



Walking Around  
New Zealand

休闲英语

邹为诚 主编

世界图书出版公司

# 走近 新西兰

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## 天边的那朵白云

### ——代序——

大约是在1 000多年前，一群叫做“毛利族”的波利尼西亚人乘着几只独木小舟漂泊在浩瀚的南太平洋上。他们从何而来？他们要去哪里？这恐怕是一个永远也解不开的谜。但在波浪涌起小舟的一刹那，这些毛利人看到了远方水天连接处的一朵白云。斜阳中的白云流光溢金，喷涌而出的光芒透出神秘、庄严的气氛。毛利人心领神会，这是冥冥的神灵给他们的启迪。于是，毛利人拨转船头，向那朵云彩追去。

他们终于追上了。原来这不是云彩，到了眼前才发现，那是高耸入云的雪山，巍峨的群山托举着皑皑白雪，恰似那白云飘浮在碧空。毛利人走上岸去，只见山下溪流纵横，林木葱茏。毛利人从此便在此捕鱼狩猎，生息繁衍。为了感谢那神灵的白云，他们把这新家园叫做“Aotearoa”（毛利语，意为“白云下的一片土地”）。

时间又过了七八百年。在北半球的英国，一群农民因地少人多，日子过得一年不如一年。终于有一天，他们听那些在外闯荡的人说，在那遥远的南太平洋上有一颗美丽的明珠，那儿有大片的森林，

广袤的原野；那儿气候温暖，人烟稀少。于是，他们便把祖上留传下来的那些薄薄的家产换成一叠叠厚实的希望，登上了驶往那朵白云的双桅帆船。

在初来的日子里，英国人发现这儿并没有想象中的那么美好。陌生的山，陌生的水，还有那充满狐疑的毛利人的眼光。但没过多久，精明的英国人便以软硬兼施的手段征服了比他们先来好几百年的毛利人，接着又开始实施他们在自己的老家没有实现的一个个梦想。他们把英国的肥料铺在白云下的土地上，把英国的绵羊赶到了那碧绿碧绿的草原上，在坚硬古老的巨石上铺上厚厚的泥土，撒上一筐筐希望的种子，终于把这片土地改造成了他们的新家园。他们给这片生长着他们希望之树的土地取名为“新西兰”(New Zealand)。

尽管历史已经把美丽的新西兰带进了 20 世纪末，可今天的新西兰还是像那朵白云一样神秘、浪漫。这儿仍然是那美丽的白云的故乡，湛蓝湛蓝的天空一尘不染，雪白雪白的云彩纯洁无瑕。一群群参天的古树用它们那虬劲的枝干，书写着一章章开天辟地的历史。海湾里，海浪拍打着岸边的巨石，吟唱着一首首美丽的诗史。在今天这个喧闹的世界上，这是一片难得的风光。有人曾说，这儿是世界上最一片净土。万物在一片静谧之中和睦相处，亲密无间。就连那酷爱自由的小鸟都忘了留恋天空，日久天长，它们的翅膀竟然失去了飞翔的能

力,把天空永远地留给了那朵白云。

今天,越来越多的中国人也对这朵白云产生了兴趣。于是我们把它装进这本小小的图书里,呈献给一切愿意打开此书的读者,让他们在学习英语的同时,也领略一下那个遥远、神奇的国家的风情。

邹为诚

1999 年 1 月

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## **Chapter One**

### **The Land of New Zealand**

New Zealand is located on the south-western quadrant of the pan-Pacific girdle, comprising two large islands and a myriad of small ones. Together, these cover some 269 000 square kilometres, about the same area as that of Great Britain, three-quarters that of Japan, and only three percent of the extent of the conterminous United States. Unlike Britain and Japan, however, New Zealand is the home of only just over three million people, so that despite similarities in size, and also latitudinal location, the contrasts between the northern and southern hemisphere island groups are many.

Geologically, New Zealand is a young country, most of its present shape resulting from relatively recent mountain building activity. Tectonic forces raised a spine of ranges that forms the country's major axis, with only one major breach in the narrow stretch of turbulent water (Cook Strait) which separates the two main islands. The sedimentary rocks of this elongated land mass are susceptible to erosion, so that the landscape is deeply etched and corrugated. Together with their height, this has made the mountain ranges a formidable barrier to human end-

## 第一章 新西兰的国土

新西兰位于环太平洋地带的西南部,包括两座大岛和一大批小岛,这些岛屿面积共有 269 000 平方公里,虽只有美国本土面积的 3%,却相当于一个大不列颠或 3/4 个日本。但跟大不列颠和日本不同的是,新西兰的人口只有 300 多万。尽管它们的国土面积以及纬度位置有着种种相似之处,但南北半球岛屿之间的差异却殊如天壤。

从地质学意义上讲,新西兰是一个年轻的国度,其现有地貌大都由近些年来的造山运动形成的。构造作用隆起的一脊山脉形成了新西兰的主轴,库克海峡狭窄湍急的水流将其割裂开来,把新西兰分成两座大岛。整个狭长山脉上的水成岩极易受到侵蚀,因此形成了深沟险壑、波澜起伏的地貌。巍峨的山脉成为一道人类极难逾越的障

eavour and given them a pervasive influence over the development of local societies.

The South Island contains the country's highest mountains, part of an unbroken chain extending from the fjords of the south-west, with their steep, imposing walls rising sheer from the sea, to the more finely-dissected drowned valleys of the Marlborough Sounds in the north-east. Approximately midway along this axis are the highest peaks, culminating in Mt. Cook (3 763m) – Aorangi, 'the great cloud piercer' of Maori legend. From the ranges, large rivers tumble swiftly to the sea; few are very long, especially those on the west coast, but they carry immense volumes of water and may swell to enormous proportions in times of heavy rain and snow melt. Their passages through the ranges are almost invariably tortuous, particularly on the eastern flanks where rivers pass alternately through deep narrow gorges and open inland basins. Beyond the main mountain ranges are blocks of younger, lower hill country (often termed down-lands). And finally there is a series of coastal plains, mostly small in both length and breadth (the main exception is the large triangle of the Canterbury Plains) and separated from each other either by down-land blocks or by isolated products of periods of volcanic activity.

碍,同时也对当地社会的发展产生了深刻的影响。

南岛拥有新西兰国内最高的山系,它是绵延不断的主脉的一部分,从西南部的峡湾一直延伸至东北部的马尔波鲁·桑兹,一头是巍然耸立于海面的峭壁,另一头则是千丘万壑淹没于海水之中的峡谷。主脉往中地势渐高,以库克峰(海拔 3 703 米)为最,毛利人传说中称之为奥兰奇,意为“云中之刺”。大江大河自山脉直落大海,不过大都流程较短,尤其是西海岸的河流,但流量巨大,在暴雨或融雪时节更是气势澎湃。穿山越岭的河道大多蜿蜒曲折,尤其在山脉东侧,幽深狭窄的山谷和广阔的内陆盆地使河道时隐时现。主要山脉以外是那些相对较年轻和低矮的山地(通常被称为低地)。最后是一系列的沿海平原,大都不够宽广(主要例外是坎特伯雷平原的大三角地带),彼此被低洼地带或火山活动时期的喷发物所分隔。

The mountain chain in the North Island is much lower, though still intricately dissected and very difficult to penetrate, let alone traverse. It is breached in only one place – the Manawatu Gorge immediately east of Palmerston North but is clearly sub-dividable into a number of separate, equally wild and obstructive, ranges.

To the west of the main ranges is a geologically more complex area, forming the arm, oriented to the north-north-west, which gives the island its characteristic Y shape. The central portion of the land mass is a plateau of extruded volcanic materials, capped by the active cones of Mts. Ruapehu (2 797m) and Ngauruhoe (2 290m), and the neighbouring extinct peak of Tongariro (1 968m). North of these is the main area of current thermal activity, extending north from the caldera of Lake Taupo, through Rotorua (famed for its bubbling mud-pools, hot springs, and geysers) and the Bay of Plenty to the active volcano of White Island. A salient of this active volcanic area extends through the Northland peninsula. The Auckland isthmus, population focus for separate racial majorities, is dotted with small conical hills, providing variety to the urban scene as well as useful raw materials for various construction work.

北岛的山脉海拔虽然要低许多,却也沟壑纵横,进入山区很困难,更不用说徒步横越了。虽然绵延的山脉只在紧贴帕尔默斯顿·诺斯东部的玛纳瓦图海峡处有所中断,但整个山脉仍可以清楚地细分成许多孤立、荒芜和闭塞的山系。

山脉以西,有一块地质学意义上更为复杂的地区,延伸如手臂状,呈西—北—北走向,使岛体形成特有的Y字形状。该地区中部是由火山喷发物形成的高原,至高点是卢阿佩胡山(2 797 米)和恩加鲁荷山(2 290 米)两座活火山的锥状顶峰以及与之相邻的死火山通戛利洛峰(1 968 米)。群山以北,从唐波湖的破火山口向北延伸,穿过罗托鲁瓦(因冒泡的泥潭、温泉和天然喷泉出名)和普朗提湾,直到白岛的活火山,是目前地热活动的主要地区。这片火山活跃地区的一个凸角一直延伸,穿越诺斯兰半岛。奥克兰地峡聚居了不同种族的人,周围随处可见的锥形小山,既为城市风景增添了几许变幻,又为各类建筑工程提供了有用的原材料。

Apart from the volcanic areas, that portion of the North Island west of the main ranges is characterised by ranges of deeply dissected hill country. There are few extensive areas of flat land, the main exception being in the valley of the Waikato river, New Zealand's longest at 425 kilometres. Extensions of the volcanic regions form enclaves in this country, however, most notably the almost perfect cone of Taranaki's Mt. Egmont (2 517m), which vies with Mt. Cook as the New Zealand mountain emblem.

New Zealand is the southern hemisphere antipodes of France and Spain, and its latitudinal extent is similar to that of California and the original thirteen colonies of the United States. But its climate differs from those of its northern hemisphere counterparts because of its mid-oceanic, rather than continental fringe, location. As the country is bisected by the 40° south line of latitude, its climate is dominated by the eastward passage of successions of depressions and anti-cyclones. The latter generally pass to the north of the country; many of the depressions only skirt New Zealand to the south, and their main contribution is the rainfall brought by the cold fronts. These usually traverse the two islands from south-south-west to north-north-east.

北岛山脉以西,除了火山地区,还有一系列支离交错的山地。除了怀卡脱河谷以外,几乎没有宽广平坦的地区,该河是新西兰最长的河流,全程425公里。这一带的火山地区向外延伸,形成孤立的小块地区,著名的塔拉纳基地区的埃格蒙峰(2 517米)拥有近乎完美的锥形顶峰,它同库克峰争奇斗胜,一起成为新西兰的标志性山峰。

新西兰位于法国和西班牙相对的南半球的一面,其纬度范围相当于美国加利福尼亚州及其最初的13块殖民地。但是新西兰的气候跟北半球同纬度地区迥然不同,因为新西兰位于大洋中央,并非大陆边缘。由于新西兰被南纬40度线一分为二,其气候由从东经过该国的低气压和高气压交替控制。高气压通常影响新西兰的北部,而许多低气压仅从新西兰的南面边缘经过,它们的主要结果是带来了由冷锋形成的降雨。冷锋常常沿着西—南—南至东—北—北的路线经过两大岛屿。



The confrontation of these weather systems with the mountain backbone provides the main features in the spatial variability of weather and climate. Rainfall is plentiful on the west coasts, especially of the South Island where the mountains are high and but a few kilometres from the sea. Hokitika receives 2 895mm in an average year—much of it at night and in heavy falls, so its sunshine average is 5.3 hours per day. The far south of the island is also damp—1 021mm at Invercargill annually on average, but the north-east, in the alpine rain-shadow and reached by the northwards-moving fronts only after they have deposited much of their moisture is extremely dry and sunny. Blenheim averages 6.7 hours of sunshine daily over the year. Rain-shadow areas of the east coast are also dry and sunny, notably the Canterbury Plains and the inland basins of Central Otago: the latter are semi-desertlike in character, with Alexandra averaging only 342 mm of rain each year.

As well as being the tail-end recipient of moisture-bearing weather systems proceeding from the south, the North Island is also affected by sequences originating to its north-west. Tropical depressions move along the Queensland coast and then head south-eastwards across the Tasman Sea towards Nor-