

10 ways to spot a Kiwi travelling overseas



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Here are the tell-tale signs that you're a Kiwi overseas.

An estimated one million of us have flown the coop, to travel to far-flung destinations, forge careers and make our mark on the world.

But as Confucius said, "Wherever you go, there you are." Or maybe Six60 said it even better: "Don't forget your roots, my friend."

Here are the top 10 tell-tale signs that you're a Kiwi overseas.

1. THAT ACCENT

It's the obvious one. But a Kiwi overseas will almost always be surrounded by a gaggle of accent admirers. The conversation will inevitably go something like this:

Foreigner: "Oh my God, I LOVE Kiwi accents... can you say, 'fish?'"

Kiwi: "Fush."

Foreigner: "That's like, the most adorable thing ever. Say 'chips?'"

Kiwi: "Chups."

Foreigner: "LOL! Can you say - "

Kiwi: "I'm leaving now."

via GIPHY

2. STUDENT LOAN FEAR

The IRD is pretty much the equivalent of Voldemort for many Kiwis overseas. It should not be mentioned in polite conversation, ever. But if you ever need to pick a Kiwi out of a crowd, just shout the words "Student Loan Police" - and watch out for those who start shifting about uncomfortably.

3. MAORI SING-A-LONG

Every Kiwi overseas knows all the words to the haka, and is prepared to trot it out at any occasion. Even if it's just after-work drinks. The same goes for that much-loved song, *Tutira Mai Nga Iwi*. If you're ever feeling homesick in a foreign pub, all you need to do is start a rousing chorus - there is bound to be a Kiwi ready and waiting to help you out with the "Aue!"

4. CHOCOLATE ENVY

No matter how well-integrated into foreign society a Kiwi might seem, just wait until Whittaker's announces a new chocolate release. The Kiwi will start running around their city like a headless kea, hunting through every international supermarket, begging on Facebook to have it shipped over, making covert trade deals with the New Zealand Embassy... no price is ever too great for Whittaker's.



5. AIR NEW ZEALAND SNACK ENVY

The same goes for plane snacks. It's just not a decent flight if you don't have your choice of the Cookie Time cookie or the Cassava vege crisps. This is how you pick the Kiwis on any flight - they'll be the ones looking crestfallen as the flight attendants bring the catering trolley around.



6. CASUAL ABOUT FORMAL WEAR

One court reporter for the Chris Cairns perjury trial in London was shocked at the scruffy attire of the many Kiwis who showed up to see the former New Zealand cricket captain take the stand. "The morning he was due to testify there was a queue outside the courtroom, featuring more jandals, board shorts, silver ferns and dodgy haircuts than Southwark Crown Court had seen since it started dispensing justice in 1983."



7. SERIOUS ABOUT CASUAL WEAR

Backpacking? Gotta be a Kathmandu backpack. Climbing Mt Everest? You'll be needing your Kathmandu thermals. Most Kiwis can be easily spotted because they have the complete swag of Kathmandu gear, usually received as a belated Christmas present from their mums who have stocked up at the Boxing Day sale.



8. BUT WE LOVE TO ACCESSORISE

If you're a girl, you have to have the Karen Walker Runaway Girl necklace. If you're a guy, it's all about the pounamu.



9. I REPEAT, WE LOVE TO ACCESSORISE

Our travel gear will always be covered in an array of keychains, stickers and patches, all of which feature the New Zealand flag, kiwis, silver ferns and messages along the lines of "I heart New Zealand".



10. FLAT WHITES FOR LIFE

Many Kiwis overseas have made it there based on one essential skill: They know how to make a decent coffee. They'll also be the only ones ordering the flat whites at Starbucks.

