

# New Zealand - OVERVIEW

Updated: March 10, 2014



**Country Name Long Form:** None

**Government Type:** Parliamentary Democracy and a Commonwealth Realm

**Languages Spoken:** English, Maori, Samoan, Hindi, French, Northern Chinese, Yue, New Zealand Sign Language

**National Flag**



**New Zealand is a Tier III Country. Significant security measures are necessary.**

	Overall Assessment	Political Violence	Crime	Terrorism	Travel Safety
New Zealand	L	L	L	L	L
Key: (L) Low – (M) Medium – (H) High – (C)Critical					

## POLITICAL CONDITIONS

**Political Violence is rated at LOW**

There are occasional protests, including at the U.S. Embassy in Wellington and U.S. Consulate General in Auckland. They usually highlight anti-globalization themes, opposition to the war in Afghanistan, domestic political issues, and indigenous (Maori) rights; however, these protests are generally peaceful. There was one significant protest in Auckland against the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement meeting in December 2012. The protest has about 250 people and turned slightly violent; they assaulted police officers and set boxes on fire in the street.

## TERRORISM

**Terrorism is assessed as LOW**

Although there have been no recorded terrorist attacks in New Zealand and no terrorist groups are known to operate in the country, the government has approved a number of counterterrorism measures and legislation as a result of the 9/11 attacks in the U.S. in 2001. However, some terrorist

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experts have speculated that several groups linked to international Islamist terrorist networks may be operating out of cities in New Zealand.

## RULE OF LAW / CORRUPTION

The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2013 gave New Zealand a score of 91, indicating that the country has low level of corruption. The CPI rates countries by the perceived levels of corruption in their public sector, with the least corrupt country receiving a maximum score of 100.

## CRIME

### Crime is assessed as **LOW**

Crime is less prevalent in New Zealand than in major cities in the United States.

Street crimes in the major urban areas, such as theft from vehicles, are routine occurrences and foreign tourists are frequently the victims of such crimes. Arrests for firearm-related offences showed a small decline; the use of weapons in the commission of crimes is infrequent. Burglaries to dwellings and commercial premises along with vehicle thefts also dropped in relation to previous figures.

## KIDNAPPING

The rate of kidnappings continues to decrease and is less than one in 10,000, according to the New Zealand Police, and is generally associated with inter-organized rivalries.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual Assault cases occur less frequently in New Zealand.

## NATURAL DISASTERS

The possibility of natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, is one of the greatest threats in New Zealand.

## STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE

- Due to New Zealand's position in the southern hemisphere and the thinner ozone layer over the country, the sun is very strong and sunburns are common. Visitors should ensure that they use adequate protection, including sun lotion, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.
- Stay in groups, travel in a caravan consisting of two or more vehicles, and stay on the main roads.
- Ensure that someone not traveling with you is aware of your itinerary.
- Avoid hotels that do not have adequate security.
- Intercity travel after dark anywhere in should be avoided.
- It is preferable to stay in the main tourist destinations.

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- Pay close attention to your surroundings, especially when walking.
- Official taxis are a suitable means of travel in daylight hours in urban areas. It is highly recommended that taxis be arranged through your hotel, or program office. Negotiate the price in advance.
- Women should be especially careful when traveling alone and avoid staying out late without a trusted male escort.
- Make sensible security precautions to mitigate the risk of petty crime, particularly pick pocketing and bag snatching.
- Carry a photocopy of your passport when traveling to avoid losing it in a robbery.
- Do not resist if you are being robbed and avoid eye contact and do not make any sudden movements. Victims have been killed when they resisted attack or refused to give up their money or other valuables.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and keep a low profile.
- Never leave your food, drinks or belongings unattended.
- Carry bags close to your body and make sure the fasteners are secure.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or wearing expensive jewelry or valuables.
- Leave all important documents in a safe or safe deposit box at your hotel and only carry certified copies.
- Trust your instincts. If someone or something makes you uneasy, avoid the situation.

### **Important Contact Details**

**International Dialing Code:** +64

**International Dialing Prefix:** 00

### **Victims of crime should contact the following phone numbers for assistance**

**POLICE:** The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line is: 111

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** 111

**AMBULANCE:** 111

**Note:** Police, ambulance or fire department response may be unreliable in some parts of the country.

## TRAVEL & ROAD SAFETY

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- New Zealand's infrastructure is both well-developed and modern. It has extensive transport networks, and there are large ferries, which carry cars, trucks and passengers, connecting North Island with South Island.
- The road network is well-developed and maintained; with the result being the private car is predominant mode of transport in the country, even though bus services are widely available.
- The provision of electricity, water and fuel is reliable across the country and telecommunications services, including cellular and internet coverage, are widely available.

## RECOMMENDED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

- No ATM use after dark.
- No traveling alone after dark.

## HEALTH

New Zealand has a sophisticated health care system; medical facilities are of a high standard and staff is well trained. Visitors bringing in a quantity of medication should carry a doctor's certificate to avoid possible problems with New Zealand customs. Most medical facilities expect cash payments up front.

- Tap water in urban areas is generally considered safe to drink; however, in the more rural areas, water quality may be poorer.
- Travelers should avoid drinking tap water outside of major urban centers; only bottled water or water that has been properly purified should be consumed.
- Pasteurized milk is widely available. Unpasteurized milk should be boiled before consumption, or powdered or tinned milk should be used as an alternative.

There are no vaccinations recommended or required for travel to New Zealand.

It is however, important to ensure that routine vaccinations are up to date for diseases including influenza, chickenpox (or varicella), polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

## **SIGNIFICANT DISEASE –**

**Leptospirosis** – A rare and severe infection that occurs when you come in contact with *Leptospira* bacteria. This is commonly reported in farm and meat workers in New Zealand. Caution is advised around animal farms.

## **HOSPITALS –**

Bowen Hospital

Churchill Drive  
Crofton Downs  
Wellington

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Tel: +64 4 479 2069

Fax: +64 4 479 8520

Website: <http://bowen.co.nz/>

Wakefield Hospital

Florence Street

Newton

Wellington 2

Tel: +64 4 389 7119

Fax: +64 4 389 7255

Website: <http://wakefield.co.nz/>

### US EMBASSY – CONSULATE LOCATIONS

#### UNITED STATES EMBASSY

29 Fitzherbert Terrace

Thorndon

Wellington

Tel: +64 (0)4 462 6000

Fax: +64 (0)4 499 0490

Email: [aucklandacs@state.gov](mailto:aucklandacs@state.gov)

Website: <http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/index.html>

### USF INTERNATIONAL HOTLINE

USF 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LINE: 813-317-5815

AXA Assistance 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LINE: 1-877-577-9504 / +1-203-399-5130 (Call collect from abroad)

ASSIST ID #: GLMN 04983932. <http://www.culturalinsurance.com/resources/>

\* Information derived from CIA World Fact Book, US Department of State, OSAC, and Travel Guard. This travel overview summarizes some of the most important concerns; however, it does not negate the need for detailed trip planning.