

## **New Zealand Weather**

New Zealand has mild temperatures, moderately high rainfall, and many hours of sunshine throughout most of the country. New Zealand's climate is dominated by two main geographical features: the mountains and the sea.

### **New Zealand Sunshine**

Most places in New Zealand receive over 2,000 hours of sunshine a year. As New Zealand observes daylight saving, during summer months daylight can last up until 9.00 pm.

New Zealand experiences relatively little air pollution compared to many other countries, which makes the UV rays in our sunlight very strong during the summer months. In order to avoid sunburn, visitors should wear sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats when they are in direct summer sunlight, especially in the heat of the day (11 am - 4 pm).

While summer is sunnier than the other seasons, most regions in New Zealand have a relatively high proportion of sunlight during the winter months.

### **New Zealand Temperatures**

New Zealand has a largely temperate climate. While the far north has subtropical weather during summer, and inland alpine areas of the South Island can be as cold as -10 C in winter, most of the country lies close to the coast, which means mild temperatures, moderate rainfall, and abundant sunshine.

Because New Zealand lies in the Southern Hemisphere, the average temperature decreases as you travel south. The north of New Zealand is subtropical and the south temperate. The warmest months are December, January and February, and the coldest June, July and August. In summer, the average maximum temperature ranges between 20 - 30°C and in winter between 10 - 15°C.

### **New Zealand Seasons**

- Spring - September, October, November
- Summer - December, January, February
- Autumn - March, April, May
- Winter - June, July, August

## **New Zealand Summer**

New Zealand's summer months are December to February, bringing high temperatures and sunshine. Days are long and sunny, nights are mild. Summer is an excellent time for walking in the bush and a variety of other outdoor activities. New Zealand's many gorgeous beaches are ideal for swimming, sunbathing, surfing, boating, and water sports during summer.

## **New Zealand Autumn**

March to May are New Zealand's autumn months. While temperatures are a little cooler than summer, the weather can be excellent, and it is possible to swim in some places until April.

While New Zealand's native fauna is evergreen, there are many introduced deciduous trees. Colourful changing leaves make autumn a scenic delight, especially in regions such as Central Otago and Hawke's Bay, which are known for their autumn splendour.

## **New Zealand Winter**

New Zealand's winter months of June to August bring colder weather to much of the country, and more rain to most areas in the North Island. Mountain ranges in both islands become snow-covered, providing beautiful vistas and excellent skiing.

While the South Island has cooler winter temperatures, some areas of the island experience little rainfall in winter, so this is an excellent time to visit glaciers, mountains, and other areas of scenic beauty.

## **New Zealand Spring**

Spring lasts from September to November, and New Zealand's spring weather can range from cold and frosty to warm and hot. During spring buds, blossoms, and other new growth bursts forth throughout the country and new born lambs frolic in the fields just before dusk.

Both Alexandra in Central Otago and Hastings in Hawke's Bay celebrate spring with a blossom festival. If you're into white water rafting, this is the time when melting spring snow makes river water levels excitingly high!

## **Recommended Clothing**

Dress is informal and relaxed on most occasions. Smart casual clothes are acceptable at most restaurants and night-spots. Men are generally not expected to wear suits and ties, except in a few of the top formal bars and restaurants in major cities.

In summer a light jacket or sweater should be included in your luggage should the weather turn cooler or you visit higher altitudes. You can expect some rain, so include a light rainproof jacket or coat. If visiting between May and September, pack warm winter garments and layer your clothing.

## New Zealand Regional Temperatures

The following temperatures are mean daily maximum and minimum temperatures in Celsius and Fahrenheit for New Zealand. Rainfall is indicated as the average rainfall days per season.

	Spring		Summer		Autumn		Winter	
	Sep, Oct, Nov		Dec, Jan, Feb		Mar, Apr, May		Jun, Jul, Aug	
<b>Bay of Islands</b>	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Temperature (C)	19	9	25	14	21	11	16	7
Temperature (F)	67	48	76	56	70	52	61	45
Rain Days/Season	11		7		11		16	
<b>Auckland</b>								
Temperature (C)	18	11	24	12	20	13	15	9
Temperature (F)	65	52	75	54	68	55	59	48
Rain Days/Season	12		8		11		15	
<b>Rotorua</b>								
Temperature (C)	17	7	24	12	18	9	13	4
Temperature (F)	63	45	75	54	68	55	59	48
Rain Days/Season	11		9		9		13	
<b>Wellington</b>								
Temperature (C)	15	9	20	13	17	11	12	6
Temperature (F)	59	48	68	55	63	52	54	43
Rain Days/Season	11		7		10		13	
<b>Christchurch</b>								
Temperature (C)	17	7	22	12	18	8	12	3
Temperature (F)	63	45	72	54	65	46	54	37
Rain Days/Season	7		7		7		7	
<b>Queenstown</b>								
Temperature (C)	16	5	22	10	16	6	10	1
Temperature (F)	61	41	72	50	61	43	50	34
Rain Days/Season	9		8		8		7	