

Detailed Nelson Profile for Agents

Nelson, the Perfect Learning Environment

Nelson is situated at the top of the beautiful South Island of New Zealand, an easy one hour flight from Auckland. For students this means a convenient campus style city in a very attractive and sunny region, offering a wonderful lifestyle with lots of opportunities to interact with the locals, make friends and try a huge range of activities.

Nelson City is one of New Zealand's favourite seaside cities. It is a convenient campus style city with tree-lined streets. It is a great place for students to make friends and practice their English.

Outside Nelson City in Nelson region there is something for everyone: The facilities of Nelson City, the wineries of Waimea plains, relaxed Golden Bay, Alpine experiences in Nelson Lakes and world-class river kayaking in Murchison area. The three National Parks are: Abel Tasman, Kahurangi and Nelson Lakes National Parks National Parks.

Getting to Nelson

Over 100 flights per day leave or arrive in Nelson from Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch – usually 50-seater planes. Very few people know that by number of flight arrivals, Nelson is actually New Zealand's fourth busiest airport. This is essential for agents seeking a convenient connection to their provincial school.

Nelson - Gateway to the South Island and Wellington

Nelson English Centre students use Nelson as their gateway for the South Island. After studying, many leave in rental cars or buses to see the South Island, travelling down the West Coast to Queenstown and Fiordland, or down through Kaikoura to Christchurch.

Some students like to fly what is believed to be one of the shortest commercial flights in the world – the 25 minute flight to the capital

Wellington to catch some concerts or see the New Zealand parliament. Alternatively they can take the inter-island ferry.

Nelson- Campustown

In many ways Nelson is perfect for a student. Nelson city has a unique 'campus' feel, with students able to easily walk or cycle between their accommodation, friends' houses, the school and all the amenities of the city. This means that there is a very strong social network, and our students feel very much a part of the Nelson community. Students never feel isolated and have the best opportunities to interact and talk in English with friends, friendly local people and the many visitors to the region

As a bonus there is easy and convenient access to the beach, sea, rivers, forests and hills surrounding the city – often within walking distance from the city centre.

There are many flats available in the inner city zone just a short walk from the city. An advantage of flatting in Nelson for long term and budget conscious students is that they can save time and money on transport while being closer to friends and amenities.

Lots to do in Nelson City

Students meet their friends in tree lined streets or in the cafes beside the museum and the Nelson Cathedral. On Saturdays Nelson people who are not sailing, gardening or enjoying the National Parks come and meet each other in the famous Nelson market right in the centre of town. People have time to talk to each other and to students. There is a little bit of magic in Nelson

The Beautiful Nelson Region

The leading travel guide for young people, Lonely Planet says that Nelson has 'something for everyone'.

The Nelson region's natural beauty and year-round mild, sunny climate is renowned worldwide, making it one of New Zealand's most popular holiday and lifestyle destinations. Only an hour's drive from the city centre there are three National Parks plus Golden Bay and the Southern Alps. There are wineries, artists, all types of beaches, and natural beauty everywhere. Two or three hours drive and you are in Kaikoura

famous for its whale watching, or exploring the wild and rugged West Coast

And we will take you there.

Students can join our very good activities programme.

Learning can be an adventure, with endless opportunities to learn through experience of the region's famous arts & crafts, music, food and wine and beautiful landscapes. We have something happening from Monday to Sunday and during the week we say students are having an English experience from 9 am to 9 pm.

We believe we have one of the best activities programme in New Zealand.

We are the only English school in New Zealand to regularly take students to Abel Tasman National Park, Golden Bay and Marlborough Sounds. Many of these great activities are FREE, or if you have the budget and desire there is NO LIMIT!

Free activities around town or in school.

Most of our in-school activities are free. These include: After school board games, table tennis competitions, singing and movies. As well there is international lunch together. Students also walk to sports, Friday lunch club, or get a shared taxi to play beach volleyball. In Nelson at night time there are regular pub night or theme parties including the school party bus.

To relax the brain after studying hard many students prefer to attend our free salsa classes and on Thursday night students can practice their new salsa skills at the Little Rock cafe - all free. Some students prefer yoga in the school studio

Nelson day and weekend trips

Nearest to Nelson are the three beaches: Tahuna or Rabbit Island for swimming, picnics and beach volleyball, and Cable Bay for swimming or convenient kayaking. Trips go to all these beaches from time to time. Other full day trips include kayaking in Abel Tasman, climbing Mount Arthur or visiting Nelson Lakes National Park.

Weekend trips include: West Coast Wonderland, Kaikoura Whale Watching, Marlborough Sounds, Abel Tasman Sailing weekend to name just a few.

Top Ten favourite student experiences

Our students report the following favourite Nelson experiences:

- climbing up to the Centre of New Zealand and watching the sun rise
- feeling the sand between your toes on a golden beach
- playing pool with a good friend and winning
- eating lunch on the Cathedral steps
- jumping out of a plane
- lying on a hammock on a sailing boat in Tasman Bay
- reading a book in the Nelson library.
- having the confidence to dance for the first time in their life
- trying food from Japan for the first time at the school shared international lunch
- walking along Tahuna beach at sunset

Top 10 free things to do in Nelson

- go fishing off the wharf
- ride a mountain bike up the Maitai Valley and Tantragee Saddle
- take a bus to Tahuna beach and eat fish and chips on the beach
- play ping pong in the school
- learn salsa in the afternoon and in the evening dance at the Little Rock
- make a necklace or bracelet at the bead gallery
- have a swim at the Riverside Pool 5 minutes from the school
- watch a DVD on a wet Friday afternoon in the school
- go to an English conversation group at a local church hall
- watch a movie on half price Tuesday

Nelson - Community & People:

New Zealand and Nelson owned

Nelson English Centre is owned by a Nelson family. We work closely with local people to help them understand and support our wonderful international students. We know Nelson, and the local people support the school. Nelson people are usually very welcoming and proud of their city. They like talking and have time to chat to you.

Helpful local people

Nelson people are known for their friendliness. There is still a little of the village feeling left in Nelson and many people know about Nelson English Centre and the students (Nelson English Centre is the only private English language school in Nelson) The school has spent a lot of time building up good relationships in the city. Students are often surprised at how helpful local people are.

Our Diverse Community

Nelson is home to many different types of people, which makes it a very interesting place to live and study. From wealthy American migrants in Nelson city, to extreme alternative organic farmers in Golden Bay, to traditional apple farming families and exclusive Brethren Christians; Nelson is a patchwork of groups. Nelson people love sport, art, the outdoors and enjoy the wonderful food and wine the region has to offer. They are proud to live in the beautiful region of Nelson and enjoy sharing it with visitors from all over the world.

Nelson has always been a city of small and colourful groups, each fiercely proud and independent. They live in five areas: Nelson City, the Coastal Highway area, Golden Bay, Murchison and Nelson Lakes: Yoga, massage, healing, organics and green politics have strong followings in Nelson. However there are also strong church groups, and aviation, engineering computer programming and inventing clusters. There are retired people and traditional apple orchard families Another group are young couples who have come to Nelson as a safe and healthy place for their children, or to gain balance and joy in their life – especially corporate refugees.

Artists and Travellers

There are also quite a few artists, potters and inventors, wine growers, orchardists, diary farmers. Nelson city has a strong party and celebration culture and a small but important drum and bass following. Murchison and parts of Golden Bay are home to traditional diary farming families more like the centre of the North Island.

Nelson is a unique blend of city comfort, mixed with access to remarkable wilderness areas, populated with both family and non-conformist people.

Migration to Nelson

Nelson has the highest percentage of overseas born residents in New Zealand. These are mainly British migrants, but there are large numbers of Americans, Germans, Swiss, Scandinavians and Dutch. Small communities of Thais, Japanese, Koreans, and Chinese exist. In addition there are a very large numbers of young New Zealand families who have worked in Auckland, Sydney, Singapore or London for example in careers, who have returned to Nelson to bring up their children in a great environment.

Recently, out of fifteen staff in Nelson English Centre for example there were no staff members who were born in Nelson – all had come here from other parts of New Zealand or the world for the lifestyle.

Nelson – beach city for Christchurch

Each year just after Christmas, the population of Nelson nearly doubles as huge numbers of Christchurch residents come up to enjoy the summer – in camp grounds, holiday houses or staying with friends.

Fast Nelson facts

- Nelson region population: 70,000 people
- Nelson is officially the sunniest city in New Zealand
- Nelson airport is the 4th busiest in New Zealand
- Nelson is famous for its arts scene and outdoor lifestyle possibilities
- Nelson was the first city in New Zealand, and was originally planned as the capital
- Nelson hosts large migrant and tourist groups from UK, America, Germany, Scandinavia.

- The Nelson / Tasman region is one of the three fastest growing areas in the South Island
- 10% of Nelson people were born in the UK
- Nelson hosted the first game of rugby in New Zealand
- The first State High School – Nelson College was built in Nelson, and has educated three New Zealand prime ministers!
- Nelson’s leading tertiary education institution is the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT)
- The Nelson School of Music is the oldest institution of its kind in New Zealand.

Further links

For detailed information on Nelson see:

www.nelsonnz.com

For events see:

<http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/aboutnelson/festivals.htm>