

Rivers and Lakes of New Zealand

Rivers in New Zealand feed on either rainfall or snowmelt. Often the source is located in the highlands, and the stream flows down into the plains, rushing towards the Tasman Sea or the Pacific coast.

Lakes vary in origin. There are those that are formed by natural folds of relief and runoff of meltwater, craters of extinct volcanoes. Among them are freshwater and salted.



Large rivers of New Zealand

The number of rivers on the islands is very large. In many places, they literally rugged the surrounding space. Meanwhile, there are not many really long and full-flowing ones. Each of them is of great importance, being a supplier of fresh water consumed by the population and necessary for the country's agriculture.



Waikato river



The longest river in New Zealand is 425 km long. The source is located on the eastern slope of Mount Ruapehu on the North Island. It flows into Lake Taupo. A hydroelectric power station was built at this place. The river has tributaries: Waipakihi, Waihokhonu, Pouto. The channel is quite winding, on its way will pass small lakes: Ohakuri, Atiamuri, Maraetai and others. Fish are caught in the river - 19 indigenous species, and another 10 were specially introduced. A valuable trade is the extraction of eel, which is traditional in the menu of the Maori peoples.

Kluta River

The second largest river in the country is located on the South Island. Length - 322 km. The source originates near Mount Haast from Lake Wanaka, almost in the same place where another river makes its way - Makarora. Large tributaries - Javea, Cardrona, Kavarau, Manucherikia. Near the Rongaher Gorge, the Tuapecu River flows into it. At the mouth, the channel is divided into two parts: Koau and Matau, which flow into the Pacific Ocean.



The value of Kluta in the economy of the region is very great. It is navigable, and at one time was gold-bearing, becoming the source of the "gold rush" in Otago. Nowadays, 2 hydroelectric power stations operate on it. In the delta, animal husbandry on flood pastures and vegetable growing are actively developing.

Wanganui River



The third largest river in the country flows in a southeast direction along the northern slopes of Mount Tongariro on the North Island. Length - 290 km. The channel crosses the Tongariro National Park, the oldest in New Zealand. The mouth flows into the Tasman Sea.

Local people canoe through the waters of Wanganui. Two popular hiking trails lead here: Mangapurua and Matemateaonga. Along the coast there are several sacred places for the indigenous population, called the marae.

Taieri River

The fourth largest river in the country flows through the South Island and originates in the Lammerlo Mountains. Its length is 288 km. Only the last 20 km of its channel are navigable. The upper reaches, which have not yet gained full flow, are characterized by extreme tortuosity. On its way, Taieri makes a big detour, eventually falling into the Pacific Ocean. Meanwhile, the volume of the watercourse in the wide part is enough for the operation of 2 small hydropower plants. The river has several tributaries, the largest of which is Waipori. In the floodplain on the flat plots, farming is highly developed.



Large Lakes of New Zealand



The country is famous for a huge number of large and tiny lakes, the number of which reaches 3280. In 40 of them, the area of the water mirror exceeds 10 km². The lakes of the river feed on the mountain slopes that are found on almost all islands.

Taupo Lake

The largest in area - its mirror is 616 km². Water filled the caldera of an extinct volcano. On the shore there is a city with exactly the same name. 30 rivers feed the lake, and only one flows out, but the largest in the country is Waikato. There is a island - Motutaiko. The area of the mirror is 616 km², and the deepest point is 164 m, and 44 km across. The age of the lake is 27 thousand years. Taupo's popularity is huge - about 1.2 million tourists from all over the world come here every year. How it arose, said J. Verne in the book "Children of Captain Grant."



Lake Te Anau



From the original Maori language, the name of the lake is translated as "cave of bubbling water", and the area is 344 km². It is the second largest lake in New Zealand after Lake Taupo. The depth of the lake reaches 270 meters, located at an altitude of 210 meters above sea level. The shores of the lake have beautiful hilly outlines, there are a lot of vegetation and representatives of the fauna. So, in the area of the lake, a rare bird takache (mohaw) was discovered, until that time it was considered an extinct species.

Wakatipu Lake

This, if not the largest, then the longest lake in New Zealand. Its length is about 80 km and the lake itself has an elongated shape in the form of the Latin letter S. The lake is deep, from 230 to 420 m deep, while during only one day the water level can rise and fall by 20 cm, this is due to contrast fluctuations atmospheric pressure and temperature in the Wakatipu area.



Waikaremoana Lake



The deepest in the country - the bottom is lowered to 256 m. It is located on the territory of the Te-Urevera National Park on the North Island. The area is small in comparison with Taupo - 54 km². The singing name in the Maori language means "sea of swaying waters." Age - 2200 years. Then there was a large landslide, able to block the channel of the Waikaretake River. The city is located on the coast, which is the largest tourist center.

Branner Lake

Glacial lake of ancient origin from glacial waters. The area of the lake is 40 km², there are a lot of fish in the waters of this lake, which makes it a popular place for recreation and fishing among local residents and tourists.



Rotorua Lake

From the Maori language it is translated as “crater lake” (the full name is not easy to even say: Te-Rotoruanui-a-Kahumatamomoe). Located at an altitude of 280 meters above sea level. The area of the lake is 79.8 km², and the depth is only 10 meters. In the center of the lake is the island of Mokoia about which there is an ancient legend of the Maori peoples about two lovers Hinemoa and Tutanekai.

