



# Our New Zealand Vacation

Trish Maselli

////////////////////////////////////  
The history of New Zealand and the United States are similar in that the Maori people inhabited New Zealand before their land was taken over by British inhabitants, and Native Americans inhabited North America before the colonists settled in what we now call the United States.

The Maori people still celebrate their culture today with museums, art, story telling, intricate tattoo art, and a living Maori village open to visitors. Their culture also includes continued use of their original language and practice of religious beliefs.

The geography of New Zealand consists of mountains and valleys created by volcanic eruptions, and also has plenty of green pastures filled with sheep and cows; the old age saying is "For every person, there are 10 cows." New Zealand's total population is about 4 billion. Its primary exports include timber, dairy and meat.

We have enjoyed our visit to New Zealand, especially when we consider that we have missed most of the snowstorms in Connecticut. Where else can you go with a mountain on one side and the ocean on the other? Similar to the United States, there are plenty of outdoor water and land activities such as hiking, biking and swimming.

We stayed on the North Island with my sister, brother-in-law, nephew and niece. We enjoyed the coastal walkway, climbing the Paritake range, and Mt. Taranaki. We also enjoyed swimming in the Tasman Sea and walking along the beach, most of the time with my sister's dog, Sammie a black lab and hunter way. The weather was great and we will miss it dearly, but we will miss spending time with our family even more.

During our trip we have met a few Americans who live in this country, most of them doctors. We hope that you have enjoyed the pictures of New Zealand on our Facebook page and some day get a chance to see it for yourself.