

# Fact sheet on Hamilton, New Zealand



Hamilton is the seventh largest city in New Zealand with a population of over 130,000. It is based approximately one hour south of Auckland. Hamilton grew up around the Waikato River and has become a farming, industrial, financial and educational centre.

It is a vibrant fast growing city that is home to the prestigious University of Waikato. Its central location allows easy access to many of the North Island's leading tourist areas.

Whilst being a thriving city, Hamilton boasts little traffic congestion and an abundance of parks and open areas. These parks and walkways, especially along the river and beside the lake are a great way to enjoy the city. The Hamilton Gardens has a range of theme gardens. Cruises and jet boat rides operate on the river. The city is centered around the Garden Place, with its many shops and cafes.

In less than an hour you can be on the rugged west coast, home to some great surf beaches. In approximately two hours you can either reach the east coast or travel south to the Central Plateau and be in Taupo, the home of world class trout fishing, a little further and you will be at the main skiing area in the North Island.

Hamilton is home to a number of major annual events such as the National Agricultural Field days, a Gardens Summer Festival and the Balloons Over Waikato hot-air ballooning festival. It is also home to the Waikato Chiefs, Super 14 franchise.

## Facts about Hamilton

- NZ's largest inland city, and 4th largest urban area
- Kirikiriroa (meaning long stretch of gravel) is city's Maori name
- Population of around 131,000 people
- Has 3.2% of the total NZ population and is one of the fastest growing cities in NZ
- Has a youthful population - around half of residents are under 30 years old
- NZ European make up three quarters of the population, and Maori 19 percent
- Home to more than 80 ethnic groups
- NZ's longest river, the Waikato, flows for 16km through the city

- Mild climate and moderate year round rainfall keep the city and surrounding area very green
- Mean temperatures - 18C in January (summer) and 9C in July (winter)
- 135 parks and gardens and 58 sports areas
- City has over 1,000 hectares of open space
- Home to 26,000 person capacity Waikato Stadium
- Home to the NZ leg of the world rally championship
- Venue for the next world rowing championships
- Home of the NZ leg of the Australian V8 championship

### **Hamilton's economy**

- Is at the centre of one of the richest agricultural and pastoral areas in the world
- Major service centre for the Waikato region - NZ's highest export region with 20% of all exports
- City is NZ's leading area for hi-tech innovative manufacturing and engineering industries
- Dairy industry is centered around Hamilton and Waikato - world class centre of agricultural biotech excellence
- Home to much of NZ's science research and numerous major research facilities
- 11,000 businesses located within
- More than 40,000 tertiary students at University of Waikato, Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec) and Te Wananga o Aotearoa
- Home to national Agricultural Field days - largest agricultural trade show in the southern Hemisphere (generating \$290 million sales)
- City's closeness to two main sea ports (Auckland and Tauranga), 2 international airports (Auckland and Hamilton), railway, south Auckland industrial base and state highways provide significant opportunities for export and import