

## **New Zealand**

*advanced version*

### **Basic Facts**

New Zealand is an island country in Oceania. It has a population of 4.9 million. The capital city is Wellington, but the largest city is Auckland. The currency is New Zealand dollar. The official languages are English, Māori and New Zealand sign language.

### **History**

Because of its remoteness, New Zealand was one of the last lands to be settled by humans. During its long period of isolation, it developed a distinct biodiversity of animal and plant life. New Zealand was first settled by Eastern Polynesians between 1250 and 1300. Their culture is now known as Māori. The first Europeans who reached New Zealand were the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman and his crew in 1642. In 1769 the British explorer James Cook mapped almost the entire coastline. New Zealand was visited by many European and American trading ships. From the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Christian missionaries began to settle New Zealand. In 1840 Māori chiefs and British officials signed the Treaty of Waitangi. In 1893 New Zealand was the first country in the world to grant all women the right to vote. In 1907 New Zealand gained dominion status, so it was no longer a colony of the United Kingdom. In 1947 they adopted the Statute of Westminster. It confirmed that the British Parliament could no longer legislate for New Zealand without its consent.

### **Geography**

New Zealand is located south-east of Australia in the South Pacific. It consists of two large islands (the North Island and the South Island) and around 600 smaller islands. Most people live on the North Island. The North Island is separated from the South Island by the Cook Strait. The North Island is less mountainous than the South Island, but it shows more manifestations of recent volcanic activity. The highest peak is Aoraki / Mount Cook (3,724 m). The longest river is the Waikato (425 km). The largest lake is Lake Taupo. There are active volcanoes, caves, glacial lakes, waterfalls, fjords and beaches in New Zealand.

### **People**

Most people have European ancestors. 14.9% of the people are the Māori, the indigenous people of New Zealand. Over three-quarters of the population live on the North Island, with one-third of the total population living in the Auckland region. 86.5% of the inhabitants live in an urban area. New Zealand's population density of around 18 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> is among the lowest in the world.

### **Government and Politics**

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. It is a part of the British Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth II is the formal head of state. She is represented by the Governor-General. The Parliament is unicameral and it holds legislative power. It consists of the Queen and the House of Representatives. It also included an upper house, but it was abolished in 1950. In 2005 New Zealand became the first country in the world in which all the highest offices were occupied by women.

## **Plants and Animals**

New Zealand was isolated from the rest of the world for a long time, so there are many plants and animals that only live in New Zealand. The most well-known are flightless birds such as the kiwi. The kiwi is the national symbol of New Zealand. The kakapo is another flightless bird. The Tuatara are reptiles which look like lizards. Many bird species, such as the giant moa, became extinct after the arrival of Polynesians and Europeans. They brought invasive species, such as rats, dogs and cats. Massive deforestation occurred after humans arrived. Water pollution is one of the most significant environmental issues.

## **Doplňující otázky**

1. What does the flag of New Zealand look like?

It is blue, red and white. It has the flag of the United Kingdom in the upper left quarter and four red stars on a blue ground. The stars represent the Southern Cross, a constellation. For several decades there has been debate about changing the flag. In 2016 the country voted to keep the existing flag.

2. What is the national anthem of New Zealand?

New Zealand has two national anthems. "God Defend New Zealand" is more commonly used. It has English and Māori lyrics. The other one is "God Save the Queen".

3. What are the biggest cities in New Zealand?

Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton and Tauranga.

4. Are there any native snakes in New Zealand?

No, there aren't. It is also illegal to bring them into the country.

5. What do you know about New Zealand cuisine?

It is similar to the cuisine of Australia. Hāngi is a traditional Māori method of cooking using heated rocks. Pavlova is a cake with fruit and whipped cream. It was named after the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova. Hokey pokey is a flavour of ice cream. It consists of vanilla ice cream and small, solid lumps of honeycomb toffee. Lolly cake, Anzac biscuits and Afghan biscuits are also popular.

6. What do you know about sport in New Zealand?

The national sport is rugby. The country's team (The All Blacks) performs a haka, a traditional Māori dance, before international matches. Golf, netball, tennis and cricket are also popular.

7. What is Waitangi Day?

It is the national day of New Zealand. It is celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> February. It is an occasion for thanksgiving and remembering the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. It framed the political relations between the government and the Māori population.

8. Who was Edmund Hillary?

He was a New Zealand explorer. He and Tenzing Norgay were the first people to climb the Mount Everest.

9. Who was Ernest Rutherford?

He was a New Zealand-born physicist. He is known as the father of nuclear physics. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. He discovered the concept of radioactive half-life, the radioactive element radon, and differentiated alpha and beta radiation.

10. Who is Peter Jackson?

He is a New Zealand film director. He is most widely known for directing The Lord of the Rings film trilogy, King Kong and The Hobbit.

**Důležitá slovíčka**

biodiversity	(bájoudájvr's'ti)	rozmanitost druhů
coastline	(koustlajn)	pobřežní čára
treaty	(trýty)	dohoda, smlouva
consent	(k'nsent)	souhlas
strait	(strejt)	úžina
glacial lake	(glejšl lejk)	ledovcové jezero
indigenous	(indidžin's)	domorodý
population density	(popjulejšn densiti)	hustota zalidnění
unicameral	(junikem'r'l)	jednokomorový
reptile	(reptajl)	plaz
lizard	(liz'd)	ještěrka
species	(spíšíz)	druh
deforestation	(deforestejšn)	odlesňování
pollution	(polůšn)	znečištění
constellation	(konstelejšn)	souhvězdí
whipped cream	(wipd krým)	šlehačka
honeycomb toffee	(hanykoum tofi)	medové karamelky