

Guide for  
Visiting in New Zealand



New Zealand  
*the right choice*

A photograph of a natural landscape, likely a national park in New Zealand. It shows a river flowing over large, dark rocks, surrounded by lush green trees and vegetation. In the background, a prominent mountain peak is visible under a clear sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

visit

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).

**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 new 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 boarding your flight to return 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 Australian resident return visa; 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 6) 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 7).

## 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 the *Application for Visiting New Zealand* (NZIS 1017) yourself, or you can ask another person to assist you.

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.

## 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), under the heading "The Guide for Visitors".

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

\* *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.*

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 need a transit visa if:**

- you are **not** a citizen of a country that is listed as a visa waiver country on page 6 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.

## **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 (either legally married or in an interdependent partnership, heterosexual or same sex) 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 Residence - Partner 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 your 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 – Partners 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.

### **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 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.

## 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, 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)**



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