

Bucket List Walk



Walking holiday of a lifetime!

tour highlights

Join a small group & expert NZ walking guide
12 days / 11 nights NZ Walking Tour (11 days walking, 1 rest day)
4-7 hours walking each day over varied terrain on formed trails
Carry a daypack only
100 - 120km (62 - 74 miles)
Depart Rotorua or Matamata

tours run

Tours run: November - April

tour cost

2019 / 2020

Starting in Rotorua: NZD\$4950
Per child (15 years and under) NZD\$3000

options & supplements

Single Supplement for Rotorua Hotel only
If you are travelling alone you will need to select one of these single supplement options. This one for the Rotorua Hotel only will mean you will have your own private room for the 2 nights at the 4.5 star Rotorua Hotel, on Days 4 and 8 of the trip. On the other nights at the walk lodges you may be required to share with another person of the same gender. **NZD\$200.00**

Single Supplement for Entire Trip
The standard trip price is for twin/double rooms. If you want to have a single room to yourself for the entire 11 nights then please select this single supplement. Alternatively you can select the option above. **NZD\$600.00**

Pre Walk Accommodation
4.5 star Rotorua Hotel for the night directly before your walk. The price of \$209 is the total cost for 1 night, for up to 2 people. The hotel is in a great location within easy walking distance of Rotorua city centre and lakefront. **NZD\$209.00**

Post Walk Accommodation
4.5 star Rotorua Hotel for the night directly after your walk. The price of \$209 is the total cost for 1 night, for up to 2 people. The hotel is in a great location within easy walking distance of Rotorua city centre and lakefront. **NZD\$209.00**



the tour

Explore the very best of the North Island's diverse and visually spectacular regions in comfort and style. From the majestic mountains of Tongariro, to the lush forests of Waikaremoana, to the dramatic coastlines of Coromandel. Be awed by the scenery, and spoil by delightful accommodation, meals and wine - It doesn't get any better than this!

about your guide

Our guides are very experienced, friendly walkers and bikers who love to share their knowledge of New Zealand's flora and fauna and local history. They all hold current first aid certificates, passenger driving licences and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.

at a glance

DAY 1 MATAMATA / ROTORUA TO COROMANDEL

DAY 2 COROMANDEL COASTAL WALKWAY

DAY 3 THE PINNACLES

DAY 4 EPIC EAST COAST

DAY 5 WHIRINAKI FOREST

DAY 6 PANEKIRE BLUFFS

DAY 7 LAKE WAIKAREITI

DAY 8 LAKE WAIKAREMOANA GREAT WALK

DAY 9 REST DAY, ARRIVE CENTRAL PLATEAU

DAY 10 THE TONGARIRO ALPINE CROSSING

DAY 11 MT RUAPEHU HIKES

DAY 12 HIKE TARANAKI FALLS, DEPART



Activities: Walking
Accommodation: Various

Trip Duration: 12 Days, 11 Nights
Grade: Moderate

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LIGHT FOOTPRINT

SAFE & SOUND

WARM WELCOME

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frequently asked questions

What do I carry while on my tour and what happens to the rest of my luggage?

On a walking, cycling or kayak tour your extra luggage will be transported for you each day to your accommodation that night. All you need to have with you is your daypack with your lunch, clothing requirements, camera and incidentals. For cyclists, this can be left in the support vehicle while you are cycling as this is always close by for ready access. Please ensure the luggage you are sending on ahead is limited to one item and is packed in an easily transported overnight bag or suitcase.

On a hiking tour where huts and lodges are less accessible by vehicle, you may be asked to carry your own luggage for some or all of the days of the tour, please refer to your itinerary for details. For this reason we recommend you pack as lightly as possible and carry only the items suggested on your gear check list. For any of our tours, we recommend the use of a waterproof pack liner to keep your personal items as dry as possible.

Do I really need thermals and a fleece, even in summer?

Yes, as some of the areas visited can be exposed, and New Zealand weather can be notoriously changeable, you must be prepared for all weather conditions.

what's included

- Accommodation - As per Itinerary
 - Single Supplement for Rotorua Hotel only NZD\$200.00
 - Single Supplement for Entire Trip NZD\$600.00
 - Pre Walk Accommodation NZD\$209.00
 - Post Walk Accommodation NZD\$209.00
- Food
 - You will enjoy great local cuisine; continental breakfasts and hearty packed lunches during the day, and either restaurant meals or wholesome home-cooked fare prepared by your host/hostess in the evenings.
 - If you have any dietary issues or food allergies, we are happy to cater for these, please advise the office of details when you make your booking.
 - Most meals, snacks, hot & cold drinks (see itinerary for details)
 - Wine & beer with pre-dinner nibbles
- Luggage
 - Transport of all your luggage for the duration of the tour.
 - All you carry is a small day pack with your personal gear, drink and lunch. We do the rest
- An experienced guide
- All transport
- Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)
- Safety and Risk Management
 - To ensure maximum safety for all, our guides are certified first aiders and fully qualified drivers. Tuatara Tours operate under a Safety and Risk Management Plan which is regularly audited and approved by a qualified and independent auditor.



This tour is operated in conjunction with another operator.



frequently asked questions

How many people are in each group?

Typically, we take a maximum of twelve people on each tour. We feel this gives you the best opportunity to gain as much from your experience as possible and keeps the feel of each tour relaxed and friendly. We are happy to discuss options for groups of more than twelve with you.

How fit do I need to be?

The main purpose of a guided tour is to enjoy your surroundings and learn from your local guide, it's not a race, however the more you can prepare for a tour, the better the experience will be for you. As a general guideline we suggest the following activity level guide for our tours.

Easy: An average level of fitness, Walk 7km, Bike 15km on well-formed tracks and roads with very little incline.

Mild: An average level of fitness, Walk 12km, Bike 25km on well-formed tracks and roads with average incline.

Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

Challenging: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20+ km, Bike 50+km on partially formed tracks and roads, some off-road, some steep inclines, some easy river and creek crossings.



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itinerary

DAY ONE – Matamata / Rotorua to Coromandel

We'll pick you up from Rotorua at approx. 8:30am, or Matamata at 9:30am. Warm up with a 4km hike to the top of Wairere Falls, and view the verdant Waikato basin from two lookouts over hanging 90 metres of thunderous waterfall.

As we continue north, enjoy views out over the mussel farms of the Hauraki Gulf from one of New Zealand's classic coastal drives, the Coromandel west coast. Make a brief stop at Waionu for refreshments before exploring the Waionu Kauri Grove - this little known trail heads deep into a protected ecological reserve scattered with majestic Kauri trees – New Zealand's very own forest giants that grow up to 50 metres tall. Drive further up the Coromandel Peninsula in the late afternoon to reach your lovely accommodation, and watch the sunset from the verandah with a glass of wine or ice cold brew.

Accommodation: Coromandel Lodge - (L,D)

Hiking time: 3-4 hours

DAY TWO – The Legendary Coromandel Coastal Walkway

If there's one hike in New Zealand that has it all, it's this one – the incredible Coromandel Coastal Walkway. After a short drive north from Coromandel township we'll arrive at the trail head and begin our hike at Stony Bay, a picture perfect isolated beach flanked by green hills and white sand. This historic trail follows an old bridle path once used by gold miners who populated the Coromandel region in colonial times. Tracing the north eastern tip of the Coromandel Peninsula, we walk through native bush and over high cliff tops with views of Great Barrier Island, Cuvier Island and the Mercury Islands.

We'll have a picnic lunch at beautiful Poley Bay (a great spot for a swim if you're keen!) before returning to Stony Bay.

Accommodation: Coromandel Lodge - (B,L,D)

Hiking time: 6 hours

DAY THREE – The Pinnacles

After a delicious fresh breakfast we head south to the start of the Kauaeranga Kauri Trail, also known as The Pinnacles. We'll make our way up through kauri, rimu and kahikatea forests to the Pinnacles that are perched high above the forest canopy. The 360 degree views of bush, mountains and 2 coastlines are simply off the charts, and well worth the effort up the steep trail – don't forget your camera! The Kauaeranga Valley is home to forest bird such as tui, bellbird, tomtit, grey warbler, shining cuckoo, north island brown kiwi and kaka, so keep your eyes peeled here as many of them are frequent visitors on the trail.



If the Pinnacles isn't your style and you would prefer a more relaxing day you have the option of staying in and exploring Coromandel Township. Highlights include the Driving Creek Railway, local artisan workshops, short walks, cafes, and culture. Take the time to relax in paradise.



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frequently asked questions

Some tips for training:

Undertake your training using the clothing and footwear you intend to complete the tour in, this will give you the opportunity to make sure they will be suitable for the purpose and to break in your foot wear so as to avoid any discomfort. Train with your pack or day pack on so you get used to bearing the weight and include a variety of terrain in your training including hills and off road. As much as we'd like to we can't guarantee fine weather on your tour so don't hesitate to get outdoors and train on the rainy days as well.

What will the weather be like?

New Zealand is known to have four seasons in a day so you should always be prepared for sudden changes in weather or temperature and have the appropriate gear with you at all times. Rain can be expected at any time throughout the year.

Spring (September-November) and Autumn (March-May) are generally cooler months for experiencing the outdoors with temperatures averaging 15-25 degrees during the day.

Summer (December-February) is usually warmer with averages of 20-30 degrees and longer sunshine hours due to daylight saving. As New Zealand has very little air pollution, UV rays are strong during the summer months and a good sunscreen and a hat are recommended for outdoor activities during the heat of the day.

A fabulous day is topped off with a celebratory meal at one of Coromandel town's fine restaurants.

Accommodation: Coromandel Lodgel- (B,L,D)

Hiking time: 6-7 hours..

DAY FOUR – Epic East Coast

Travel east around the Peninsula towards Whitianga. Hike to the golden sand beaches and azure green waters of one of the top 20 best beaches in the world, New Chums Beach. Relax and absorb the natural beauty amidst the bird and marine life that thrives within this precious ecosystem.

Enjoy a short, scenic ferry ride across the Whitianga harbour and a relaxing stroll up to Shakespeares Cliff overlooking Mercury Bay and the beach where Cook first set foot on kiwi soil. Stop for a refreshing lunch looking out over the marine reserve and take the well-graded track down to the iconic Cathedral Cove, a natural volcanic archway - a must-see of the Coromandel!

Continuing around the east coast we'll complete a loop of the Coromandel Peninsula, then drop you at a 4.5 star Hotel in Rotorua, where you can enjoy dinner in their restaurant.

Accommodation: Rotorua Hotel - (B,L,D)

Hiking time: 2-3 hours

DAY FIVE – Whirinaki Forest

After a cooked breakfast at your Rotorua Hotel we'll pick you up and head east, past Mount Tarawera and into the heart of Te Urewera National Park. Our first stop is the Whirinaki Forest, where we'll walk through one of New Zealand's most pristine Podocarp forests with towering trees including giant totara, kahikatea, rimu and matai. Keep an eye out for kaka (a large forest parrot) & whio (blue duck) along the way. This hiking trail also skirts the moss-lined Whirinaki River canyon and waterfall – one of the most picturesque rivers in New Zealand. Don't forget your camera!

We then journey deeper into the remote National Park to reach Lake Waikaremoana, where we'll settle in at our cozy lodge with pre-dinner drinks and nibbles on the lake shore.

Accommodation: Waikaremoana Lake Lodge - (B,L,D)

Hiking time: 3-4 hours.

DAY SIX – Panekire Bluffs



This morning we'll hike to the spectacular Panekire Bluffs that are a highlight of the Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk. As we climb higher we'll see the lush podocarp forest change into cloud forest with trees covered in eerie hanging moss. Arriving at the Panekire Bluffs, we'll





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responsible travel

None of us could deny the benefits of travel in broadening our horizons and our way of thinking about the world we all share; travel breaks down barriers and provides valuable insights into other ways of life, it challenges us to step outside our comfort zone and to learn from those around us.

Our responsibility as participants in this journey is to acknowledge our impact on the environment and the communities in which we travel and to consider our individual contribution now and for the benefit of future generations.

We are Qualmark endorsed; New Zealand tourism's official benchmark for environmental standards and quality control. Wherever possible our company utilises local products and services, we support conservation efforts to preserve our natural and cultural heritage and we respect and care for the unique environment we travel in. Make your commitment to responsible travel with us.

trip grading

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors.

These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip.

The Coromandel Explorer is graded Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise.

If you are uncertain about your suitability for this tour, speak with us and we can help guide you in the right direction



be greeted with jaw-dropping views over Lake Waikaremoana and Te Urewera National Park. There are not many better places in the world to sit back, relax and have lunch! If you're looking for a challenge, there's an option to continue hiking higher for a further 2 hours to reach the highest point of the Great Walk track to get views over not only the Lake, but out to the Pacific Coast.

Before dinner we'll visit a local marae for an informal chat with a Maori elder. This is a great opportunity to get a real feel for the culture in this isolated area, where Maori is still the first language. (note the marae visit may not be possible if the marae is being used by the local community)

Accommodation: Waikaremoana Lake Lodge - (B,L,D)

Hiking time: 3-7 hours.

DAY SEVEN – Lake Waikareiti

This morning we explore a very special area - the pristine Lake Waikareiti, which lies a further 300 metres in elevation above Lake Waikaremoana. Free of aquatic weeds and motorised boats, this picture perfect lake has astonishingly clear water and is blissfully peaceful! The Department of Conservation have worked tirelessly for years to eradicate this area of introduced predators, allowing native birds here to thrive!

Later, we'll return to Waikaremoana where there's an option to walk to a dazzling fresh-water spring, or a walk through dense fern forest to explore the Onepoto Caves.

Accommodation: Waikaremoana Lake Lodge - (B,L,D)

Hiking time: 3-5 hours.

DAY EIGHT – Lake Waikaremoana to Rotorua

After breakfast we depart the lodge and take a boat cruise right across Lake Waikaremoana to walk another section of the Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk Track. This stunning forest and lakeside trail traverses from a secluded arm of the lake across a peninsula, home to a Kiwi Recovery Program and some gorgeous native forest. After a lakeside picnic lunch we return to Rotorua, stopping for a soak in an amazing natural hot spring under a canopy of native trees.

Tonight you will dine in one of Rotorua's finest restaurants. Accommodation: Rotorua Hotel - (B,L,D)

Hiking time: 2-4 hours

DAY NINE – Rest Day, travel to Tongariro

This morning you have free time to explore Rotorua, or sleep in! There's no shortage of adventurous or relaxing activities in this town. From indulging in a spa treatment to ziplining high above native forest there's a little something for everyone here.

At 1:30pm we'll pick you up from your Rotorua Hotel and head south through the North Island's heartland of geothermal activity, passing Lake Taupo. Become acquainted with the area and your guide with a short walk, before settling in to your stunning accommodation in time to watch





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Please note

This itinerary may be modified.

We like to keep the trip flexible to make the most of weather and alpine conditions, and so we can tailor the trip to suit the group.

To maximise your experience and minimise drive times the guide may shuttle the vehicle, so some sections of trail may be walked without a guide.

If this does occur your guide will ensure you are well-prepared for this.

If you have any questions or concerns during the trip please discuss them with your guide – they are there to help you have the most enjoyable experience possible!

the sun set over the magnificent Tongariro volcanoes with a glass of wine and nibbles, before a delicious restaurant meal..

Accommodation: The Chateau Tongariro - (B,D)

DAY TEN – The Tongariro Alpine Crossing

Today we embark upon one of the world's greatest one day hikes, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. This trail passes between two active volcanoes – Mt Tongariro and Mt Ngauruhoe. The scenery is ever-changing and features stunning lava fields, emerald blue lakes, waterfalls, steaming vents and meadows of alpine tussock – there's nowhere else like it on the planet! The views across to Mt Ruapehu and the central plateau of the North Island are truly spectacular and worth every step!

At the end of our Crossing we'll toast our achievement with a glass of bubbly, before returning to The Chateau for a dip in the hot pool, followed by dinner at a local pub. Accommodation: The Chateau Tongariro - (B,L,D)

Hiking time: 7-8 hours.

DAY ELEVEN – Mt Ruapehu Hikes

Travel around the southern side of Mt Ruapehu to experience some of New Zealand's rail history on the Old Coach Road trail. Between 1906 to 1908 the road was used to carry passengers and goods by horse and coach, between two railheads on the main trunk line.

Heritage features on the trail include a unique cobbled road, massive steel viaducts, a curved tunnel, railway bridge remains, and old campsites. The 15km walk takes around 5 hours, and also passes through some beautiful stands of native forest with sweeping views across the district.

If conditions allow we will explore the dramatic, rock-strewn landscapes higher up Mt Ruapehu. At 2797 metres above sea level, the North Island's highest mountain offers jaw-dropping views over the National Park with various hiking options or catch a chair-lift up to NZ's highest café. Tonight we enjoy a final celebration dinner in The Chateau's elegant Ruapehu Restaurant.

Accommodation: The Chateau Tongariro - (B,L,D) Hiking time: approx. 5 hours

DAY TWELVE – Hike Taranaki Falls, Depart

Today we explore the lower flanks of Mt Ruapehu with a walk from Whakapapa Village through alpine meadows and pretty beech forest to Taranaki Falls. Tumbling 20 metres over the edge of an old lava flow, this waterfall packs a real punch, sending spray right across the boulder-ringed pool at the bottom. If you're game, it's possible to walk all the way around behind the curtain of the waterfall - time to put a jacket on!

After lunch, we'll begin the short journey north to Taupo and on to Rotorua. You can choose to be dropped off in Taupo or Rotorua, or National Park if you are travelling further south. Either way, you'll be forever changed after the awesome hikes and great times you'll have had with us in the North Island!

Hiking time: 3-4 hours - (B,L)





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Tuatara Tours - experienced and innovative!

Tuatara Tours is an experienced and innovative walking and cycling adventure company, based in the South Island of New Zealand. The vision at Tuatara Tours is to encourage as many people as possible to be involved in fun, adventure and the outdoors. We ourselves walk, run, mountain bike, road bike and occasionally participate in multi-sport adventure races... to the best of our ability. We are not champions – but we are out there! We understand the outdoors and we revel in the country, people and climate that we work with.

our team is here to provide the best experience

We only have one world and we have to share it with each other. Much of the attraction for our clients is to experience unspoiled and un-crowded landscapes. It is our challenge to ensure that in this sharing of the experience, we minimise where possible, the impact of our business.

Through the introduction of strict environmental guidelines, we minimise our impact on the environment we live and work in.



Bucket List Walk Packing List...

Essential Items:

- Day-pack
- Warm hat & gloves
- Drink bottle (up to 2 litres capacity for Tongariro Crossing Walk)
- Personal toiletries, shampoo, and medications
- Sunscreen & sunhat
- Camera & charger
- Clothing:
- Boots or good walking shoes (worn in please!)
- Raincoat (we lend raincoats by prior request)
- Hiking Socks (about 3 pairs, wool is best. Well-fitting hiking socks greatly reduce the occurrence of blisters)
- Shorts or light weight trousers
- Thermal underwear (full set, long-sleeved & long-legged, polypropylene or wool)
- Short-sleeved shirts (preferably polypropylene or wool: merino wool is ideal)
- Long-sleeved shirt or light sweater
- Warm wool or polar fleece jersey
- Clothes & shoes for the evenings (casual)
- PJ's / sleepwear
- Spare clothing: Extra socks and thermal layers are always handy. Even though it is summer you must be prepared for cold conditions - ensure you have enough warm items.

Optional Items:

- Bathing suit & towel (beach and hot-pool swimming opportunities)
- Walking stick (highly recommended for those with weak knees, ankles or hips)
- Light walking shoes or sandals for easy walks
- Waterproof over trousers
- Insect repellent (insects are rarely a problem)
- Lunch-box to protect your sandwiches (otherwise we provide lunch bags)
- Small torch
- Motion sickness tablets if you are prone to car sickness
- Blister kit or plasters

We supply:

- Most meals, snacks, hot & cold drinks (see itinerary for details)
- Wine & beer with pre-dinner nibbles
- Bed linen, bath towels, pillows & blankets
- Toilet paper & Soap

Note:

Sorry, there are no drying rooms at the lodges.

To prevent the spread of noxious weeds and plant diseases, please clean your boots and walking sticks thoroughly before the hike.





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have you considered?

New Zealand Walking Tours

The Akaroa Walk
 The Franz Josef Trail
 The Mesopotamia High Country Walk
 The Queen Charlotte Walk
 The West Coast Trail
 The Bucket List Walk
 The Hump Ridge Track Walk
 The Coromandel Explorer Walk
 The Tongariro Crossing Walk
 The Lake Waikaremoana Walk
 The Abel Tasman Walk - 3 Days
 The Abel Tasman Walk - 5 Days
 The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 3 Days
 The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 5 Days

New Zealand Hiking Tours

The Heaphy Track
 The Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk
 The Stewart Island Track
 The Tongariro Crossing Walk

New Zealand Cycling Tours

The Tasman Great Taste Trail
 The Tekapo Canal Trail
 The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
 The Westland Wilderness Cycle Trail
 The Otago Rail Trail
 The Queenstown Cycle Trail
 Around The Mountains Cycle Trail
 The Clutha Gold Cycle Trail
 The Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail

Japan Walking Tours

All of these tours and more available at
www.tuataratours.co.nz



pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation we can help

Contact us at

- ▶ New Zealand: 0800 377 378
- ▶ Australia: 1 800 044 633
- ▶ World: +64 3 962 3280
- ▶ Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz
- ▶ Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz

what's not included

- pre and post tour accommodation
- alcoholic drinks with meals
- personal expenses
- gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service

custom tours

▶ We Can Customise Existing Tours To Suit.

You may want to spend an extra day or you may want to add another element to your tour!

▶ We Can Design A New Tour Just For You.

We have years of experience in creating custom-made tours for groups, so if you are planning a tour for your friends, family, club, corporate workplace.... contact us now.





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Tuatara Conservation

Tuatara Tours are proud to be actively involved in Tuatara Conservation.

Tuatara Tours has formally adopted "BP" a male juvenile tuatara who resides at Orana Park in Christchurch and is part of the conservation programme to ensure the safe future of these amazing reptiles.



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- latest trips
- travel advice
- events & attractions
- and more!

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz and click the free subscription button.

how to book

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz, click the enquiry button and submit your booking request using the form provided.

We enjoy talking to people about their travel interests. So feel free to contact us directly if you'd rather not fill out a form.

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country information

Culture

New Zealand has a diverse multi-cultural population, the majority of whom are of British descent. New Zealand's indigenous Maori make up around 14 percent of the population. The culture of its indigenous Maori people affects the language, the arts, and even the accents of all New Zealanders. New Zealanders embrace new technology and culture, but they also have a background of quiet but rugged individualism, self-reliance and a passion for invention. Many New Zealanders travel extensively and thrive on learning and experiencing other cultures. They are renowned for their openness, ingenuity and "easy-going" nature.

Environment

Fourteen spectacular national parks preserve New Zealand's natural heritage enshrining a huge variety of landscapes, vegetation and wildlife. New Zealand encompasses rich farmland, mountains, rivers and unsurpassed scenery. The country is slightly bigger than the UK in size. Three-quarters of the population live in the North Island with more than a third of New Zealand's population living in the largest city, Auckland.

The South Island - with its lakes, fiords and spectacular outdoor scenery is the most popular destination for tourists. The gateway to the South Island is Christchurch - a city of approximately 340,000 people.

Recreation

New Zealand's stunning landscapes, lush forests, amazing wildlife and pleasant climate make it a haven for many outdoor activities, and a great place to relax and enjoy life. New Zealanders love the outdoors, especially tramping, camping, skiing and snowboarding. Sailing, surfing and swimming are also favourite pursuits. New Zealand's sports and recreation facilities are inexpensive, abundant and very accessible.

