

# NEW ZEALAND: a profile



The **New Zealand Flag** represents the history of the country as a part of the **British Empire** and its location in the **southern hemisphere**



The **Coat of Arms** depicts the **Southern Cross constellation**, the **golden fleece** representing the farming industry, the **wheat sheaf** representing agriculture, the **two hammers** representing mining and industry. The broad vertical strip with three ships reflects the importance of sea trade and the immigrant nature of all New Zealanders.

## Anthems

"God Defend New Zealand"  
"God Save the Queen"

## Area

268,680 km<sup>2</sup>

## Population

4,239,300

## Capital

Wellington

## Density

15/km<sup>2</sup>

## Largest city

Auckland

## Currency

New Zealand dollar (NZD)

## Official languages

English (98%)  
Māori (4.2%)

## Time zone

(UTC+12)

## Status

Parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy

## Internet TLD

.nz

## Government

+64

The British Monarch

Governor-General  
Prime Minister

**Aoraki or Mount Cook** is the tallest mountain in New Zealand.



Found nowhere else, the flightless **kiwi** is a national icon.



**Auckland** is the economic centre of the country; the **Sky Tower** is in the background.



**Agriculture** is the main export industry in New Zealand.



# NEW ZEALAND: A FACTFILE



## 1. The Official Names of the Country

- The Realm of New Zealand (Королевство Новой Зеландии)
- New Zealand (less official, commonly used)

## 2. The Anthem, the Status and the Type of State

The national anthem of New Zealand has two variations. They are ‘**God Defend New Zealand**’ which is English and ‘**Aotearoa**’ which is Māori.

# God Defend New Zealand

God of Nations at Thy feet,  
 In the bonds of love we meet,  
 Hear our voices, we entreat,  
 God defend our free land.  
 Guard Pacific's triple star  
 From the shafts of strife and war,  
 Make her praises heard afar,  
 God defend New Zealand.

Men of every creed and race,  
 Gather here before Thy face,  
 Asking Thee to bless this place,  
 God defend our free land.  
 From dissension, envy, hate,  
 And corruption guard our state,  
 Make our country good and great,  
 God defend New Zealand.

Peace, not war, shall be our boast,  
 But, should foes assail our coast,  
 Make us then a mighty host,  
 God defend our free land.  
 Lord of battles in Thy might,  
 Put our enemies to flight,  
 Let our cause be just and right,  
 God defend New Zealand.

Let our love for Thee increase,  
 May Thy blessings never cease,  
 Give us plenty, give us peace,  
 God defend our free land.  
 From dishonour and from shame,  
 Guard our country's spotless name,  
 Crown her with immortal fame,  
 God defend New Zealand.

May our mountains ever be  
 Freedom's ramparts on the sea,  
 Make us faithful unto Thee,  
 God defend our free land.  
 Guide her in the nations' van,  
 Preaching love and truth to man,  
 Working out Thy glorious plan,  
 God defend New Zealand.

**THE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Words by Thomas Bracken Melody by John J. Woods

Mixed voices:

*f* God of na-tions at Thy feet In the bonds of love we meet.  
 E-l- bo-a, A-tu- a. O nga i-wi Ma-tou-ra,

*f* Hear our voic-es we en-treat, God de-fend our free Land.  
 A-ta-wha-ka-ro-ngo-ma, Me-a-ro-ha-nu-

Guard Pa-ci-fic's tri-ple star From the shafts of strife and war,  
 Ki-hu-ko-te-pai, Ki-a-tau-to-a-tu-whai,

Make her prais-es heard a-far, God de-fend New Zea-land,  
 Ma-na-a-ki-ti-a-mo A-o-te-a-to-

(AMP. Wn Dec. 1978)

New Zealand is an independent state within the Commonwealth of Nations; it is divided into 10 provinces.

New Zealand is a parliamentary democracy. The head of the state is the British monarch represented by a Governor General; the head of the government is the Prime Minister. The legislative body is a one-chamber parliament which is called the House of Representatives, consisting of 120 members elected for 3 years; four of the MPs are directly elected by the Maori people.

The main political parties are the New Zealand National Party and the Labour Party.

### **3. The Geography, the Location, the Environment**

New Zealand consists of a group of hilly evergreen islands that lie in the southwest Pacific Ocean. The country is located on two main islands (North Island and South Island) and a number of smaller islands (61). New Zealand is quite long and, due to this, its coastline is long too and very indented, providing many natural harbours. The land is mainly hilly and mountainous; there are fertile plains, three active volcanoes and a district known for its geysers and hot springs. The climate is temperate, with moderate rainfall. The country has unique plants and very few native animals. The most interesting bird is the kiwi, a non-flying bird, the national symbol of the country.

***The Longest River:*** the Waikato – 425 km.

***The Biggest Lake:*** Lake Taupo, depth – 163 m., area – 606 sq.km.

***The Mountains:*** the Southern Alps. The highest peak is Mount Cook/Aoraki – 3,764 m.

***The Natural Resources:*** iron ore, gas, oil, gold, coal, wood, high-silica sand (кварцевый песок).

***The Natural Dangers:*** frequent, but usually weak earthquakes, active volcanoes, no snakes or poisonous insects.

***The Climate:*** temperate. The hottest month is January (+ 15-22°), the coldest month is June (+5-11°).

#### **4. The Ethnic Composition**

- Europeans (mostly British) – 87%
- Polynesians (mostly Maoris, natives) – 9%

More selective in its immigration policy even than Australia, New Zealand prefers its new settlers to be northern Europeans.

#### **5. The Languages**

- English is the official and predominant language.
- Maori is also spoken by the native people, yet English is the first language.

#### **6. The Religions**

- The Anglican Church (англиканская) – 24%
- Presbyterians (пресвитерианцы) – 18%
- The Roman Catholic Church (римско-католическая) – 15%
- Methodists (методисты) – 5%
- Baptists (баптисты) – 2%
- Protestants (протестанты) – 3%
- Other churches and atheists – 33%

#### **7. The History**

##### **The Natives**

Maoris, poetically called “the Vikings of the Sunrise”. Polynesians, the ancestors of the present-day Maoris, settled on these islands in the X-XIV centuries. But the Maoris, who had inhabited the country long before the Europeans came, had to surrender their sovereignty to Britain in 1840 in exchange for the guarantees that they would be allowed to possess their lands. As it happened elsewhere, they were deceived. In 1845 the Maoris began to fight bitterly against the British rule. The so-called Maori wars lasted till 1870 when the natives were finally defeated by the superior British forces. Now what is left of the native population lives on lands, of course, not the best ones. Uprooted from their lands, Maoris have to go to cities,

where they are offered the worst paid jobs. A gesture, of course, but a significant one is that now one of the TV channels in Auckland broadcasts news in Maori.

### Major Events

**The 10<sup>th</sup> century:** The date of the discovery of New Zealand by the Polynesian navigator Kupe according to the Maori legend. The islands are called Aotearoa, "The Land of the Long White Cloud".

**1642:** The Dutch explorer Abel Tasman discovers the west coast of South Island. The Dutch name the country "Nieuw Zeeland" after the Dutch island province of Zeeland.

**1769-1770:** Captain James Cook explores both islands, taking possession of New Zealand for Britain.

**The 1820s:** The first European settlement (in the Bay of Islands).

**1840:** The Treaty of Waitangi is signed. The Maoris cede sovereignty to Britain, obtain guarantees of land ownership and "rights and privileges of British subjects".

**1893:** New Zealand becomes the first country in the world to give women the vote.

**1907:** New Zealand becomes a dominion.

**1931:** New Zealand becomes entirely independent by adopting the Statute of Westminster.

## **8. The Currency and Economy**



The **New Zealand dollar** (sign: \$; code: NZD) is the **currency** of **New Zealand**. It is divided into 100 **cents**. The **New Zealand dollar** is normally written with the

**dollar sign \$**, or **NZ\$** to distinguish it from other **dollar**-denominated currencies. It is often informally known as the "Kiwi (dollar)", kiwi typically being associated with New Zealand, and the \$1 coin depicts a kiwi. It is one of the 12 most-traded currencies in the world.

New Zealand has a climate that lets grass grow green all the year round. New Zealand's dairy industry is considered most efficient, and the export of dairy products is the largest in the world. The second main branch of the country's economy is wool, for New Zealand has always been called the sheep farm of Britain.

Long known as a pastoral country with dairy products leading its economy, New Zealand now is an industrial country with highly developed and industrialized agriculture, of which New Zealanders are justly proud.

***The Agricultural Products:*** dairy products, meat, wool (second after Australia).

***The Industry:*** food processing, wood and paper products, textiles, machinery, transportation equipment, banking, insurance, tourism, mining.

## **9. The Largest Cities of New Zealand**



***Wellington:*** the capital and a port, an industrial and commercial centre; a town of two- and three-storeyed neat white houses, close to one another, because land is expensive, with deserted streets, especially on Saturdays and Sundays, when New Zealanders, who love outdoor activities, leave the city almost en masse; the seat of the House of Representatives, the residence of the Governor General, government

offices, foreign embassies; the Victoria University of Wellington, the Alexander Turnbull Library, the New Zealand National Orchestra, the Dominion Museum, the National Art Gallery.



***Auckland***: the largest city and the leading port; the Auckland War Memorial Museum with its outstanding Maori collection.



***Christchurch***: a commercial and industrial city; the focus of the city is Cathedral Square with the Anglican Cathedral in it.



## 10. Culture, Science and Sport in New Zealand

New Zealand's dominant cultural pattern is of European origin as the Maoris have been assimilated into the country's Europeanized society. Many people from New Zealand have won international acclaim. Among them, in the field of literature *Katherine Mansfield* is known for her short stories and *Ngaio Marsh* for detective fiction. *Frances Hodgkins* achieved fame as a painter and *David Low* as a political cartoonist.

Since the 1930s, there has been an increase in the cultural activities with an attempt to find the distinctive New Zealand patterns.

### Great People of New Zealand



*Katherine Mansfield*  
(1888-1923)  
a world famous writer



*Ngaio Marsh*  
(1895-1982)  
a detective fiction writer



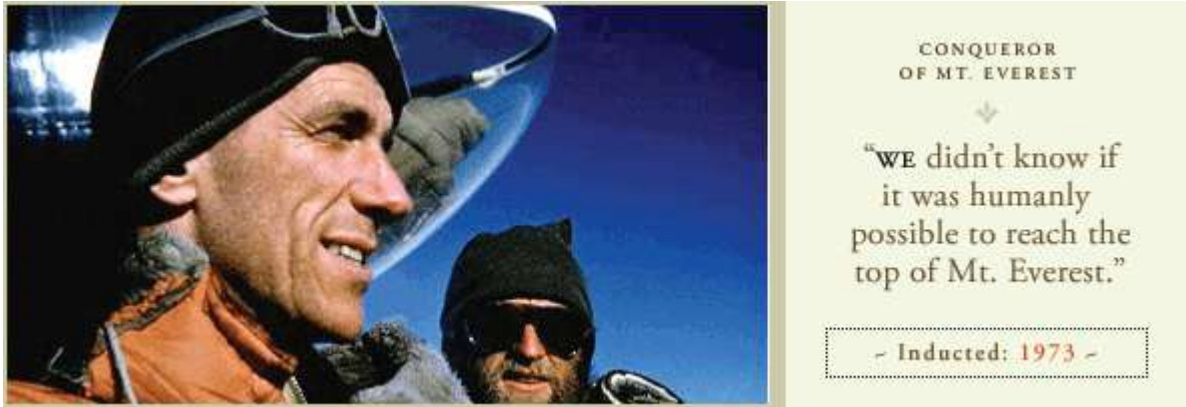
*Frances Hodgkins*  
(1869-1947)  
an abstract painter



*David Low*  
(1891-1963)  
a political cartoonist



*Ernest Rutherford* (1871-1937), a physicist-experimenter, the founder of nuclear physics



*Edmund Hillary* (1919-2008) is a traveller and researcher, the first to conquer Everest. His image is placed on the five-dollar banknote of New Zealand.



*Colin Murdoch* (born 1929), a pharmacist, the inventor of the single use plastic syringe (1956).



*Bruce McLaren* (1937-1970), a race-driver, the founder of the famous Formula-1 team.



*Sam Neill* (born 1947), a film actor and director. His most famous work is the role of doctor Alan Grant in “Jurassic Park”.



*Peter Jackson* (born 1961), a film director, a script writer and a producer; famous for his film “The Lord of the Rings”.



**Russell Crowe** (born 1964), a film actor, the Oscar winner for the main part in “Gladiator”.

**11. Outdoor activities** are greatly enjoyed by New Zealanders.

- **Rugby** is the national game.
- **Horse racing** is very popular too. It often happens that the popularity of the current horse star in New Zealand is much greater than that of any film star, athlete and rock idol together.

**12. Miscellaneous Facts About New Zealand**

- New Zealand fought on the side of the Allies in both world wars. New Zealanders do not miss a chance to remind foreigners of one generally little known fact that their country’s contribution to the fight against Nazi Germany was the greatest of all the former British dominions.
- In 1951 New Zealand signed the ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand, the United States) Treaty of Mutual Security. At the same time, awareness of the need for an independent foreign policy began to grow in New Zealand.

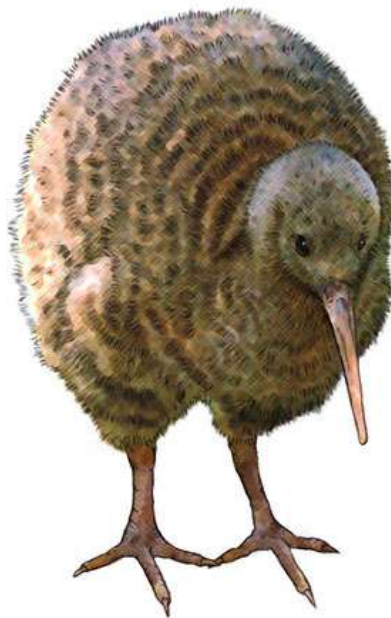
In 1986 the ANZUS defence alliance ended because New Zealand refused to allow the US ships with nuclear weapons to enter and to use its ports. The remoteness of New Zealand no longer protects it from the problems that beset the world affairs.

- In 1974 New Zealand joined several countries in the Asian region in opposing the US plan to expand its military base in this area. The people of New Zealand advocate the idea of the South Pacific Ocean as a zone of peace, nuclear-free.

With the appearance of the new independent states in the South Pacific, New Zealand and Australia have begun to play the role of dominant powers in this area.

- The beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is noted for the growth of tourism in New Zealand, which is mainly caused by the world known movie trilogy “The Lord of the Rings” (based on the book by Tolkien) as it is in New Zealand that the films were made and shot.

### **13. The Popular Symbols**



*The Kiwi* is a little bird with no tail and almost no wings, so it can't fly. New Zealanders associate themselves with this bird and even call themselves “kiwi”.



*The Kiwifruit* is a national fruit of New Zealand though its motherland is China. Today it is exported under the trademark “Zespri”.



*The Buzzy Bee* is a bright red and yellow toy, producing a specific noise while moving. It has become part of the kiwi culture.



*Rugby* is the most popular game in New Zealand. The name of the national team is “All Blacks”. It is one of the best teams in the world.



***“Pavlova cake”*** is named after the famous Russian ballet dancer, who in 1926 made a tour around New Zealand. This cake is the perfect desert because it is fat free. It is one of the New Zealand best recipes. This is pure heaven with fresh fruit piled on top with whipped cream.



***Paua Shells*** (Пава Ракушки) have long been used by Maori for carving. Various decorations can be found in the souvenir shops of Nez Zealand.



***“Edmonds” Cookbook.*** Every family in New Zealand is believed to have this cookbook at home. It was first published in 1907 and has become the most popular book with a print run of 3.5 million copies.



***L&P*** is a national drink made of lemon and a mixture of local mineral waters.  
It was first made in 1904 and is still popular.



***Pohutukawa*** is a tree and a flower. This tree's red flowers bloom around Christmas, the tree is called "the New Zealand Christmas Tree".