

2026 Holiday & Long Weekend Calendar



Plan Your Kiwi Adventure

This calendar outlines the 2026 New Zealand public holidays and long weekends. To help you navigate peak travel periods with operational logic, we have also listed the school holiday dates directly below the calendar.

Date	Holiday Name	Regions Affected
1 January	New Year's Day	National
2 January	Day after New Year's Day	National
19 January	Wellington Anniversary	Wellington, Manawatū and Whanganui
26 January	Auckland Anniversary	Auckland, Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Gisborne
2 February	Nelson Anniversary	Nelson, Tasman and Buller
6 February	Waitangi Day	National
9 March	Taranaki Anniversary	Taranaki
23 March	Otago Anniversary	Otago
3 April	Good Friday	National
6 April	Easter Monday	National
7 April	Southland Anniversary	Southland
25 April* (Observed April 27th)	ANZAC Day	National
1 June	Queen's Birthday	National
10 July	Matariki	National
28 September	Canterbury (South) Anniversary	Canterbury (South)
23 October	Hawke's Bay Anniversary	Hawkes' Bay
26 October	Labour Day	National
2 November	Marlborough Anniversary	Marlborough

13 November	Canterbury Anniversary	Canterbury
30 November	Westland Anniversary	Westland
30 November	Chatham Islands Anniversary	Chatham Islands
25 December	Christmas Day	National
26 December* (Observed December 28 th)	Boxing Day	National

*Dates marked with an * are National holidays which have been Mondayised or observed.
Please note that most Regional dates are observed; these are reflected in the table.*

2026 School Holidays

Term 1 Break
3 Apr - 19 Apr

Term 2 Break
4 Jul - 19 Jul

Term 3 Break
26 Sep - 11 Oct

Term 4 Break
No later than
18th Dec (5-6weeks)

Pro-Tips

- **Book in Advance:** Peak holiday periods and long weekends create significant bottlenecks, with accommodation and ferries hitting 100% capacity well in advance.
- **Factor in Weather:** New Zealand weather can be unpredictable, add a weather buffer to your itinerary.
- **Regional Considerations:** Anniversary days are regional, so be aware that attractions or businesses in those regions may have modified hours.
- **15% Surcharge:** It's common for cafés and restaurants to add a 15% surcharge on public holidays to cover higher staff costs. It's standard practice across the country, so just keep an eye out for small signs at the counter.
- **Minimum Stays:** During peak weekends like Easter or Matariki, most accommodation options require a minimum booking of 2 or 3 nights.

Your New Zealand Guide: Now Available

Now that you know the dates, download our New Zealand Booking Guide to apply operational logic for a seamless trip. Learn how to secure your "Anchors" and avoid the Planner's Trap before your favorite spots hit 100% capacity.

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