



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

New Zealand – Nelson / Abel Tasman NP

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Wellington
- ✓ **Language:** English / Māori
- ✓ **Population:** ± 51,400
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 445
- ✓ **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 | warmest | driest | | | | | | | | | | |
| Autumn | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Winter | | | | | | wettest | | coolest | | | | |
| Budget | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Altitude: 5m. Climate: Maritime West Coast (Cfb). Known as sunniest city of New Zealand.

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Abel Tasman National Park:** No entrance fee. Best reached by own transport or hitchhiking (*shuttles expensive*). Several treks. Coast Track can be done in 2 days easily, although tourist info recommends 4-5 days. It's a very easy trail. Pre-book campsites. Paid water-shuttles available. **Other national parks nearby:** [Nelson Lakes NP](#) / [Kuharangi NP](#) ([Heaphy Track](#)).

☺ **More nature:** Tahanui Beach, Rabbit Island, [Dun Mountain Trail](#)), [Cable Bay Walkway](#), [Flora Hut Track](#).

☺ **Sights:** Centre of NZ, Cathedral, [Atkins](#) / [Suter Gallery](#).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Museums:** [World of Wearable Art](#), [Founders Park](#), [Nelson Provincial Museum](#).

👍 **Cheers:** [Brightwater Vineyards](#), [Falcon Ridge Estate](#), [Greenhough Vineyard](#), [Himmelsfeld Vineyard](#).

👍 **Outdoor sports:** Kayak, surfing, kitesurfing.

👍 **If you feel comfortable paying for non-native nature:** [Brook Waimarama Sanctuary](#).

Check the [DOC-website](#) for all available hikes.

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Countdown, Pak 'n Save, New World, The Warehouse (*cheap camping supplies too*).

⌘ **Markets:** [Nelson Saturday Market](#) (8AM-1PM), Monty's Sunday Market (8AM-1PM), [Nelson Farmers Market](#) (Wed 8AM-2PM), Isel Twilight Market.

⌘ **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 vegetarian and vegan restaurants... check them on [Happy Cow - Nelson](#). Don't miss out on the markets! Many vegan options!

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 when driving.

☠ Boycott zoos or places like Natureland Zoo 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 New Zealand, double-check border regulations. Clean all outdoor gear and don't bring food into the country.

Next?

➔ In New Zealand: Wellington, Nelson Lakes NP, Kuharangi NP, Golden Bay, Punaikaki, Picton.

➔ International destinations close by: Australia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Micronesia.

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](#) and [this one](#) for Nelson 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](#) – *contact me for a 2018 discount code*)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

◆ Nightlife areas: Downtown pubs and breweries. Liquid NZ Bar for *dancing* (75 Bridge Street).

◆ Theaters: [Theatre Royal Nelson](#).

Free-Riding?

■ Nelson is rather compact and everything within the centre is within walking distance.

■ Nelson has good roads and biking is possible and there are several biking tracks, but watch out: Traffic isn't very considerate of bikers (*and roads can be narrow without much biking space*) and it's quite hilly.

■ There are 6 local bus routes, which you can find [here](#). You can pay the bus driver. Buses to other cities are operated by [Intercity](#) or [Manabus \(Naked Bus\)](#) and arrive at and leave from Travel Center (27 Bridge Street).

■ Abel Tasman NP is served by water taxis (*several companies*) leaving at certain times from Marahau and Kaiteriteri.

■ Airport: Nelson Airport (NSN).

■ Hitch-hiking is relatively safe in NZ and very easy. You can also use carpool apps or one of the many rideshare Facebook-groups to share petrol costs with someone.