

Fact sheet: transit visa changes for eligible Chinese travellers

The Government is making it easier for Chinese travellers to transit via New Zealand.

What's changing?

- From early November, China will be added to the list of countries with transit visa waiver status.
- Chinese nationals will be able to transit through New Zealand on a transit New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA), without having to apply for a separate transit visa.

Who is eligible?

To transit through New Zealand under this change, travellers must:

- Be a Chinese passport holder
- Remain in the transit area of the airport (ie, not pass through passport control)
- Stay in transit for less than 24 hours
- Meet the criteria for a transit NZeTA

Note: If you already hold a valid NZeTA or New Zealand visa, including a transit visa, you do not need a transit NZeTA.

Benefits of the change

It **costs less** and takes **less time** to process applications for a transit NZeTA.

Document Type	Average Processing Time	Cost	Valid For	Multiple Uses
Transit NZeTA	24 hours (up to 72 hours)	\$17 (via app) / \$23 (online)	2 years	Yes
Transit Visa	4 working days (as at June 2025)	\$235	Up to the date specified on the visa	Transit visas are generally issued for a single journey, but may be issued for multiple journeys depending on travel requirements.

Transit passengers do not have to pay the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL).

When does it start?

- This change will come into effect in November 2025.
- Until then, current rules apply.
- Transit Visas approved before these changes take effect will continue to be valid until their stated expiry date.