



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

New Zealand – Christchurch

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Wellington
- ✓ **Language:** English / Māori
- ✓ **Population:** ± 1,4 mln
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 397,000
- ✓ **Currency:** NZ Dollar (\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +64 (3)
- ✓ **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 1st 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 1st 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: 4m. Climate: Mediterranean Maritime (Cfb).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Nature:** Banks Peninsula, [Botanic Gardens](#), [Hagley Park](#), [Port Hills](#), [Mona Vale](#), [Taylor's Mistake: Awaroa / Godley Head](#), Lyttelton, [Victoria Park](#), [Quail Island](#), [Bottle Lake Forest](#), [Little River Rail Trail](#), [Cashmere Hill](#), [Rapaki Track](#), [Travis Wetland](#), [Styx Mill](#), Clifton Hill, [Te Ara Pataka](#) (2-3 days), [Ahuriri \(Crater Rim\)](#), [Ohinetahi](#).

☺ **Free museums:** [Canterbury Museum](#), [Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu](#), [Arts Centre](#), [Air Force Museum](#), [Ferryhead Heritage Park](#).

☺ **Beaches:** Sumner Bay, Waimairi Beach.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Museums:** [Quake City](#), [International Antarctic Centre](#), [Okains Bay Māori & Colonial Museum](#), [Yaldhurst Museum of Transport and Science](#).

👍 **Trips:** Christchurch Gondola, Akaroa, Lyttelton (*for the last two you need your own transport / tourist shuttle / or you can hitchhike*).

☺ **Sights:** [Riccarton House & Bush](#), 185 Empty White Chairs & Earthquake memorials, [Cardboard Cathedral](#), New Regent Street, Diamond Harbour.

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** New World, Countdown, Pak 'n Save, Supervalu, Fresh Choice.

⌘ **Markets:** Christchurch Farmer's Market (*Sat – Kahu Road*), Mt. Pleasant Farmer's Market (*Sat*), Riccarton Sunday Market, Downtown Farmer's Market (*Sun – Kilmore St.*), Friday Street Food Market, Opawa Farmer's Market (*Sun*).

⌘ **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 and there are many restaurants, especially in Christchurch: [Happy Cow - Christchurch](#). Also check the [Vegetarian Centre](#) for tips and events.

Festivals

⊗ Christchurch Lantern Festival: March.

⊗ Nostalgia Festival: Feb.

⊗ South Island Wine and Food Festival: Dec.

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 New Zealand they drive on the left side of the road, so everything is reversed. Pay attention!

☠ Boycott zoos like Willowbank Wildlife Reserve & Orana Wildlife Park where animals are held in captivity.

☠ Tap water is drinkable, but contains a high amount of chloride. It can cause negative health effects, so it's better to drink filtered.

☠ When flying into NZ, double-check border regulations. Clean all outdoor gear and don't bring food into the country.

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 Christchurch campsites. 'Batches' are popular as holiday homes. Trail huts and campsites can be booked at the [Department of Conversation website](#) or at the i-Site Visitor Center.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or Housesitting ([Kiwi Housesitters](#)). Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

◆ Nightlife areas: Centre, Victoria Street, Merivale, Ferrymead, Addington, Riccarton, Fendalton... Check out the wineries Pegasus Bay, Cracroft Chase & Trent's Estate.

◆ Theaters: The Court Theatre, Isaac Theatre Royal.

Free-Riding?

■ Christchurch has a rather compact city centre and most is walkable. For the suburbs and region you'll need alternative transport.

■ Christchurch is the ultimate bike city: Flat & with bicycle lanes! Check out [Nextbike](#) (*first 30min free*).

■ Buses bring you everywhere within the center and region, but it isn't cheap. You can pay cash to the driver or get credit on a 'Metrocard'. Find prices and a journey planner [here](#). The inter-city bus terminal is located at Lichfield Street. Buses to other cities are operated by [Intercity](#).

■ The [TranzAlpine](#) goes from Christchurch to Greymouth through Arthur's Pass. The [Coastal Pacific Train](#) drives up and down the Pacific Coast. The Railway Station is located in Addington.

■ Airport: Christchurch International Airport (CHC).

■ Hitch-hiking is relatively safe in NZ and very easy.

Next?

➔ In New Zealand: Arthur's Pass, Akaroa, Kaikoura, Hamner Springs, Dunedin.

➔ International destinations close by: Australia, the Pacific Islands.

The Earth Becomes My Throne