

NEW TO NEW ZEALAND

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Kia Ora! And welcome to New Zealand! NZ is also known as 'Aotearoa' in Te Reo Māori, which means "land of the long white cloud".

New Zealand is a vibrant country known for its spectacular scenery, friendly people, moderate climate and fresh food and produce (let's not forget the All Blacks and rugby).

The population of New Zealand is just over 4 million people. It is about the same size as Japan or Colorado. The capital city is Wellington but the largest business and international gateway is Auckland with just over 1 million inhabitants. Our main industries are dairy and sheep farming, tourism and forestry.

We suggest you visit www.tourism.net.nz for information about New Zealand including key facts, tourist guides, accommodation and transport guides and helpful advice.

Deaf Community in New Zealand

- Deaf people in New Zealand are proud to be New Zealanders and are active members of their community.
- There are many new immigrants to Auckland in particular.
- Currently there are approximately 9,000 Deaf New Zealanders and about 420,000 Deaf, deaf and hearing impaired people in New Zealand.
- New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) is the sign language used by Deaf people in New Zealand.
- NZSL includes signs for Te Reo Māori terminology and concepts unique only to New Zealand.
- NZSL became one of New Zealand's official languages (alongside English and Te Reo Māori) by the passing of the New Zealand Sign Language Act in 2006.
- NZSL is used daily by more than 24,000 new Zealanders and it is the 12th most frequently used language, out of approximately 190 languages, currently used in New Zealand.

NZSL and International Sign Interpreters

Under the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities all Deaf people have the right to access information in NZSL, including using an interpreter.

During your stay, if you wish to use the services of an interpreter you can contact:

iSign: www.isign.co.nz

Signonline: sue@signonline.co.nz

Advanced Interpreting Management Services: www.aims.nz.com

Most interpreters are trained in NZSL however some interpreters also have international sign skills. The interpreter agency will be able to advise you on what interpreters are available.

Transport

Most cities and large towns have domestic airports. Air New Zealand (www.airnz.co.nz) is the main carrier in New Zealand, with Jetstar also providing certain routes (www.jetstar.co.nz).

There are also some long-distance train services provided by TranzScenic (www.tranzscenic.co.nz).

For more information on public transport (bus, train and ferry) in the main cities go to:

www.maxx.co.nz (Auckland)

www.metroinfo.co.nz (Christchurch) or

www.metlink.org.nz (Wellington)

Nationwide bus services, car and motorhome rentals are available.

More information can be found on Tourism New Zealand's website www.newzealand.com/travel/getting-to-around-nz/getting-to-around-nz_home.cfm

Deaf Aotearoa

Deaf Aotearoa focuses on promoting Awareness of, Access to and Advancement of NZSL – to help strengthen the rights of Deaf people. It provides service coordination, employment support, information and advice to the Deaf community and works with businesses and organisations.

Deaf Aotearoa has offices throughout New Zealand and our friendly Community Relations Officers are happy to help any visitors to New Zealand. See 'Useful Contacts' section.

Our website is www.deaf.org.nz

Deaf Aotearoa is an ordinary member of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), and follows their principles.

Deaf Clubs

Local Deaf clubs are situated throughout New Zealand. These are places where the local Deaf community socialises. It is always worth making time to visit and meet the local Deaf community. Make sure to contact the Club to find out when they are open – most clubs are only open once a week on Fridays.

Communications

If you need to phone a hearing person during your visit to New Zealand, a relay service is available 24/7 via the Internet (www.internet.nzrelay.co.nz) or TTY (0800 4 711 711). Calls to land-line (numbers starting with 03, 04, 06, 07 and 09) and toll-free (0800 and 0508) numbers in New Zealand are free. However calls to mobile (numbers starting with 02) and international numbers require you to purchase a calling card. For more information about using the relay service visit www.nzrelay.co.nz

We also have a Video Relay Service (VRS) available during limited hours. Note that the VRS requires you to register before you can use it. For more information about opening times, registering and using the Video Relay Service visit www.nzrelay.co.nz

Emergency Services

If you do need to contact emergency services during your visit to New Zealand here are some handy tips:

The emergency number to dial is 111 – this will connect you with Police, Fire and Ambulance.

You can contact 111 by:

- Texting 111 from a registered mobile phone. (Important: see note below)
- Asking a hearing person to call 111 for you.
- Calling 111 through the Relay Service

Note: Texting 111 is only available for registered mobiles with New Zealand SIM cards – e.g. Telecom, 2degrees or Vodafone. You can purchase a SIM card from the airport, supermarket, etc. Visit www.deaf.org.nz and click on '111 TXT' to register your mobile phone.

You have a right to the use of an interpreter so ask if you require one.

Useful Contacts

Northland

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: northland@deaf.org.nz Text: 021 540 191

Auckland

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: auckland@deaf.org.nz Text 021 847 729

Auckland Deaf Society

www.auckland-deaf.org.nz

Email: admin@auckland-deaf.org.nz

Kelston Deaf Education Centre

www.kdec.school.nz

AUT University

www.aut.ac.nz

Hamilton

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: waikato@deaf.org.nz Text: 021 540 193

Tauranga/Rotorua

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: bayofplenty@deaf.org.nz Text: 021 465 031

Tauranga Deaf Club

Contact Jerry Pereira (President)

Email: bopdeafclub@gmail.com

Text: 022 1394 173

Fax 07 571 1083

New Plymouth

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: taranaki@deaf.org.nz

Whanganui

Deaf Aotearoa Access Centre

28 Churton Street, Whanganui (hours 9am – 4pm)

Palmerston North

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: manawatu@deaf.org.nz Text: 021 634 191

Hawkes Bay

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: hawkesbay@deaf.org.nz Text: 021 459 005

Hawkes Bay Deaf Club, 22 Lee Road, Taradale, Napier

Email: hbdeaf@clear.net.nz Fax 06 8449982

Text 027 8593238

Wellington

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: wellington@deaf.org.nz Text: 021 545 288

Wellington Deaf Club

www.wds.org.nz

Deaf Study & Research Unit

(Victoria University of Wellington)

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/

Nelson/Blenheim

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: marlborough@deaf.org.nz

Nelson Deaf Community Incorporated

www.nelsondeaf.co.nz

Christchurch

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: christchurch@deaf.org.nz Text: 021 2765 033

Canterbury Deaf Society

www.canterburydeafclub.org.nz

Van Asch Deaf Education Centre

www.vanasch.school.nz

Dunedin

Deaf Aotearoa

Email: dunedin@deaf.org.nz Text: 021 276 5646

Invercargill

Deaf Aotearoa Access Centre

192 Spey Street, Invercargill (hours 9am – 4pm)

For more information about Deaf Aotearoa and the services it provides please visit www.deaf.org.nz

For more information about learning NZSL please visit www.nzsign.co.nz

