



A Complete Guide to
International Removals
to New Zealand

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Introduction

New Zealand is a popular choice for Brits looking to move abroad for work or family reasons. For this, we have put together a full breakdown of everything you'll need to know about moving to New Zealand – including some fun facts, visa necessities and how to find the perfect school.

Of course, you can also get in touch with our removals specialists to ensure everything is set for your move to New Zealand.

If you are moving to New Zealand John Mason's international removals service includes full export packing, loading, shipping, customs clearance, delivery and unpacking. We can also arrange storage in New Zealand and pet relocation to ensure your animals arrive in New Zealand safely and securely.

We carry out international removals to New Zealand for thousands of families every year but each move is treated on an individual basis by our highly experienced International Move Managers.

Visas for New Zealand: Holidays, Working Holidays and Work Visas

Holidays and Short Stays

The following people don't need a visa when holidaying in New Zealand: –

- UK citizens or passport holders can stay for up to 6 months
- Australian citizens and permanent residents
- Citizens from visa waiver countries can stay for up to 3 months

Prospective visitors to New Zealand who don't fit the above criteria can apply for a 9-month visitors' visa.

Working Holiday Visas

Working Holiday Visas give young people the opportunity to experience another culture and lifestyle. Many of these people fall in love with New Zealand and work their way to becoming residents.

Working Holiday Visas are specially designed for young people between the ages of 18 and 30 or 35, depending on which country you are resident in. Not all countries are offered the Working Holiday Visa option. If you are British or Canadian, you can apply for a 12 or a 23-month visa. You will be able to work for a full 12 months on either visa. Other eligible countries are offered only 12-month visas.

With a 12- and 23-month visa, you may be asked to prove you can support yourself during that time and either has an onward air ticket or enough money to buy one. For each 12-month period, you are expected to have \$4,200. Different countries have different rules which apply to them, so go to Immigration and see if your country is listed and which rules apply.

Work Visas

Work Visa based on Job Offer – Essential Skills Work Visa

If your occupation is listed on the long-term skill shortage list, and you have been offered a job in that field, you can come and work in New Zealand for up to 30 months and apply for residency after 2 years.

Work Visa based on Immediate Skill Shortage List

Being granted this visa means that there are no New Zealanders who are available to do the job at the moment. This is a temporary visa and doesn't necessarily mean you will be able to apply for residency.

Canterbury Skill Shortage List

This visa was introduced following the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 in Canterbury. The aim is obviously to encourage construction workers and engineers to help rebuild the city. You may be able to apply for residency with this visa.

Skilled Migrant Visa

If your occupation is on the Skilled Occupations list and you are under 55, you are eligible to apply for this visa. For this visa, you must meet the English language requirement, have a medical and meet the character requirements. The occupations are constantly changing, so check online for an up to date list before you apply.

Work Visa based on New Zealand Qualification

If you have a New Zealand qualification which was completed in New Zealand, you are eligible to apply for a work visa. Should the New Zealand government find your qualification satisfactory, you will be granted a work visa which will allow you to work in any job in any field.

Buying Property in New Zealand

Whether you are living permanently or living in New Zealand on a temporary visa it is possible to purchase a property there, but the rules are going through change. Previously, the maximum amount of home or land that can be bought is restricted to five hectares. In areas that are classed as 'sensitive', such as islands or reserves, the amount of land that can be obtained by overseas buyers is limited to less than 0.4 hectares.

In October 2013 – the rules regarding mortgage lending in New Zealand changed. In an attempt to cool the overzealous Auckland and Christchurch markets the majority of buyers have to put down a 20% deposit. Only 10% of a bank's new residential mortgage loans can be allocated to deposits of less than 10%. Values of properties in New Zealand vary greatly. The North Island overall tends to be more expensive than the South. Average house prices in Auckland are over NZ\$800,000 (£449,772) whilst in Christchurch the average house price is NZ\$425,000 (£238,941).

However, amid falls in the number of homes owned by New Zealand born residents, the New Zealand government has introduced a bill that would ban the sale of existing homes to foreign buyers.

A Growing Problem

Recent years have seen people, mainly from China and other parts of Asia, the USA and the UK moving to New Zealand. The country is seen as a safe haven amid rising terrorism, civil unrest and fears of a nuclear war.

Statistics illustrate just how big a problem the New Zealand housing market has become. A report published by the Economist last year found that the country has the most unaffordable house prices in the world.

Under the previous centre-right National Government, the amount of land sold to foreign buyers saw a dramatic increase. In 2016, the figure was 465,863 hectares (1.63m acres), six times higher than in the previous year equating to 3.2% of farmland in the country which only has a population of 4.7m people.

The last economic quarter has seen 10% of homes in the popular Queenstown Lakes district (where USA multi-millionaires Peter Thiel and Matt Lauer have homes) and a fifth of homes in Auckland central, where house prices increased by 755% before a recent fall, being bought by overseas buyers. Overall, 3.3% of homes sold in the last quarter were foreign purchases.

Home Ownership Falling

Another damaging statistic is the fact that in the past 27 years the number of adults in New Zealand owning their own home has fallen from 50 to 25%. The last five years has also seen an increase in the number of people who are homeless. With New Zealanders having to live in garages, cars and under bridges, it's clear some action must be taken.

The proposed ban will apply to all nationalities except for Australia and Singapore. Foreigners would still be able to buy apartments in large-scale block developments. Peter Thiel would still be able to buy property as the previous government gave the PayPal co-founder New Zealand citizenship despite having only spent eight days in the country, something the current government won't allow in the future.

Bill Could Affect Overseas Investment says Economist

The government plan has committed to building 100,000 affordable new homes in the next ten years and increase social housing stock by 6400 homes in four years. However, those plans have met with criticism with economist Shamubeel Eaqub saying they lack ambition. Of the foreign buyers ban, he believes it would make it “cumbersome” for those overseas to invest in building new housing stock in New Zealand leading to less homes and apartments being built.

“Locking out multi-million-dollar buyers doesn’t mean developers will start building smaller, basic houses. There is never a market for poor people, it is not profitable to build houses for poor people. That’s the challenge,” he said.

Moving with Children to New Zealand? Here’s

How to find the perfect School

It’s the land made famous by Lord of the Rings – sweeping landscapes, outstanding scenery and plenty to do outdoors – no wonder so many people are making the international move to New Zealand. Many are doing so with children, which of course, raises the questions of finding the best school.

About the New Zealand School system

Education is compulsory between the ages of six and sixteen and comes in three tiers – primary, secondary and tertiary. It is possible to home-school children, but for this you’ll need a special certificate of exemption.

Most children stay on at school beyond 16 and move onto years 12 and 13 where they will acquire the New Zealand equivalent of an A Level – the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA). It’s an internationally regarded qualification and will be recognised by universities around the world.

The school year runs from January to December, rather than September to June in the UK. State schools are free for New Zealanders, but foreign nationals will have to obtain a student’s Visa and pay a fee. However, these are generally not too high.

Types of schools

New Zealand has many of the same types of schools that we have in the UK: namely state schools, private schools and faith schools, as well as some specialist international schools. State Schools are backed by the Government and are free to people from New Zealand. However, foreigners will have to pay a fee which contributes towards the national education system.

In general, you will be expected to attend the state school closest to you, so when choosing where to live you should consider the reputation of the local schools. New Zealand's education system is one of the best in the world, but standards inevitably vary from place to place. Do a little research to see what people are saying about the local schools to decide if it's for you.

Private schools generally provide a very high level of education, although this can always vary. They are partly subsidised by the state which takes some of the sting out of the fees.

Whether you go private or public will depend on your own finances, and what you're looking to get from a school. Many expats will choose a private school or an international school for their children as this may seem to be an easier and more comfortable option.

However, choosing a state school can be a better way to fit in with the local community. In general, the state system is extremely good in New Zealand, and the fees affordable. One option could be to start at an international school, but if the local state education is good move your child once you're a little more settled. You can expect a warm welcome in most state schools and, with no language barrier, should find it easy to fit in.

Moving your pets to New Zealand

Emigrating to a new country is a great adventure which wouldn't be complete, if you didn't let your beloved pets join you. Moving pets to New Zealand is not as complicated as it sounds as long as you follow carefully set out guidelines and rules.

It's important to note that if your pet hasn't lived in any of the countries listed below for at least six months, it will not be allowed into New Zealand. The solution is to arrange for your pet to live in an approved country for 6 months and then apply for a permit.

Alternatively, you can apply for a special inclusion permit by submitting information from the government veterinary department regarding rabies and its control in that country.

1	Your pet must be microchipped.
2	You must apply for your pet import permit at least 6 weeks before the intended travel date. This applies to all countries except Australia.
3	Your pet must have a valid rabies vaccination which was administered AFTER it was microchipped.
4	Your pet must be at least 3 months old
5	Thirty days or less before travelling, your dog must be tested for leptospirosis and dogs older than 6 months must be tested and treated for heartworm.
6	All animals coming to New Zealand from a country not listed below must have a Rabies Titer Test within 3 months and 24 hours of entry.
7	16 days or less before travelling, your dog must be tested for Babesia gibsoni. Dogs travelling from South Africa must also be tested for Babesia canis.
8	A Veterinary Certificate for New Zealand must be completed by the relevant body in your country, 10 days before departure.
9	1 or 2 days before travelling, your pet must be treated for specific ticks and tapeworms.
10	A final health check must be completed 2 days before departure.
11	You must notify an official vet in New Zealand at least 5 days before your arrival from Australia and 3 days from any other country.
12	Pets will be quarantined (at your expense) for 10 days on arrival in New Zealand where they will undergo a full medical. This does not apply to pets coming from Australia.

Rabies Free Countries

Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Falkland Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Iceland, Japan, Mauritius, New Caledonia, Singapore and Vanuatu. The Pacific Islands of American Samoa, Christmas Island, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Island, Saipan, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna and Western Samoa.

Rabies Controlled Countries

United States & Canada, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Austria, Argentina, Bahamas, Balearic Islands, Belgium, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canary Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Isle of Man, Israel, Jamaica, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Malaysia (Peninsular, Sabah & Sarawak only), Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Netherland Antilles, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Reunion, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay and US Virgin Islands.

For more information on how John Mason International can help move your pet to New Zealand please visit our dedicated pet relocation page or email pets@johnmason.com and a member of our dedicated pet relocation team will get back to you.

Fun Facts About New Zealand

There's plenty of groundwork and research to complete when moving to New Zealand – but that doesn't mean you can't have some fun along the way!

Bungee Jumping

New Zealand was host to the world's first commercial bungee jump in 1988. It was a 43-metre jump off Kawarau Bridge in Queenstown. Henry van Asch and AJ Hackett worked closely with scientists at Auckland University to stress test cables and finally got government permission to open. Since then, over 150,000 people enjoy the adrenalin rush when they bungee jump at various venues in New Zealand.

Women's Vote and Women Hold High Positions

In 1893, New Zealand was the first country in the world to give women the vote. They seem to have carried on along this path as in 2006, New Zealand became the only country in the world where all the highest positions in the country were held by women – the Queen, the Prime Minister, the Governor-General, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Chief Justice.

Sailing

Auckland's other name is the 'city of sails' as there are more boats per capita than any other city in the world. There are also 120 yacht clubs in New Zealand with well over 350,000 members in a country where the population is only around 4.7 million. This isn't really surprising as there isn't anywhere in the country that is further than 79 miles from the sea.

World's Longest Place Name

The world's longest place name is a hill in Hawkes Bay: –
Taumatawhakatangiangaohauotamateapolauihenuakitanatahu

Famous Kiwis

Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb Everest, was a New Zealander. As was Baron Ernest Rutherford, the first person to split the atom in 1919.

Famous Kiwi filmmakers include Peter Jackson of Lord of the Rings fame and Jane Campion, who directed 'The Piano'. It's estimated that just the filming of the Lord of the Rings trilogy brought a massive \$200 million into the economy. Since then, and with the release of the Hobbit, tourism has boomed with people coming to visit the Hobbiton Movie set which sits on a 1,250-acre sheep farm.

Another famous Kiwi is Harold Gillies who was a pioneer in the field of plastic surgery.

Golf

Golf is the most popular sport among Kiwis and there are more golf courses per capita than in any other country in the world.

Snakes and Nuclear Power Stations

There are no native snakes in New Zealand and no nuclear power stations.

Kakapo and Hector's Dolphin

The kakapo is the world's only flightless parrot and it lives in New Zealand. The smallest marine dolphin, Hector's dolphin, is only found off the shore in New Zealand.

National Parks and Last Habitable Land Mass

Around one-third of New Zealand has been designated as a protected national park. New Zealand was the last habitable land mass in the world to be populated.

The Culture of the New Zealand Māori

The Māori arrived in New Zealand in around 950AD and are the tangata whenua (indigenous people) of the country. They travelled from east Polynesia to New Zealand on canoes, bringing with them animals and new foods, such as sweet potatoes. When you arrive in New Zealand, you'll immediately notice that many of the town names are in the Māori language.

Māori Language

When the Europeans arrived in New Zealand, the Māori language – Te Teo Māori – was obviously the predominant language in the country. This language is closely related to Tahitian and Hawaiian. As the country became more populated with Europeans, the Māori language was only spoken in their own communities, even though in the early days, traders had to learn the language in order to do business with the Māori.

Amidst fears that this language was going to be lost forever, there were major government and other initiatives to save it during the 1980s. Today, around 125,000 Māoris can speak and understand the language and it's one of New Zealand's official languages, together with English and sign language.

Māori Traditions

As Te Reo was not a written language, the legends and songs of the indigenous people of New Zealand were passed on orally or as carvings in homes.

Haka – the haka is the Māori war dance, performed before fighting with neighbouring tribes. Today, it's performed before important sports matches, such as an All Blacks rugby game or at prestigious events. Dance is an important part of life for Māori, each movement and facial expression tells part of a story.

Powhiri – the traditional Māori greeting is a pressing of noses rather than a kiss.

Moko – Moko are tattoos which are usually full-face tattoos for men and restricted to the nostrils, chin and upper lip on women. Today, many men are opting to receive their moko in order to preserve this part of their culture.

Hangi – Hangi is the Māori traditional way of cooking. It's basically a fire pit in the ground which is covered with cabbage leaves or watercress to prevent the food from burning. A basket containing meat and perhaps potatoes or sweet potatoes is placed on top of the leaves and traditionally covered with flax. The soil is then sprinkled on top to keep the heat in. The food is then left to cook for around three hours. This style of cooking is popular with all of New Zealand.

Maraes – the Maraes is similar to the Roman forum and is an area where people meet. The maraes have a meeting house (wharenui) and a dining room (wharekai) where social, cultural and spiritual matters can be discussed and enjoyed.

Māori Family

Māori were exceptionally skilled hunters and gatherers and fishermen. They were also talented weavers and produced intricate carvings. Māori social structure revolves around family – whānau – and this includes extended family. The family or whanau is part of a subtribe or hapū, which in turn is a member of an iwi or main tribe. Many Māori still live with extended family, sometimes with three generations living in one home.

A Personal Account of Moving to New Zealand

The below one of our customers shares her personal account of moving to New Zealand:

My family emigrated to New Zealand from South Africa just over 7 years ago. My husband was offered a good job near Dunedin on South Island. With employment opportunities for whites in South Africa dwindling each day, he decided the opportunity was too good to miss. I come from a close family with five siblings, all of whom live in South Africa. My two daughters, who were aged 13 and 16 at the time, had grown up in a small rural community and had close friends and family nearby. Everyone, except my husband, was devastated at the thought of leaving pets and people behind.

Daughters, friends and pets

My elder daughter had been a keen rider since she was old enough to sit on a horse. She also had a pony and a horse which we kept in a paddock on our property. And, then, there was the cat!!! We were fortunate that a close friend kindly offered to look after the horse, pony and cat, but it still meant leaving loved animals behind. My elder daughter was absolutely impossible from the time she heard about the move, until we arrived in New Zealand, five months later. My younger daughter was sad but put on a brave face and even admitted that she was looking forward to the adventure.

Fast Forward Five Months

My husband left for New Zealand two months before his three girls followed him. This meant that he had already organised a home, car and schools by the time we arrived. That made life so much easier for all of us. After many sad farewells (and lots of packing!), we boarded our Air New Zealand flight and began our journey to a new life. It was a long trip, but we were delighted to be reunited as a family. My husband had done well, not only had he organised the home, car and schools, he'd leased a horse. My elder daughter took one look at this beautiful creature and all the pain of leaving South Africa was gone. From day one, both my daughters embraced their new lifestyle and friends and are very happy with their new lives and, have strong New Zealand accents to prove it.

Education

We found the standard of education was great and neither of my daughters had any problems with studying in New Zealand. My one daughter is now a teacher and the other is at university studying business management and accounting. They are happy, well balanced young ladies with a group of great friends.

Leisure and Lifestyle

One of the things we love about South Island is the winter sports. Coming from Africa, skiing on your doorstep is something dreams are made of. That said, we also enjoy the sea, the endless beaches and spectacular scenery. South Africans and New Zealanders both like-minded of the great outdoors, so we soon made like-minded friends who would join us on our weekend outings.

South Africans and New Zealanders also share a passion for rugby, so we felt at home the minute we arrived. Braais (barbecues) are an important part of every South African's life so we were delighted to find our adopted country also embraced this sociable event, especially given all the fantastic meat you can get here.

Our family was welcomed by everyone we met. Kiwis are generally relaxed and friendly and want you to enjoy their country to the fullest. They certainly made our move, which started off on such a low note, a resounding success for all of us. **Thank you, New Zealand.**

Why choosing a BAR member means complete and absolute protection for customers



Moving to a far-flung part of the world is an exciting but somewhat nerve-racking adventure. That's why many who choose to do so turn to the likes of John Mason International for reassurance that the whole process is going to run like clockwork.

Many removals companies – including John Mason International – request full customer payment prior to a move. This isn't at all unusual, in fact it's pretty standard practice. That's why it's so important to entrust your big move to the right team of professionals.

How do you know if you've picked the right removals company? Well one sure-fire way getting it right is to look for industry accreditation – like that offered by the British Association of Removers. Being a BAR member says a lot about a company because it means being part of an initiative dedicated to promoting excellence in the removals industry. It also offers movers a great deal of protection.

Payment guarantee

The BAR Advanced Payment Guarantee scheme safeguards the pre-payment requested by many removals' specialists. In the unfortunate event the BAR member company were to fail financially before completing a move, any money paid in advance is completely safe and will be refunded. Every cash, BACS and debit card payment is protected on all private residential removal and storage contracts concluded in the UK.

John Mason International enjoys a long and successful history, and all of us who are part of its large team of professionals fully expect a strong and prosperous future. That said, we understand those who are embarking on one of the biggest challenges of their lives – moving from the UK to another country many miles away – deserve the strong reassurance the BAR Advanced Payment Guarantee scheme provides. We are fully-fledged members of this important industry association, and that means those we move can forget any concerns about payments and concentrate on anticipating their exciting new life abroad.

With an array of removals and relocations companies to choose from, BAR membership is a very strong indication of a company's commitment to its customers. They are the reason for our success – and they deserve complete and absolute protection.

*All information is correct at the time of publish, and John Mason International will not be held responsible for changes in circumstances after the time of publication.