



Climate of New Zealand

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The climate of New Zealand is varied due to the country's diverse landscape. Most regions of New Zealand belong to the temperate zone with a maritime climate characterized by four distinct seasons.

The main contributing factors are the Pacific Ocean and latitude, although the mountain ranges can cause significant climate variations in locations barely tens of kilometres from each other.

Conditions vary from extremely wet on the West Coast of the South Island to almost semi-arid in Central Otago and subtropical in Northland.

Rainfall is normally distributed evenly throughout the year in most parts of the country, especially in the South Island.

Northern and eastern parts of the country, including Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington see a slight winter maximum consistent with a Mediterranean climate.

Summer and autumn maxima can be found in places closer to the southwest, such as Invercargill and Milford Sound.





Snow falls in New Zealand's South Island and at higher altitudes in the North Island. It is extremely rare at sea level in the North Island. Snow is more common inland in both main islands, though snow to sea level does occur on average once or twice per year in the central and southern South Island.



As with many islands in the world, the influence of the ocean curtails any extremes in coastal temperature.

The greater temperature ranges are found in the interior of the Canterbury and Southland regions, and especially Central Otago.

Central Otago and inland Canterbury's Mackenzie Basin have the closest New Zealand has to continental climates, being generally drier (due in part to föhn winds) and less directly modified by the ocean.

Mean annual temperatures range from 10 °C (50 °F) in the south to 16 °C (61 °F) in the north. The coldest month is usually July and the warmest month is usually January or February. Generally there are relatively small variations between summer and winter temperatures. Temperature variation throughout the day is also relatively small. The exception to this is inland areas and to the east of the ranges.



Climate change in New Zealand refers to historical changes in the climate of New Zealand and New Zealand's contribution and response to global warming.

In 2014, New Zealand contributed 0.17 per cent to the world's total greenhouse gas emissions. New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions are on the increase rather than declining. Between 1990 and 2017, New Zealand's gross emissions increased by 23.1%.

Climate change is being responded to in a variety of ways by civil society and the government of New Zealand. This includes participation in international treaties and in social and political debates related to climate change.





Thanks for your attention!