



TRAVELS IN NEW ZEALAND

Steve Ransome



Two visits to Australia and New Zealand –

Aug 2003 (winter) via Singapore and Jan 2011 (summer) via Antarctica



What Latitude would Australia and New Zealand be in the northern hemisphere ? Note their sizes vs. UK

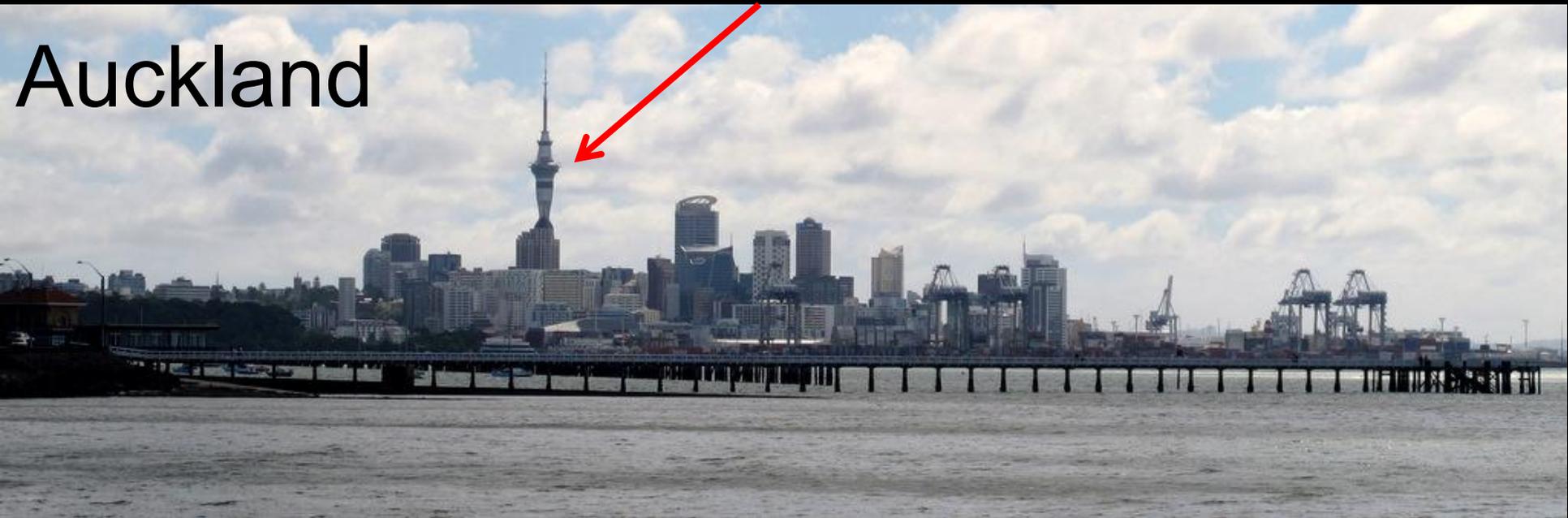


New Zealand

- Aotearoa means “land of the long white cloud”
- Kia Ora means “be well” in Maori
- 1st country in the world with votes for women in 1893
- 1st country with all 5 top positions held by women
(Head of State, Governor-General, Prime Minister, Speaker and Chief Justice)



Auckland



NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

VOLCANOES AND LAKES

JAN 2011 - SUMMER

Auckland (Tāmaki Makaurau) from Sky Tower

Settled by Maoris in 1350, was NZ capital 1840-65 (now Wellington).
1.5million people, volcanic origins, many islands in the bay



36° South ~ Gibraltar/Southern Spain

Auckland (Tāmaki Makaurau) from Sky Tower

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36° South ~ Gibraltar/Southern Spain

Auckland from space →



Coromandel peninsular

55mi E of Auckland, rolling countryside, many coastal inlets

Almost uninhabited in the middle

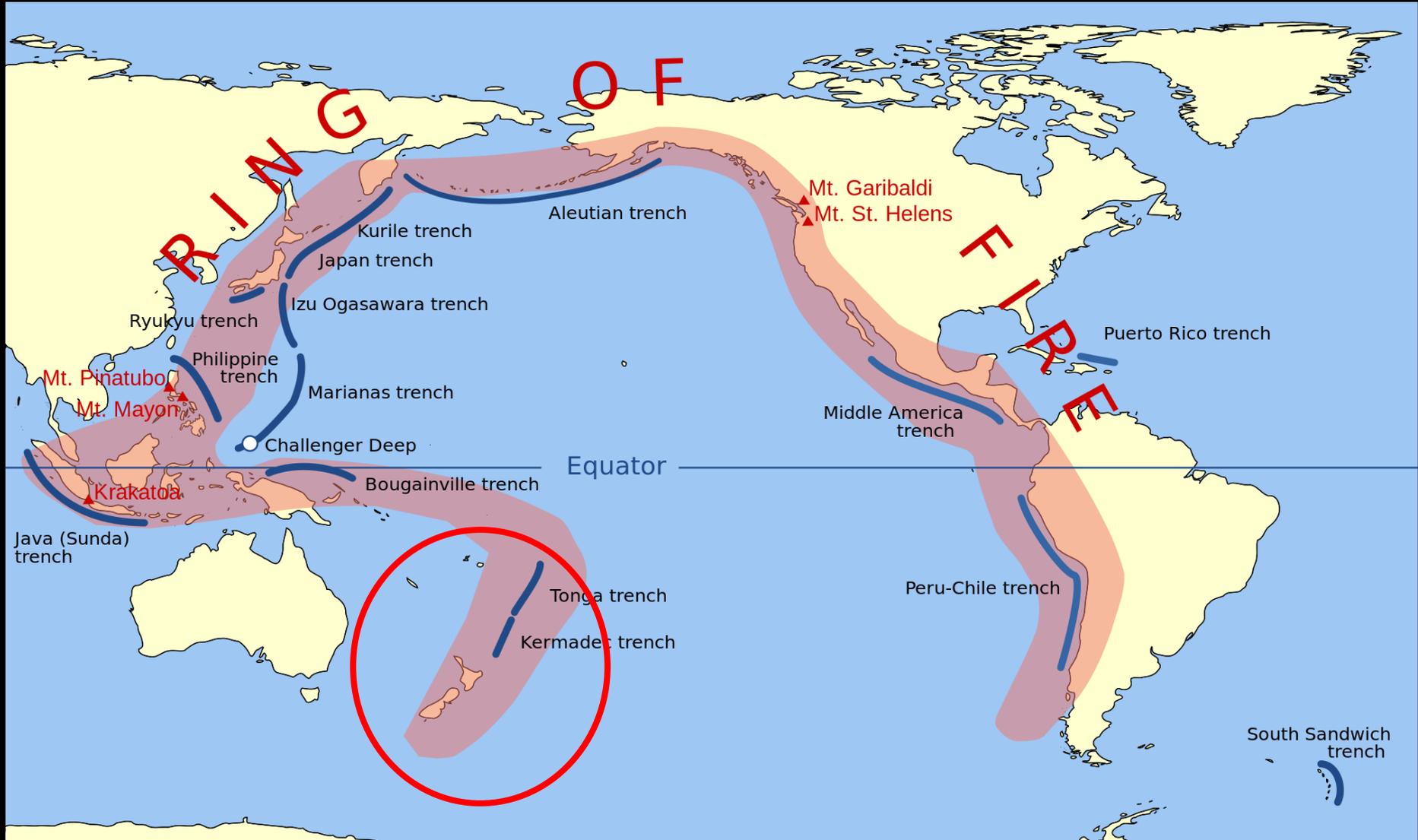
Geothermal activity, hot springs on the beach

A great tourist area



Why is New Zealand volcanic ?

It's in the Ring Of Fire - at the edge of Pacific Tectonic plates



Taupo district

Sulphurous fumes (H_2S) like bad eggs

Walkways past mud pools, lakes and steam vents



Taupo district

Sulphurous fumes (H_2S) like bad eggs

Walkways past mud pools, lakes and steam vents



Taupo district

Multicoloured lakes due to chemicals and extremophiles



Taupo district

Multicoloured lakes due to
chemicals and
extremophiles



Taupo district some lakes like like paint spills



Taupo lake

(New Zealand's largest) 238 sq miles created by a super volcano 2,600y ago. Ejected material equivalent of a cube about 6miles per side. Nearby land collapsed to form the lake. NZ was then uninhabited. Deepest point ~600ft.



Sunset at Taupo lake



Huka falls, flowing out of Taupo

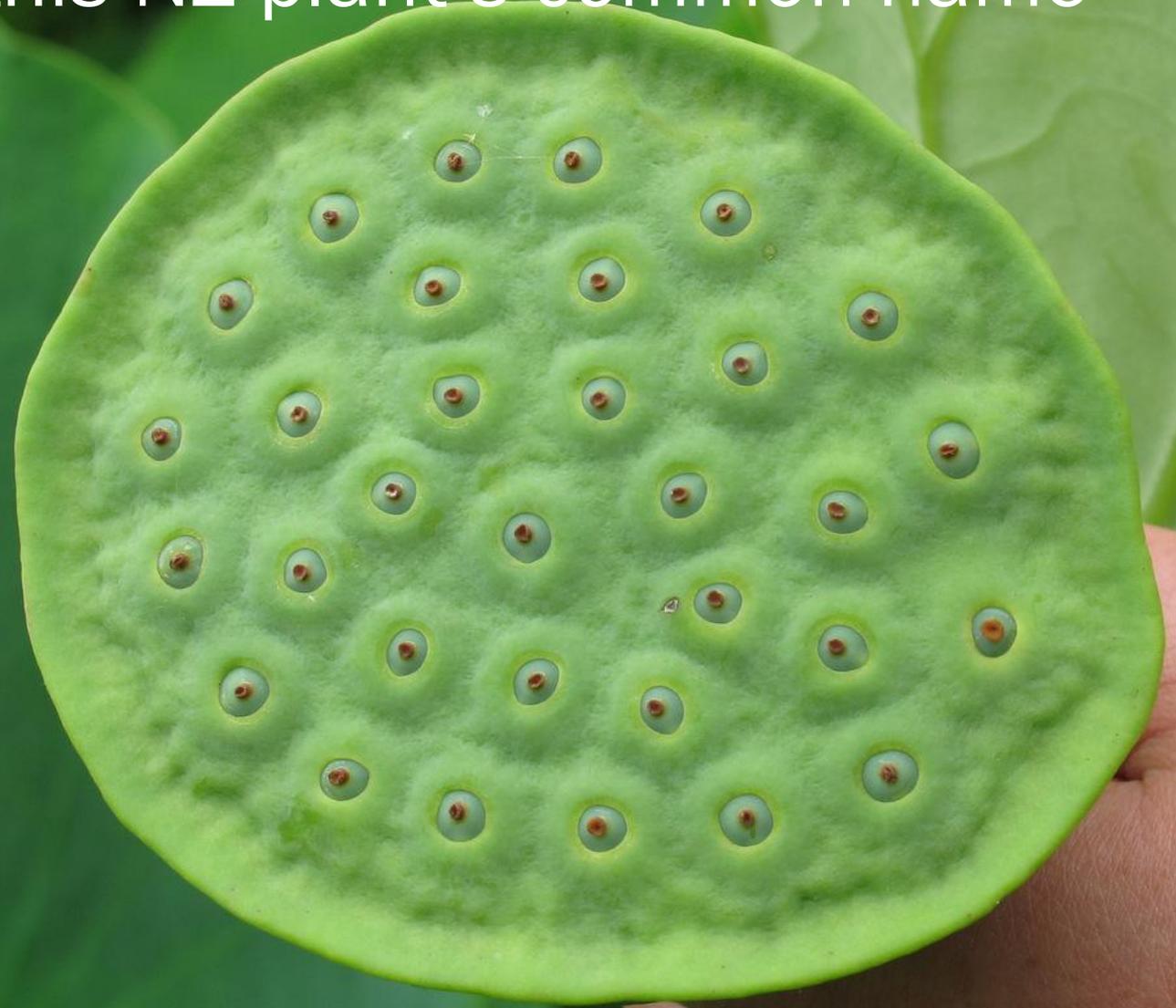
8000ft³ per second 15yd wide canyon then 11yd drop



Amazing trees
near Auckland



Q. Guess this NZ plant's common name



Q. Guess this NZ plant's common name

**It's the shower
head plant**





**SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND
GLACIERS, FJORDS, PENGUINS
AUG 2003 – WINTER !**

South Island, New Zealand

Getting around NZ
can be slow, 3m people but 60m sheep



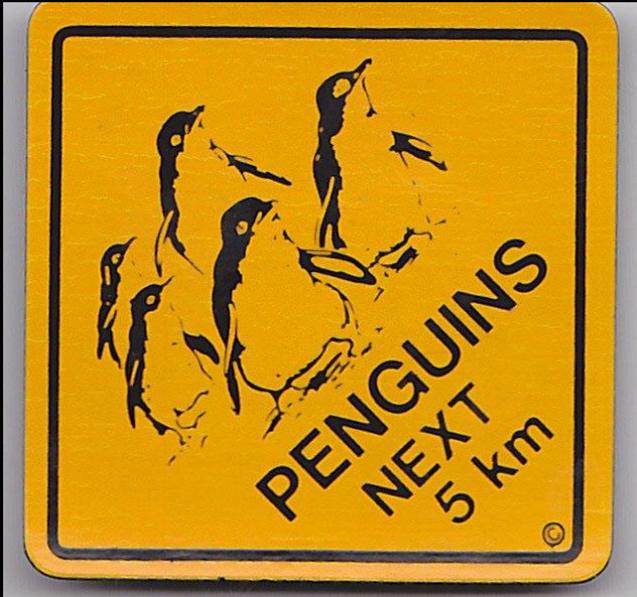
Oamaru, NZ

- Home to yellow eyed penguins 30", 16lb



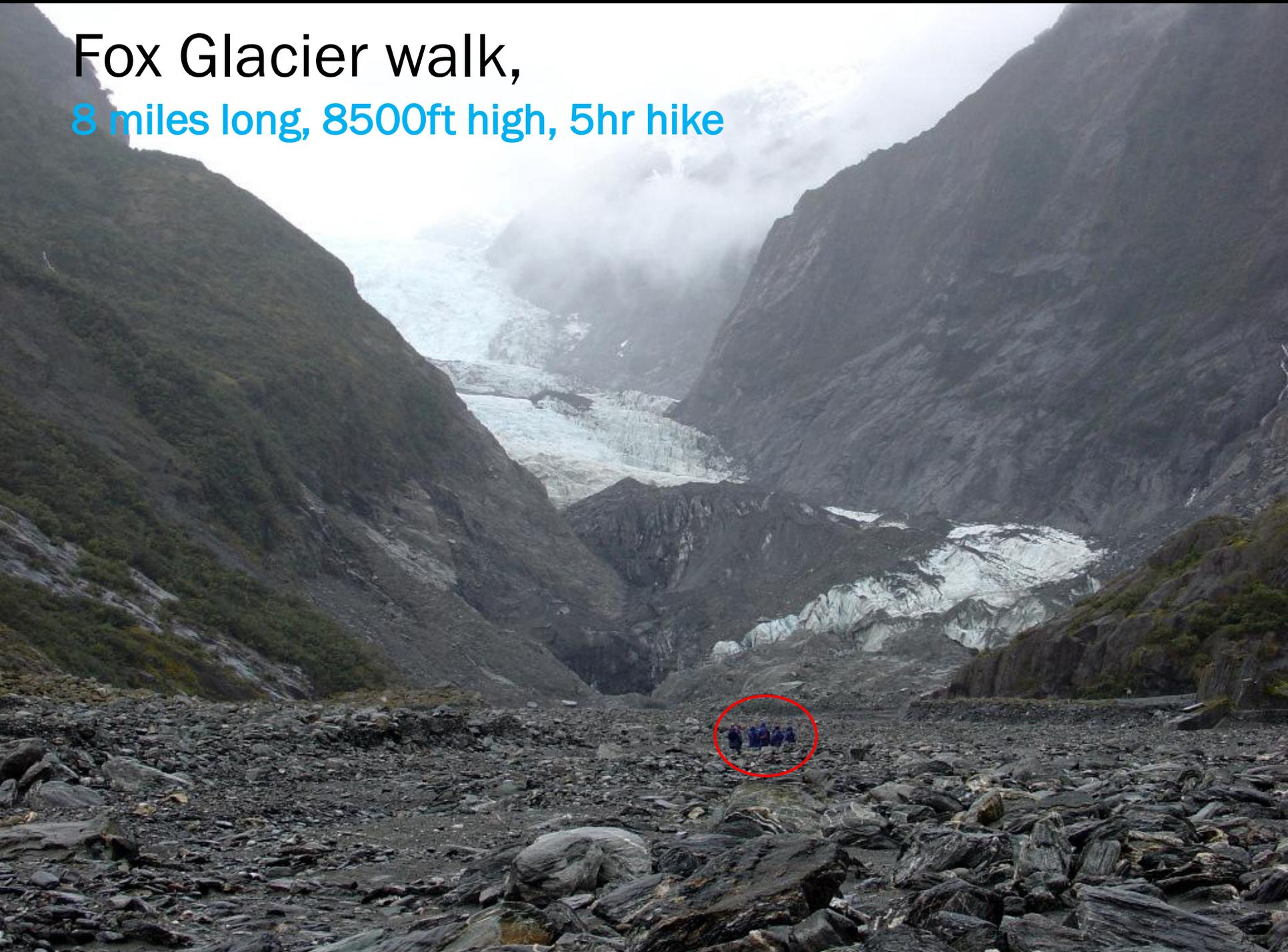
Oamaru, NZ

- Breed at 4, live to 24, dive 200ft
- They come ashore late in the evening
- Nest on the land (here in little boxes)
- No flash photography allowed



Fox Glacier walk,

8 miles long, 8500ft high, 5hr hike



Fox Glacier walk



Fox Glacier walk – looking back to the sea



Under Fox Glacier



Fox Glacier by helicopter

Sea

Fox Glacier Village



Why is some glacier ice blue ?

1) It's not due to reflection from the sky

2) Was thought to be due to air bubbles being squeezed out by glaciers

3) Really due to O-H bond stretch so it absorbs red light

Cracks are where glacier flows over a bend



Fox Glacier by helicopter



Fox Glacier

Land at the top
a few minutes to
take photos then
back down



Fox Glacier by helicopter



Flying near Mt Cook Southern Alps 12000ft



Flying near Mt Cook Southern Alps



South Island

”Braided river”

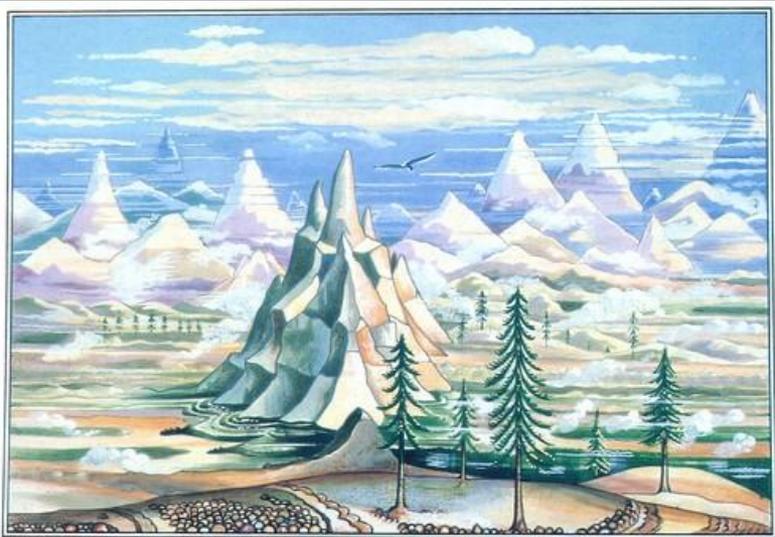
– flash flood plains

accompanied by a
“territorial” bird

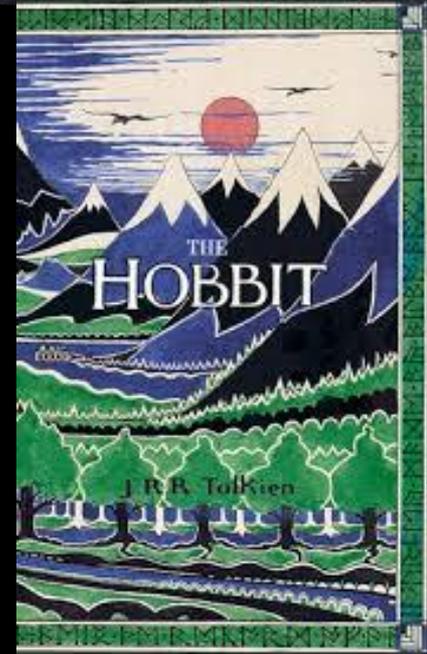
braided river aerial view



Lord of the rings type Scenery “Middle Earth”



Cre Misty Mountains looking West from the
Cyne towards Goblin Gate



LOTR type Scenery “Middle Earth”



Bungee jumping – South Island

← Bridge over a deep river gorge

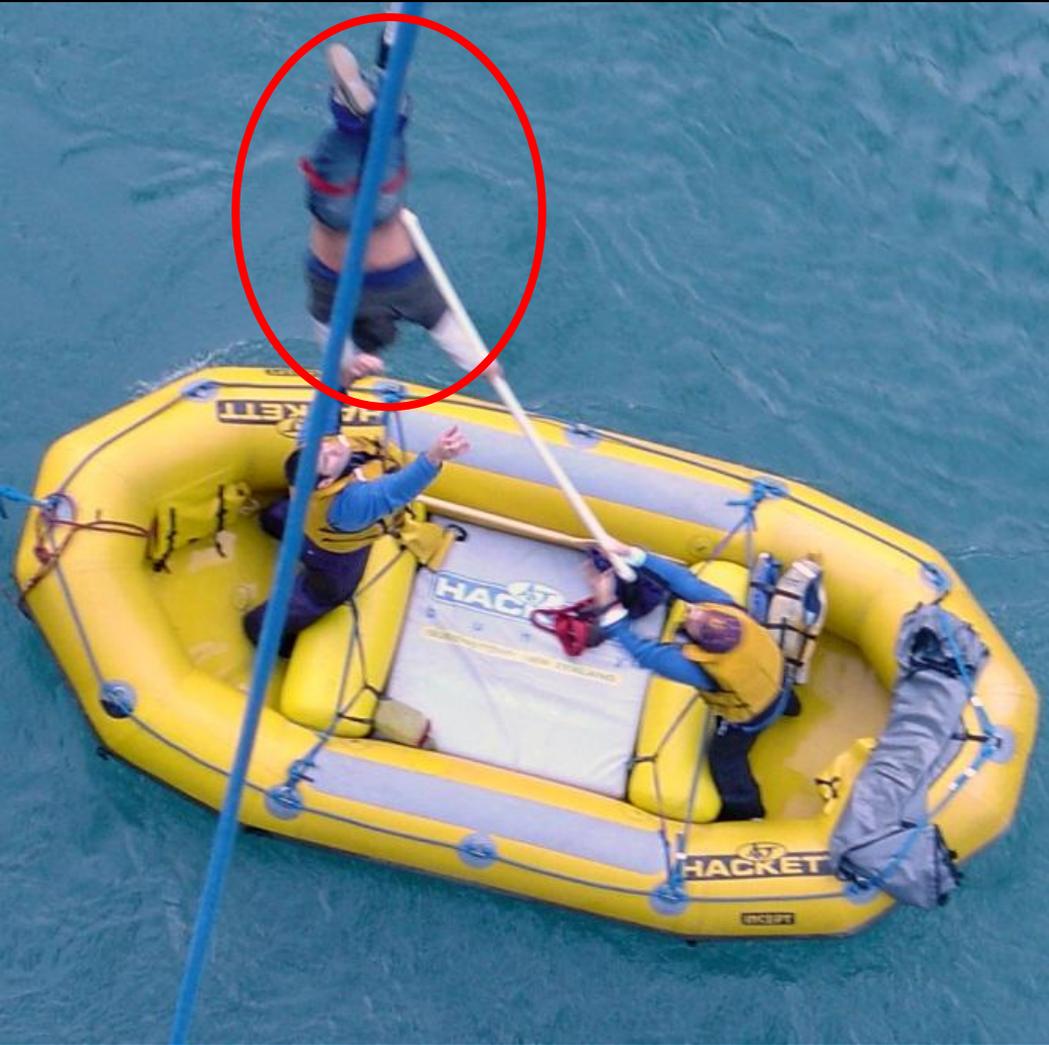
1) Tie an elastic cord around your ankles

2) Leap head first over a ravine

3) Swing several times until someone unhooks you !



Bungee jumping – South Island



There's a sign over jump

“You must not jump if you have

heart problems
skin problems
brittle bones or
an artificial limb”

Queenstown, NZ ([Māori](#): *Tāhuna*)

Resort town on lake wakatipu



Queenstown, NZ

Cable car ride to mountain top



Very clear night skies in New Zealand

It's confusing without the pole star.

The moon and constellations seem "upside down"



Kingston, UK

I live in Kingston upon Thames in London and try to find other places called Kingston or Ipswich around the world.

Kingston's Wikipedia page with my photograph of our local railway station →

Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia

Kingston upon Thames

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

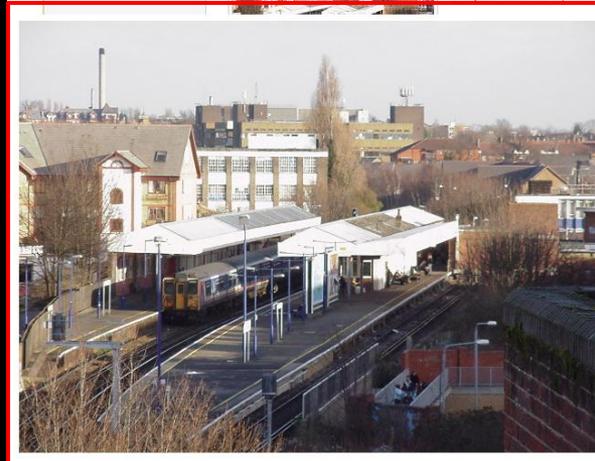
Kingston upon Thames, also known as **Kingston**, is the principal settlement of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames in southwest London. It was the ancient market town where Saxon Kings were crowned. Kingston is situated 10 miles (16.1 km) southwest of Charing Cross and is one of the major metropolitan centres identified in the London Plan.^[2] Kingston lies approximately 10 metres (33 ft) above sea level. Kingston was part of a large ancient parish in the county of Surrey and the town was an ancient borough, reformed in 1835. It has been the location of Surrey County Hall from 1893, extraterritorially in terms of local government administration since Kingston became part of Greater London in 1965. Most of the town centre is part of the KT1 postcode area, but some areas north of Kingston railway station have the postcode KT2 instead. The population of the town itself, comprising the four wards of Canbury, Grove, Norbiton and Tudor, was 43,013 in the 2011 census.^[1]

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One of the more unusual sights in Kingston is *Out of Order* by David Mach, a sculpture in the form of twelve disused red telephone boxes that have been tipped up to lean against one another in an arrangement resembling dominoes. The work was commissioned in 1988 as part of the landscaping for the new Relief Road, and was described by its creator as "anti-minimalist".^[26]

Transport [edit]

The town is served by two South West Trains routes advertised from London as to Shepperton and to Strawberry Hill, though the second route is a complete loop. Three railway stations serve the town on this line from London Waterloo station:



Kingston NZ

Kingston railway station NZ



Kingston NZ

Kingston steam train runs in their summer



To Milford Sound, South Island

Coach trip from Te Anau.

We kept stopping to deliver the post



To Milford Sound, South Island

Flat bottomed glacial valleys in the Southern Alps.

I wish I'd visited before I took Geography O Level at school.



To Milford Sound, South Island

Have to climb over a wintry mountain pass.



Kea – World's only alpine parrot

19", 2lb, came to say hello at the car park



Kea – World's only alpine parrot

They eat rubber strips from car windscreens and windscreen wiper blades, tour guides were shooing them away



To Milford Sound, South Island NZ

Slippery road signs



Milford Sound, South Island NZ

5000ft peaks, 10 miles long, named after Milford Haven,
August is their midwinter so quite cold and wet
Note it's really a fjord, not a sound



Milford Sound, South Island NZ

many waterfalls after lots of rain, up to 10" / day

some waterfalls evaporate and never reach the ground



Milford Sound, South Island NZ

many waterfalls evaporating before they got to the sea



Milford Sound, South Island NZ

Spot the large boat !



Milford Sound, South Island NZ

Spot the large boat !



Christchurch

The Cathedral has been ruined in an earthquake in 2010



Christchurch “cardboard cathedral”

My sister and brother in law took these pictures recently



Thankyou for your attention !

