Travel to the EU from New Zealand

Useful information on travelling from New Zealand to the EU, such as visas, travel restrictions and consulates, and for studying there.

Visa

* Disclaimer *

The information in this page is for guidance only and does not replace or substitute national legislation. Please contact the diplomatic mission of the country you intend to visit for up to date travel information. If you are subject to special circumstances (e.g. conviction, intending to work, get married, join partner or family for a long stay etc.) or if you have any doubts please contact the relevant diplomatic mission.

Schengen Area

The Schengen Area is the representative of the collective of 26 European countries that have mutually decided to eliminate passport and immigration controls at their joint borders. Within the Schengen Area, concurrently, the citizens of these 26 European countries are free to travel in and out of this zone as one single country sharing equal international travel rights. The citizens of the Schengen zone countries cherish the right to migrate internationally without any limitations, the basis of free movement, one of the basic human rights. For more information please visit

The Schengen Area countries are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Spain and Sweden.
When travelling to the European Union please bear in mind that not all EU Member-States belong to the Schengen Area. Of these countries, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania have unilaterally recognised certain documents (e.g. a Schengen visa) as equivalent to their national visas for transit through or intended stays on their territories not exceeding 90 days in any 180-day period.

Visiting the United Kingdom: Holders of a valid New Zealand passport do NOT require a visa to visit the UK as long as they are staying for 6 months or less AND they do NOT intend to do paid or unpaid work. For full information on what you can and can't do in the UK when visiting without a visa please click here or contact the UK High Commission in New Zealand.

Short Stays in the Schengen Area (less than 3 months)

When travelling to the Schengen Area, foreign citizens must apply for a Schengen short-stay visa, which enables them to travel freely throughout the Schengen Area for a maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period (with multiple entries and exits).

New Zealand is however on a list of third-countries (outside the European Union, the European Economic Area and the Schengen Zone) whose citizens do NOT require a visa to visit the Schengen Area for less than 90 days within a 180-day period.

New Zealand citizens benefit from this short-stay visa waiver, as long as they (a) do not intend to work; (b) hold a passport valid for at least 3 months after date of return; and (c) have a return ticket. Border officials in EU countries may ask for other supporting documents such as for example an invitation letter, proof of lodging, return or round-trip ticket. For the precise requirements contact the local consular services of the Schengen country in question.

The following webpage of the European Commission provides an explanation on the calculation of the duration of stays in order to comply with this rule:

New Zealand nationals are advised to ensure that their passport is stamped on entry and exit at the external borders of the Schengen Area. It is important to have evidence of the date of entry into the Schengen Area for any potential subsequent contact with local police or other authorities. It is also advisable to retain some informal evidence of time spent in particular Schengen countries (e.g. accommodation receipts, ATM slips).

Longer/working/studying stays in Schengen Area

For stays in the territory of the Schengen Area which are longer than 90 days within any 180-day period, or for studying or working purposes, a national visa of the respective Schengen country is
required.

For more information please consult:

It is highly recommended that you consult the country's consular offices of your destination, in order to obtain more detailed information and/or make your visa application. The Schengen countries with consular offices in New Zealand are:

Travelling to New Zealand

General Advice

New Zealand is considered one of the safest and more welcoming countries in the world, with record low crime rates. However, this does not mean that crime does not occur. Like everywhere, common sense and vigilance should be exercised at all times.

Visiting New Zealand

EU citizens (except UK passport holders) are entitled to travel to New Zealand visa-free for stays not exceeding 3 months and do not need to apply for a visitor visa before arriving in New Zealand.

On arrival in New Zealand, you will be asked to provide:

- return travel tickets or evidence of onward travel arrangements, and
- evidence of funds for maintenance.

UK passport holders who can produce evidence of the right to reside permanently in the UK can be granted a visitor visa for up to six months upon arrival in New Zealand.

Transit visas

When EU citizens are only passing through New Zealand, as travellers in transit, they do not need a transit visa. However, please note that if you are transiting through Australia on the way to New Zealand, you may need to apply for an Australian visa (transiting through Australia).
Tour guides

If you are a tour guide, leader or escort and you will be working while you are in New Zealand, you will need to apply for a specific purpose work visa before you arrive.

Longer stays/working/studying in New Zealand

For stays exceeding 3 months (6 months for UK citizens) appropriate visa is required.

You can consult the visa type needed and all requirements here:

Biosecurity

New Zealand has strict biosecurity procedures at airports and ports to prevent the introduction of unwanted pests and diseases. These are much stricter than in Europe. Arriving passengers are required to declare any and all of the following items: Food (including any type of fruits), Plant and plant products (including souvenirs and other items made of wood, straw, shells etc.), live animals, animal products, salt and freshwater products and items associated with water (including holy water), used sporting and camping equipment (including hiking shoes).

If you have any items you are unsure about, you are required to declare it before the biosecurity process or dispose of it. Amnesty bins are located throughout ports and airports. Failing to do so you will be facing a fine of NZ$400.

For more information please visit

Driving in New Zealand

General

While most of New Zealand's roads are in excellent condition and of high standards, they can still be very different to what you're used to. New Zealanders drive on the left-hand side of the road and some of the roads are narrow, windy and have loose gravel. It is recommended to give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination than the time advised by your travel guide or GPS/map app.

When driving through rural areas it is recommended to keep your gas tank full as gas stations may not be readily available. It is also not unusual to see sheep or cattle on roads.

For more information please visit
Driving licence

Overseas drivers visiting New Zealand, who do not hold a permanent visa, will be regarded as 'visiting drivers' and may use their valid overseas licence to drive. **If the licence is not in English the driver must have in addition either an international driving licence (recommended) or a certified English translation of the licence.** Please be aware that a rental company in New Zealand might refuse providing a vehicle if you don't fulfil these requirements.

The common legal age to rent a car in New Zealand is 21 years. All drivers, including visitors from other countries, must carry their licence or permit at all times when driving.

Please be aware that in New Zealand all passengers (including those in the back seats) must wear a seatbelt. Driving under the influence of alcohol is a crime and use of a mobile phone prohibited. All of the above are strictly enforced.

For more information please visit and

Embassies

European Union representation to New Zealand

Most EU countries with accreditation to New Zealand have their Embassies located in either Wellington or Canberra. The eight EU Member States Embassies and High Commission based in Wellington are France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Fifteen EU Countries who are based in Canberra are also accredited to New Zealand: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden. Estonia's Ambassador to New Zealand is resident in Tokyo and Latvia's in London. Bulgaria, Lithuania and Luxembourg are not accredited to New Zealand at this stage. Bulgaria's consular affairs are dealt by their Embassy in Canberra while Luxembourg's are dealt by the Embassy of The Netherlands in Wellington.

To cover the ground in the absence of full Embassies in New Zealand - and to have a wider reach outside Wellington for those with Embassies - there are a total of 49 Consuls-General and Honorary Consuls representing EU/Schengen countries in the main cities of New Zealand - Auckland, Wellington, Napier, Christchurch, Queenstown and Dunedin.
All countries accredited to New Zealand have Embassies, Consulates-General or Consulates based on the ground in New Zealand.

For up to date information about the Embassies, Consulates and High Commissions please visit the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade [website](#).

| Embassy of France          | 34-42 Manners Street, 12th floor of Sovereign House, Wellington 6011 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Monday-Friday  
|                            | +64 (0) 4 384 2555, +64 (0) 21 399 309 (emergencies only)          | 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Thursday  
| Embassy of Germany         | 90-92 Hobson Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011                      | 7.30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Friday       
| Embassy of Italy           | 34-38 Grant Road, Thorndon, Wellington 6011                        | 7.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m., Monday-Thursday  
| Embassy of the Netherlands | 10th Floor, Cooperative Bank Building, Corner Ballance and Featherston Streets, Wellington 6011 | 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., Monday-Friday  
| Embassy of Hungary         | Level 6, Legal House, 101 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011           | 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m., Wednesday  
| Embassy of Poland          | Level 9, City Chambers, 142-144 Featherston Street, Wellington 6011 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Thursday  
| Embassy of Spain           | Level 11, BNZ Trust House Bldg, 50 Manners Street, Wellington 6011 | 9 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., Monday-Friday  

* Please note that due to technical reasons the Consular Office will provide customer service starting from February 2017. During this period consular matters are covered by the Consular Office of the Hungarian Embassy in Canberra *
Study programmes

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the European Union’s programme for education, training, youth and sport. Between 2014 and 2020, it will provide opportunities for four million people to study, train and gain life experience abroad.

Erasmus+ replaces a number of older programmes, including an international exchange programme called Erasmus Mundus.

See the Erasmus+ web portal’s Resources section for information about linguistic support, documents for applicants and the management of proposals.

EU Visitor Programme

The EUVP is jointly sponsored and administered by the European Parliament and the European Commission and has been in operation since 1974. New Zealand and Australia have participated in the programme since 1983 sending over 138 visitors to Europe during that time.

European Union Information Centres

Supported and established by the European Union, European Union Information Centres stock official publications, documents and information about and by the European Union. They can help you find information on a variety of subjects including European law, integration, policies and EU institutions.

University of Canterbury
Central Library
Private Bag 4800
Christchurch 8140
New Zealand
Contact: Janette Nicolle
Tel: (0 3) 364 2987 (ext 7035)
Fax: (0 3) 364 2483
janette.nicolle@canterbury.ac.nz

See also

Schengen, Borders & Visas