



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## New Zealand – Wellington

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Wellington
- ✓ **Language:** English / Māori
- ✓ **Population:** ± 1,4 mln
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 496,000
- ✓ **Currency:** NZ Dollar (\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +64 (4)
- ✓ **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: 13m. Climate: Mediterranean Maritime (Cfb). Very windy.

### Bucket List For Free

☺ **Nature:** [Mount Victoria](#), Mount Kaukau, [Matiu / Somes Island](#), [Otari Native Botanic Garden](#), [Red Rocks Reserve](#), [Pencarrow Coastal Trail](#), [Wright's Hill](#), [Makara Peak](#), [Te Ahumairangi Hill](#), [Rimutuka Rail Trail](#)... check the [DOC-site](#) for a full overview.

☺ **Sights:** Old St. Paul's, National War Memorial, [Parliament Building](#) (*free tours!*), Bolton Street Cemetery, City to Sea Bridge, Cuba Street District.

☺ **Beaches:** Oriental / Scorching / Lyall Bay / Owhiro / Titahi / Karaka Bay, Eastbourne / Plimmerton Beach.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Museums & Sights:** [Carter Observatory](#) (*special movie nights*), [The Great War Exhibition](#),

👍 **Nature:** [Zealandia Sanctuary](#), [Staglands Wildlife Reserve](#),

👍 **Trips:** Wellington Cable Car.

☺ **Free museums:** [Te Papa](#), [Wellington Museum](#), [City Gallery](#), [Reserve Bank Museum](#), [Portrait Gallery](#),

Full list [here](#).

## Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** New World, Countdown, Pak 'n Save.
- ⌘ **Markets:** [Harbourside Market](#) (Sun 7:30AM - 1/2PM), [Wellington Underground Market](#) (Sat 10AM - 4PM), [Wellington Night Market](#) (Fri from 5PM).
- ⌘ **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: [Happy Cow - Wellington](#). Plus the monthly [Vegan Vault](#) market!

## Festivals

- ⚙ NZ Festival: Feb-Mar.
- ⚙ Wellington Jazz Festival: Jun.
- ⚙ World of Wearable Art: Sep-Oct.

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

## Next?

- ➔ In New Zealand: Taupo, Rotorua, Picton, Nelson.
- ➔ 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 Wellington 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](#))

## Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Nightlife areas: Courtenay Place, Cuba Street, Tory Street, Waterfront.
- ◆ Theaters: [Circa Theatre](#), [St. James Theatre](#), [BATS Theatre](#).

## Free-Riding?

- Wellington has a rather compact city centre and most is walkable. For the suburbs and region you'll need alternative transport.
- Wellington has good roads and biking is possible, but watch out: Traffic isn't very considerate of bikers at all and it's very hilly. Check out [Nextbike](#).
- Buses and some trams 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 'Snapper Card'. Find a journey planner [here](#). The inter-city bus terminal and train station is located at Waterloo Quay in the centre. Buses to other cities are operated by [Intercity](#) or [Manabus](#) ([Naked Bus](#)).
- Ferries leave to Picton, South Island. There are two services: The more comfortable [Interislander](#) leaving just outside of town (*free shuttle bus*) and [Blue Bridge](#) leaving more conveniently from the centre.
- Airport: Wellington International Airport (WLG).
- 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.

The Earth Becomes My Throne