



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## New Zealand – Rotorua

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Wellington
- ✓ **Language:** English / Māori
- ✓ **Population:** ± 71,700
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 2.615
- ✓ **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: 288m. Climate: Mediterranean Maritime (Cfb).

### Bucket List For Free

☺ **Nature:** [Redwoods](#) (*treewalk is paid – trails aren't*), [Tarawara Trail](#) to [Hot Water Beach](#), [Blue Lake Track](#), [Mount Ngongotaha](#), [Kuirau Park](#) (*free geysers*), [Lake Rotorua](#), [Lake Rotoiti](#), [Lake Okareka](#), [Rainbow Mountain](#) (*many hikes*), [Lake Rotokakahi](#), [Lake Rotoma](#), [Lake Rerewhakaaitu](#).

☺ **Sights:** St. Faith's Anglican Church, Ohinemutu, Government Gardens, Arawa War Memorial Statue, Rotorua Centennial Park.

### Costing The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Commercial Geyser Parks:** [Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland](#), [Te Puia](#), [Waimangu Cauldron](#), [Waikite Valley Thermal Pools](#), [Te Whakerewarewa Geothermal Valley](#).

👍 **Museums:** 3D Trick Art Gallery, [Tamaki Maori Village](#), [Buried Village](#), [Rotorua Museum](#), [Te Amorangi](#).

👍 **Outdoor sports:** Zipline, Rafting, Parasailing, Paragliding, 4WD, Maze Me, Kayaking, SUP, Zorb.

## Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** New World, Countdown, Pak 'n Save.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Farmers Market (*Sunday*), Rotorua Night Market (*Thursday*). Check out Eat Street (*Tutanekai Street*) for evening bites.
- ⌘ **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 - Rotorua](#).

## 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.
- ☠ Boycott zoos like Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre, Paradise Valley Springs Wildlife Park, Surico Alpaca Farm, Agrodome and Rainbow Springs Nature Park where animals are held in captivity.
- ☠ Tap water is drinkable, but contains a high amount of chloride in this country. 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 to avoid high fines.

## Next?

- ➔ In New Zealand: Matamata, Taupo, Auckland, Waitakere Ranges, Hamilton, Port Waikato, Raglan, Coromandel, Gisborne.
- ➔ 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](#) for 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](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

## Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Nightlife areas: Centre (Lava Bar / Pig & Whistle) and Eat Street. [Volcanic Hills Winery](#) has wine tastings.
- ◆ Theaters: Pohutu Cultural Theatre.

## Free-Riding?

- Rotorua itself has a rather compact city centre and everything is at a walkable distance. To reach the main attractions alternative transport is necessary.
- Rotorua has good roads including many mountainbike tracks, but bike rental is VERY expensive.
- Rotorua has a bus system but it doesn't reach very far and barely operates on Sundays. Check out route planners on the Moovit-app. The Redwoods, Ngongotaha and Te Puia can be reached by public bus, for the other places you'll need expensive shuttles or taxis. Buses to other towns leave and arrive in front of the i-Site Visitor Center.
- Airport: Rotorua Regional Airport (ROT).
- Hitch-hiking is relatively safe in NZ and a necessary option in Rotorua if you don't have your own vehicle. You can also use carpool-apps or one of the many rideshare Facebook-groups to share petrol costs with someone and plan your journey ahead.

*The Earth Becomes My Throne*