

NZ fact sheet

Wellington is the **capital** of **New Zealand**. It has been the capital since 1865. Before then **Auckland** was the capital. Wellington is the second largest city in New Zealand. It had about 448,000 people in 2006.^[1] Wellington is the southernmost capital city in the world.

Wellington is in the middle of New Zealand, at the south end of the **North Island**. South of Wellington is Cook Strait, the sea between the North Island and the **South Island**. The city has a lot of hills and a deep harbour. The middle of the city is busier than most small cities and is easy for people to walk around.

It was named for **Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington**. Wellington recently became famous because *The Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy was made there.

Auckland is the largest city in **New Zealand**. About 1.4 million people live in the **Auckland region**.^[1] For a short time in New Zealand's history it was the **capital city**. Now **Wellington** is the capital city.

Auckland is in the north of the **North Island**. It is situated on two **harbours**: the Manukau and Waitemata harbours. It is known as the "City of Sails" because there are many sailing boats in the city. The Hauraki Gulf has many different islands and provides safe anchorage and good sailing that is recognised around the world.

Auckland is built on a series of **dormant volcanos**. The youngest and largest of these is called Rangitoto. Rangitoto is an island just a few kilometres from the city centre. It has many **pohutukawas**, native trees also known as the New Zealand Christmas tree because of their brilliant red flowers which bloom in December.

- The name Rotorua is a Maori word that means 'second lake' which is derived from the original name Te Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe, "The second great lake of Kahumatamomoe".
- Just over one-third of Rotorua's population is Maori, the highest proportion of any city in New Zealand.
- Experiencing some of the many aspects of the Maori culture, their legends, music and arts, is one of Rotorua's biggest draws.
- With over 35 Maraes, live Maori shows and cultural attractions, Rotorua is the best place to experience Maori culture in New Zealand.

Nelson was named in honour of the **Admiral Horatio Nelson** who defeated both the **French** and **Spanish** fleets at the **Battle of Trafalgar** in 1805. Many roads and public areas around the city are named after people and ships associated with that battle and Trafalgar Street is the main shopping axis of the city. Inhabitants of Nelson are referred to as Nelsonians.

Nelson's **Māori** name, Whakatū,^[5] means 'build', 'raise', or 'establish'.

Invercargill (**Māori**: *Waihōpai*) is the southernmost and westernmost city in New Zealand, and one of the southernmost cities in the world. It is the commercial centre of the **Southland** region. It lies in the heart of the wide expanse of the Southland Plains on the Oreti or New River some 18 km north of **Bluff**, which is the southernmost town in the **South Island**.