

10 Cool Festivals in New Zealand



In the South West of Pacific Ocean is this stunningly beautiful country called New Zealand. You must have heard of the happening festivals in New Zealand organized in different parts of its two mainlands – North and South Islands. New Zealand is a treat to the eyes with diverse scenic beauty having mountains, wide green pastures, lakes, rivers, beaches and even volcanic zones.

Just like its name, indicating a "new zeal" or new excitement, the country's spirit is reflected in its hundreds of festivals celebrated throughout the year. These festivals are usually a celebration of New Zealand's culture and its openness to other cultures. An amalgamation of great music, crazy food & beverage, vivid forms of performing arts and activities setup amidst breathtaking scenic beauty.

10 Best New Zealand Festivals

New Zealand's incredible scenic beauty plays host to some of the amazing music, food, cultural and vintage festivals throughout the year. Below are 10 most happening and **best festivals in New Zealand** to add to your bucket list.

- Rhythm & Alps
- WOMAD
- Rhythm And Vines
- Homegrown
- Marlborough Wine Festival
- Hokitika Wildfoods Festival
- Wellington On A Plate
- Marchfest
- Victorian Fete
- World Buskers Festival

GLOSSARY

- Let your hair down: behave in an uninhibited way.
- Treat your taste buds: eat something really enjoyable.
- Whitebait: the small silvery-white young of herrings, sprats, and similar marine fish, eaten in numbers as food.
- Game meat: the flesh of wild animals.
- Takeover: dominance.
- Laneway: a narrow road or path.
- Grammable: attractive or interesting enough to be suitable for posting on the social media service Instagram.
- Lineup: list of participants.
- Fete: a public function, typically held outdoors and organized to raise funds for a charity, including entertainment and the sale of goods and refreshments.
- Penny-farthing: an early type of bicycle, made in Britain, with a very large front wheel and a small rear wheel.
- Busk: entertain in a public place.
- Pitch: performance.
- Fringe: something that is additional, or secondary to some activity.

Top Music Festivals in New Zealand

Here's a list of the major **music festivals in New Zealand** for letting your hair down till the sun sets and wakes up again. Take a look!

1. Rhythm & Alps



Are you crazy about mountains and music? Rhythm & Alps fest is the kind of festival you can road trip to. It is one of a kind camping and summer festival in New Zealand that brings together world-class bands, DJ's and festival-goers to witness the New Year's Eve together. The camping facilities includes hot showers, food village, chill zone, swimming hole, phone charging and much more. Come to Rhythm & Alps fest to be rewarded with one of the most unique **New Zealand music festivals** on the planet.

Major Attractions: Matt Corby, The Cat Empire
When: 29 – 31 December, 2018
Where: Robrosa Station, Wanaka, South Island
Entry Fee: INR 5000 – 34000

2. WOMAD

WOMAD – World of Music, Arts and Dance is an internationally established festival that celebrates the world's many forms of music, arts and dance. The festival's central aim is to excite, inform, and create awareness of the worth and potential of a multicultural society. An interesting twist you would see during this festival is 'Nova Energy Taste The World' where artists swap instruments and microphones for cooking utensils and unusual ingredients. This celebration has surely become one of the **traditional festivals in New Zealand** now.

Major Attractions: Artists CD signing sessions, global village, living library
When: 15 – 17 March, 2019
Where: TSB Bowl of Brookland, New Plymouth
Entry Fee: INR 15000 – 18000



3. Rhythm And Vines



Gisborne is the first city in the world to see the the New Year, as it is on New Zealand's East Cape. A 3 day long international music festival, Rhythm and Vines, is the first festival in the world to welcome in the first sunrise of the new year. If you are someone who can't live without music, it is one of the **best music festivals in New Zealand** you should be looking forward to.

Major Attractions: Previously featured artists like SET MO, Soaked Oats, Jack Berry, Netsky, Wilkinson
When: 28 – 31 December, 2018
Where: Waiohika Estate, Gisborne
Entry Fee: INR 20500 – 34000

4. Homegrown

Jim Beam Homegrown is probably one of the longest-running and popular **music festivals in New Zealand** with 5 stages and about 50 bands rocking the stages each year. This is the ultimate festival to check local Kiwi music in New Zealand's happening capital, Wellington. We are pretty sure that you'd have a gala attending this celebration and it'll make you fall in love with music all over again.

When: 23 March, 2019
Where: Wellington Waterfront, NZ
Entry Fee: INR 5500 – 9600 (excluding booking charges)



Best Food Festivals in New Zealand

Here's a list of the famous food festivals in New Zealand where you can treat your taste buds to the best cuisines of the country. Take a look.

5. Marlborough Wine Festival



Some say that 'Wine is a bottled poetry'. If that's true for you then the Marlborough Wine & Food Festival is your must-attend event. This is New Zealand's original and longest running wine festival, held in its largest wine-making region. Enjoy the opportunity to sample a unique selection of world-class wines, delicious local cuisine along with some music. All in one of Marlborough's oldest and most picturesque vineyards – Brancott Vineyard where 40 local wineries get together for a huge party.

When: 9 February, 2019
Where: Brancott Vineyard, Marlborough
Entry Fee: INR 4000

6. Hokitika Wildfoods Festival

If you are the kind who can go to any extent to have the real experience of different cultures then Hokitika Wildfoods festival is of your interest. This is a celebration of all things wild from the West Coast, which makes it one of the best **food festivals in New Zealand**. The festival brings in usual wild treats with other exciting gourmet options on the menu, with the aim to expose your palate to something new. Some of the mouthwatering dishes include marinated tuna, whitebait patties, gourmet sausages, smoked salmon, an assortment of game meats, a traditional Maori hangi and various international cuisines. The festival also includes a Feral Fashion Competition, After Party and music performances by various famous artists on the Mainstage.

Major Attractions: Sons of Zion, My Baby, The Slacks, The River Jesters, Dee May And The Saints and New Zealand Army Band.
When: 9 – 10 March 2019
Where: Weld Lane, Hokitika Beach Front
Entry Fee: INR 3000



7. Wellington on a Plate



Wellington on a Plate (WOAP) is an epic **food festival in New Zealand** which is not limited to just one place or one day. It's a region-wide culinary takeover. Wellington's restaurants, venues, laneways, and even car parks become hosts to this wild celebration of food and beverage. Burgers are a popular food choice in Wellington. The **Wellington Festival** has exclusive set menus with experimental burgers, creative cocktails, a variety of Garage Project wines, over 100 exciting events and pop-ups.

Major Attractions: hands-on masterclasses, free food-themed 'grammable' exhibitions, international chef collaborations, multi-course preparations
When: 10 – 26 August 2018
Where: Wellington (various venues)
Entry Fee: No tickets needed

8. Marchfest

MarchFest is a unique craft beer and music festival set in a beautiful environment. Unlike other beer festivals, all the beer that is brought in Marchfest is exclusively made for the fest and has never been tasted before. Top North and South brew 10 Cool Festivals in New Zealand To Make Your Tour A Celebration series participate in the event and over 20 brand new beers are introduced in the event. The festival features a strong music line up.

Major Attractions: Kids Zone and the Brew Zone
When: 9 March, 2019
Where: Founders Heritage Park, Nelson-Tasman
Entry Fee: INR 3000



Top Cultural Festivals in New Zealand

New Zealand is full of cultural celebrations that'll take you by surprise. Here's a list of top most popular festivities that you must attend on your trip.

9. Victorian Fete



New Zealand has a history of being a British colony. Though its regions are "coming out" to the world, there are occasions when they look back and remember the gone days. The Victorian Fete is one such occasion during which they take a step back in time and sample the nostalgia of the Victorian era right in the heart of the Oamaru's Victorian Precinct. The festival-goers show up in vintage – style Victorian full-dresses during the procession. You can try your hand on riding a Penny Farthing. Have a leisure time enjoying amazing food, wine, beer, and world-class whisky at one of the exciting **New Zealand traditional festivals**. You can also shop for traditional and antique craft pieces.

Major Attractions: Activities: Book Binding, mask making, Morris Dancing displays – a parade

When: 18 November, 2018

Where: Oamaru's Victorian Precinct, Oamaru

Entry Fee: INR 700

10. World Buskers Festival



The Bread & Circus – World Buskers Festival is one of a kind event that brings up world famous busking pitches to world – class programme of local, national and international acts. A large number of street performers, comedians, fringe artists, musicians and visual artists from NZ and abroad come together in this entertainment festival. The World Buskers Festival is organised in various parts of NZ and world.

When: 10 January – 3 February, 2019

Where: Otautahi Christchurch

Answer the questions by writing the festival number in the correct box.

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | ☐ | Which festivals are free? |
| ☐ | ☐ | Which is the cheapest? |
| ☐ | ☐ | Which is the most expensive? |
| ☐ | ☐ | Which was held the earliest? |
| ☐ | ☐ | Which was held the latest? |
| ☐ | ☐ | Which took place in a vineyard? |
| ☐ | ☐ | Which took place in New Zealand's capital? |
| ☐ | ☐ | At which can you eat fish? |
| ☐ | ☐ | At which can you eat burgers? |
| ☐ | ☐ | Which is also organized in other countries? |
| ☐ | ☐ | Which lasted the longest? |
| ☐ | ☐ | For which did people have to wear special clothes? |
| ☐ | ☐ | Which offers a Kids Zone? |
| ☐ | ☐ | For which do you need a tent or caravan? |
| ☐ | ☐ | At which can you welcome the New Year? |
| ☐ | ☐ | At which can you drink whisky? |
| ☐ | ☐ | At which do musicians use kitchenware? |