

Immigration Tourism Update

August 2026

High level messages

- Immigration New Zealand (INZ) aims to provide a trusted and effective immigration service that enables New Zealand's economic growth.
- INZ is committed to making timely and good quality visa decisions.
- INZ works closely with the tourism sector to ensure that we are in a good position to support the sector to grow.
- We are doing this by strengthening our presence in key visitor markets through dedicated in-market resources, regular engagement with travel agents and tourism partners, and targeted initiatives that support visitor growth.
- Between **1 January and 31 July 2026**, a total of **878,513** New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) requests and **229,468** visitor visas were approved. During that same period, more than one million people visited New Zealand.
- Working holiday makers also make a valuable contribution to the tourism sector and between **1 January and 31 July 2026**, a total of **21,291** Working Holiday Visas (WHVs) were approved with an approval rate of **98%**. **Around 16,300 people** arrived in New Zealand on a working holiday visa.
- The China visa waiver pilot **continues to deliver** strong growth in Chinese visitor numbers.
- A review of the visa waiver pilot will commence in November this year, once it has been in place for 12 months. The existing pilot arrangements will remain in place throughout the review period while its effectiveness and outcomes are assessed.

Group Visitor Visas moving to enhanced Immigration Online and further visitor visa changes

- From 24 August 2026, Group Visitor Visas (including Approved Destination Status (ADS)), Tour Escort Visitor Visas and some General Visitor Visa pathways will transition to enhanced Immigration Online (otherwise known as ADEPT).
- The new platform will provide improved application tracking, enhanced self-service features and easier sharing of Group Visitor Visa applications, with streamlined processes for ADS group and ADS Free and Independent Traveller applications.
- Further information is available on the INZ website: [Group and Tour Escort visitor visa applications moving to enhanced Immigration Online :: Immigration New Zealand](#).
- From 24 September 2026, new applications for most Visitor Visa categories will be available exclusively through ADEPT.
- Draft applications in the previous online system must be submitted by 7 October 2026.
- Further information about visitor visa application changes can be found here: [Important visitor visa application form changes :: Immigration New Zealand](#).

China

Snapshot

- China remains a key tourism market for New Zealand, and INZ continues to strengthen our engagement with this important market, while facilitating a quick and easy immigration process.
- [Chinese visitors can be granted a multiple-entry Visitor Visa or Business Visitor visa valid for up to 5 years, making future trips easier to plan.](#)
- Between [1 January and 31 July 2026](#), a total of [102,294](#) visitor visas were approved, and [78,546](#) NZeTA requests were approved with an approval rate of 96% and [99.9% respectively](#). During that same period, a total of [184,621](#) Chinese visitors arrived in New Zealand on a visitor visa or NZeTA.
- Visa processing times have improved year on year. The average processing time in the first [seven](#) months of this year was [4](#) working days, compared with [5](#) days in the same period last year.
- There has been a strong uptake in the NZeTA trial from Australia, and as at [31 July 2026](#) we have received [109,476](#) requests and [94,727](#) travellers have arrived since the trial began on 3 November 2025.
- In the month of [July 2026](#) alone, we approved [10,237](#) requests. This represents the highest monthly total recorded over the past three months and demonstrates consistent growth in traveller demand, with approvals rising by around 15% each month since May. Monthly stats can be found here: [Background on the NZeTA: Why it was introduced and key statistics :: Immigration New Zealand](#).

Support & engagement

- We have dedicated staff in China to ensure we are well connected to the market and provide support to our tourism customers, including Approved Destination Status (ADS) agents.
- Simplified Chinese guidance is available on the INZ website to support applicants: [Visitor Visa application guide for citizens of China : Immigration New Zealand](#).

India

Snapshot

- India is a priority visitor market for New Zealand and INZ continues to strengthen our engagement with this important market.
- Between [1 January and 31 July 2026](#), [37,923](#) visitor visas were approved with an approval rate of [83%](#) and [43,924](#) Indian visitors arrived in New Zealand.
- Visa processing times have improved year on year. The average processing time in the first [seven](#) months of this year was [6](#) working days, compared with [7](#) days in the same period last year.
- INZ continues to work with the market to encourage more complete applications, which has contributed to faster processing and higher approval rates.

Support & engagement

- INZ has strengthened in-market support through a dedicated role in New Delhi to work directly with, and provide support to our tourism customers, including travel agents.

Appendix A – Data

Visitor Visas

Total Visitor Visa applications and Visitor Visa arrivals from all nationalities (01 January – 31 July 2026)

	Submitted	Decided	Approved	Declined	Arrivals	Average processing time (working days)
Total	254,730	260,401	229,453	28,471	235,033	5

Total Visitor Visa applications and Visitor Visa arrivals from all nationalities (01 January – 31 July 2025)

	Submitted	Decided	Approved	Declined	Arrivals	Average processing time (working days)
Total	263,078	272,354	241,379	28,330	236,860	6

Visitor Visas applications – Top 5 nationalities approved and declined (01 January – 31 July 2026)

Nationality	Approved	Average processing time (working days)	Nationality	Declined	Average processing time (working days)
China	102,298	4	India	7,269	7
India	37,927	6	Pakistan	4,369	9
Philippines	17,530	4	China	3,443	9
Thailand	9,719	4	Nigeria	1,514	9
Indonesia	9,401	4	Fiji	1,348	9

Visitor Visas applications – Top 5 nationalities approved and declined (01 January – 31 July 2025)

Nationality	Approved	Average processing time (working days)	Nationality	Declined	Average processing time (working days)
China	122,635	5	India	8,026	7
India	34,794	7	China	4,326	5
Philippines	15,227	4	Pakistan	2,591	13
Thailand	9,685	4	Fiji	1,368	8
Fiji	8,085	8	Philippines	1,148	4

Working Holiday Visas

Total Working Holiday Visa applications and arrivals from all nationalities (01 January – 31 July 2026)

	Submitted	Decided	Approved	Declined	Arrived (Submitted Offshore)	Not Arrived (Submitted Offshore)
Total	22,879	21,825	21,291	292	16,319	13,047

Total Working Holiday Visa applications and arrivals from all nationalities (01 January – 31 July 2025)

	Submitted	Decided	Approved	Declined	Arrived (Submitted Offshore)	Not Arrived (Submitted Offshore)
Total	25,201	24,356	23,847	285	17,589	2,344

Working Holiday Visa applications – Top 5 nationalities approved and arrived (01 January – 31 July 2026)

Nationality	Approved	Nationality	Arrived (Submitted Offshore)	Nationality	Not Arrived (Submitted Offshore)
Great Britain	3,894	France	3,038	France	2,024
France	3,356	Great Britain	2,383	Great Britain	1,622
Japan	2,273	Japan	1,777	Germany	1,508
Germany	2,269	Germany	1,656	Japan	1,250
United States of America	1,380	United States of America	1,091	Malaysia	990

Working Holiday Visa applications – Top 5 nationalities approved and arrived (01 January – 31 July 2025)

Nationality	Approved	Nationality	Arrived (Submitted Offshore)	Nationality	Not Arrived (Submitted Offshore)
Great Britain	4,378	France	3,271	United States of America	317
France	3,937	Great Britain	2,649	Japan	281
Germany	2,660	Japan	2,071	Spain	245
Japan	2,351	Germany	1,884	France	242
United States of America	1,618	United States of America	1,146	Great Britain	217

China

China Visitor Visas and NZeTA (01 January – 31 July 2026)

Category	Submitted (applications)	Decided (applications)	Approved (applications)	Approval rate	Arrivals
All Visitor Visas	103,337	106,107	102,294	96%	109,844
General Visitor Visa	58,571	60,991	57,590	94%	78,276
Business Visitor Visa	21,433	21,783	21,615	99%	3,235
Group Visitor Visas	20,365	20,257	20,234	100%	25,871
Other	2,968	3,076	2,855	93%	2,462
NZeTA	78,561	78,604	78,546	99.9%	74,764
Total	181,898	184,711	180,840	97% (average)	184,608

China Visitor Visas (01 January – 31 July 2025)

Category	Submitted (applications)	Decided (applications)	Approved (applications)	Approval rate	Arrivals
All Visitor Visas	122,042	127,365	122,635	96%	120,904
General Visitor Visa	67,627	71,415	67,137	94%	85,448
Business Visitor Visa	30,093	30,813	30,536	99%	3,659
Group Visitor Visas	21,976	22,679	22,644	100%	29,604
Other	2,346	2,458	2,318	94%	2,193
Total	122,042	127,365	122,635	97% (average)	120,904

India

India Visitor Visas (01 January – 31 July 2026)

Category	Submitted (applications)	Decided (applications)	Approved (applications)	Approval rate	Arrivals
All Visitor Visas	45,426	45,828	37,927	83%	43,924
General Visitor Visa	35,532	36,526	29,620	81%	36,599
Business Visitor Visa	2,359	2,369	2,182	92%	1,323
Group Visitor Visas	1,844	1,857	1,788	96%	1,990
Other	5,691	5,076	4,333	85%	4,012
Total	45,426	45,828	37,927	87% (average)	43,924

India Visitor Visas (01 January – 31 July 2025)

Category	Submitted (applications)	Decided (applications)	Approved (applications)	Approval rate	Arrivals
All Visitor Visas	42,073	43,544	34,794	80%	40,674
General Visitor Visa	34,189	36,043	28,229	78%	34,916
Business Visitor Visa	2,283	2,329	2,158	93%	1,259
Group Visitor Visas	496	501	426	85%	401
Other	5,105	4,671	3,981	85%	4,098
Total	42,073	43,544	34,794	84% (average)	40,674