

Welcome to New Zealand

Guide to New Zealand

New Zealand is known throughout the world for its space, its natural beauty and tranquillity. It is a friendly, multicultural nation of just over 4 million people. Dunedin sits on the east coast of the South Island.

Geography

New Zealand (Aotearoa) is a South Pacific country located midway between the Equator and the South Pole, and approximately 1600 kilometres east of Australia. The country consists of two main islands, the North and South Islands, which are together similar in size to Japan or Britain.

New Zealand's climate is oceanic, without extremes of hot or cold. Most parts of the country enjoy ample sunshine and rainfall, although the weather is changeable.

There are more than 4 million New Zealanders of all races, but predominantly of European and Polynesian origin. 75% of all New Zealanders live in the North Island. English is the common language of business and everyday usage.

Economics

New Zealand has a worldwide reputation for agricultural products. Meat and wool are produced from 53 million sheep, and meat and dairy products from more than 8 million cattle.

Almost half of New Zealand's export earnings are derived from farming. Other major exports are timber and timber products, fish and horticultural produce.

Other growth areas include the application of new technology, particularly information technology, genetics and biochemistry, biomedical science, industrial chemistry and areas of high-tech physics.

Leisure

New Zealand is often considered an adventure playground and mountain biking, surfboarding, bungy jumping, snowboarding, skiing and hiking are popular ways to enjoy the great outdoors.

Common sports include rugby, netball, cricket, squash, sailing and soccer.

New Zealand has a reasonably temperate climate but with prominent mountains can offer skiing and snowboarding in the winter, while in the summer allows for swimming and other outdoor pursuits.

Visit www.newzealand.com to learn more about life in New Zealand