

# Fact sheet: Trial of Australian visa recognition for eligible Chinese visitors

To make travel to New Zealand easier, the Government will trial removing the need for a New Zealand visitor visa for some Chinese visitors.

From early November 2025, eligible Chinese visitors travelling from Australia with a specified Australian visa will be able to enter New Zealand using only a New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA).

## Who is eligible?

To be eligible, visitors must:

- Be a Chinese passport holder
- Hold a valid Australian visitor, work, student or family visa  
(This trial does not apply to people only transiting through Australia)
- Travel from Australia to New Zealand on each occasion
- Have a New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA).

## What does the trial allow?

- Eligible Chinese visitors can stay in New Zealand for up to three months.
- The trial will run for 12 months, starting in early November 2025.
- Until the trial begins, current visa rules still apply.
- More details will be available closer to the start date.

## Key benefits for eligible travellers

- Applicants will receive a quicker decision from Immigration New Zealand.  
As at June 2025, the average time for processing visitor visas from China is 5 working days while an NZeTA is generally processed within 72 hours but often much quicker.
- It costs less to apply for an NZeTA.  
Under the trial individuals will pay \$117- \$123 for the combined cost of an NZeTA and the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL). The cost of a Visitor Visa plus the IVL is \$441.