

Discover

NEW ZEALAND

Wherever you travel in New Zealand, you'll find we have rich tales to share; of our history, our legends and our future.



So much to do...

“New Zealand is not a
small country but a large
village.”

- Peter Jackson



New Zealand is a sovereign island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. The country geographically comprises two main landmasses, the North Island (Te Ika-a-Maui), and the South Island (Te Waipounamu), and around 600 smaller islands. New Zealand is situated some 2,000 kilometres (1,200 mi) east of Australia across the Tasman Sea and roughly 1,000 kilometres (600 mi) south of the Pacific island areas of New Caledonia, Fiji, and Tonga. Because of its remoteness, it was one of the last lands to be settled by humans. During its long period of isolation, New Zealand developed a distinct biodiversity of animal, fungal, and plant life. The country's varied topography and its sharp mountain peaks, such as the Southern Alps, owe much to the tectonic uplift of land

and volcanic eruptions. New Zealand's capital city is Wellington, while its most populous city is Auckland.

Sometime between 1250 and 1300, Polynesians settled in the islands that later were named New Zealand and developed a distinctive Maori culture. In 1642, Dutch explorer Abel Tasman became the first European to sight New Zealand. In 1840, representatives of the United Kingdom and Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi, which declared British sovereignty over the islands. In 1841, New Zealand became a colony within the British Empire and in 1907 it became

a dominion; it gained full statutory independence in 1947 and the British monarch remained the head of state. Today, the majority of New Zealand's population of 4.9 million is of European descent; the indigenous Maori are the largest minority, followed by Asians and Pacific Islanders. Reflecting this, New Zealand's culture is mainly derived from Maori and early British settlers, with recent broadening arising from increased immigration. The official languages are English, Maori, and NZ Sign Language, with English being very dominant.

So little time.

Exploring New Zealand's magnificent landscapes and coastline tops the list for many. Fantastic cycling and walking trails dot the country from north to south or try kayaking, sailing or diving.

If you're after New Zealand's famous adventure activities and extreme sports, there's a myriad to choose from. Bungy jumping a must-do; while rafting, jet boating, sky diving and zip lining offer a similar rush.

