

## The All Blacks

### Ka Mate! Ka Mate!

New Zealand is a great sporting nation, practising team sports, as well as adventure sports in the middle of the wilderness amidst beautiful scenery. The great outdoors and a healthy lifestyle have enabled New Zealand to cultivate great sporting and adventure opportunities. Rugby, one of the most popular sports in New Zealand, is almost embedded in the culture. The national team, The All Blacks, has an invincible reputation of rugby giants around the world and is also able to remain representative of the cultural mix of the nation. Aboard your motorhome you can follow the in the footsteps of The All Blacks, one of the best rugby teams in the world.

New Zealanders are passionate about rugby, their national sport, and proud of it since its start in the country in the in the 1860s. **The All Blacks**, wearing their all-black sporting clothes, is one of the most legendary teams in the world and in the history of rugby. Since the 1980s its supremacy has been well established at an international level and the team is a regular favorite in regional and international competitions, twice the world cup champion in 1987 and 2011. The All Blacks' record for number of points scored in a single game is still unmatched today with its victory against Japan in 1995 (145-17).



Some players have become true heroes in New Zealand, such as **Dan Carter**, **Jonah Lomu** or **Tana Umaga**. Rugby is followed absolutely everywhere in New Zealand. Several stadiums host home matches, such as the famous **Eden Park** in Auckland and the **North Harbour Stadium**, **Westpac Stadium**, **AMI Stadium** and **Waikato Stadium**.

We can say that rugby is an integral part of the New Zealand culture, both from a sporting and ethnic point of view. The famous **Ka Mate** dance is one of the various Hakas performed at the beginning of each rugby match by the team. It is a Maori dance ceremony of celebration or to indicate the starting of war. It aims to motivate team, but also to destabilize and disrupt the opponent. Many original Maori people and Pacific Island players are represented on the team, showing the mixed cultural identity of the country.