



# New Zealand

*the right choice*



To visit New Zealand, you may need to apply for a visitor's visa or permit. This booklet provides you with information on how to apply.

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*For more information about New Zealand's immigration policies, contact the New Zealand Immigration Service or visit our website at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)*

## KIA ORA - Welcome

New Zealand welcomes many thousands of visitors every year – some come for only a short time to enjoy the unique New Zealand experience, others may eventually make New Zealand their home.

**You need to know that it is unlawful to stay in New Zealand for longer than the time specified in your permit.**

You are responsible for making sure you leave New Zealand before your permit expires – if you do not, the New Zealand Immigration Service has the power to make you leave.

Please take time to read this guide carefully and refer to this guide when completing the form, *Application for Visiting New Zealand* (NZIS 1017) or the *Auckland Region Visitor's Permit Application Form* (NZIS 1111).

**Your application may not be accepted if you do not answer all the relevant questions or provide all the required documentation.**

If you apply for a further permit while in New Zealand, you need to allow sufficient time for a decision to be made on your application before your current permit expires.

If your permit does expire, your application for a further permit does not make your stay in New Zealand lawful or give you the right to remain in New Zealand while your application is being considered.

## What you need to know when coming to visit New Zealand

New Zealand has implemented a system, Advance Passenger Screening designed to enhance the security of New Zealand's borders.

If:

- you do not have an appropriate Visa to enter New Zealand; or
- your Visa has expired; or
- your Visa has not been transferred to your current/new passport or the passport being used to enter New Zealand,

you may be refused permission to board your flight to New Zealand.

To minimise any disruption to your travel plans please ensure your travel documents are up-to-date and that you have the appropriate and current Visa. If you have any questions check out [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)

## A visitor's visa

This is an endorsement in your passport allowing you to travel to New Zealand. It shows you have permission to travel to New Zealand and may be granted a visitor's permit when you arrive. The visa may be valid for one journey (single) or for more than one journey (multiple).

## A visitor's permit

This is an endorsement in your passport or, where the permit is granted via NZIS Online Services, an electronic record that will be retained by the Department of Labour and may be confirmed in writing on request. It states the expiry date of your permit and allows you to:

- visit as a tourist, see friends and relatives
- study (one course of up to three months)
- play sport or perform in cultural events without pay
- undertake a business trip
- undertake medical treatment.

## Who does not need a visa or permit to visit New Zealand?

You do not need a visa or permit to visit New Zealand if you are:

- a New Zealand citizen or residence permit holder; or
- an Australian citizen or resident who holds a current **permanent** resident return visa (temporary or provisional resident return visa holders may need a visa to enter New Zealand); or
- exempt from the requirement to hold a permit to be in New Zealand.

## When do I apply for a visitor's visa?

You may apply for a visitor's visa if:

- you are outside New Zealand and need a visa to travel to New Zealand; or
- you are inside New Zealand and need to go out and then re-enter New Zealand; or
- you are a "visa waiver visitor" (see page 8) and wish to stay longer than the set time granted on arrival.

If you wish to transit a New Zealand airport you may need to apply for a transit visa (see page 8).

## How do I apply for a visitor's visa or permit?

The arrival card you complete as you enter New Zealand is an application for a visitor's permit.

You may also apply for a visitor's permit if you are in New Zealand as a visitor and wish to stay longer, or are a worker or student wishing to holiday after your employment or course.

If you are the holder of a visitors' permit and wish to extend your stay in New Zealand you may be able to apply for a further visitor permit by using NZIS Online Services. The service can be accessed using the NZIS website at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)

You can apply for a visitor's visa or permit by completing and submitting your application yourself, or you can ask another person to assist you.

**Online checking of applications.** *This facility is only available if you are lodging your application at one of our NZIS offices listed in the "More Information and Advice" section of this form.* You can check the progress of your application online by selecting this option in your application form. If you select this option you will also be advised of the outcome of your application by email.

The NZIS does not require you to have an agent or representative, but if you decide to use the services of an agent or representative you are free to do so.

- Anyone can act as your agent or representative.
- An agent or representative may be a lawyer, a consultant, or any other person, (including a friend) whom you hire or ask to help you apply for a visitor's visa or permit.
- The NZIS treats all applicants equally and does not provide a preferential service to applicants with agents or representatives.

The NZIS deals with agents or representatives in the following ways:

- You may give your own address or the address of your agent or representative as the point of contact for the NZIS. If you choose to give your agent's or representative's address, all correspondence from the NZIS, including notices for interviews, and the return of original documents, will be sent to your agent or representative.
- If you stop using the services of your agent or representative, you must cancel your authorisation in writing to the NZIS or the NZIS will continue to deal with them. If you hire a new agent or representative you will need to provide a new authorisation to the NZIS.
- You are responsible for any documents or information that you submit to the NZIS, or that your agent or representative submits on your behalf.
- If you elect an agent to represent you that agent will be provided with the ability to check your application online.

## What do I have to provide to get a visitor's visa or permit?

Visitor's visa and permit requirements are found in the form *Application for Visiting New Zealand* (NZIS 1017), or the *Auckland Region Visitor's Permit Application Form* (NZIS 1111).

All applicants under Visitor policy must be bona fide applicants, and be of good character and of an acceptable standard of health.

A bona fide applicant is a person who can show they genuinely intend a temporary stay in New Zealand for a lawful purpose. Evidence of genuine intent and lawful purpose may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- any information or submissions showing you have a legitimate need to spend time in New Zealand for a specific period; and
- any documents or submissions showing you meet the Visitor policy provisions.

**Note:** You cannot visit New Zealand for the purpose of giving birth unless you hold a visa allowing you to travel to New Zealand for medical treatment or consultation (*refer to the section on Special Visitor categories later in this leaflet*). If you are pregnant you will need to satisfy an immigration officer that you are a bona fide temporary visitor and not visiting New Zealand for the purpose of giving birth.

### Health requirements

If you intend to be in New Zealand for more than six months you may need to provide the following:

- A completed *Temporary Entry X-ray Certificate* (NZIS 1096); or
- A completed *Medical and X-ray Certificate* (NZIS 1007).

Please read the *Health Requirements Leaflet* (NZIS 1121) for full details of the health information you will need to submit with your application.

### Character requirements

If you are aged 17 years or over and intend being in New Zealand for longer than 24 months, or are required by a specific policy or a visa or immigration officer to provide evidence of your character, you must provide the following:

- Police Certificates from your country of citizenship (unless you can provide satisfactory evidence that you have never lived there) and from any country in which you have lived for five or more years since attaining the age of 17 years.

**Note:** All Police Certificates must be less than six months old when you make your application.

## How long can I stay?

A visitor may stay a total of nine months in an 18 month period. If you have stayed in New Zealand for a total of nine months in the last 18 months, you are required to remain out of New Zealand for nine months before returning as a visitor. However, you may qualify for a further three months if you have financially supported yourself, not worked or studied or been sponsored throughout your stay. If you stay a total of 12 months in the last 24 months, you are required to remain out of New Zealand for 12 months before you can return as a visitor.

## Do I need a visitor's visa to travel to New Zealand?

If you are a citizen of one of the following countries which have visa waiver agreements with New Zealand, you do not need to apply for a visitor's visa if you are visiting New Zealand for up to three months (a "visa waiver visitor").

Andorra	Iceland	Portugal*
Argentina	Ireland	Qatar
Austria	Israel	San Marino
Bahrain	Italy	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Japan	Singapore
Brazil	Korea (South)	Slovak
Brunei	Kuwait	Republic
Canada	Latvia****	Slovenia
Chile	Liechtenstein	South Africa
Cyprus	Lithuania****	Spain
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Sweden
Denmark	Malaysia	Switzerland
Estonia****	Malta	United Arab
Finland	Mexico	Emirates
France	Monaco	United States
Germany	Netherlands	of America**
Greece	Norway	Uruguay
Hong Kong***	Oman	Vatican City
Hungary	Poland	

\* Portuguese passport holders must have the right to live permanently in Portugal.

\*\* including nationals of the USA.

\*\*\* residents of Hong Kong travelling on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or British National (Overseas) passports.

\*\*\*\* Visa waiver does not apply to people travelling on alien's (non-citizen's) passports issued by these countries.

If you are a British citizen or British passport holder who has evidence of the right to live permanently in the United Kingdom, you may be granted a visitor's permit valid for six months on arrival.

People travelling to New Zealand on United Nations (UN) laissez-passers for a period of up to three months are exempt from the requirement to obtain a visitor's visa.

## Visa Waiver Visitor

If you are a visa waiver visitor, you must:

- hold a valid ticket to a country you have the right of entry to; and
- have sufficient money to support yourself during your stay; and
- hold a passport valid for three months beyond the date you are leaving New Zealand; and
- only visit New Zealand for the time granted on arrival. If you wish to visit for a longer period you will need to apply for a visitor's visa.

## What if I want to transit New Zealand?

If you are travelling through a New Zealand airport on your way to another country, you may need to apply for a transit visa.

You **will** need to apply for a Transit Visa if you are a Nepalese passport holder who wishes to transit through New Zealand, unless:

- your immediate or final destination after New Zealand is Australia, and you hold a current visa allowing you to travel to Australia; or
- you are the holder of a current visa allowing you to travel to New Zealand.

For passport holders from any country, you **will** need a Transit Visa if:

- you are **not** a citizen of a country that is listed as a visa waiver country on page 7 of this Guide; and
- **you are travelling between New Zealand and**

Cook Islands	New Caledonia	Tokelau
Fiji	Niue	Tonga
Kiribati	Samoa	Tuvalu
Marshall Islands	Solomon Islands	Vanuatu
Nauru	Tahiti	

**unless:**

- your immediate or final destination after New Zealand is Australia, and you hold a current visa allowing you to travel to Australia; or
- you are a citizen of Australia; or
- you are the holder of a current visa allowing you to travel to New Zealand.

You will only be granted a transit visa if you are going to be in New Zealand for no more than 24 hours, and will not leave the transit area of the airport. If you wish to leave the transit area or stay in the country longer than 24 hours then you must apply for a visitor's visa before coming to New Zealand.

## Special visitor categories

### Business Visitor

If you intend to visit New Zealand to discuss and negotiate business arrangements, and your stay is no longer than three months in any one year, you will need to meet visitor requirements. Business visitors who wish to stay longer than 3 months, or who are considered to be working for gain or reward, must apply for a work visa or permit. You should read the *Guide for Working in New Zealand* (NZIS 1016) – the Specific Purpose or Event Policy.

### APEC Business Travel Cardholders

People from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies who hold an APEC Travel Card, who are not working, and who intend a stay of under three months, may enter New Zealand as visitors. Unlike other visitors, however, instead of lodging an application for a visa, they receive pre-clearance approval from the APEC Business Travel Card Operations, NZIS, Christchurch Branch. Once they have pre-clearance approval, they are able to board a flight to New Zealand, and are granted a three-month visitor's permit on arrival.

### Conference Delegate

Those attending a conference in New Zealand should check with the organiser. Organisers of conferences in New Zealand should contact the nearest New Zealand branch of the New Zealand Immigration Service to ascertain the best means of facilitating the entry of overseas delegates to New Zealand. Conference organisers will need to make these arrangements in advance of the conference.

### Partners of New Zealand citizens and residents

If you are the partner (in relation to an applicant, means the spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner of the applicant, which may include same sex couples) of a New Zealand citizen or resident you may apply for a visitor's visa or visitor's permit for the duration of your intended visit (up to a maximum of 9 months from your date of arrival). To qualify, you must be in a genuine and stable relationship at the time the application is made. Your New Zealand partner must also intend to be in New Zealand for the same period of time, and must support your application in writing.

**Please note:** If you intend to apply for New Zealand residence after your arrival on the basis of your relationship, you may be asked to provide evidence that your New Zealand partner is eligible to sponsor you for residence before the visitor's visa or permit is issued. We recommend that you check the sponsorship requirements under the Family Category – Partnership Policy section of our leaflet *Self-Assessment Guide for Residence in New Zealand* (NZIS 1003).

### Entry to New Zealand for the purpose of a culturally arranged marriage

If you are applying to visit New Zealand for the purpose of a culturally arranged marriage to a New Zealand citizen or resident

you may apply for a visitor's visa for the duration of your intended visit (up to a maximum of 3 months from your date of arrival). To qualify, you must genuinely intend to marry within 3 months of your arrival, and to maintain the marriage on a long term and exclusive basis. Your intended New Zealand spouse is expected to be in New Zealand for the same period of time, and must support you application in writing. You must show evidence that the marriage follows an identified cultural tradition. There must also be no legal impediment to the marriage.

**Please Note:** If you intend to apply for New Zealand residence after your arrival on the basis of your culturally arranged marriage, you may be asked to provide evidence that your New Zealand spouse would be eligible to sponsor you for residence before the visitor's visa or permit is issued. We recommend that you check the sponsorship requirements under the Family Category – Partnership Policy section of our leaflet *Self-Assessment Guide for Residence in New Zealand* (NZIS 1003).

### Guardians accompanying students to New Zealand

If you are the guardian of a foreign fee-paying student enrolled in school years 1 to 13, or aged 17 years or younger, you can apply for a temporary visa or permit for the purpose of living with and caring for the student. If a stay longer than 12 months is required, your permit can be renewed for further 12 month periods as long as the student continues his or her studies, until that student reaches the age of 18 years.

Visas and/or permits issued and/or granted to guardians in these circumstances are issued and/or granted subject to the condition that the guardian lives with the student for the duration of their studies. Where this condition is breached, the student and guardian's permit may be revoked.

In order to be issued and/or granted a visitor visa and/or permit a legal guardian must provide evidence with their visitor visa and/or permit application that they are the legal guardian as defined below.

### Definition of 'legal guardian':

A 'legal guardian' is the person:

- with the legal right and responsibility to provide for the care (including education and health) of an international student, **and**
- usually provides for the care of the student in the student's home country.

This definition includes the student's biological or adoptive parents, testamentary guardian, or court-appointed guardian.

**Note:** A legal guardian must not leave New Zealand without the student they are responsible for.

For more information on which students must be accompanied by a legal guardian, please refer to the *Guide for Studying in New Zealand* (NZIS 1013).

### Dependent Children

A child travelling alone or with one parent may be asked to provide evidence that they have the right to leave their country of residence. This may be in the form of custody papers or guardianship papers.

### Group Visa

If you are travelling in a group you may apply for a group visa. The group must be travelling for the same purpose, have the same travel arrangements, and a leader is required to take charge of the visa and arrival formalities.

### Travelling by private yacht or private aircraft

If you arrive in New Zealand in a location which is not a Customs port of entry, you are required to report to an immigration officer without delay. When you have reported you will be required to hand in a completed arrival card and be subject to normal visitor requirements. A member of the New Zealand police may arrest any person who does not report or is suspected of not reporting to an immigration officer. If it is necessary to wait out the hurricane season (October to April), or undergo a refit or major repairs on your vessel, you may be granted a visitor's permit beyond the normal maximum stay. We recommend that you look at our leaflet *Visitors Arriving By Yacht* (NZIS 1083).

### Medical treatment/consultation

If you travel to New Zealand for medical treatment and consultation you must apply for a visitor's visa and complete the form *Details of Intended Medical Treatment* (NZIS 1009). If this is not possible due to an emergency, you should contact the New Zealand Immigration Service who may be able to make special arrangements for you.

### Residence applicants requiring occupational registration in New Zealand

If you have applied for residence and require New Zealand registration to work in your profession you may undertake practical or educational training for three months on a visitor permit. If you require longer to obtain registration you will need to apply for either a student or work visa before you travel to New Zealand.

## Can I be refused a visa or permit?

Yes

- if you are not of good health and character; or
- if you do not satisfy a visa or immigration officer that you are entering New Zealand as a genuine visitor for a lawful purpose; or
- if in the opinion of the visa or immigration officer you are likely to remain in New Zealand unlawfully or likely to breach the conditions of your visitor's permit; or
- if you are a person to whom section 7 of the Immigration Act 1987 applies and you do not have an exemption.

### Section 7 applies to people who:

- have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for five years or more (this applies even if any of your offences have later been taken off the record); or
- in the past ten years were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more; or
- are the subject of a current New Zealand removal order; or
- have been deported from any country; or
- are suspected of being likely to constitute a danger to New Zealand's security or public order; or
- are believed to be associated with an organisation or group with criminal objectives, and for that or any other reason considered to be a threat to the public interest or public order.

Note: Any NZAID supported student, or their partner or dependent children may only be issued with a visa or permit for New Zealand in the 2 year period following completion of the NZAID student's scholarship, with written approval from NZAID (with the exception of a Work Visa or Permit to complete course requirements or a short-term Visitor Visa or Permit).

## Medical insurance

Residents and people holding work permits for a stay of two years or more (and their dependent children) are eligible for publicly funded health and disability services. Other work permit holders, students, and visitor permit holders generally are not eligible. People covered by New Zealand's Reciprocal Health Agreements with Australia and the United Kingdom are entitled to publicly funded health care for immediately necessary medical treatment only. We therefore strongly recommend that you have comprehensive health insurance for the duration of your visit. For more information visit the Ministry of Health website at [www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz).

## Where can I get more information and advice?

You can get more information about visitors' visas or permits:

- From New Zealand diplomatic and consular offices.
- From any of our NZIS branches overseas. We have overseas offices in Apia, Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Jakarta, London, Moscow, New Delhi, Nuku'alofa, Shanghai, Singapore, Suva, Sydney, Taipei and The Hague.
- From any of our NZIS branches in New Zealand, which are located in Auckland, Henderson, Manukau, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

All New Zealand Immigration Service forms, leaflets and information can be downloaded from the internet, at:

[www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)