

# New Zealand - North Island

December 2017: Wellington is the Capitol and second largest city of New Zealand. With one side to the sea (1) and mountains on three sides (2) it has the reputation of “The Windy City (3).” New Zealand’s Parliament Buildings include the Executive building or “Beehive” (4), and the Parliamentary Library (5).

The drive north passes Mount Ruapehu (6), the southern end of the Taupo Volcanic Zone. The geothermal area of Wai-O-Tapu or “sacred waters” (7,8) with hot springs, geysers and bubbling mud pools is followed by Whakarewarewa (9,10,11), the last inhabited geothermal Maori village. The village has been here for almost 700 years, welcoming visitor for 200 of those years. It has over 500 hot pools and 65+ geysers. The pools are used for heating, cooking and bathing. Most every building has vents driven into the ground to allow the underground steam to escape.

The last stop is Auckland (12,13) New Zealand’s biggest city with 1.5 million of the country’s 5 million residents living here. It stretches from one side of the island to the other. The city has developed within the same time frame and with a similar urban planning design as its sister city and my next stop Los Angeles.



Wellington Waterfront



Wellington Cable Car



Grand Practitioner & St Mary's



Beehive



Parliamentary Library



Mount Ruapehu



Wai-O-Tapu Trail



Wai-O-Tapu Hot Springs



Whakarewarewa Meeting House



Whakarewarewa Geyser



Whakarewarewa Dance



Auckland Skyline



Auckland Sky Tower