



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

New Zealand – Stewart Island

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Wellington
- ✓ **Language:** English / Māori
- ✓ **Population:** ± 400
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 1746
- ✓ **Currency:** NZ Dollar (\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +64 (21)
- ✓ **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: 101m. Climate: Mediterranean Maritime (Cfb). Usually rainy.

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Hikes:** [Rakiura Track](#) (officially 3 days – can easily be walked in 2 or 1 day – pre-book Port William / North Arm Hut), [North West Circuit](#) (9-11 days), [Southern Circuit](#) (4-6 days), [Ryans Creek](#) (great alternative finish for Rakiura Track), Observation Rock, [Fuchsia Walk](#), Golden Bay – Deep Bay, [Harrold Bay / Ackers Point Lighthouse](#) (spot blue penguins in evening!), [Evening Cove](#), [Fern Gully](#), Moturau Moana, [Horseshoe Point](#).

☺ At lucky days the southern lights (*aurora australis*) can be witnessed.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Watersports:** Diving, Kayaking.

👍 **Trips:** [Ulva Island](#) (fee water taxi / ferry).

👍 **Culture:** [Bunkhouse Theatre](#) (film about Stewart Island).

☺ **Spot kiwis:** Stewart Island is THE place to spot kiwis, but most success you'll have at night at the rugby field.

☺ **Free museums:** [Rakiura Museum](#).

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** None. An overpriced Foursquare is your only option. Bring food from Invercargill.
- ⌘ **Markets:** None.
- ⌘ **Local food:** Meat Pie, Fish & Chips, Hangi (*vegetables & meat*), Crayfish, Kina (*sea urchin*), Pavlova (*dessert*), Honey, Jaffas (*sugarcoated chocolate balls*), Kumara (*sweet potato*), Paua Fritters (*seafood*), Marmite (*only if you're brave*).
- ⌘ **Go vegan:** Foursquare has several vegan products. There are no vegan restaurants here.

Mama Said

- ☠ New Zealand is generally safe, and thieves won't go far on an island, 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!
- ☠ Tap water is drinkable.
- ☠ There are no banks on the island, but there's an ATM in the Foursquare supermarket (*NZ bank passes only*). Some businesses accept credit cards.
- ☠ When going on a hike, inform someone about your whereabouts and expected return time. Bring extra food and inform about weather conditions. Take clothes for all climates, but here especially rain and mud! Stay on the tracks to preserve nature.
- ☠ Packing list multi-day tracks: Backpack – Raincovers – Sleeping Bag – First Aid Kit – Insect Repellent – Sunscreen – Survival Kit (*emergency blanket*) – Drink Bottle (2-3L) – Map – Compass – Tide Table – Cooking Gear and Utensils / Propane – High-Energy Food for Amount of Days +2 days – Matches/Lighter – Toiletries – Talk Powder – Rubbish Bag – Toilet Paper – Torch – ID & Tickets – Candles – Camera – Ear Plugs/Sleeping Mask – Hiking Boots – Socks (*extra*) – Shorts/Shirt/Under Layers/Mid Layers (*dryquick / fleece*) – Raincoat – Wind/Waterproof Trousers – Hat and Gloves – Sunhat and Sunglasses – Flipflops – Swimwear – (Tent/Camping Gear).

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*), unless you have a self-contained vehicle (*with proof*) which will be hard to bring onto the island. Campsites are available at Stewart Island Backpackers or along the tracks. '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](#).

Free-Riding?

- Stewart Island has only about 30km of road, most of the island is reached by walking (only). Find maps [here](#).
- Biking is possible, but you'll be done quickly at the limited roads available. The walking tracks are for pedestrians only.
- There are no public buses on the island. The buses available are related to tourist transport.
- The ferry between Bluff – Stewart Island goes twice daily and is operated by [Stewart Island Experience](#). In order to reach Ulva Island you can take the 10-min Ulva Island Ferry leaving from Golden Bay Wharf. In winter they operate water taxi only (*several companies*), which is \$5 more expensive.
- Airport: Invercargill Airport (IVC).
- Hitch-hiking is relatively safe in NZ and very easy.

Next?

- ➔ In New Zealand: Bluff, Invercargill, The Catlins, Te Anau, Dunedin.
- ➔ International destinations close by: Australia, the Pacific Islands.

The Earth Becomes My Throne