

NEW ZEALAND – ‘KIWI’ COUNTRY



What do you associate with New Zealand? A distant country, with sheep and beautiful landscapes that we had the opportunity to see in the ‘Lord of the Rings’ movie. And what else?

New Zealand is a small island country located in the Pacific. It consists of two main islands - North and South - and a number of smaller ones. The capital of this country is Wellington, while its head is Queen Elizabeth II.

In New Zealand people can visit many beautiful places. The most famous of them is ‘Frying Pan Lake’ - the world’s largest hot spring. It is located in the Echo Crater of the Waimangu Volcanic Rift Valley, and its acidic water maintains the temperature of about 50–60 °C.

Worth seeing are also Waimangu volcanic hills around the town of Rotorua, Piha Beach - extensive black beaches, Tongariro National Park - the most popular one-day walking trail on the island.

But if you really want to see true New Zealand, you should see birds and more specifically - kiwi. These little, shy, night birds have always lived in New Zealand. According to Maori legends (the name of kiwi comes from the Maori language), a long time ago, the ruler of the forest (Tane Mahuta) noticed that his trees got sick by forest worms and asked the birds for help. None of the birds wanted to fly to the earth, only the kiwi bird agreed and after that became the most famous and most loved bird in New Zealand.

Kiwi is not only a name of a bird. Kiwi is also the nickname used internationally for people from New Zealand. For many, kiwi is a lifestyle. People who are kiwi do not care, they are cheerful, problems in the world are not their object of interest and they are not workaholics.

What do Kiwis like? Praise New Zealand, talk about weather, joke about Australians, they like the so-called ‘fair go, mate’, ‘keeping in touch’ with neighbours, DIY (doing it yourself:

repair, enlarge, process, build, plant or bake), have their Big Overseas Experience.

New Zealand is not only an amazing country, it's also wonderful people. So if you are a happy person who enjoys life, you can definitely call yourself a kiwi even if you don't live in New Zealand.



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