



## NAPIER, NEW ZEALAND

Badly hit by an earthquake in 1931, Napier had to be almost entirely rebuilt, giving it a very distinctive art deco character throughout the city. Famous for being the location of the National Aquarium, which is better known for its penguins than its fish

### KEY INFO

**Currency:** NZ Dollar (1 USD = 1.6 NZD)

**Population:** 65,000 (5.12 million NZ)

**Emergency #:** 111

**Drinking water:** Tap water is drinkable

**Time Zone:** GMT+13 (Sep-Apr) / GMT+12

**ID Requirements:** Photo ID

**Languages:** English, Māori

**Drive on the:** Left

**Pharmacy #:** 131 Emerson St

**Protection:** Bug Spray & SPF 30+

**Wi-Fi:** Shuttle bus drop off

**Post Office:** 114 Kennedy Rd, Marewa

### PORT LOCATION

Ships dock at Napier Port, which provides free shuttle buses 1km to the CBD and National Aquarium

**Getting Around:** Napier is a small city and can be easily enjoyed on foot. Vintage cars offer art deco themed tours around the city's main attractions. Napier is served by the Hawke's Bay 'goBay' bus network. Single journey fares start at \$3 (cash). Take route 12 for the Napier to Hastings bus and route 13 to access Taradale, where many of the local wineries are located.

[www.gobay.co.nz](http://www.gobay.co.nz) for bus schedules and a journey planner

For taxis, dial (06) 835 7777 ([Combined Taxis](#)). The [YourRide](#) smartphone app has national coverage

**Tourist Bus:** The [Napier Hop-On Hop-Off bus](#) has been discontinued

**Port Facilities:** No walking/taxis permitted

**Port Address:** Napier Port, Napier 4110, New Zealand

### NEW ZEALAND'S ORIGINAL WINE REGION

About 35 Hawke's Bay wineries have a cellar door or vineyard tour open to visitors.

Closest to Napier is **Brookfields Vineyards** (to the south) and **Church Road, Mission Estate**, and **The Urban Winery** (to the North). With a history dating back to 1896, **Mission Estate** and **Te Mata Estate** are two of the oldest vineyards still in operation to this day.

In total, the region boasts more than 200 vineyards supplying 70+ wineries. With a climate like Bordeaux in France, Hawke's Bay is responsible for about 90% of New Zealand's Syrah, Cabernets and Merlot.

<https://hawkesbaywine.co.nz/wine-trails/>

## NAPIER HIGHLIGHTS

**Classic Car Show:** One of the highlights of arriving in Napier by ship is the display of classic and vintage cars that local enthusiasts display on the pier. Locals often dress in period costume and a local band plays music of way-back-when.

**Napier's Art Deco CBD:** Napier's 1930s city center is filled with fabulous examples of art deco architecture. Some people say it looks like a movie set. Guided tours run daily at 10a and 2p. A self-guided walking map is available from the Art Deco Napier building opposite the shuttle stop. From \$10  
<https://www.artdeconapier.com/walking-tours/>

**National Aquarium of New Zealand:** Napier's top attraction is probably better known for its colony of Little Penguins than for its collection of fish (though both are impressive). 9a-5p | \$27  
[www.nationalaquarium.co.nz](http://www.nationalaquarium.co.nz)

**Napier Prison:** Napier's lockup from 1862 to 1993. Now operated as a historical living museum, as well as the site of fun prison-themed escape rooms. 9a-5p | \$30  
[www.napierprison.com](http://www.napierprison.com)

**MTG Hawke's Bay:** This cultural hub wears many hats, hosting a small museum, local theater, and regionally significant art gallery. Plus, through the year it presents a series of thought-leadership symposiums and conferences. 9:30a-5p | Free  
[www.mtghawkesbay.com](http://www.mtghawkesbay.com)

**Napier Beach:** Napier beach stretches all the way across the width of the CBD, with a lovely boardwalk, gardens and even a mini golf course. For swimming, the beachfront saltwater pools are a better option.

**Napier's Six Sisters:** Visit six waterfront wooden buildings that survived the 1931 earthquake and have since been recognized on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangī Kōrero. An example of a classic 1900s Napier street, looking out over the Pacific Ocean.  
[www.heritage.org.nz/the-list](http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list)

**Shopping in Napier:** The CBD in Napier has a host of great souvenir, antique and jewelry shops. If you're looking for hand-crafted jade pendants and jewelry, the **Jade Centre** on Emerson St is an excellent place to visit.  
[www.jadecentre.co.nz](http://www.jadecentre.co.nz)

## QUICK FACTS ON GREENSTONE

**Jade** (called Greenstone by Captain Cook and the name stuck) is also known locally by its Maori name Pounamu.

Most New Zealand jade is from the Alpine Region of the South Island, and the color of New Zealand jade tends to be more varied than jade of other origins which has a more consistent block color. The darker the green, the higher the iron content, but the quality and strength of the stone remains the same regardless of shade, so choose based on the shade you like most visually.

It is customary in Maori tradition to give a gift of jade as a blessing of good luck to the receiver.