



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## New Zealand – Matamata

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Wellington
- ✓ **Language:** English / Māori
- ✓ **Population:** ± 7600
- ✓ **Currency:** NZ Dollar (\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +64 (7)
- ✓ **Visa:** Yes, check the various visas [here!](#)
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 111
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A & Hep-B



### History Recap Over 1 Drink

1200-1300AD: Ancestors of Māori arrive by canoe from Polynesia. Country name: Aotearoa (*land of long white cloud*). 1642: Dutch Abel Tasman sights South Island, calls it Nieuw Zeeland (*after Dutch province*). 1769: British James Cook explores coastline. 1815: First British missionaries arrive. '40: Treaty of Waitangi between British and Māori tribes: protection Māori land and establishes British law. '45-'72: NZ Wars, Māori resistance against colonial rule. '93: NZ 1<sup>st</sup> country of women vote. '98: Introduction old-age pensions. 1907: NZ dominion within British Empire. '14: WWI→NZ troops to help British. '39-'45: WWII→again. '47: Full independence. '50-'53: NZ troops serve with UN in Korean War. '51: Anzus Pacific security treaty NZ-Aus-US. '60s: Small troops sent to Vietnam War to support US. '84: Labour government (*Lange*). '85: NZ refuses US nuclear-powered/armed ships to enter ports→Greenpeace ship blown up, Anzus obligations suspended. '89: Palmer, then Bolger Prime Minister (*PM*). '93: Proportional representation government →more Māori. '97: Shipley 1<sup>st</sup> female PM. '99: Peacekeeping force in East Timor. Clark PM. '01: Government rescues Air NZ. '02: PM apologizes to Samoa (colonial). '08: Economic recession. Key PM. '09: Troops to Afghanistan for US. '11: Earthquake Christchurch. '13: Gay marriage legal. '16: Bill English PM. '17: Jacinda Adern PM.

### Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 63m. Climate: Mediterranean Maritime (Cfb).

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Nature:** [Wairere Falls Track](#).
- ☺ Walk the short [Matamata Heritage Trail](#).

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Visit the [Hobbiton Movie Set](#).
- 👍 **Museums:** [Firth Tower Museum](#).
- 👍 **Other:** [Opal Hot Springs](#), [Piako Gliding Club](#).

### Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are not cheap in New Zealand, so keep that in mind. Book via [this Booking.com link](#) and receive a \$15 discount.
- ❖ Wild camping is not allowed in New Zealand (*but you may be naughty*), but free and low-priced campgrounds are available. If there are no on-site toilet buildings you'll need a self-contained vehicle (*with proof*). Check [this link](#) for campgrounds. 'Batches' are popular as holiday homes.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [housesitting!](#)

## Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** New World, Countdown.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Matamata Country Market (*2<sup>nd</sup> Sat of the month*).
- ⌘ **Local food:** Meat pie, fish & chips, hangi (*vegetables & meat*), crayfish, kina (*sea urchin*), pavlova (*desert*), honey, jaffas (*sugarcoated chocolate balls*), kumara (*sweet potato*), paua fritters (*seafood*), marmite (*only if you're brave*).
- ⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is ridiculously easy in New Zealand. Every supermarket has a wide array of vegan products. Veggie restaurants are limited in Matamata though.

## Mama Said

- ☠ New Zealand is generally safe, but use your common sense like everywhere. Don't leave valuables in the car or anywhere visible.
- ☠ In Zealand they drive on the left side of the road, so everything is reversed. Pay attention when driving..
- ☠ Tap water is drinkable, but contains a high amount of chloride. It can cause negative health effects, so it's better to drink it filtered.
- ☠ When flying into New Zealand, double-check border regulations. Clean all outdoor gear and don't bring food into the country or high fees await you.

## Free-Riding?

- Matamata has a very compact city centre and everything is reachable by foot.
- Matamata has good roads and biking is possible, but watch out: Traffic isn't very considerate of bikers at all and it's *very* hilly.
- Public transport is basically non-existent in Matamata. You can get a bus to reach it (*Manabus or Intercity, which will drop you off in front of the i-Site Visitor Center*), but that's about it.
- Airport: Auckland Airport (AKL).
- Hitch-hiking is relatively safe in NZ and basically your only option in Matamata to get around if you don't have a vehicle. You can also use carpool apps or one of the many rideshare Facebook-groups to share petrol costs with someone and pre-arrange your ride.

## Next?

- ➔ In New Zealand: Auckland, Waitakere Ranges, Hamilton, Port Waikato, Raglan, Coromandel, Gisborne, Rotorua.
- ➔ International destinations close by: Australia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Micronesia.

*The Earth Becomes My Throne*