**History of New Zealand**

**1642 Abel Tasman anchors at Golden Bay.**

**1769 - NZ is sighted by Captain James Cook and sets foot shortly after.**

The English navigator Captain James Cook sighted New Zealand on 6 October 1769, and landed at Poverty Bay two days later. He drew detailed and accurate maps of the country, and wrote about the Māori people. His first encounter with Māori was not successful – a fight broke out in which some Māori were killed. However, after this Cook and his men had friendly contact with Māori.

**1840 - Treaty of Waitangi**

The Treaty of Waitangi is an agreement made in 1840 between representatives of the British Crown and more than 500 Māori chiefs. It resulted in the declaration of British sovereignty over New Zealand by Lieutenant Governor William Hobson in May 1840. Most chiefs signed a Māori-language version of the treaty.

As British settlement increased, the British Government decided to negotiate a formal agreement with Māori chiefs to become a British Colony. A treaty was drawn up in English then translated into Māori. The Treaty of Waitangi was signed on February 6, 1840, at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands. Forty-three Northland Chiefs signed the treaty on that day. Over 500 Māori Chiefs signed it as it was taken around the country during the next eight months.

**1845-72: The New Zealand Wars**

The New Zealand Wars were a series of armed conflicts that took place in [New Zealand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand" \o "New Zealand) from 1845 to 1872 between the New Zealand government and the [Māori](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C4%81ori_people" \o "Māori people) people. Until at least the 1980s, European New Zealanders referred to them as the Māori wars; the historian [James Belich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Belich_(historian)" \o "James Belich (historian)) was one of the first to refer to them as the "New Zealand wars", in his 1987 book The New Zealand wars and the Victorian interpretation of racial conflict.

Though the wars were initially localised conflicts triggered by tensions over disputed land purchases, they escalated dramatically from 1860 as the government became convinced it was facing united Māori resistance to further land sales and a refusal to acknowledge Crown sovereignty. The colonial government summoned thousands of British troops to mount major campaigns to overpower the [Kīngitanga (Māori King) movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C4%81ori_King_Movement" \o "Māori King Movement) and also acquire farming and residential land for British settlers. Later campaigns were aimed at quashing the so-called Hauhau movement, an extremist part of the [Pai Mārire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pai_M%C4%81rire" \o "Pai Mārire) religion, which was strongly opposed to the alienation of Māori land and eager to strengthen Māori identity.

**1893 - NZ becomes the first country in the world to allow women to vote**

On 19 September 1893, New Zealand became the first self-governing country to give women the right to vote in parliamentary elections. The Electoral Act was signed into law by then-governor Lord Glasgow and came about after years of [suffrage](https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/womens-suffrage/brief-history" \t "https://theculturetrip.com/pacific/new-zealand/articles/12-moments-that-shaped-new-zealands-history/_blank) movements and petitions. These campaigns were led by Kate Sheppard and inspired by the American-based Women’s Christian Temperance Union.

**1908 Ernest Rutherford wins the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.**

**1914 - 1918 World War I and Gallipoli**

**1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake**

The 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake, also known as the Napier earthquake, occurred in [New Zealand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand" \o "New Zealand) at 10:47 am on 3 February, killing 256, injuring thousands and devastating the [Hawke's Bay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawke's_Bay_(region)" \o "Hawke's Bay (region)) region. It remains New Zealand's deadliest [natural disaster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster" \o "Natural disaster). Centred 15 km north of [Napier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napier,_New_Zealand" \o "Napier, New Zealand), it lasted for two and a half minutes and measured magnitude 7.8 [Ms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seismic_magnitude_scales" \l "Ms" \o "Seismic magnitude scales)(magnitude 7.9 [Mw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seismic_magnitude_scales" \l "Mw" \o "Seismic magnitude scales)).

**1947 - Independence from Britain is formally proclaimed.**

On 26 September 1907 the United Kingdom granted New Zealand (along with Newfoundland, which later became a part of Canada) "Dominion" status within the British Empire. New Zealand became known as the Dominion of New Zealand. The date was declared Dominion Day, but never reached any popularity as a day of independence.

**1953 - Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay conquer Mt Everest.**

**1985 - Sinking of Rainbow Warrior**

The Rainbow Warrior was the flagship of the international environmental organisation Greenpeace. It was visiting Auckland before leading a fleet of vessels to Mururoa Atoll to protest against the French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Just before midnight on 10 July 1985, two explosions rocked the harbour, sinking the 40-metre Rainbow Warrior. Underwater charges had been placed by frogmen on her hull, blowing two holes in the ship. The Rainbow Warrior sank almost immediately resulting in the death of one of the crew members.

**1987 - New Zealand wins first ever Rugby World Cup in 1987**

**2010 - 2011 - Christchurch Earthquakes**

### **Saturday 4 September 2010**

4:35am (NZ time), magnitude 7.1. Centred 40km west of Christchurch. Epicentre near Charing Cross, 10km south-east of Darfield at a depth of 11km.  
Widespread damage occured, but no loss of life. Disruption to water, power and sewerage services.

### **Tuesday 22 February 2011**

12:51pm (NZ time), magnitude 6.3. Centred 10km south-east of Christchurch at a depth of 5km.  
[185 people were killed](http://www.police.govt.nz/list-deceased) and there was major damage to Christchurch land, buildings and infrastructure.

Followed by hundreds of aftershocks.