

Fact Sheet



New Zealand

Passports

You must be in possession of a valid passport to travel internationally. Instructions on how to obtain a US passport and an application form can be found on the web at:

www.travel.state.gov/passport.

You may also contact your local post office and they will advise you of the nearest passport issuing office. Your passport must be valid for at least three months after your scheduled date of return home.

Visas – New Zealand

US and Canadian citizens intending to stay in New Zealand no longer than 3 months will be issued a Visitors permit on arrival. If your stay is to be longer than 3 months, or you are from another country, please apply at your local New Zealand Consulate for a visa.

More information may be found at www.nzembassy.com.

Money

Currency is New Zealand dollar denominations:

Coins	Notes
5 cent	5 Dollar
10 cent	10 Dollar
20 Cent	20 Dollar
50 Cent	50 Dollar
1 Dollar	100 Dollar
2 Dollar	

Generally up to \$200 New Zealand per day can be withdrawn from an ATM or bank if you have a major credit or debit card and know your PIN number. Please call the issuing bank to inquire about your own card. A service fee usually applies but this is by far a more convenient way to get ready cash than using traveler's checks. Major credit and debit cards are accepted at most stores including supermarkets and most restaurants.

A credit card is required as a security deposit to check in to a hotel or rent a car. If you bring in or take out of New Zealand more than \$NZ 10,000 cash or the equivalent in foreign currency (travelers checks excluded), you must declare it to Customs. Failure to do so is an offense.

Weather

New Zealand's seasons are the opposite of the Northern Hemisphere. The North Island is temperate, while South Island's mountains have snow year round. New Zealand is roughly the same size as California and summer and winter climates vary from area to area. For those wishing to ski, the most predictable months are July and August.

Generally, the better traveling months are October through May.

You may get a forecast for any city at the following website: www.metservice.co.nz

Language

New Zealanders (Kiwis) speak with a distinctive accent, though not nearly as broad as their Australian cousins'. Similarly, Kiwis are not as colloquial as their mates across the Tasman, but do use a few words you might not have come across before:

New Zealand	American
Wee	Small or little
Dairy	Snack bar
Chilly	Cooler

Maori is an official language of New Zealand and many Maori words have entered the general lexicon. The letters 'wh' are generally pronounced 'f'.

Telecommunication

Most pay (public) phones require a phone card which can be purchased at kiosks everywhere. Shop around for international calling rate deals.

Another option is to purchase an un-locked cell phone prior to leaving the US or Canada. When you arrive at your destination, you can then purchase a pre-paid SIM card that you install into your cell phone and this will give you a local telephone number and you will be able to make domestic and international calls. Note SIM Cards are not generally interchangeable between different countries within the South Pacific.

You can use the phone jack in your hotel room to connect a laptop, and many hotels have high speed access for a flat fee. If you are not taking a laptop, you may want to set up a net-based (free) E-mail account such as Hotmail so you can receive E-mail from any computer. There are many internet cafes throughout the country and prices are very reasonable.

Public Transportation

Taxis are readily available and will accept credit cards for a 10% surcharge over the meter. As hotels change names, and many taxi drivers are new to the country, have the street address of your destination handy. Buses and trains are a safe, inexpensive way to get around, but local currency will almost certainly be the only payment method, unless you go to a transit center with staffed ticket offices.

Driving Distances

For a table of driving distances, please visit the following website:

<http://www.newzealand.com/travel> and click on the Transport tab and then the Travel Times and Distances tab.

Customs/Duty Free

There are strict laws prohibiting or restricting the entry of drugs, steroids, weapons, firearms, protected wildlife and associated products. If you are unsure about anything declare it to Customs.

Each traveler over 18 years of age can bring into New Zealand 1125ml of alcoholic liquor and 250 cigarettes or 250 grams of tobacco products duty/tax free. For other goods, including those intended as gifts, a duty/tax-free allowance of \$NZ 400 per person or \$NZ 200 per person under 18 is available. These articles must accompany you through Customs and must not be intended for commercial purposes.

Tax Refund

All goods and services are subject to a 12.5% Goods and Services Tax (GST). Visitors cannot claim this tax back, however when some suppliers ship a major purchase to a visitor's home address the GST will not be charged.

Departure Tax

\$NZ 25 must be paid as you depart New Zealand. This tax is not included in your ticket price. Cash and credit cards are accepted for this payment.