

20 Things You Didn't Know About New Zealand

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- 1.** New Zealand was the last major land mass to be populated -- it was first settled by Polynesians around 1250 and became a British colony in 1840.
- 2.** The capitol, Wellington, is the southernmost capital city in the world.
- 3.** There are no public drinking fountains in New Zealand.
- 4.** BUT there are free wifi booths in most cities. (And that's pronounced wee-fee.)
- 5.** You won't need to tip your server.
- 6.** You won't need to ask him/her for the check either. Rather than bring a check to the table, you'll pay at the cash register before leaving the restaurant.
- 7.** And the smallest coin is a 10 cent piece, so your bill will be rounded.
- 8.** There are no snakes, bears or wolves in New Zealand. Unfortunately, there are still spiders.
- 9.** Like many cities, Auckland has an observation tower that you can dine in. Unlike many of these cities, you can also jump off of it.
- 10.** But the Auckland Sky Tower isn't the highest jump you'll find in New Zealand- Shotover Canyon Swing in Queenstown is considered the highest cliff jump in the world.
- 11.** With all of these things to jump off of, it's no wonder that commercial bungee jumping first started in New Zealand.
- 12.** And for those of you afraid of heights- so did Zorbing!
- 13.** The south island is home to the clearest lake in the world- Blue Lake in Nelson Lakes National Park.

- 14.** It is also home to the world's steepest street- Baldwin Street, Dunedin. A 35 percent grade at its steepest.
- 15.** Not only can you find white water rafting in New Zealand, but you can also try Black Water Rafting through the famous Glowworm caves.
- 16.** These Glowworms aren't actually worms -- they're gnat larvae that glow to attract food. They also glow brighter when you sing! (Vibrations of singing and other noise off the cave walls cause them to glow brighter.)
- 17.** In the Maori village of Whakarewarewa corn on the cob is shucked, tied in a mesh bag and cooked in the natural hot springs.
- 18.** New Zealand is one of the few countries where you can rent a SpaceShip.
- 19.** You may not be able to drive this Spaceship in to outer space- but you can still use it for some AMAZING star gazing. (With limited light pollution, New Zealand has some of the best star gazing spots on the planet.)
- 20.** And rolling hills, snow capped mountains, rainforest, black sand beaches and volcanic craters are all within driving distance.