NEW ZEALAND

JOURNEYS CLUB

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From the glacial mountains to lush, sheep-dotted hillsides, New Zealand is one of the world's most awe-inspiring escapes from reality. This small island nation is so chock-full of riveting natural beauty, you may have to force yourself to blink.

HISTORY

Deeply connected to its native Maori roots, New Zealand is a land with rich layers of history and culture. While initial discovery of the island is attributed to a Polynesian navigator named Kupe in 800 A.D., Captain James Cook laid claim to it for England in 1769 on his way to Australia. Relations between the new settlers and the Maori were initially congenial but soon soured, culminating in a war between the two groups in the 1860s. By the late nineteenth century, things had calmed down and sweeping social changes took hold. Independence from Britain was granted in 1947 and New Zealand's economy has prospered ever since. Recently, the Maori population has been booming, and a resurgence of native culture has enriched the lives of the nation's inhabitants.

FAST FACTS

Capital	*Wellington*
Population	*4 million*
Language	*English and Maori*
Currency	*New Zealand dollar (NZ$)*
Time Zone	*EST plus 17 hours*
Electricity	*230V, 50Hz*

HOLIDAYS & FESTIVALS

January	*Regatta & Harbour Festival (Auckland)*
February	*Wine and Food Festival (Queenstown)*
February 6	*Waitangi Day (New Zealand Day)*
February/March	*Asian Lantern Festival (Christchurch)*
February/March	*International Arts Festival (Wellington)*
March	*Golden Shears Sheep-Shearing Contest (Masterton)*
March	*Auckland Cup Week*
March	*Pacifika Polynesian Festival (Auckland)*
April 25	*ANZAC Day*
June	*Queen's Birthday*
September	*42 Below Cocktail World Cup (Queenstown)*
December 26	*Boxing Day*