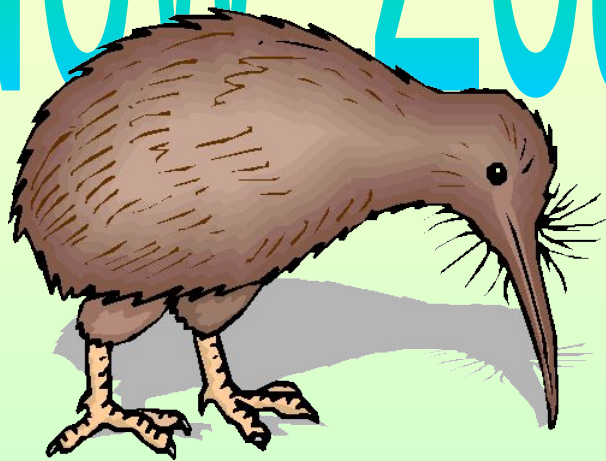


New Zealand





Some facts



- FULL COUNTRY NAME : New Zealand
- CAPITAL: Wellington
- POPULATION: 4,184,521 people
- PEOPLE: 88% Europeans, 12% Maori
- LANGUAGES: English and Maori
- RELIGION: Christian (81%)
- HEAD OF STATE: Queen Elizabeth II
- FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Constitutional monarchy
- LONGEST RIVER: Waikato
- LARGEST LAKE: Taupo
- HIGHEST POINT: Mount Cook
- MAJOR INDUSTRIES: wood and paper products, wool, textile, iron, steel
- CURRENCY: NZ dollar
- NATIONAL SYMBOLS: Kiwi





New Zealand is a country in the south-western Pacific Ocean comprising two large islands – the North Island and the South Island – and numerous smaller islands. New Zealand is separated from Australia. Its closest neighborhood to the north are New Caledonia, Fiji and Tonga.

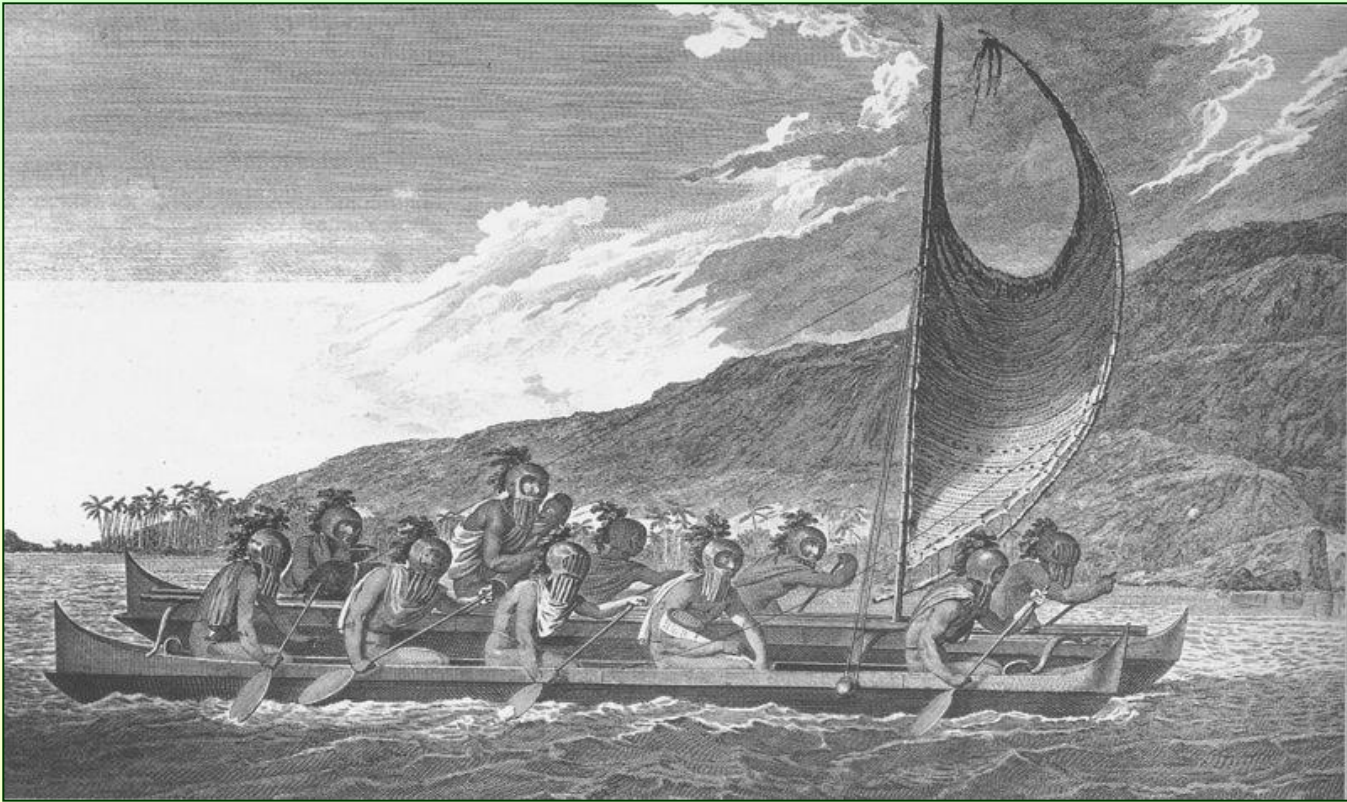


The Flag of New Zealand is a blue ensign with the Union Flag , and four red stars with white borders to the right.

National Emblem

The kiwi bird was named so for the sound of its chirp. This flightless bird has a long beak and plumage more like hair than feathers. It weighs about 2 kg. The dollar coin features a kiwi bird on one side.





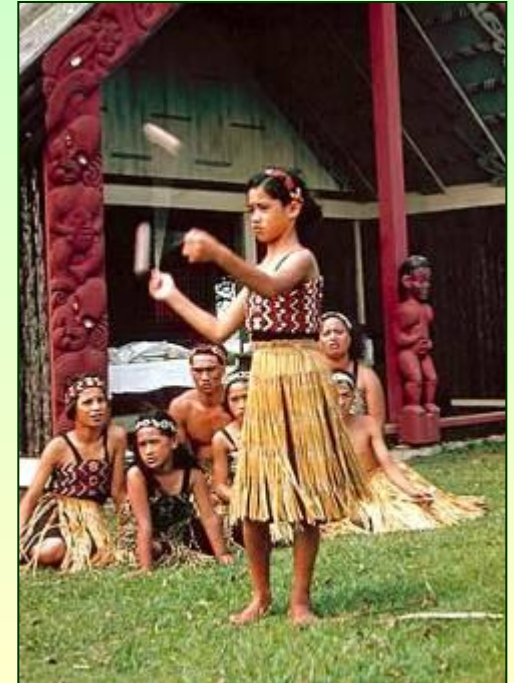
The first settlers of New Zealand were Eastern Polynesians. Over the few centuries these settlers developed into a distinct culture now known as Māori.

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy. Elizabeth II is Queen of New Zealand. New Zealand is the only country in the world in which all the highest offices in the land have been occupied simultaneously by women.



Maori

The Maori are the indigenous people of New Zealand. It is believed that the Maori migrated from Polynesia . The Maoris lived in tribes called 'iwi'. They lived in villages and were fishermen and hunters. The present Maori population has increased and the Maori live in all parts of New Zealand



Maori Art





NORTH ISLAND

The North Island is one of the two main islands of New Zealand. Approximately 76% of New Zealand's population lives in the North Island.



Wellington



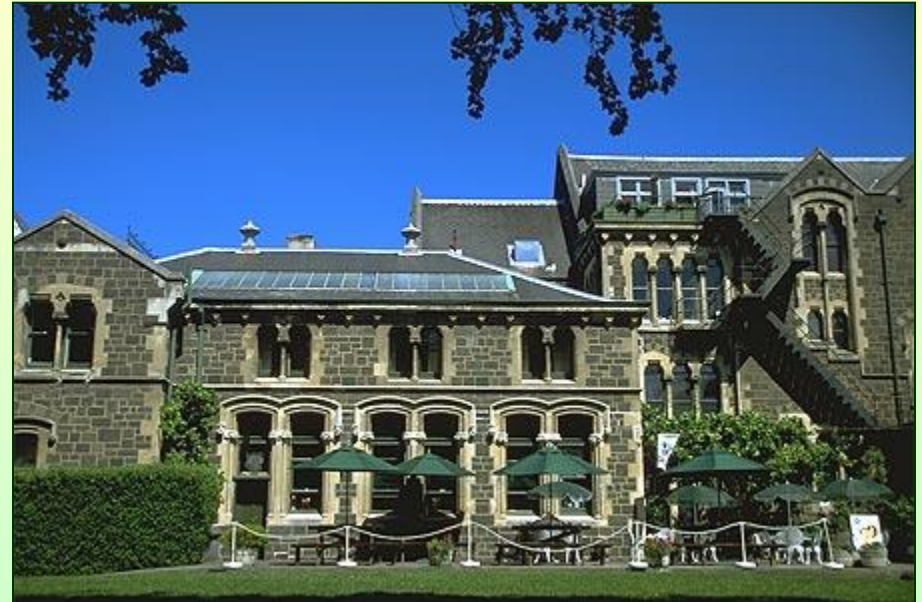
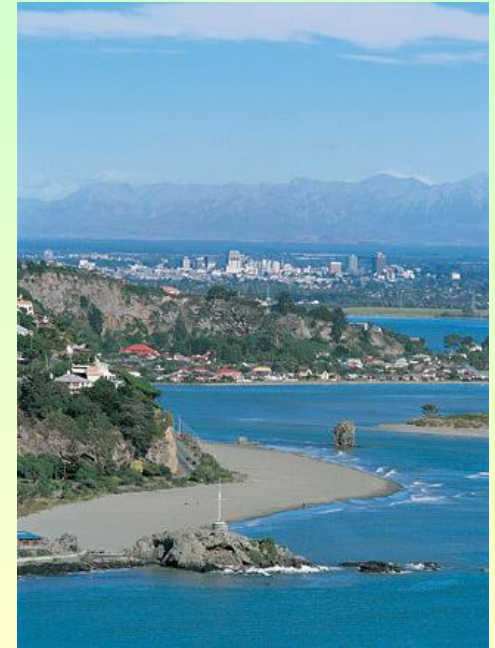
SOUTH ISLAND

The South Island is the larger of the two major islands of New Zealand. Along its west coast runs the mountain chain of the Southern Alps



Christchurch

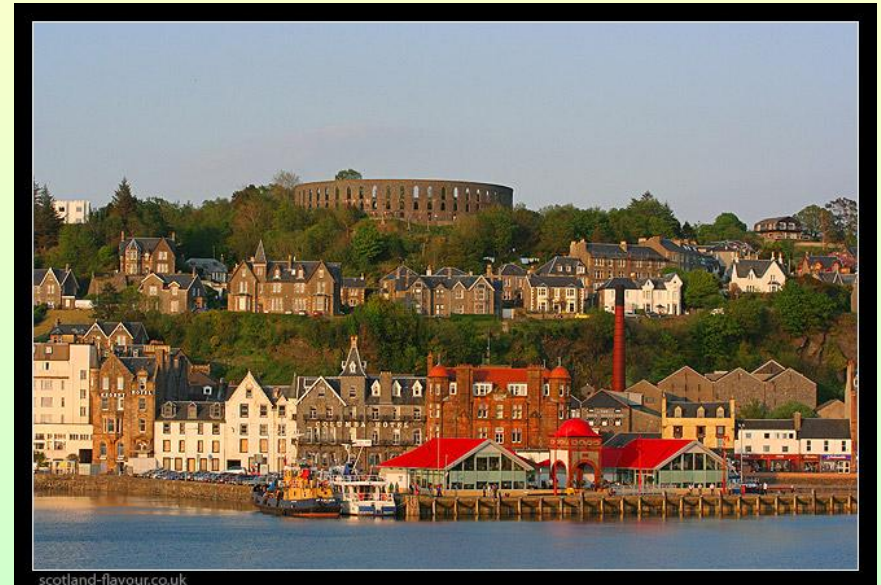
Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island. The city is named after the Christ Church cathedral



STEWART ISLAND

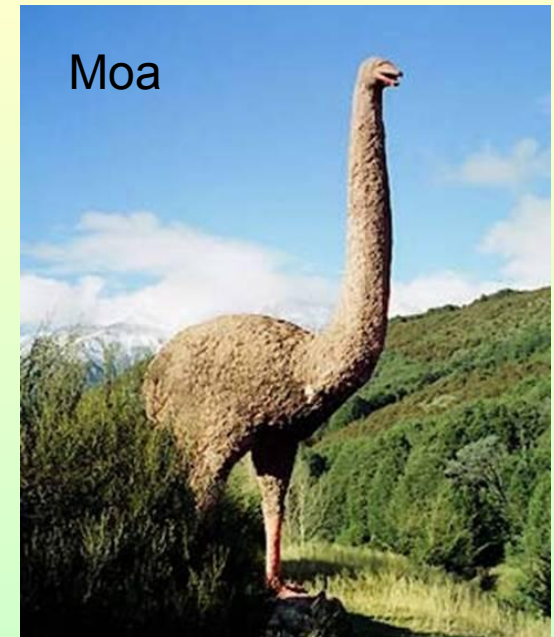


Stewart Island is a very special place. The only town is Oban. It is a heaven for native birds' life. The kiwi is common over much of the island, particularly around beaches. The weather is changeable on the island.



Birds

There are some 70 species of birds found nowhere else in the world. New Zealand is also home to many seabirds including the Albatross, which has the longest wing span of any bird in the world. The most spectacular of all New Zealand birds was the Moa. Some Moa's reached heights of 15 feet, making them the tallest bird in the world.



Animals

Native to New Zealand only two species of bat
. Wild mammals this deer, goats, pigs, rabbits, weasels, ferrets. Marine mammals are dolphins, seals and whales. Other insects this Weta one species of which may grow as large as a house mouse and is the heaviest insect in the world. New Zealand's most unique animal is the Tuatara, which is a lizard-like reptile that predates the Dinosaur and is considered a living fossil.



Tuatara



Katipo

National Parks

Abel Tasman NP



Whanganui NP



Mount Aspiring NP



Paparoa NP



The End

