

## Hörverstehenstexte 2024

### Teil 1: Fascinating Tourist Destinations: New Zealand

(Audiotrack: QR-Code rechts / Aufgaben S. 1)



Hi, thank you for watching my YouTube channel "Fascinating Tourist Destinations". As you know, in my videos I am happy to share a wide variety of impressions from all the trips I have made to the most awesome tourist destinations on our beautiful planet. In today's video I want to show you a number of exciting photos and video clips about my trip to New Zealand last month.

I started my trip at London Heathrow airport on 15<sup>th</sup> of January. My destination was Auckland, which is a big city in New Zealand, located in the northern part of North Island. Contrary to what people sometimes believe, however, the capital of New Zealand is not Auckland, but a city called Wellington, which is located at the southern tip of North Island. You can see me here in a selfie which I took shortly before getting on the British Airways plane in London. Mind you, due to the long distance from London to Auckland, it is impossible to fly there without at least one stopover. My stopover was in Singapore, where I had to stay for two hours before getting on my connecting flight to Auckland. Here is a short video clip of my stay at Singapore Airport. As you can see in this clip, this is one of the biggest, most modern and cleanest airports in the world.

When I landed in Auckland about 24 hours after boarding the plane in London, I was terribly jet-lagged, as you can see in this selfie, which I took shortly before getting off the plane. However, when I stepped outside the airport building to pick up my rental car, my mood improved significantly because the sun was shining, it was really warm and most people were dressed in T-shirts and shorts. If you ask yourself how it can be that warm in the middle of January, you need to remember that New Zealand is located in the southern hemisphere of our planet. In other words, when it is wintertime in Europe, it is summer in New Zealand.

As I had only 5 days to explore New Zealand, I decided to confine my sightseeing to North Island, which has more than enough must-see places, even for a longer trip than mine. After a good night's sleep in the airport hotel (here are some photos of it) I got in my rental car and headed off to a place called Cape Reinga, which is basically the northernmost tip of North Island. Watch my video clip in the top right-hand corner of your screen as I tell you something about this magical place. The lighthouse at Cape Reinga is the place where you have a spectacular view of two oceans meeting, namely the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Watching how the waves and currents of the two oceans clash here is a truly breath-taking experience. Cape Reinga is also one of the most sacred places for the Maori. In fact, the Maori believe that when one of them dies, his or her spirit jumps into the ocean in this very place to return to the homeland of their forefathers.

As I had spent about 6 hours in the car to get to Cape Reinga, I decided to spend the night in a nearby B&B place. After a superb breakfast the next morning I drove for about 2 hours to get to a small harbour from which I was able to take a boat to one of the islands called Poor Knights Islands. These islands are famous for their amazingly rich marine life. Watch my split-screen video clip while I tell you about that experience. The water was dark blue and crystal clear. I took one of the snorkelling sets that were provided on the boat and jumped into the water. What I saw there I have no words to describe. There were numerous schools of fish, of very different sizes and in all colours of the rainbow. And there were lots of corals glittering in a wide range of beautiful colours. It was a mind-blowing experience.

After all these impressions of New Zealand's beautiful nature, I drove back to Auckland, where I decided to go for a very different adventure. I went to the Sky Tower, which is 192 meters high. From there you can do what is known as the Sky Jump. Mind you, this jump is not the same as bungee jumping because you are not connected to a long elastic cord but to a metal wire that allows you to have a free fall experience for about 11 seconds before it starts slowing down softly for some time so that you finally land smoothly at the base of the Sky Tower. Watch the split-screen video of my jump, which I recorded with my mobile phone attached to my safety helmet. What an incredibly thrilling experience!!! Don't you agree???

After that amazing jump I stayed in Auckland for another two days, visiting major sights such as the "Auckland War Memorial Museum", where you can learn about Maori history and traditions, and the "Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki" with its world-class exhibitions of art from all over the world. Here are some of the photos I took at those two venues. This is where my travel account about my short trip to New Zealand ends. I hope you have enjoyed it and can take advantage of it if you decide to visit New Zealand. But now I need to start organising my next trip to yet another fascinating destination which I will not yet give away at this point. If you want to find out about it, just watch out for my next video, which will probably be online in about two months or so. Take care.

## Teil 2: Radio Show: Consequences of Brexit

(Audiotrack: QR-Code rechts / Aufgaben S. 2)



*Listen to the weekly British radio show "The influence of politics on our lives". Every Friday afternoon, the show host Peter Langdon invites listeners to call into his show and to talk about the influence politics can have on our lives. Each time the show focuses on a particular issue in politics. The topic of today's show is "What kind of influence has Brexit had on your life?"*

**Peter:** Hello everyone. My name is Peter Langdon. Welcome to our weekly programme "The influence of politics on our lives". Last week we focused on the impact the recent tax reform has had on all of us here in the UK, and I still remember some of the controversial opinions you voiced about this. This week our focus is on the effect Brexit has had on some or maybe even most of us since it came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2020. If you would like to share with our listeners how Brexit has affected your professional and/or your personal life in the last few years, please call us on 020-886644 and feel free to tell us all about it. Right. Now ... our first caller today is ... Joyce, I believe. Hello Joyce, how are you doing?

**Joyce:** Hi Peter, very well indeed, thank you.

**Peter:** Joyce, obviously, you would like to tell us about the ways in which Brexit has influenced your life so far. Go ahead.

**Joyce:** You see, I have been working as a waitress in a fast-food restaurant for almost 15 years. And since 2020 the gastronomy sector has had to cope with two major crises at the same time, namely the coronavirus pandemic and Brexit. The vast majority of people working in low-skilled jobs in a wide range of economic sectors including gastronomy have predominantly been either immigrants from non-European countries or EU nationals from Eastern Europe. During the coronavirus crisis the gastronomy sector already lost a lot of employees because, on the one hand, they simply did not know if and when their restaurants would reopen again, and, on the other, how long it would take their restaurants to be operating normally again. That is why those employees tried to find jobs in other businesses. Brexit has even worsened this problem because EU nationals no longer have the right to work and live in the UK as long as they want to. That is why lots of our Polish, Romanian, Bulgarian and Slovakian colleagues have returned to their home countries and will most likely not come back again.

**Peter:** And how does that affect you and your restaurant in particular?

**Joyce:** We have experienced a serious shortage of waiters and waitresses for quite some time now. And our boss is constantly trying to recruit new employees, but, frustratingly, without success most of the time. For my colleagues and me this means that we are often asked to work one or two more shifts per week than we used to do before 2020. Our job is hard enough as it is, but these extra shifts are just too much. It is true that our boss gives us extra pay for these extra shifts, but my colleagues and I are very exhausted, which is why some of my colleagues have even quit. But quitting is not an option for me. I have no secondary school qualifications, so I will hardly find a job elsewhere.

**Peter:** I am very sorry to hear that. I hope that you will nevertheless find some way to deal with this situation in the near future. Thank you, Joyce, for sharing your thoughts with us today. Good luck to you. Now ... my assistant has just told me that our next caller is male and his name is Eric. Hello Eric. How are you today?

**Eric:** I'm fine. Thanks, Peter.

**Peter:** Okay, Eric. Will you tell us what impact Brexit has had on your life?

**Eric:** I am a teacher and my wife is a scientist at Bristol University. The impact Brexit has had on education and science is enormous. You see, I teach French and Spanish at a secondary school in Bristol. Before Brexit, there was always some interest in, and demand for, regular school trips of students from my school in Bristol to our partner schools in France and Spain and vice versa. We never had any difficulty in finding enough students who were keen to take part in those exchanges, nor did our partner schools. Since Brexit, however, there has been a steady decline in students signing up for our exchange programmes.

**Peter:** That is quite a pity indeed. As a secondary school student I took part in an exchange programme with a German school. And I must say that it was quite a learning experience to be in a German family for about two weeks. Not really because I managed to improve my German – it was and still is absolutely miserable – but rather due to the fact that I was immersed in German culture and traditions for some

time. It really opened my eyes with regard to how different and yet, at the same time, how similar people from two different cultures can be. But, Eric, you also mentioned the impact that Brexit has had on the world of science. Can you enlarge on that a bit, too? I think you said that your wife is a scientist at Bristol University, right?

**Eric:** Yes, that's right. My wife is a professor in the Chemistry Department. According to her, for two reasons Brexit has led to a drop in the numbers of EU students applying for places at UK universities. First of all, it has become more difficult for EU students to get long-stay visas for the UK, and secondly it has become a lot more expensive for EU students to do their university studies in the UK. Another effect of Brexit is that it has become harder for UK universities to recruit top international scientists, particularly from EU countries. Last but not least, since Brexit entered into force the UK has been excluded from major EU science funding programmes which provide financial support for scientific collaboration within the EU across national borders. This means that the UK is losing touch with some of the most significant research activities going on in Europe and beyond.

**Peter:** If I understand you correctly, your point is that Brexit has not only resulted in the UK losing its long-standing cultural ties with continental Europe, it may also lead to the UK losing out economically due to its increasing isolation in education and research. That is no good news at all. Eric, thank you for sharing those concerns with us. And now let's bring in our next caller ...



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