

# 09/12/2014 - 10 reasons New Zealand is the bee's knees



BEST IN THE WORLD: Paddle boarding in Milford Sound.

New Zealand has been named **the world's best country**, according to the Telegraph Travel Awards.

More than 90,000 people voted for their favourite travel companies and destinations, in what is the widest-ranging travel survey of its kind, **The Daily Telegraph reported.**

Prime Minister John Key described the result as "a great accolade" but what makes the land of the long white cloud so special?

Here is Stuff.co.nz's top 10 reasons why New Zealand is the best country in the world.

## 1. We're pioneers

On a historic day in 1893, New Zealand etched its name into the record books as a progressive nation when it became the first country to give women the vote.

Since then it has been much of the same, with New Zealand becoming the first country to introduce the 8-hour working day and Sir Ed putting us on top of the world in 1953 when he reached the summit of Mt Everest.

Lately, the country has been slipping a bit and was only the 15th country to allow same-sex marriage.

## 2. Our wildlife is unlikely to kill anyone

There aren't any snakes, crocodiles, scorpions, lions, bears or any other deadly animals in New Zealand.

There might be a few great white sharks lingering around the coast but on dry land people are unlikely to run into anything more sinister than an aggravated ewe.

## 3. We are friendly

Ever made it through a stop-go sign at roadworks without waving to the lollipop man? Generally you'll get a friendly wave and a smile back and in Wellington you might even find [a dancing traffic controller](#).

The same can be said at supermarkets, where "how are you today" is a standard way to be greeted. These small gestures might not seem like much but such things are rarely seen overseas and make you appreciate just how friendly Kiwis are.

## 4. We have the best chocolate milk in the world



ANDY JACKSON/Taranaki Daily News

THIS IS HEAVEN: This chocolate milk is probably the best reason we have.

New Zealand went crazy for Lewis Road Creamery Fresh Chocolate Milk in October.

It would immediately sell out when it was put on the shelves, people would queue up waiting for deliveries and security guards were put in place to control how much people could buy. A black market even emerged, with knock-offs and inflated Trade Me auctions appearing.

But it was for a good reason, because this chocolate gold was the best chocolate milk anyone had ever tasted. The fact it was made by a small Bay of Plenty-based company made it all the more sweeter.

## 5. We are home to Richie McCaw



Getty Images

RUGBY: All Blacks captain Richie McCaw.

Do men get any more glorious? He can even pull off a moustache.

## 6. We are never more than 128 km from the sea

Everyone loves a beach and you're never more than about a one-hour drive from one in New Zealand.





BEACH BEAUTY: A beach is always just a few hours away.

That drive will normally take a person through picturesque landscapes and showcase the biggest asset New Zealand has - its scenery.

## **7. We are a peaceful bunch and nuclear free**

The logo for the Royal New Zealand Air Force is a kiwi - a flightless bird. That pretty much sums up New Zealand's attitude towards war.

Since World War II we have barely raised a gun in anger, with troops deployed in mainly peacekeeping and training roles. Sure our elite group of soldiers, the Special Air Service, operate outside of those parameters but they are a small bunch.

We are also nuclear-free and proudly made a stand against nuclear power in the 1970s.

## **8. We are the home of Hobbits**



WHOLE LOTTA HOBBITS: You can't deny it, being billed as Middle Earth has put us on the map.

New Zealand is a one-stop-shop for all things Lord of the Rings and Hobbit-related.

Peter Jackson's films put New Zealand on the filmmaking map and brought millions of dollars into the economy.

New Zealand is also the only country with the right to put Hobbit-related images on its currency. But that might be taking it a step too far.

## **9. We have a national wizard**

In 1990, the Prime Minister, Mike Moore, appointed a **National Wizard**.

Ian Brackenbury Channell was bestowed with the honour after serving a long apprenticeship as the Wizard of Christchurch.

Few other countries are cool enough to have a head wizard.

## 10. Kiwiana



PINEAPPLE LUMPS: Kiwiana makes life complete.

Although the word is rather cringeworthy, what it signifies is not.

From Pineapple Lumps to pavlovas and jandals, these are the things which make our country unique.

That uniqueness comes through when tourists visit and adds to the distinctive New Zealand flavour people get a taste of when they visit.

What makes NZ the greatest place?

Share your stories, photos and videos.

Do you have any more to add to the list? Let us know in comments or hit the big green button.

(Source; - Stuff)