

## New Zealand

### Where is New Zealand?

New Zealand is a non-stop 12 hour overnight flight from Los Angeles or San Francisco arriving at sunrise in Auckland city. Non-stop flights are also available from Honolulu and Vancouver.

### New Zealand Quick facts:

- Similar in size to Britain, Japan or the state of Colorado
- Two main islands - separated by the Cook Strait.
- Language spoken is English
- Maori are the indigenous people of New Zealand
- 9 days is a good starting point for a vacation in New Zealand.

### On Arrival in New Zealand

Visitors from North America do not need a visa if they are staying in New Zealand for less than 90 days.

### Climate

The north of New Zealand is subtropical and the south temperate. The warmest months are December, January and February, and the coldest June, July and August.

### Getting Around

- New Zealanders drive on the left hand side of the road
- A current driver's license or an International Drivers Permit is required. If the license is **not** in English then you must carry a certified translation
- Trains operate in some cities and there are a range of train journeys.
- There are Ferry crossings several times daily between the North Island port of Wellington and the South Island port of Picton.
- As your clients travel around New Zealand remind them to look out for the i-SITE visitor information centers. Here they will find friendly staff with extensive local knowledge.

### Shopping & Dining

- Key Purchases: Traditional Maori carvings, sheepskin products, merino clothing, honey, wine and cheese.
- Delicacies include lamb, venison, beef, seafood, cheese, honey and kiwifruit.
- Tipping is not customary
- Banks are **closed** on weekends, but ATMs are always open.

### Money

- The official currency is the New Zealand Dollar
- All international credit cards are accepted

**100% PURE NEW ZEALAND**

## **THE NORTH ISLAND**

A land rich in culture, rolling green hills and countryside, beautiful white sandy beaches, stunning coastline with a great array of marine wildlife and incredible geothermal activity.

### **Auckland**

As our **major international gateway**, all visitors flying from North America will enter New Zealand here.

Imagine an urban environment where everyone lives within half an hour of beautiful beaches, hiking trails and a dozen holiday islands. Add a sunny climate, a background rhythm of Polynesian culture and a passion for outstanding food, wine and shopping - you're beginning to get the picture of Auckland.

Whether sailing on the harbour on an America's cup yacht or hanging precariously off the city's Sky Tower (attached to a very secure harness of course!), Auckland is a great place to spend a night or two enjoying the first taste of New Zealand and adjusting to the new time zone. The choice of activities is endless, visit Kelly Tarlton's Antarctic Encounter, The Auckland Museum, climb the Auckland Harbour Bridge (bungy off it if you dare). Take a day trips to Waiheke Island (just 40 mins by ferry from the city) and explore some of the best vineyards and restaurants along with the vibrant art culture of the island.

### **Northland**

Known as the birthplace of a Nation and is rich in New Zealand history. You can see where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed, sail the waters, meet some dolphins, and visit the oldest Kauri trees in New Zealand – some over 4,000 years old.

Northland is also home to the Bay of Islands – which consists of 147 islands and can be reached in approximately 3 ½ hours by car from AKL or a short 30 minute flight on Air New Zealand

The Northland region is also a fantastic pre or post touring option for cruise passengers to New Zealand.

### **Rotorua**

With its unique volcanic landscape, living Maori culture, natural hot springs and plenty of options for adventure, Rotorua is one of New Zealand's most famous destinations.

Rotorua truly is the heart and soul of New Zealand in terms of our indigenous culture and is a must stop destination on anybody's visit to New Zealand.

### **Wellington and the Wairarapa**

The word 'indulgence' quickly comes to mind when you consider the attractions of the Lower North Island. Here your client's explorations will allow them to indulge their passion for all things gourmet, as well as satisfy their hunger for creativity and knowledge. Fine food, wine, galleries and museums will compete for their attention and that is all just in Wellington! A must do for any visitor to Wellington is to visit Te Papa, our National museum. It is free to enter, but booking your clients onto a private tour is highly recommended.

Close to Wellington, the Wairarapa is a beautiful region of New Zealand. **Wairarapa**, meaning "land of glistening waters", is home to about 30 wineries.

Most of the vineyards are a mere stone's throw from each other so your clients can literally walk around the vines.

**100% PURE NEW ZEALAND**

## **THE SOUTH ISLAND**

In contrast to the North Island, the South is dominated by spectacular mountains, deep fiords, the Canterbury plains, rugged coastline and even white sandy beaches and calm coastline for kayaking.

### **Nelson and Marlborough**

Here stimulation and relaxation coexist to provide a perfectly balanced holiday.

Around Nelson and Marlborough, the pleasures of country life and the freedom of protected wilderness sit comfortably alongside a culture that produces great wine, wonderful food and amazing art. Whether your clients are experiencing the Omaka aviation centre at Blenheim, kayaking or hiking the Queen Charlotte Track, meeting the local artists in Nelson or relaxing in the beautiful Abel Tasman National park, one thing you can be sure of, is the gorgeous scenery and relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the people who live here. Of course there is always freshly caught New Zealand green lip mussels paired with a world renowned Sauvignon Blanc to keep you satisfied.

### **Christchurch**

Christchurch greets its visitors with a wonderful English style city, the largest for the South Island. Punting on the Avon, taking a tram around the city sights or strolling around the botanical gardens will have you craving for a bit of Kiwiana and a good old meat pie – a New Zealand specialty.

As Christchurch is the gateway to the South Island with multiple connections to all parts of New Zealand and Australia, it's a great starting point for a South Island itinerary. Take a hot air balloon ride and view the vast Canterbury plains with views of the mountains and the sea. Travel North to Hanmer Springs and soak in the thermal baths or stop in Kaikoura to see the wonders of the Sperm Whales which make their home here all year round.

### **Queenstown and the Southern Lakes**

Discover sky-scraping mountain peaks, glacier-cut valleys and fiords, fast flowing braided rivers and ancient forests in this geological work of art

Challenge yourself to pursue new adventures or sit back and let the powerful landscapes restore your soul.

### **Queenstown**

Filled with action packed adventure like Bungy jumping and jet boating, Queenstown also has some fantastic lord of the rings scenic tours by 4WD, gentle cruising on Lake Wakatipu and a large array of restaurants to choose from. As the gateway to the majestic Fiordland's, Queenstown is a must stop destination for any visitor to New Zealand.

With world class hiking tracks such as the Milford, Routeburn and the Kepler track, Fiordland is an awesome destination. A "not to be missed" activity when in this region is a trip to Milford or Doubtful Sound. Milford Sound is an easy day trip from Queenstown.

### **Dunedin**

Known as the "Edinburgh" of the South and is filled with Scottish influence.

With easy access to the Otago Peninsula, Dunedin is the gateway to some amazing up close and personal wildlife encounters with the Penguins and the Albatross not to mention seals galore.

Southland and Stewart Island, our most southerly island is filled with wildlife, remote beaches and hiking trails. This is a great option for those trying to get off the beaten track whilst still being within a couple of hour's drive of a bustling New Zealand town with accommodation options and great restaurants. Bluff oysters are famous in this region and in season, people from all over New Zealand scramble to buy them up.

**100% PURE NEW ZEALAND**