



T: 1-800-985-4852  
E: info@realgap.com  
P: Real Gap Experience, 8 Essex Center Drive, Peabody, MA 01960

## New Zealand Conservation

Adventure



Relaxation



Culture



**Trip Name:** New Zealand Conservation    **Trip Code:** NZCV    **Duration:** From 2 weeks

### Trip Highlights

- Take a leading role in New Zealand conservation amongst breathtaking scenery
- Experience sunrises and sunsets like you've never seen before
- Gain new skills and learn more about the flora and fauna of New Zealand
- Great way to settle into Kiwi life whilst getting involved in worthwhile, hands-on environmental projects



### Overview

Breathtakingly beautiful scenery is the backdrop to this awesome opportunity to really get stuck in to some serious New Zealand conservation. Play a part in conserving the famously beautiful landscapes of New Zealand. Projects might involve coastal restoration, tree planting and surveying flora and fauna.

Projects take place in and around Christchurch and Auckland, aka, the City of Sails, located on the stunning Hauraki Gulf as well as totally rural places like the Waitakere ranges, overlooking the wild west coast, and on the gulf's inner island at sea! So if you want to get involved with worthwhile conservation volunteering, bask in the peace and tranquillity of the natural wonder of Milford Sound, cruise dramatic bays spotting dolphins and whales or pump up your adrenalin in Queenstown,... New Zealand's the place for you. Make sure you include it in your travels in Australasia.

### Destination Info

New Zealand consists of two main islands, the North and the South. The North Island, home to the major cities: the capital Wellington and "The city of sails" Auckland is mainly volcanic in origin boasting many seismic features such as geysers and hot springs. The South Island is separated down its length by the Southern Alps, the highest point

of which is Mount Cook/ Aoraki.

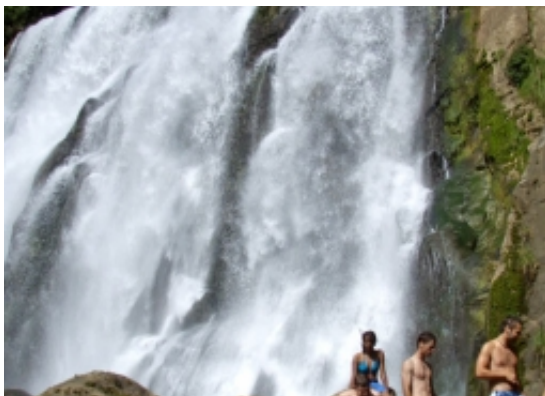
For a landmass that is a little larger than the UK, the population of New Zealand is only 4.1 million - which makes the ratio of sheep to people 10:1! However, this means that despite the huge number of visitors that travel to New Zealand every year it rarely feels crowded.

## Itinerary



After spending a couple of days settling in to the typical Kiwi lifestyle, you will be met on Monday morning by a project team leader. You will receive a health and safety briefing and receive details about the projects you will be undertaking before travelling to the project location.

Conservation Volunteers New Zealand place volunteers on projects in urban, regional and remote locations. You will often travel to a different project location every week or two. This is a fantastic way to take part in different project activities in across the country! Every project is assessed to ensure that it has positive conservation outcomes and is part of an overall management plan. You will not be offered a choice of projects, as they vary according to seasonal conditions and conservation priorities however project leaders will do their best to provide a variety of projects or locations during your time as a volunteer, while achieving their essential conservation outcome, which always remains the priority.



The range of projects that you may get involved with include:

- Tree planting
- Erosion control
- Seed collection
- Walking and trail construction
- Endangered flora and fauna surveys
- Weed control
- Habitat restoration
- Heritage restoration

Project hours run from 8am – 4pm and you will have your weekends free, although some travel can take place on Sundays.

You will be working in groups of 6-10 other volunteers. Taking part in this project is a great way to meet people from all corners of the globe. A responsible team leader will also look after you - they are experts in conservation and extremely knowledgeable – ask as many questions as you like - you can learn loads about conservation and New Zealand's environment and wildlife during your programme! They are also fully trained in first aid so they will take good care of you.

If you are volunteering on the North Island you will begin your experience in Auckland, and the projects take place in and around this famous city – known as the City of Sails, in its stunning location on the Hauraki Gulf.

If you are volunteering on the South Island then your experience will start in Christchurch. You will then travel down Punakaiki, which will be your main base for you project.

**Please note:** Itineraries and activities are subject to change. Projects are closed over the Christmas and New Year period.

## Accommodation

Accommodation varies each week depending on where the projects are located. Typical accommodation includes caravans, hostels, bunkhouses and camping (tents supplied). All food is included, but you will need to muck in and help with meal preparation and washing up!

## Programme Services and Facilities

### Internet

Whilst you are in Auckland or Christchurch there will be plenty of opportunities to use the Internet. However it is difficult to say whether you will have access to the Internet whilst you are working on the projects, as where you are located and the facilities available will vary throughout the programme.

### Telephone

The international telephone access code for New Zealand is +64.

To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK, +49 for Germany, followed by the telephone number. For example to call Real Gap Experience dial +44 1892 516164 / +49 69 222226 475.

It is possible, depending on your location, that you will have a mobile phone signal throughout your stay in New Zealand. But this, along with telephone facilities in your accommodation, depends on where you are and what project you are working on.

## Laundry

Laundry facilities will vary depending on where you are and the accommodation that you are staying in. Be prepared to hand wash any of your clothes in a sink on site!

## Money

You will have access to banking facilities in your arrival city, but this will vary depending on the location of your project. However, as all your meals and accommodation costs are included whilst you are on the project it is unlikely that you will need much money during the week.

## Meals

During your arrival package

**South Island:** Continental breakfasts are included for your initial night's stay in Christchurch, but lunch and dinner on these first few days are not.

**North Island:** All meals are included during your initial night's stay in Auckland.

During your project

You will be provided with three healthy meals each day. Vegetarians can of course be catered for – just let us know if you have any dietary requirements at the time of booking.

## What's Included

- 2-night arrival dormitory accommodation and breakfasts
- Accommodation (for duration of volunteering - dorm share)
- All meals (for duration of volunteering)
- Conservation Volunteers membership
- Wildlife guidebook





## What's Not Included

- Flights
- Insurance
- Visas
- Airport transfers



## Is This Trip For You?

You should be in good health and reasonably fit. The majority of the volunteer work is manual work - so long as you bring a pair of work gloves and a positive, 'let's get hands on' attitude, you'll be settled in no time!

It is essential that you notify us of any pre-existing medical conditions, injuries or allergies – the project leaders will also ask you to declare any conditions during your registration process on arrival. You will not be expected to work outside your own capabilities, but bear in mind that the terrain and activities will vary! Teamwork is an essential element of this programme, as everyone will be working closely together.

## What to Pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor is it exhaustive.

### Personal Admin

- Documents
- Passport
- Driving Licence
- NHS card or a National Insurance card or proof of entitlement to your National Health Service, or the German Krankenversicherungskarte
- Insurance policy document or card
- Credit card, for emergencies and booking internal flights

### General

- Journal or diary
- Drink bottle
- Sunglasses
- Day pack
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Alarm Clock
- Torch
- All season sleeping bag\*
- Sleeping bag liner (great as an additional layer for cold nights or to use on its own for warmer nights)
- Sleeping mat
- Hand wash for clothes

## Clothing

- Wet weather clothing
- Long sleeved shirts to wear during project – long sleeves help protect your skin from sun and scratches
- Long trousers to wear during projects
- Wide brimmed sunhat
- Strong work boots (protective toe caps are recommended)
- Work/gardening gloves
- Casual clothes
- Shorts for wearing whilst not on project
- T-shirts
- Swimming costume (note that swimming is not permitted whilst on the programme for safety reasons)
- Walking shoes/ Sturdy trainers
- Comfortable footwear
- Something warm (especially if you are in NZ for the winter\*)

## Medical Kit

- Medication
- High factor sun cream
- First Aid Kit
- Insect repellent
- Mosquito net (not essential but recommended)

We recommend that you pack your items in a backpack rather than a suitcase as you may be required to carry your luggage to your accommodation.

\* It can get very cold in the winter months from May through September. Please check the temperature in New Zealand before travelling so you get an idea of what to pack.

## Minimum Age

Minimum age 18 years old, maximum decided on potential participants health.

## Flights

Your flight to New Zealand should arrive at Auckland or Christchurch Airport (depending on where you have chosen to volunteer) on your programme start date, and your return flight should be arranged for your programme end date. For arrivals into Auckland you need to arrive before 8am on your programme start date. For arrivals into Christchurch you need to arrive in before 11am on your programme start date.

To book your flights, please contact your travel advisor who will do their best to get you the best deal on the day. Please provide them with your full name as it is stated in your passport. Before you make the call please make sure you have your required departure dates, return dates and other details you may require.

**Please note:** If you are flying to New Zealand via the USA you will need to obtain Travel Authorisation by registering online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) no later than 72 hours before departure. This is compulsory and will cost USD\$14 to register. To register, please visit: [www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov](http://www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov)

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your Online account, or alternatively you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

## FAQs

**1. Is there much manual work involved?**

The majority of the volunteer work is manual work - so long as you bring a pair of work gloves and a positive, 'let's get hands on' attitude, you'll be settled in no time!

**2. Where will I be based?**

If you are in the South Island, you will be based out of Punakaki, Paparoa National Park – which is surrounded by World Heritage Parks. On the North Island option, you can be situated anywhere within 5 hours of Auckland. For each week you are on the volunteer programme, you will move to a different project.

**3. What type of accommodation will I stay in?**

When you are on the volunteering programme, accommodation will be on a shared basis and will vary according to each project location. Typical accommodation includes caravans, hostels, shearer's quarters, bunkhouses and camping. All accommodation for the duration of your time volunteering is included in the price.

**4. Do I need a Working Holiday Visa for this programme?**

No. As this is a volunteer project and you are not being paid, you can do this on a tourist visa. As a UK Citizen, you get a 6 month tourist visa free on arrival. For all other nationalities you will receive a 6 month visa free on arrival.

**5. How many other people will I be volunteering with?**

The group size is restricted to 10-12 people (on average) - a nice group size allowing you to get to know the other volunteers in your group and make friends!

## Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

## Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

## Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip

begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

## Money Matters

The unit of currency is the New Zealand Dollar. Changing foreign currency or travellers cheques is usually no problem at banks throughout New Zealand or at licensed moneychangers.

New Zealand is affordable by Western European and American standards, but if you are travelling on from Southeast Asia you'll notice a big increase in costs!

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 13.21 \$  
Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 4.19 \$  
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 1.76 \$  
Water (0.33 litre bottle) 1.68 \$

(Prices quoted in US Dollar)

## Passports and Visas

You should ensure that you have a full passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information provided below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

For stays up to 6 months, the following nationals DO NOT need a visa before you leave, you will receive a 6-month tourist visa on arrival into New Zealand: holders of passports endorsed British Citizen & other British passport holders who produce evidence of the right to reside permanently in the United Kingdom, holders of Australian passport. For all other nationals, please visit the following website for the most up to date information on visa requirements: <http://www.immigration.govt.nz>

## Working Holiday Visa

If you intend to get paid work in New Zealand then you must apply for a working holiday visa instead and this must be granted before you enter New Zealand. To be eligible for a work visa under this scheme you must:

- Be a British citizen resident in the United Kingdom at the time of applying, and
- Aged between 18 and 30 years, and
- Not accompanied by children on your visit.

You can apply online for the working holiday visa at: <http://www.immigration.govt.nz>



## Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

## Safety

As in most countries there are people who try to take advantage of tourists. The following advice is intended to help you stay safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your bag without your permission.
- Don't carry excess amounts of cash
- Wherever possible, walk around in groups, especially after dark, and avoid taking short cuts.
- Do not pick up hitch hikers if you are driving and do not hitch hike yourself.
- When you are out do not leave your drinks unattended, as there have been reports of drinks being spiked

We advise that you check your government's advice before travelling abroad. For UK, American and Australian customers please see the relevant links below;

UK: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

USA: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

Australia: [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

## ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if your card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately to the bank or cancel your card.

## Food & Drink

You will find a range of cuisine in New Zealand to suit all taste buds. But quintessential New Zealand cuisine takes inspiration from Europe, Asia and Polynesia. Meat and fish feature majorly in native dishes, and keep an eye out for kumara (sweet potato). Those with a sweet tooth will be pleased to know that Pavlova is the National dessert along with the kiwi fruit.

It is really important that you let Real Gap know before you depart if you are a vegetarian or have any other dietary requirements.

## Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country.

To view a list of the public holidays for New Zealand, please see the link below:

[www.timeanddate.com/holidays/new-zealand/](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/new-zealand/)

## Weather

The climate differs from the North Island to the South Island. On the North Island, the far North boasts warm summers and mild winters, with the rest of the island being slightly cooler. On the South Island, you'll find much lower temperatures throughout the year. The New Zealand Alps are covered in snow throughout the year.

## Time

New Zealand is 12 hours ahead of GMT.

## Electricity

Electricity in New Zealand is 230 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second.



Sockets in New Zealand are V-shaped flat prongs.

## Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of recommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

## Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

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