

New Zealand



Fact File

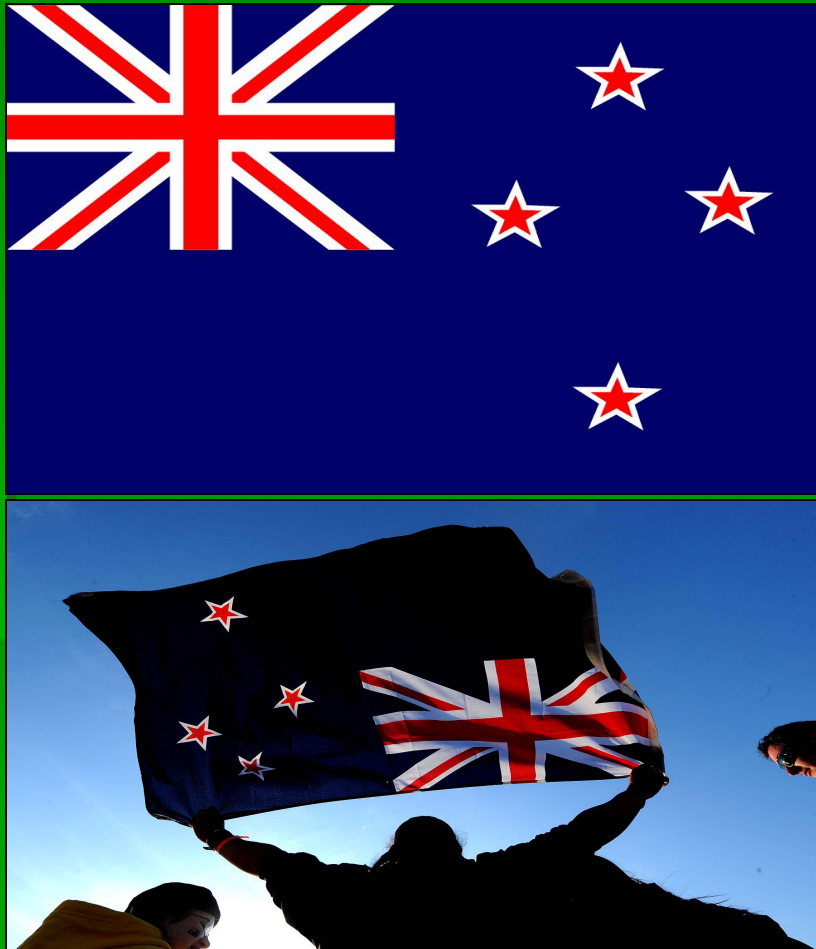
- Official name New Zealand (English); Aotearoa (Maori)
- Capital city Wellington
- Largest cities Auckland, Christchurch, Christchurch, Christchurch, Christchurch, Christchurch, Dunedin
- Total area 268, 680 sq km
- Population 4,116, 000 people
- Main religions Christian, Catholic
- Major ethnic groups Europeans, Maori, Pacific Islanders, Asian
- Consist of North Island, South Island, Stewart Island,
▪ Chatman Islands and minor islands
- Currency New Zealand Dollar (NZ\$)
- Official language English, Maori
- Nationality a New Zealander (the New Zealanders)
- Form of government parliamentary democratic monarchy
- Natural resources land (for farming, dairy farming, cattle breeding), forests
- Flag the New Zealand Flag
- Internet TLD (top-level domain) .nz
- International dialing code + 64

The map of New Zealand



- New Zealand lies between the Equator and the South Pole in the southern Pacific Ocean, near the eastern coast of Australia.
- New Zealand is an island country with a total area of 268, 680 sq km.
- It has no land boundaries. Australia is New Zealander's nearest western neighbour. These two countries are separated from each other by the Tasman Sea.

The symbols of New Zealand



- As for the New Zealand Flag, the stars of the Southern Cross show country's location in the South Pacific Ocean. The Union Flag shows that New Zealand was once a British colony.

The symbols of New Zealand

New Zealand's coat of arms

There are two national anthems of New Zealand and both have equal status. These are *“God defend New Zealand”* and *“God Save the Queen”*. The first one is always used on sports occasions.



The political system of New Zealand

- The Parliament, contrary to the UK, consists of only one chamber – the House of Representatives. There are 120 members. Its members are elected every three years.
- The chief political parties are the Labour Party, the National Party and the New Zealand First Party.

- The head of state is the monarch of New Zealand, which since February 6, 1952 is Queen Elizabeth II. sovereign status defined constitutional principle "reigns but does not rule" and the monarch has no significant political influence, maintaining a ceremonial and symbolic role. Nevertheless, a number of functions legally assigned to the monarch, and can be performed only to them. Among the most important powers - the appointment of the Governor-General and the signing of the decree on the appointment of per se; Ads convocation or dissolution of Parliament

New Zealand is an independent state and a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and the United Nations.

This country is a constitutional monarchy. The British monarch is the Head of State but Governor-General, usually a New Zealander, represents the Queen by carrying out responsibilities.

The government consists of the Governor-General, the Prime Minister who is the leader of the party in power, Cabinet (executive branch) and the Parliament (legislative branch).

The geographical peculiarities

New Zealand is made up of three main islands – the North Sea, the South Sea and the Stewart Island. The South Island is separated from the North island by Cook Strait.



The geographical peculiarities

There are also such smaller offshore islands as the Chatham Islands, Campbell Islands, the Antipode Islands, the Bounty Islands and the Auckland Islands.

Flora and fauna of New Zealand

- Flora in New Zealand is very rich. There are about 2,000 species where 1,500 are endemic (which are only found in this country). It also has some of the oldest trees.
- Fauna in this country is also special. Long time ago, without enemies, some birds lost their ability to fly, and some insects became gigantic.

It's interesting to know...

- *Before Europeans came to New Zealand there were no predatory animals at all. This was so good for many flightless birds. All wild mammals living in New Zealand at present were imported.*

Flora and fauna of New Zealand



Many of New Zealand's native animals are found nowhere else in the world:

- the kiwi – its egg is about one fifth of its own weight
- the kakapo – the world's largest flightless parrot
- the tuatara – the oldest living reptile Tuataras live for 300 years. They can be traced back 190 million years to the Mesozoic era

Flora and fauna of New Zealand

- the biggest earthworms in the world
- the smallest bats in the world – the only native land mammals in New Zealand
- the weta – the heaviest insect in the world (70 gm and 20 cm long)

Climate

- New Zealand is known for its maritime climate which is quite good during the whole year. It is moist, temperate and is affected by latitude and the proximity of the ocean.

Climate of this country has no extremes and no wide range of temperatures. The difference of winter and summer temperatures is about 10 degrees. That is why New Zealand is very attractive for tourists. Seasons here are reverse of the Northern Hemisphere like in Australia.

Because of New Zealand's wet and mild climate many inhabitants of the country are busy with farming and dairy goods production.

There are heavy rainfalls in New Zealand all year round which is very good for cattle –farming, sheep- farming, growing fruit, vegetables and flowers.

The population of the country

An interesting historical fact...

Before Europeans came to the island, the tribes of Maori did not have the name for themselves. They adopted the name “Maori” meaning “normal” to distinguish themselves from Europeans.

The tribes of Maori are well-known all over the world. The Maori are famous for their folk-songs and wood-work. They are often called “Vikings of Sunrise”.

Maori



An interesting historical fact...

- *Wellington's nickname is "the windy city". The first European name of the city was "Port Nicholson" named after a captain of the British navy who in 1839 bought the land from the local Maori tribe in exchange for blankets. In 1840 the first settlers arrived from Britain and called this settlement "Britannia". And "Britannia" later became "Wellington".*

It's interesting to know...

- ...New Zealand is 12 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). So, it is one of the first places in the world to see the new day.
- ...The Maori people call New Zealand Aotearoa, which is usually translated into English as “The Land of the Long White Cloud”.
- ...New Zealand is also called “Godzone”, “Pig Isles”, “Shaky Isles”, “Quaky Isles”, “Maoriland” and “Kiwiland”
- *An interesting historical fact...*
- *The name “New Zealand” came from Dutch cartographers, who called the islands “Nova Zeelandia”, after the Dutch province of Zeeland. British explorer James Cook adapted the name to the English language and the name became New Zealand.*

Some details of culture of New Zealand

- The culture of New Zealand is a mixture of different cultures: British, Aboriginal and other European countries.
- Today New Zealanders are highly educated and sophisticated urban dwellers.
- There is a cultural phenomenon in New Zealand known as “kiwiana”. You know that New Zealanders are called “kiwis” around the world after the native bird “kiwi”. Now their “kiwi” sense of humor, “kiwi” view of life make up “Kiwiana”, which is all the special things and details that show their national identity, their “kiwi nationhood”.
- Kiwifruit, for example, was once known as Chinese gooseberry, but the fact that it was imported from New Zealand made world call this fruit – kiwifruit.

Wellington



Auckland



Christchurch



Dunedin



Milford Sound Lodge



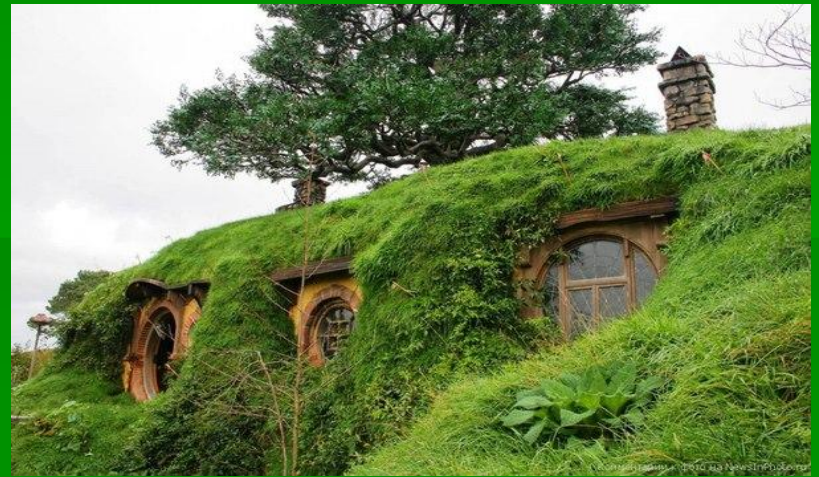
Wai-O-Tapu



Huge sculpture in New Zealand at Gibbs Farm



Hobbiton village



Lupine carpet at Lake Tekapo

