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Discovering Northern New Zealand | New Zealand Fact File



New Zealand's Northland and Bay of Islands- Historic Maritime Park

Kaitiāia is New Zealand's largest Northland town, offering everything from adventure eco-tours to big-game fishing, with gold medal winning wineries and a thriving community of skilled craftspeople working in native flax, bone and greenstone. On the east coast, visit Kerikeri's Aroha Ecological Centre to see kiwis in their natural environment or walk to the magnificent Rainbow Falls or the Puketī Kauri Forest.



The Bay of Islands is the country's finest maritime park, a stunningly beautiful length of sand and rock coastline circling 144 islands, with secluded bays and an abundance of marine life including dolphins, whales, marlin, gannets and penguins. There are countless activities - fishing, forest and beach walks; skydiving, parasailing, scuba diving or kayaking as well as scenic golf courses. Explore the islands, dive among wrecks at the bottom of the ocean, hike the giant kauri forests, or relax and enjoy the historical and picturesque local townships' museum, cafés, restaurants and craft galleries.



The birthplace of a nation, Waitangi was discovered by legendary Maori navigator Kupe, when the first Polynesian voyagers journeyed here by canoe during the 11th century. After the landing of Captain Cook in 1769, missionaries, whalers and traders arrived. The Treaty of Waitangi, the contract between Maori chiefs and the British Crown, was signed here in 1840. The historic Treaty House is located on a vast estate which includes a fully carved Maori Meeting House and one of the largest Maori war canoes.

The North of New Zealand offers fine sailing, lovely summer weather and a variety of activities to suit all tastes!

New Zealand Fact File

- o New Zealand, (or Aotearoa, "land of the long white cloud") is found in the Pacific Ocean, southeast of Australia. Made of up two large islands and numerous smaller surrounding islands, it has about the same land area as the British Isles, Japan, or Colorado.
- o Wellington is the capital city of New Zealand, and Auckland is the largest.
- o New Zealand has a climate that ranges from subtropical in the upper north, down to temperate further south.
- o The warmest, finest weather is between October and April, and this is a popular time for boating holidays.
In summer (Dec-Feb), the maximum temperature is about 20-30°C/ 68-86°F and in winter (June-Aug) 10-15°C/ 50-59° F.
- o New Zealand's people are mainly of European descent, but there are large numbers of native Maori, other Polynesians, many East Asians and other peoples. Most people live in urban areas, but there are still more sheep than people in New Zealand!
- o New Zealand culture is a fascinating blend of European, Pacific and other traditions. The country is renowned for its inventive thinking and friendly relaxed way of life. Sports and outdoor activities are important to many New Zealanders.
- o New Zealand's national bird is the kiwi, which is small, brown and flightless. The people are nicknamed 'kiwis' and an important export is the furry brown kiwifruit.
- o Air New Zealand has regular flights there from the U.S. and Europe. Many other airlines fly to New Zealand including Air Pacific, Cathay Pacific, Emirates, Qantas, United Airlines, British Airways, Japan, Korean and Singapore Airlines.
- o Here are a few of the many upcoming events in the next few months in NZ:
The Whangamata Beach Hop celebration of the 50's and 60's April 30-May 04. The Dunedin Fringe Festival: experimental and innovative arts 29 March-13 April. In Te Kuiti (near Waitomo) on 29 March: a sheep shearing championship, sheep running through the main street, stalls, rides and more. The Auckland International Film Festival 11-27 July. The Christchurch International Jazz Festival 27 March-5 April. The Whitianga (Coromandel) Scallop Festival 30 August. Enjoy!

