



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## New Zealand – Taupo / Tongariro Crossing

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Wellington
- ✓ **Language:** English / Māori
- ✓ **Population:** ± 36.800
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 6.970
- ✓ **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		warmest										
Autumn		driest	wettest									
Winter							coldest					
Budget												

Altitude: 21m. Climate: Mediterranean Maritime (Cfb).

### Bucket List For Free

☺ **Hot springs:** Lake Taupo has public thermal pools at its sides, and so does the Spa Thermal Park (*just under the bridge at the beginnig of Huka Falls Trail*).

☺ **Nature:** [Lake Taupo & Great Lake Trail](#), [Huka Falls Tracks](#), [Aratiatia Rapids](#), Spa Thermal Park, Kinloch Beach, [Waipahihi Botanical Gardens](#), [Opepe Scenic and Historic Reserve](#), [Kawakawa Bay Tracks](#), [Rangatira Point Track](#), [Tahunatara Point Track](#), [Waihaha / Waihora Tracks](#), [Whakaipo Bay Tracks](#),

☺ **Museums:** Taupo Museum.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Tongariro Crossing:** Yes, it's free to enter, but the shuttles to get there are seriously overpriced. They (*on purpose*) limited the parking to 4hrs, whereas the trail takes longer than that. Hitchhiking is possible but traffic very limited because of this. Only go on sunny days (*for visibility*) and realize it's very cold up there. Dress well! And no, it's really not that difficult.

👍 **Hot springs:** The lovely [Wairakei Terraces](#).

👍 **Outdoor sports:** Kayak, parasailing, delta flying, helicopter tours, 4WD, [Craters of the Moon walk](#).

## Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Countdown, Pak 'n Save.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Taupo Market (*Sat 9AM-1PM*).
- ⌘ **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 - Taupo](#).

## Festivals

- ⌘ [Across The Lake Swim](#): Feb.
  - ⌘ Taupo Winter Festival: July.
  - ⌘ Graffiato Taupo Street Art Festival: Oct.
- Find all festivals [here](#).

## 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 or places like Huka Prawn Park and Lilliput Farm Fun and Animal Park where animals are held in captivity or worse: killed.
- 💀 Tap water is drinkable, but contains a high amount of chloride in Auckland. 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.

## 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 Taupo 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](#).

## Free-Riding?

- Taupo is rather compact and everything within the centre is within walking distance.
- Taupo has good roads and biking is possible and there are several biking tracks, but watch out: Traffic isn't very considerate of bikers at all and it's quite hilly.
- There's a local bus service operated by Taupo Connector, serving routes north, west and central. You can pay the bus driver. Buses to other cities are operated by [Intercity](#) or [Manabus \(Naked Bus\)](#) and arrive at and leave from the i-Site Visitor Center.
- Airport: Taupo Airport (TUO).
- 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.

## Next?

- ➔ In New Zealand: Rotorua, Napier, New Plymouth, Gisborne, Tauranga, Matamata (Hobbiton).
- ➔ International destinations close by: Australia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Micronesia.