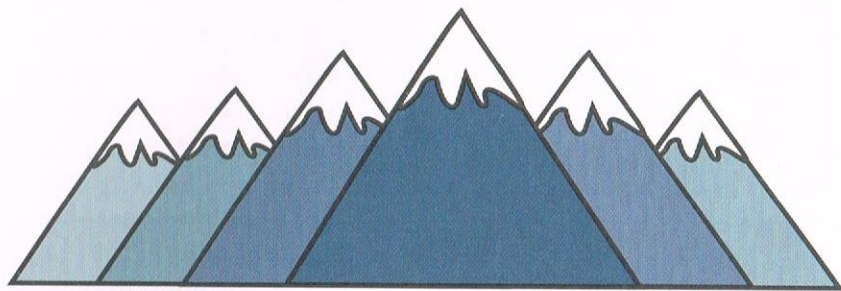


# Mountains, rivers and lakes

New Zealand's six highest mountains



Lendenfeld	Silberhorn	Tasman	Aoraki/ Mount Cook	Dampier	Hicks
3201 m	3279 m	3498 m	3753 m	3440 m	3215 m

## Pounamu

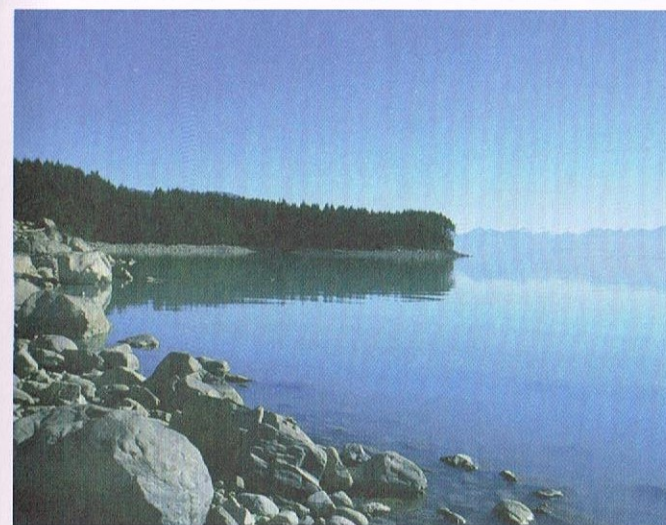
Nephrite and bowenite are beautiful hard green or white stones found in just a few locations. Collectively known as pounamu or greenstone, the stones have been cut and polished by Maori for centuries to make jewellery and weapons. Polished greenstone is a popular souvenir for tourists.

## IT'S A FACT:

While the South Island has 200 peaks over 2,300 metres, the North Island has only two – and they're both volcanoes. At 2797 metres Mount Ruapehu is the highest, although it was much higher thousands of years ago, before the volcanic cone broke down and eroded away. The near-perfect 2518-metre cone of Mount Taranaki (Mount Egmont) comes in second.



Did you know? Aoraki/Mount Cook (left) was 10 metres taller before a rock slide and avalanche in 1991. It was first climbed in 1894.



## Top 12 Lakes

Lake	Area (sq km)
Taupo	606
Te Anau	344
Wakatipu	293
Wanaka	193
Ellesmere	181
Pukaki (left)	169
Manapouri	142
Hawea	141
Tekapo	88
Rotorua	80
Wairarapa	80
Benmore	75

## NEW ZEALAND'S SIX LONGEST RIVERS

Waikato	425 km
Clutha	322 km
Wanganui	290 km
Taieri	288 km
Rangitikei	241 km
Mataura	240 km



Did you know? The name of Huka Falls comes from the Maori word meaning 'foam'. It's hardly surprising – here, at the largest waterfall on New Zealand's longest river, the Waikato suddenly narrows and drops 11 metres. Further downstream, however, the river then widens and gently winds to the Tasman Sea at the Waikato Heads.





## Cities and towns

Most populous places 1901		Most populous places 2001	
1. Auckland	67,226	1. Auckland (City)	367,737
2. Christchurch	57,041	2. Christchurch	316,227
3. Dunedin	52,390	3. Manukau	283,197
4. Wellington	49,344	4. North Shore	184,821
5. Invercargill	9953	5. Waitakere	168,753
6. Napier	8774	6. Wellington (City)	163,824
7. Wanganui	7329	7. Hamilton	114,921
8. Nelson	7010	8. Dunedin	114,342
9. Palmerston North	6543	9. Lower Hutt	95,478
10. Timaru	6424	10. Tauranga	90,906

### IT'S A FACT:

Auckland's population extends beyond the city into the surrounding areas. Counting these areas, over one million people live in Auckland, over 30% of New Zealand's total population.

Did you know? Wellington is the world's most southerly capital city.



Above: In extremely high winds (200 kilometres per hour) the top of the Sky Tower can sway up to a metre.

## Popular landmarks

### One Tree Hill (Maungakiekie)

(right) This distinctive Auckland landmark is a 183 metre high volcanic hill in Cornwall Park. It used to be a large pa (Maori fortified village) with 4000 people living there. A single totara on top of the hill was cut down in 1852 and replaced by several pines, of which one survived. A 20 metre obelisk (stone monument) was built next to it. The tree was deliberately damaged in 1994 and again in 1999, the second time so badly that it had to be cut down.

**Sky Tower** The tallest building in New Zealand (328 metres), Sky Tower can be seen from all over Auckland. A major tourist attraction, the tower includes restaurants, a casino and a viewing platform. It was opened in 1997.

### Wellington Cable Car (below)

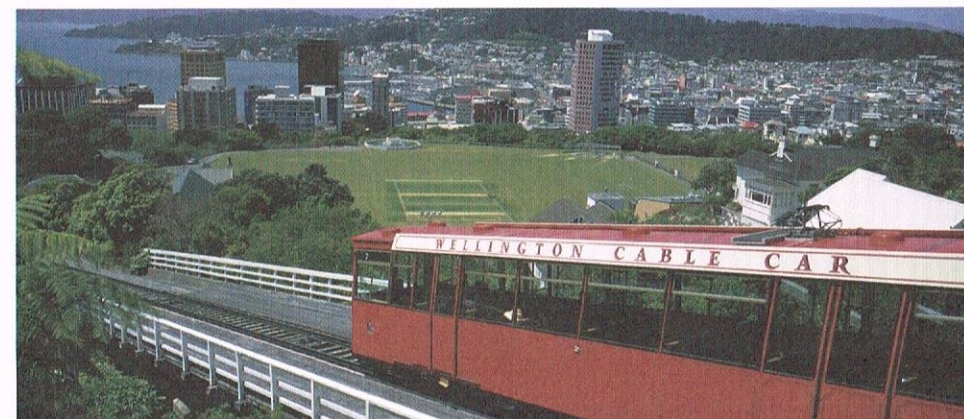
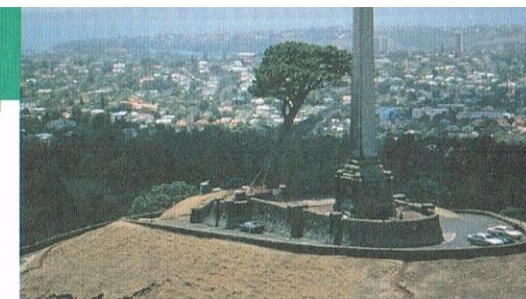
The bright red cable car is a unique way to travel from Lambton Quay to Kelburn. It gains 130 metres in height as it travels up the steep hillside through three tunnels, past Kelburn Park and Victoria

University and to the top of the Botanic Gardens. The system took four years to build, starting in 1898. Three shifts of workers, including prisoners from the Terrace Gaol, worked around the clock. In the late 1970s the tracks and cars were replaced with more modern, safer ones.

### The Beehive (opposite page)

Designed by Sir Basil Spence in 1964 as the executive wing of the Parliament Buildings in Wellington, this 72 metre high structure was finally officially opened in 1977 and cost \$18.8 million to build. It houses ministers and their staff, including the Cabinet.

**Christchurch Cathedral** Right at the heart of Christchurch, the Cathedral Church of Christ dominates Cathedral Square. Work on this grand stone building began in 1864 but had to stop when the money ran out. It wasn't finally completed until 1904. Today you can climb the 133 steps up the spire to look at the bells and get a view of the city.





## Our voting system

New Zealanders used to elect Members of Parliament (MPs) using the first past the post (FPP) system. Whoever got the most votes was made MP. In 1993 we voted to change from FPP to another system, Mixed Member Proportional representation (MMP).



### Political Terms

**Member of Parliament (MP):** Person elected to Parliament.

**Electorate:** 64 areas of New Zealand, each represented by an MP.

**Seat in Parliament:** What an MP wins in Parliament; there are 120 seats.

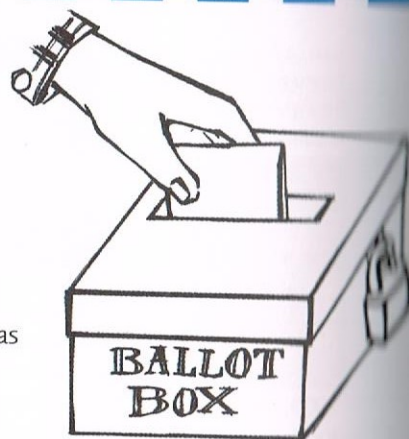
**House of Representatives:** Where MPs meet in Parliament.

**Election:** A chance for people to vote for the Government they want.

**Electoral roll:** List of all the people in the electorate who can vote.

**Political party:** Group of people who agree on how to run the country.

**Voting age:** The age when you can vote in elections: 18 years.



**MMP** is quite complicated. It takes into account the party that people vote for as well as the person they vote for. Each party has a 'list' of people it would like in Parliament, which ones are elected depends on how many votes the party receives. MMP is more likely to result in a coalition, where two or more parties join up to form a Government.

### QUICK QUIZ

**Q:** How often does New Zealand elect its Government?

**A:** Every three years.

**Did you know?** In New Zealand, we can choose whether or not to vote. In other countries, such as Australia, the law says you must vote and you are fined if you don't.

## Our place in the world

### International Organisations NZ belongs to

- Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC): supports economic growth in the region.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): supports economic growth of member countries.
- United Nations (UN): international peace keeping and humanitarian organisation.
- World Trade Organisation (WTO): sets rules for international trade.



**Did you know?** New Zealand was a founder member of the United Nations in 1945.

## REFUGEES

In 1949, over 4500 homeless Europeans came to New Zealand after World War Two. In the 1970s, it was people from Vietnam and Chile. Now we accept 750 refugees a year through the United Nations refugee scheme. In 2000–01, 1700 people from 43 countries applied to be let in to New Zealand as refugees. We accepted 13% of the applications, taking people from countries such as Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iran and Iraq.

**What's a refugee?** Refugees are people — often whole families — who leave their own country because of war, or famine, or because they or their families may be killed for some reason. Many risk their lives in leaky boats or by hiding underneath cars and trains to enter other countries illegally.

### IT'S A FACT:

People smugglers charge refugees thousands of dollars to smuggle them to another country. People smugglers are punished in New Zealand by up to 20 years in jail and a huge fine.

### Number of refugees in the world

Africa	3.5 million
Asia	4.7 million
Europe	2.6 million
Latin America and the Caribbean	61,000
North America	636,000
Oceania	64,500
Total	11.6 million