

Travel

New Zealand year round

SYNDICATED TRAVEL NEWS. — Because of New Zealand's generally mild, year-round climate, any time at all is a good time for a visit. There's no real off-season in New Zealand from the standpoint of weather.

While people traditionally travel during the summer (during school vacations) New Zealand like most countries does have a peak season, and a less busy season.

Since the seasons are reversed from Canada down under in the southern hemisphere, the busy season is from November through April. But then, this gives you a break if you have to holiday in early spring, which is less busy in New Zealand.

The advantages of visiting at this time of year are obvious. It's less crowded and in some cases there are seasonal discounts. You'll enjoy faster and more efficient service whether you order a dinner in a fancy restaurant, or buying a hockey pokey ice cream cone in a milk bar. If you should decide to explore New Zealand by car, then you'll have the



Maori Dancers — These traditionally-dressed dancers perform for pleasure of visitors at Rotorua in New Zealand.

flexibility to decide at the last minute to stay here or there.

Also during this time you'll face no long lines at museums, zoos, cruise boats, and other places of interest. And the tour groups will be smaller so you'll be able to see and hear everything better.

Year Round Sports
Fishing, golfing, and hiking are year-round sports. This

applies especially to trout fishing, for which New Zealand is world famous. Many of the public waters in the Lakes and Rotorua districts of the North Island are open to anglers every day of the year.

Also, if you're a winter sports enthusiast, you can ski in New Zealand while it's spring at home and probably while the skiing on your nearby slope is finished for the year. There are some 20 recognized ski areas in the country, three of which have been developed to a particularly high degree. Mount Ruapehu on the North Island, Coronet Peak and Mount Hutt on the South Island.

Thermal Resort
New Zealand's mild, temperate climate makes general sight-seeing in this spectacularly scenic country possible at any time of year. The thermal resort center at Rotorua, in the mid section of the North Island, can be enjoyed winter or summer, spring or fall. The mud keeps bubbling, the many hot geysers continue to spout, hurling hot water and steam up to 100 feet into the air.

Rotorua, too, is the center of Maori culture, there's a concert party every night of the year somewhere in town. The Polynesian Maoris live and dress just like their fellow New Zealanders of European descent, but for concerts and special occasions they don't elaborate patterned skirts and cloaks of flax and feathers to perform ancestral songs and dances for which their forefathers were famous. One of the most impressive places

You might also want to sample the restful and healthful waters of Polynesian Pools while in Rotorua. There are both public and private pools, all fed from natural hot mineral springs as well as massage and sauna facilities.

For a different type of thrill, you can board a tiny plane for a spectacular flight over the Southern Alps to Milford Sound. Barely 20 minutes by air from Queenstown, but a full day's trip by road.

In short, New Zealand has something for everybody the whole year round. No matter what the weather at home, you can still enjoy a vacation in New Zealand.

Roots for Swedish Canadians

ALEX HALEY HAS MADE EVERYONE STOP AND THINK OF THEIR ROOTS. He reported it took almost a dozen painstaking years to trace his genealogical lineage. One ethnic group, Swedish-Canadians, won't have such a problem and for the most part can locate their roots in one easy step.

The Swedish-Canadian's short cut on the road to his roots lies in a visit to the small town of Vaxjo (pronounced Vex-sha), located about 100 miles south of Stockholm. Researchers since 1965 have been compiling a record of emigration for the period between 1850 and 1930 when some one million Swedes, or one quarter of the nation, departed their homeland for the Americas. Their findings are completely organized in the "House of Emigrants" Museum in the town.

Through a collection of emigration letters, diaries, press clippings, photographs, newspapers, church registers, maritime passenger lists and other materials, ten full time researchers have backtracked the routes taken by Swedish families during the age of "America Fever." By visiting the museum, Canadians of Swedish descent can employ the researchers and their extensive files in tracing their families' origins.

Among a group of travel writers to visit Vaxjo recently was a Chicago man of Swedish descent who used the museum's services. They found the man had relatives residing in a nearby village and he was able to meet with them.

In addition to files of family genealogies, the museum's library contains research works tracing the origins of Swedish named locations in North America such as lakes and towns. Artifacts, memorabilia and permanent exhibitions display the history of Swedish emigration to such locations as Minnesota and the Pacific Northwest.

Emigration is a subject of particular interest to Vaxjo as the town, and its surrounding three county region of Smaland, suffered a heavy dose of "America Fever," losing about half of its population during the period. Since the second World War, however, Smaland has reversed the process to become one of Sweden's fastest growing areas with several thriving industries. Local interests are now anxious to develop the region's tourism potential and are employing the ethnic appeal to the House of Emigrants as their top lure in attracting North Americans.



BUT WHAT OF CANADIANS WITHOUT ANY SWEDISH LINEAGE? Vaxjo and Smaland are loaded with attractions for them as well.

Most prominently, Vaxjo is the center of Sweden's "Kingdom of Glass," with many of the nation's major glassworks located within a 50-mile radius of the town. Most recognizable of these to Canadians would be Orrefors, Kosta and Boda. Substantial discounts are available on items purchased at the factories and shipping is handled directly. All glass is hand-blown following procedures unchanged over centuries.

The Kosta glassworks are Sweden's oldest still in operation, dating from 1742, and their products are considered by many as the "Rolls Royce of glass." About a half-million visitors are attracted to the factory annually to witness firsthand the delicate processes involved in forming glass by hand.

Adjoining the House of Emigrants in Vaxjo is a glass museum with one of Europe's most complete collections of glass and crystal. The glass museum is part of Smaland's museum which, founded in 1867, is Sweden's oldest provincial museum.

Another thriving industry in the Vaxjo area is the production of paper and at one nearby mill, Lesvebo Bruk, the late craft of making paper by hand remains a part of the company's operation.

FOR ECOLOGY BUFFS, LAKE TRUMMEN IS LOCATED NEARBY. Once considered "dead" from over-pollution, a restoration project brought the lake back to life and into international prominence during the 1972 World Conference on Environment sponsored by the U.N. in Stockholm. Lake Trummen is only one of dozens in the region, which with 12 per cent of its area water, resembles a map of Minnesota. Many of the lakes offer boating, swimming and fishing.

Other sports facilities available in the area include ten outdoor swimming pools, and 18-hole golf course, and several public tennis courts.

The town of Vaxjo today counts some 63,000 residents. Reminiscent of the Midwestern farm towns that attracted so many Swedish emigrants, Vaxjo is a slow-paced, unpretentious community that appears to have assimilated well to its post-war growth. The Midwestern nature of the town is typified by two dominant structures — a Lutheran church and the town water tower.

C. Syndicated Travel News

Bahamas

SYNDICATED TRAVEL NEWS. — We've often heard it said that old habits die hard — nowhere is this more true than in the Bahamas.

The Department of Tourism in Nassau has changed their name to "The Family Islands", but to millions of sun-worshippers the tendency to think of them as and to call them the "Out Islands" still remains.

"The Family Islands", or the "Out Islands", as you will, comprise a 100 thousand square mile ocean playground far away from the cares of a work-a-day world.

Family togetherness

The Family Islands are family-oriented, too, offering something for every member of a domestic team that likes playing together in relaxed, unpretentious surroundings. This vacationland offers all water sports, plus golf, tennis, riding and the casual social scene that bridges generation gaps.

The islands themselves, scattered like jigsaw puzzle pieces for more than 500 miles south of the Florida peninsula, bear a strong family resemblance. They share common traits in their semi-tropical landscapes — of bougainvillea and palm — in their uncluttered sand beaches, washed by water so clear swimmers can chase their shadows over the shallows, so pure the ocean floor seems close enough to touch under 60 feet of sun filtered turquoise.

Open year round

Now the era of the arduous island hopper has dawned, the islands are partners in a year-around tourist season, with most of the resorts open on a 12 month schedule. The "Isles of Perpetual June" share winter temperatures in the mid-seventies and daytime highs in the nineties during the summer.

Golfers' challenge

The one resort on Great Harbor Cay on the Berry Islands chain was designed for golfers who enjoy water sports as a sideline. This three year old luxury retreat is built around a challenging 18-hole course, so secluded the dedicated golfer can be all alone with his hands up. Non-golfers who tag along with the adults keep busy, around the marina, beach club and tennis court.

Describing the individual

island hop out of Nassau, where Air Canada schedules direct daily flights through the Toronto or Montreal gateways.

Most of the resort islands are linked to the Bahamian capital by at least once connecting flight a day, via Out Island Airways or Flamingo Airlines and inter-island air fares are reasonable.

But holiday explorers can discover their own ocean kingdoms if they're willing to

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