

»»» Major Events Travel Advisory

A Guide for New Zealand
Border Entry





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PLANNING TRAVEL TO NEW ZEALAND

This Travel Advisory has been prepared for event participants planning to attend an event held in New Zealand. It includes some basic preparation and visa information to ensure that you can fulfil the entry requirements and processes for New Zealand. The advice provided will contribute to your experience in New Zealand being positive and memorable.

Please note that the following content is provided for information only, and participants of an event must still ensure that they meet all requirements that are relevant to their specific situation.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE IN NEW ZEALAND

Visa requirements

Visa requirements

Well before you leave for your trip, check to make sure you have all the travel documents you will need and that they are all up to date.

The following outlines the visa requirements, documents, and application processes that Immigration New Zealand (INZ) authorities may require to facilitate your entry into New Zealand.

If you do not have the correct visa or travel authority when you check-in for your flight to New Zealand, you may not be able to board or you may be refused entry on arrival. It is your responsibility to make sure you hold the correct visa or travel authority.

For complete and more detailed information on passports and visas you should visit the INZ website: www.immigration.govt.nz.

Applying for a visa

The visa type you apply for, and the visa requirements will vary depending on your participation in the event as well as the number of times you intend to travel to New Zealand.

If you are from a 'visa waiver country', such as Italy, the United States or the United Kingdom (see APPENDIX A for a full list of visa waiver countries) and all your travel to New Zealand will be completed in less than three months, you will be able to travel to New Zealand on a New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) and be granted a visitor visa on arrival, subject to meeting standard entry requirements. You will be able to participate in the event on this visa provided your business in New Zealand can be concluded within three months.

If you are not from a visa waiver country listed in APPENDIX A or you will be making a number of visits over an extended period which is greater than three months, you will need to apply for visitor visa before you come to New Zealand.

Visa types

The visa type you apply for will depend on your participation in the event, as well as your intended length of intended stay are outlined in the next section.

Participation in the event	Type of visa required	
		Visa waiver country staying for less than three months
Sports people/Speakers (e.g. crew etc.)	Request an NZeTA online	Apply for a Visitor Visa General
Family members	Request an NZeTA online	Apply for a Visitor Visa General
Support staff, match and tournament officials, and accredited media/broadcasting personnel	Request an NZeTA online	Apply for a Visitor Visa General
Non-accredited media/broadcasting personnel	Apply for a work visa under Specific Purpose instructions	Apply for a work visa under Specific Purpose instructions

For a full list of visa options, please refer to the [Immigration New Zealand website](#).

Requirements for a visa waiver traveller

You must request an NZeTA if you are travelling without a visa on a passport from a visa waiver country or travelling as a permanent resident of Australia. An NZeTA is valid for two years and you can use your NZeTA for multiple visits while it is valid.

You do not need an NZeTA if you have a valid New Zealand visa or are an Australian citizen travelling with an Australian passport.

Information on how you can request an NZeTA can be found here: [Request an NZeTA](#).

See **APPENDIX A** for a list of visa waiver countries.

Requirements for a Visitor Visa General

In addition to a fully completed online visa application form, applicants will need to submit the following supporting documentation:

Identity

- A passport sized photo. The photo must meet all minimum requirements, or it will not be accepted. Photo requirements can be found on Immigration New Zealand's website: [Acceptable photos for a visa or NZeTA](#)
- A copy of the passport biodata page. Please note that the passport must be valid for at least three months beyond your intended departure date from New Zealand.

Genuine intentions

- An invitation letter from the event organisers/host, confirming your participation in that particular event.

- You must be a genuine visitor to New Zealand and intend to leave at the end of your visit.

Evidence of funds or sponsorship

- You will need to demonstrate that you hold NZ\$1,000 per month of stay in New Zealand, or NZ\$400 per month if your accommodation has been pre-paid.
- If all costs associated with your travel are being funded by a third-party organisation, please include a letter confirming this and outlining what costs will be covered.
- If you are sponsored, your sponsor must provide evidence they meet the criteria and can look after you while you are in New Zealand.

Onward travel

- When you arrive in New Zealand you may be asked to show that you intend to leave the country – for example, a return ticket or proof you have enough money to buy a ticket out of New Zealand. This is in addition to the funds you have to live on.
- If you are sponsored and you do not have a return ticket, your sponsor can provide recent bank statements to show they have enough money to buy you a ticket out of New Zealand.
- Any other documentation that is required to show that you meet all of the criteria for the visa that you are applying for.

Once your application has been submitted online, an automated message may appear requesting your original passport to be submitted to the relevant processing office. Instructions will be included in that message; however, INZ will let you know if you need to send your passport after you have applied.

Each application is assessed on a case-by-case basis taking each applicant's individual circumstances into consideration. Therefore, INZ may request additional documents from you as part of assessing your visa application. If additional information is requested, it must be provided directly to your case officer.

If your application is approved, you will be granted an electronic visitor visa (eVisa) which will be uploaded on your Immigration ONLINE account. You must print this and carry with you when you travel.

Fees

For people travelling under the visa waiver provisions who request an NZeTA, will need to pay an application fee. This fee includes the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy.

Anyone who will be applying for a visa (visitor or work) will need to pay the application fee. Any facilitation fees charged by the Visa Application Centres will also require payment. You can find out how much it will cost to apply, where to send your application or passport, and how long a decision will take on [Immigration New Zealand website](#).

Apply with sufficient time

Please ensure that your visa application is submitted well before your intended travel date, to avoid delays. It is recommended you apply at least four weeks in advance.

Please also note it is your responsibility to check whether your proposed travel route will require any transit visas for other countries. You will need to allow yourself sufficient time to obtain these.

Passports

To board your flight to New Zealand you need a valid passport or travel document. You may not be allowed to check in if your passport is not valid for travel to New Zealand. Check that your passport will not expire until:

- Three months after the date you plan to leave New Zealand, or
- One month after the date you plan to leave New Zealand – if your passport was issued by a country that has a New Zealand embassy or consulate that issues passports of that country.

If you are a [New Zealand visa](#) or [NZeTA](#) holder, you still need to complete a NZTD as well (see below).

New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD)

Everyone travelling into New Zealand needs to complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD).

The NZTD collects travel, customs, immigration and biosecurity information and aims to improve the safety and security of New Zealand.

It's free and you can complete it on the [NZTD website](#) or by downloading the [NZTD app](#). You will need to answer questions about your trip and what you are bringing into New Zealand.

You can start your digital NZTD at a time that suits you. The earliest you can submit your NZTD is 24 hours before you start your trip to New Zealand.

Your digital NZTD is linked to your passport which means when your passport is scanned (either at an eGate or by a border officer) the system recognises that you have completed a digital declaration. You can make updates to your digital declaration until you reach passport control in New Zealand.

If you are a [New Zealand visa](#) or [NZeTA](#) holder, you still need to complete a NZTD as well.

If you cannot complete a digital NZTD, there are NZTD paper declaration forms available upon arrival.

If you have any questions, you can email or call the NZTD Contact Centre, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at travellerdeclaration.govt.nz/contact/.

ARRIVING IN NEW ZEALAND

Please consult Customs website for full details and any specific questions on [Travelling to New Zealand](#)

eGates

eGates are computerised to allow approved passport holders to self-process passport control, eGates use a camera to match your face to your passport.

In New Zealand, you'll find eGates at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Queenstown airports.

To use eGate in New Zealand, the traveller must be 10 years of age or older and have an ePassport from:

- › New Zealand
- › Australia
- › Austria
- › Belgium
- › Bulgaria
- › Canada
- › Croatia
- › Cyprus
- › Czech Republic
- › Denmark
- › Estonia
- › Finland
- › France
- › Germany
- › Greece
- › Hungary
- › Italy
- › Japan
- › Latvia
- › Lithuania
- › Luxembourg
- › Malta
- › Netherlands
- › People's Republic of China
- › Poland
- › Portugal
- › Republic of Ireland
- › Republic of Korea (South Korea)
- › Romania
- › Singapore
- › Slovakia
- › Slovenia
- › Spain
- › Sweden
- › Switzerland
- › United Kingdom
- › United States

If not travelling on an [eGate eligible passport](#) or you are travelling with children under 10 years old, you will be required to use a lane with a processing officer.

CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

Please consult Customs website for full details and any specific questions on [Travelling to New Zealand](#).

Items to be declared for Customs

You must declare or select 'Yes' in your New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD) if you are bringing into New Zealand:

- › medicine – over three months' supply, or medicine not prescribed to you,
- › restricted or prohibited goods, for example, weapons, indecent publications, endangered plants or wildlife, illegal or controlled drugs,
- › alcohol – more than 3 bottles of spirits (not exceeding 1.125 litres each) and 4.5 litres of wine or beer,
- › tobacco – more than 50 cigarettes or 50 grams of tobacco products (including a mixture of cigarettes and other tobacco products),
- › goods obtained overseas and/or purchased duty-free in New Zealand with a total value of more than NZ\$700 (including gifts),

- goods carried for business or commercial use,
- goods carried on behalf of another person, and
- cash – NZ\$10,000 or more (or foreign equivalent), including travellers' cheques, bank drafts, money orders, etc.

If you do not declare restricted or prohibited items or make a false or incorrect declaration in your NZTD, you could face a \$400 instant fine.

For further information on prohibited and restricted goods [visit Customs website](#).

Personal effects concession

Personal items belonging to an overseas visitor may come in without payment of Tax (duty and GST concession) provided:

The concession relating to the personal effects of a visitor may be taken to include:

- personal things normally carried by a passenger - including jewellery; brushes, toiletries; personal adornments,
- cameras and accessories,
- portable musical instruments,
- laptop computer (tablet computers, iPad),
- sporting equipment, and
- cellular phones.

If there is any doubt about a visitor's intention to take an item out of the country, Customs may require a cash deposit to cover the Customs duty and GST normally payable. The deposit will be refunded when the goods have been exported. Visit Customs website for more information on [wearing apparel and personal effects](#).

Duty free and Goods and Services Tax (GST) free concessions for arriving passengers

When coming into New Zealand, various import taxes called Customs duty might be needed. In some cases, a concession or waiver for Customs duty or GST free may apply to some of your goods. Limited amounts of cigarettes, tobacco and alcohol can also be brought in Customs duty and GST free. You need to be aware of these limits, otherwise you may find you need to pay duty and other charges if you are over the permitted allowance.

To qualify for the various concessions for arriving passengers the goods must:

- accompany you through the Customs arrival process,
- be for your own personal use, or intended as gifts,
- not be carried on behalf of another person, and
- not be intended for sale or exchange.

Visit Customs website for more information on [Duty-free Shopping](#).

Vehicles, Sporting and Commercial Equipment

Vehicles, sporting and commercial equipment, including equipment used by accredited media and tournament officials, must be entered and cleared through a Customs Broker. A Customs' clearance can be obtained before or after arrival, but the equipment will not be released until they have been cleared. The three main methods for clearing your commercial equipment are:

- ATA Carnet
- Temporary import entry
- Permanent import entry

Visit Customs website for more information on [Commercial Items](#) and [Lodge your import entry](#).

ATA Carnet

The ATA Carnet is an internationally recognised document designed to help the export of goods, their temporary entry into another country, and then their re-importation back to the country of origin and can be obtained through your local Chamber of Commerce.

On arrival, you present your Carnet to Customs, and it will be checked against the equipment you are carrying. Your equipment will be checked on departure from New Zealand and the Carnet will be completed. Your Chamber of Commerce will hold a deposit against your equipment, and this will be released to you when you submit the correctly completed Carnet.

Temporary Import Entry (TIE)

All goods imported into New Zealand are subject to duty. Goods imported to New Zealand on a temporary basis may be entered without payment of duty. As the importer you should discuss with a Customs broker any other options available as it requires you provide some security, usually a cash deposit which will cover any revenue liability if the equipment is not re-exported. When you are leaving from New Zealand you will need to engage your Customs broker to complete an export entry for your equipment, at which time, any refund will be processed.

For more information, download [Customs Guide: Temporary Importation of Goods](#).

Permanent Import Entry

A permanent import entry is used for any equipment or goods which are not going to be taken out of New Zealand. A permanent import entry requires you pay duty and GST on your commercial equipment, on the assumption that the equipment is not leaving New Zealand in the future. If you do decide to export your goods in the future, you may not be able to claim a refund on the duty and GST you paid on importation unless certain requirements are met.

Medicines and Illness

If you are carrying prescription medicines or controlled drugs you should:

- have a prescription or letter from your doctor,
- carry the drugs in their original containers, and
- only carry three months' supply of the prescription medicines or one (1) month's supply of controlled drugs.

For further information [visit the MedSafe website](#).

If you get sick within a month of arriving in New Zealand, please seek medical advice as soon as you can. Telephone free support is available from Healthline on 0800 611 116 or contact a doctor. It is important to tell them that you have been outside New Zealand recently.

Medicinal Cannabis

If you are travelling, you may bring a medicinal cannabis product into New Zealand if:

- the product has been prescribed to you by a doctor,
- you have a copy of the prescription or a letter from your doctor stating that you are being treated with the product,
- you declare the product on your passenger arrival card,
- you carry the product in its original container, and
- you are bringing no more than a three month supply of a CBD product or a one month supply of any other medicinal cannabis product.

Cannabis-based products supplied in the United States of America cannot be carried with you when entering or leaving New Zealand.

A number of US states allow the medical use of cannabis. However, cannabis-based products for medical use from the United States are not considered lawfully supplied under federal law, unless the product has US Food and Drug Administration approval. To date, no drug product containing or derived from botanical cannabis (the cannabis plant) has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Visit Customs website for [Advice to travellers – medicinal cannabis](#).

Cash

Individuals carrying NZD\$10,000 or more (or foreign equivalent) in cash on their person or in their baggage, into or out of New Zealand, must complete a Border Cash Report and give the report to a Customs officer during their arrival or departure processing.

Cash means physical currency, or non-cash forms of money such as a cheque, bill of exchange, promissory note, traveller's cheque, bearer bond, money order or postal order.

New Zealand legislation does not prohibit the import or export of cash sums of NZD\$10,000 or more – it simply requires that these sums are reported. False, misleading, or non-reporting of cash may result in forfeiture of the cash and a fine.

If you do not declare restricted or prohibited items or make a false or incorrect declaration on your arrival card, you could face a \$400 instant fine.

Complete Customs online [Border Cash Report](#).

BIOSECURITY PROCEDURES

New Zealand relies heavily on its worldwide trade in agricultural products. Because of this we have to make sure that any pests and diseases that could threaten our agricultural and horticultural industries are kept out of the country.

New Zealand has very strict biosecurity regulations which are enforced by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and there are severe penalties for anyone who breaks the rules. Passengers failing to declare biosecurity risk goods can receive an instant fine of NZD\$400, be fined up to NZD\$100,000 and/or face up to five years in prison.

All biosecurity risk goods must be declared on your NZTD.

Risk Goods

You must tick 'Yes' in the Biosecurity section of your New Zealand Traveller Declaration if you are bringing any of the following into New Zealand:

- Any food cooked, uncooked, fresh, preserved, packaged or dried.
- Sports and nutritional supplements and drinks.
- Any animal or animal products including meat, dairy products, fish, honey, bee products, eggs, features, shells, raw wool, skins, bones and insects.
- Plants or plant products including fruit, herbs, herbal remedies, flowers, seeds, bulbs, wood, bark, leaves, nuts, vegetables, parts of plants, fungi, cane, bamboo or straw, including for religious offerings or medicinal use.
- Equipment used with animals, plants or water, including for gardening, beekeeping, fishing, water sport or diving activities.
- Items that have been used for outdoor activities, including any footwear, tents, camping, hunting, hiking, golf or sports equipment.

Your bags may be checked by detector dogs, x-rayed or searched by MPI officers. It is always better to declare items you are unsure about, rather than running the risk of being caught with something which is prohibited.

Please note that x-ray machines will not damage the contents of your bag, such as unexposed film. The only time x-ray machines might damage film or other material is after repeated exposure.

Common items of interest (including sporting goods)

You must also take care when importing wood products, golf clubs, sports equipment, camping gear and any other items such as shoes and boots that might have soil and dirt on them. Generally, all items that would normally be used outdoors will be examined to make sure they are free from soil and other contaminants. It is best to make sure they are thoroughly cleaned before entering New Zealand.

For further information on what to declare or dispose of, [visit MPI's website](#).

Amnesty Bins

If you know you have something prohibited in your possession, or are in doubt about it, you have the option of disposing of it before entering the Customs and Biosecurity areas. You will find Amnesty Bins for this purpose located at all New Zealand's international airports. They are there for the safe disposal of risk goods, such as a half-eaten piece of fruit in your handbag.

Importing Endangered Species

Many items comprised of wildlife (including parts and derivatives) are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). It is illegal to bring these items to New Zealand unless you have obtained the correct CITES permit before travel. Protected items that are imported without CITES permits may be seized by border officials.

Over 38,000 species are protected under CITES. It is important to check if any of your items may contain or be made from wildlife, and if so, whether they are protected.

Common examples of protected items include:

- Coral and clam shells,
- products made from some reptile skins (handbags/hats shoes),
- some traditional medicines (even if they be legal in other countries),
- some traditional regalia (such as head dresses or clothing containing protected animal parts, feathers etc,
- some tourist souvenirs made from wildlife.

This is not a complete list, and travellers should contact the Department of Conservation (DOC) before travel for the latest advice.

All CITES permits must be originals (photocopies are not accepted), validated on departure from the country of export and presented to New Zealand border officials on arrival.

If you are leaving New Zealand with CITES items that were previously imported, the items may require a New Zealand issued CITES re-export permit. These can be obtained from DOC.

For more information about CITES including advice on what species are protected and what permits are required, visit [DOC's website](#).

Detector Dogs

Detector dogs play a vital role in border work. They are used to help stop the entry of biosecurity risk goods including food, drugs and money into the country, and to detect explosives. The dogs are highly skilled and their amazing detection abilities help us find these substances before they can do any harm.

Detector dog teams work mostly at international airports throughout the country. They also work at the International Mail Centre, and they regularly search ships, small craft and cargo. You can expect to see Detector dogs and their handlers when entering New Zealand through an international airport, in and around the baggage claim areas, after the x-ray and search area, at check-in, and when departing, around security-controlled areas.

For further information on Detector Dogs, visit the websites: [Customs Detector Dogs](#), [MPI Detector dogs](#) and [Aviation Security Dogs](#).

Firearms

What you need to do if you're visiting or moving to New Zealand and [want to bring, possess or use firearms](#).

General enquiries regarding visitor licences can be directed to firearms@police.govt.nz.

Bringing firearms into New Zealand

You need a permit to bring firearms into New Zealand, including for hunting or competition. You can apply online for an import permit at the same time as you apply for a visitor's firearms licence.

When you arrive in New Zealand

When you arrive in New Zealand you must declare all firearms to Customs officers. They will refer you to New Zealand Police, who will:

- check your passport,
- check your New Zealand Police visitors license and any import permit (if you are bringing firearms) that have been issued to you.

Holders of a visitor's license are not permitted during their stay in New Zealand, to acquire ownership of any firearms or restricted weapons for possession in New Zealand.

DEPARTING NEW ZEALAND

Security screening for your flight

To get through security screening without delay, make sure you are not wearing or carrying anything that will trigger a security alarm or that requires an inspection.

For the latest information, visit Av/Sec's website [What to expect at the airport](#).

Pack only items allowed

To get through security screening without delay, make sure you are not wearing or carrying anything that will trigger a security alarm or that requires an inspection.

Taking spare or loose batteries on your flight?

Put these in your carry-on bag not in your checked luggage. Batteries can overheat or catch fire.

You can take up to 20 of any type in your carry-on bag. They must be in their original retail packaging or put each battery in an individual bag or protective pouch, or place tape over exposed terminals.

Taking AirPods and power banks on your flight

Put these in your carry-on bag not in your checked luggage.

Be prepared at security screening

Remove outer clothing such as jackets and place into x-ray tray.

Empty pockets of all items and place into x-ray tray.

Remove laptops and other large devices from your bag and place into x-ray tray.

There are additional restrictions for international flights.

Download from AvSec's website the latest information on [What to expect at the airport](#)

MEDICAL INSURANCE

Everyone in New Zealand, including visitors, injured in an accident is covered by the Accident Compensation Corporation's (ACC) no-fault scheme.

It includes events that result in mass casualties.

No-fault cover means it doesn't matter what you were doing when you were injured or who was at fault. You'll be covered, as long as the injury falls within our legislation.

The cover provide helps pay for costs to get you back on your feet. It includes payment towards medical bills, treatment, help at your accommodation and work and help with your income.

You still need travel insurance. Make sure you buy travel insurance before your visit because ACC doesn't cover illness, disrupted travel plans or emergency travel to get you back home or injuries while in transit to or from New Zealand. This includes getting on or off a boat or plane travel around New Zealand in the craft you arrived in, e.g. a cruise ship.

For further information, [visit ACC's website](#).

OVERSIZED BAGGAGE

Please check the requirement with your airline provider. Each provider has different rules and regulations around what sized baggage is allowed and what is classed as oversized. Some airlines will charge a fee for oversized baggage and others may require you to check in earlier. All baggage charges are the responsibility of each participant.

APPENDIX A: VISA WAIVER COUNTRIES

If a person is visiting New Zealand for three months or less, and they are from a Visa Waiver Country (see below), then they do not need to apply for a visitor visa prior to arriving in New Zealand as long as the visit is for a lawful purpose and is not for medical consultation or treatment. For more information on what constitutes a lawful purpose, visit [Immigration New Zealand's website](#).

A person who is travelling under the visa waiver scheme is deemed to apply for a visitor visa by completing their New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) prior to arrival. If they are granted entry permission to New Zealand, they will also be granted a visitor visa, and they may stay in New Zealand in accordance with the conditions of that visa.

Citizens of the United Kingdom

If you are travelling on a United Kingdom or British passport that shows you have the right to reside permanently in the United Kingdom, then you may be granted a visitor visa for up to six months on arrival in New Zealand, instead of the usual three months.

Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents

Australian citizens and permanent residents do not usually need a visa to travel to New Zealand. For more information, [visit Immigration New Zealand's website](#).

Visa Waiver Countries

Andorra	France
Argentina	Germany
Austria	Greece
Bahrain	Hong Kong (residents with HKSAR or British National–Overseas passports only)
Belgium	Hungary
Brazil	Iceland
Brunei	Ireland
Bulgaria	Israel
Canada	Italy
Chile	Japan
Croatia	Korea, South
Cyprus	Kuwait
Czech Republic	Latvia (citizens only)
Denmark	Liechtenstein
Estonia (citizens only)	Lithuania (citizens only)
Finland	Luxembourg

Macau (only if you have a Macau Special Administrative Region passport)	Singapore
Malaysia	Slovak Republic
Malta	Slovenia
Mauritius	Spain
Mexico	Sweden
Monaco	Switzerland
Netherlands	Taiwan (if you are a permanent resident)
Norway	United Arab Emirates
Oman	United Kingdom (UK) (if you are travelling on a UK or British passport that shows you have the right to reside permanently in the UK)
Poland	United States of America (USA) (including USA nationals)
Portugal (if you have the right to live permanently in Portugal)	Uruguay
Qatar	Vatican City
Romania	