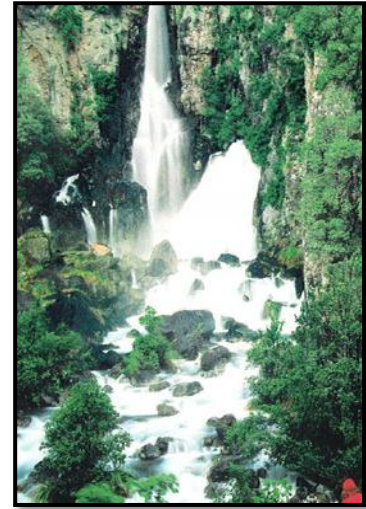


About New Zealand

New Zealand is located in the South Pacific Ocean just west of the International Date Line. It is approximately 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) east of Australia.

New Zealand is a progressive onshore jurisdiction with unique legislation that attracts international investors to use the country as a base from which to hold global private capital investments.



Location

- New Zealand is located in the South Pacific Ocean, approx. 1,600km east of Australia.
- It is comprised of two main islands, the North and South Islands, and several smaller islands of which the combined total land area is 270,534 sqm.
- The city of Wellington is the centre of Government whilst Auckland is the main commercial city.

Population

- 4 million (approx.)

Language

- The official languages of New Zealand are English and Maori.

History

- New Zealand was discovered by the Polynesians in 950AD and claimed for the British by Captain James Cook in 1769.
- It was ceded to Britain under the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.
- Formal independence from Britain was proclaimed in 1947.

Government

- New Zealand is an independent state of the Commonwealth.
- The Queen is represented in New Zealand by the Governor General.
- The democratic government operates under the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) Parliamentary system.
- New Zealand is a member of the United Nations, the OECD, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the South Pacific Forum.

Legal systems

- The independence of the Judiciary is an important principle of the New Zealand legal system to ensure judges are free of political interference.
- The New Zealand parliament makes laws but it is the job of the Judiciary to interpret and apply those laws in cases which come before the courts.
- The legal system has developed from British law.
- Much of the law is codified but English common law remains important in many areas.
- The system of courts extends from the District Court through the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court in New Zealand.

Monetary systems

- New Zealand's unit of currency is the New Zealand dollar (NZ\$).
- There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency that can be brought in or taken out of New Zealand, though more than NZ\$10,000 in cash must be declared.

Communications

- New Zealand has a fully integrated international and domestic telecommunications system offering modern telephone, facsimile and internet services.
- The country's national airline, Air New Zealand, and various foreign airlines provide direct international flights from several international airports to the USA, Australia, Europe, Asia and South America.

Economics

- The New Zealand economy is based on a private enterprise system.
- New Zealand's economic development has traditionally been based on its agricultural products, however since the 1980s there has been a move towards manufactured goods, forestry products, fish, tourism and horticultural and engineering products – now providing approximately 67% of New Zealand's total export revenue.

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