

READY TO PLAN FOR YOUR TRIP?

Spectacular New Zealand

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

WEATHER & DESTINATION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Time Zone: The mainland of New Zealand is on New Zealand Standard Time which is 17 hours ahead of Central Time.

*During daylight savings time (summertime) from October – March, clocks are advanced one hour.

Weather: Average High/Low

| City | March | Nov. |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Queenstown, NZ | 66°F/45°F | 64°F/45°F |
| Christchurch, NZ | 66°F/48°F | 67°F/49°F |
| Taupo, NZ | 70°F/52°F | 65°F/49°F |
| Auckland, NZ | 72°F/58°F | 67°F/55°F |
| Dunedin, NZ | 62°F/53°F | 58°F/48°F |

Seasons: New Zealand's seasons are the opposite of the Northern Hemisphere's:

Spring: September – November

Summer: December – February

Autumn: March – May

Winter: June – August

Climate: New Zealand's climate is complicated and varies from warm subtropical in the far north to cool temperate climates in the far south. South Island has extensive snowfall during winter and temperatures can dip to a mean daily minimum of 30 degrees.

Language: English is the written and spoken language of New Zealand with an expression or two that can confuse even the English. Do not hesitate to ask questions; people are friendly and approachable.

Currency: The unit of currency in New Zealand is the New Zealand dollar. Currency exchange rates are subject to change on a daily basis. A helpful web site for referencing current rates is www.oanda.com.

Visa: Visitors of all nationalities (except Australian & New Zealand passport holders) must obtain a visa prior to arrival in New Zealand. Instructions on processing an electronic visa will be included with your physical documents.

Electrical Current: The electric current in the country you will be visiting is 220 volts, 50 cycles. Electric outlets and plugs are different from those in North America. An adapter is required to plug your device into an electrical socket. However, a voltage converter is only required if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Check the voltage of any device that you are thinking of bringing. If the tag on your device lists 110-220 volts then you will not need a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department, and electronics stores.

International Driver/Guides: Holiday Vacations has arranged for International Driver/Guides to provide commentary for the regions you will be visiting. Guides will also discuss customs, traditions, language differences, and history. Your Driver/Guides will be able to suggest attractions, restaurants, and shops. The suggested gratuity for the Driver/Guides in New Zealand is \$5 per person, per day. If you feel that your Driver/Guide has met your expectations please tip accordingly. Any tipping is on an individual basis and is given directly to the Driver.

Airline Fees: Most airlines charge fees for checked luggage and some airlines are now charging fees for carry-on bags as well. These fees are your responsibility as the fees are non-standardized and imposed at the discretion of each airline. This cost is payable directly to the airline at the time of check-in. Please note that the airlines may also charge a fee for each piece of luggage that exceeds the weight and size limitations. At this time, neither Air New Zealand nor Qantas charge passengers for one piece of checked luggage.

Carry-on Luggage: In addition to your checked luggage, you may bring one carry-on bag and one personal item, such as a camera bag or purse, per person. These items are your responsibility to handle. For your convenience, the carry-on bag is intended to be used for items you need on a daily basis and can weigh no more than 15 pounds and not exceed 40 inches in total dimensions (19" L x 8" H x 13" W), including any wheels. We recommend using a small day bag, such as a soft-sided

backpack, which would fit into the overhead bins of the motorcoach. Some airlines are now charging fees for carry-on bags.

Comfort on Flights: On long flights, you might want to rub moisturizer on your face and hands or spritz your face with a water-filled atomizer to avoid dry skin and feel refreshed. It's best not to wear contact lenses in flight because cabin air tends to dry them out. Be sure to drink plenty of water or other non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages on the plane to keep your body well hydrated. If you feel pressure in your ears due to the change of altitude, swallow, yawn, chew gum or blow your nose. Eye masks, neck pillows, and earplugs may also help you to get more rest.

Food: Hotel dining rooms and restaurants reflect New Zealand's reputation as a leading producer of meat and dairy produce. New Zealand lamb is probably the best known, but you will find excellent beef and pork dishes on most menus – and one thing you can be certain of are the generous portions. Locally produced vegetables are plentiful and good – try kumara, a native sweet potato. The kiwifruit is probably the best-known of New Zealand's range of fruit. Its brilliant green slices enhance the appearance of many a dessert. We recommend Pavlova, the country's traditional dessert, a special type of fluffy meringue.

New Zealand features a wide range of seafood – snapper, grouper, and John Dory are just a few of the delicious varieties. Seasonal delicacies such as whitebait, oysters, crayfish, and scallops are to be recommended. In addition to restaurants offering New Zealand specialties, a wide variety of ethnic restaurants, catering to tastes ranging from Eastern to European, can be found in all the main centers. Visitors will find no shortage of tearooms or "take away" restaurants for quick meals in between destinations.

Bringing Food into New Zealand: Border control has strict rules on what you can bring into New Zealand. The majority of restricted or prohibited items are those which pose a biosecurity risk to the country's fragile and unique environments. For this reason, it's best to be mindful about what you pack in your luggage and know what you need to declare when you arrive. To be on the safe side declare any food you have in your checked luggage or carry-on. Failure to declare a risk item or falsely declaring an item will likely incur an instant fine. Foods you may not bring include, but are not limited to, fruits and vegetables, raw nuts, and seeds, fresh meat or fish, honey, or bee products, eggs, and dairy products.

Tipping at Restaurants: Employed persons in New Zealand do not depend upon tips or gratuities for their income. Service charges are not added to hotel or restaurant bills.

Optional Activities: While on your tour, you will have some leisure time and an opportunity to enjoy optional activities. Your Tour Director can assist you with optional activities or answer any questions. Some of these optional activities include:

- Scenic Flights
- Jetboating
- Tandem Skydiving
- Bungy Jumping
- Fishing

Postal Services: Post Offices are open between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday to Friday. Any item that is mailed outside of the United States must include local postage.

Religious Services: Churches of all major denominations are located in most populated areas, while those of minor sects are usually found only in the principal cities. Daily newspapers carry the times and locations of all types of services and your hotel will be happy to provide similar information on request. We stress that in order to attend church services, it may be necessary to miss out on scheduled tour activities due to the difficulty in scheduling a tour around services.

Water: All tap water is safe to drink. The hot and cold water faucets may be the opposite of North America and hot water can be extremely hot.

Souvenirs: Your Tour Director can suggest places to find souvenirs. The following is a list of items travelers often like to bring back:

- New Zealand greenstone (jade)
- New Zealand paua shell used in making jewelry
- Destination DVD's – The world operates with two major video systems, NTSC and PAL. NTSC is the official analog video standard in the U.S. Purchase NTSC or Open Zone DVD versions. Be sure to ask when in doubt.

Stores and shops are usually open 8:30 am – 5:30 pm Monday to Friday. In some areas, particularly the suburbs, late-night shopping occurs on Thursday or Friday. Shops are also open Saturday morning in most areas and some districts in capital cities have trading until 5:00 pm on Saturday. Many shops, with the exception of small neighborhood groceries and dairies (milk bars), are closed Sunday.

Clothing Sizes: Visit this site for more information on how New Zealand sizes compare with the sizes used in the United States: <https://www.finder.com/nz/dress-size-conversion-chart>.

Travel With an Open Mind: In a small way, each of us who travels abroad can be a goodwill ambassador. Tolerance and

friendliness toward others, including fellow tour members, will always be appreciated. Your customs may seem as peculiar to your “hosts” as theirs seem to you.