a democratic parliament.

## Money Talks

New Zealand's economy – primarily a market economy – is hugely dependent on international trade, particularly with Australia, the EU, the US, China, and Japan. The country is strongly focused on tourism and agriculture – both of which are highly profitable – although its small manufacturing and high-tech sectors are growing. In 2005, the World Bank announced that New Zealand was the most business-friendly country in the world, above Singapore. The currency is the New Zealand, or Kiwi, dollar (NZD) which is one of the 12 most-traded currencies in the world, and is also used on the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, and the Pitcairn Islands.

New Zealand's agricultural products include; wheat, barley, potatoes, pulses, fruits, vegetables, wool, beef, dairy products, and fish, much of which is exported alongside machinery, wood, and wood products. It is perhaps most famous for its sheep, but there are also large markets for venison, fruit, and vegetables, that are growing increasingly popular worldwide.

## Get Culture Savvy

Although the Mori have adapted to 21st century living, their culture and heritage contributes much to New Zealand as a whole. The traditional greeting is the powhiri, which involves pressing noses rather than a kiss. The Haka, a Mori tradition, has been immortalised by the international rugby team the All Blacks, who perform the dance before every game. Other arts-based traditions still widely practised include weaving and carving. Another prominent feature of the culture is the tattoos that adorn the faces of the people. The moko, a full-face tattoo, is increasingly worn by both men and women, in an effort to preserve their unique culture. In terms of culinary traditions, a hangi is a feast of meat and potatoes cooked for around three hours in the earth, and is still popular today.

## Learn the Lingo

Initially the predominant language in New Zealand, Te Reo Mori, often shortened to Te Reo, literally meaning "the language", suffered serious decline following European settlement. However following a series of recovery programmes, the language is now enjoying resurgence. Being able to greet people appropriately is considered important in Mori culture, so here are a few key words and phrases to get you started!

The following provides a rough guide to pronouncing vowels in Mori:

**a** as in far

**e** as in desk (short and sharp)

**i** as in me

**o** as in awe (not "oh!")

**u** as in put

There are fewer consonants in the Mori alphabet, and only a few are different from English:

**r** should not be rolled. It is pronounced quite close to the sound of "l" in English

**t** is pronounced more like "d" than "t"

**wh** counts as a consonant; the standard modern pronunciation is close to the "f" sound

**ng** counts as one consonant and is pronounced like the "ng" in the word "singer", rather than the "ng" in "finger"

The macron – a little line above some vowels (as in Mori) – indicates vowel length. The presence of a macron can change the entire meaning of a word, for example an means "here is" or "behold", but ana, with no macron, means a cave.

ENGLISH	Te Reo Mori	ENGLISH	Te Reo Mori
<b>Greeting</b>		<b>Numbers</b>	
Hi! (general informal greeting)	Kia ora	1	tahi
Welcome! / Come!	Haere / Nau mai	2	rua
Goodbye	Hei kon r	3	toru
Good morning!	Mrena	4	wha

How are you?	Kei te phea koe?	5	rima
My name is...	Ko...toku ingoa	6	ono
Yes	e	7	whitu
No	Ko	8	waru
9	iwa		
10	tekau		
11	tekau ma tahi		
12	tekau ma rua...etc		
20	rua tekau		
30	toru tekau...etc		
100	rau		
1000	mano		

## Lay of the Land

New Zealand is notable for its geographic isolation, with Australia, the nearest country, being 2,000 km away. The size of the country is 270,535 km<sup>2</sup>, similar to that of Italy or the UK. South Island is slightly larger than North Island, although it only holds around a quarter of the country's population.

The predominant feature of South Island is a mountain range known as the Southern Alps, running almost all the way down the western side of the island. The highest peak is that of Mount Cook, at 3,753 m. This part of the country is also home to a high proportion of native bush, as well as fiords and the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers. Although North Island is less mountainous, it has active volcanoes and the country's largest lake.

## What's the Weather like?

The climate is generally mild and temperate, though this varies widely across the country. The South Island's west coast can be extremely wet, whereas some inland areas are classed as semi-arid, and the Northland is subtropical.

## Biodiversity

New Zealand has an extraordinary array of flora and fauna, due to its lengthy separation from other land masses (80 million years) and island biogeography. Around 80% of plant life is endemic to the country (in comparison Britain has only one endemic plant species), and the animals and ecosystems are so unique that it has been said that working here is the closest scientists will come to investigating life on another planet. This distinctiveness is largely due to the fact that New Zealand was almost completely mammal-free, and dominated by birds for around 65 million years. This resulted in some unique forms including the world's largest eagle, a nocturnal, flightless parrot called the kakapo, the giant moa, and enormous insects. Marine life is equally exceptional, with rock pools filled with over 100 native species, 60% of which are endemic.

Since the introduction of mammals by human settlers, the country's biodiversity, and subsequently entire ecosystems, have changed dramatically. In spite of being one of the last places on earth to be occupied by humans, it has seen one of the most dramatic records of loss of native biodiversity. The

initial influx of Polynesian settlers brought rats and dogs to the islands around 700 years ago, followed by the introduction of pigs and goats by Europeans in the late 1700s. These introduced species preyed on, competed with, or degraded the habitat of native organisms. Other pressures on biodiversity include hunting and habitat destruction. As a result, numerous species have been driven extinct, and many others are threatened with the same fate.

# Good Books

## Guidebooks

- New Zealand (Lonely Planet Travel Guides). Lonely Planet Publications, 13th Revised Edition, 2006. 9781741045352
- A Rough Guide to New Zealand. Penguin Publications Ltd., 5th Revised Edition, 2006. 9781843536796
- New Zealand: 25 Ultimate Experiences (Rough Guide 25s). Rough Guides Ltd., 2007. 9781843538257
- 1001 Best Things To See And Do in New Zealand. Hodder Moa, 2007. 9781869710675

## Wildlife

- Photographic guide to birds of New Zealand. New Holland Publishers (NZ) Ltd., 2002. 9781877246586
- The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand. Penguin Group (NZ), 2005. 9780143020400

## Fiction/Travel journals

- The Whale Rider. Witi Ihimaera. Robson Books Ltd., New Revised Edition, 2003

## Teaching Guides

- Essential Grammar in Use with Answers: A Self-study Reference and Practice Book for Elementary Students of English 2nd Edition. Raymond Murphy. Cambridge University Press, 2002. 9780521529327
- Essential Grammar in Use with Answers: A Self-study Reference and Practice Book for Intermediate Students of English 3rd Edition. Raymond Murphy. Cambridge University Press, 2004. 9780521532891
- Lessons from Nothing: Activities for Language Teaching with Limited Time and Resources (Cambridge Handbooks for Language Teachers). Bruce Marsland. Cambridge University Press, 1998. 9780521627658
- Games for Children (Resource Books for Teachers). Gordon Lewis & Gunther Benson. Oxford University Press, 1999. 9780194372244
- Techniques and Principles in Language Teaching 2nd Edition. Diane Larsen-Freeman. Oxford University Press, 2000. 9780194355742

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