

Immigration Tourism Update

July 2026

High level messages

- Immigration supports the Government's economic growth agenda, and Immigration New Zealand (INZ) works to ensure visa processing supports New Zealand's visitor economy.
- INZ aims to provide a trusted and effective immigration service and is committed to making timely and good quality visa decisions.
- INZ is committed to working closely with the tourism sector to ensure that we are in a good position to support the sector to grow.
- Between [1 January and 30 June 2026](#), a total of [774,296](#) New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) requests were approved, along with [196,841](#) visitor visas. A total of [963,384](#) people visited New Zealand during that period.
- Working Holiday makers also make a valuable contribution to the tourism sector and between [1 January and 30 June 2026](#) a total of [17,801](#) Working Holiday Visas (WHVs) were approved across all schemes with an approval rate of [98%](#). [During that same period, 15,747](#) WHV holders arrived in New Zealand.
- The China/Pacific visa waiver pilot is delivering strong growth in Chinese visitor numbers, generating significant new demand and economic value while operating with stable border settings.
- [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 new platform

- [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 \(otherwise known as ADEPT\).](#)
- [This will provide clearer updates on the status of applications and better self-service features, enabling applicants to stay informed throughout the process.](#)
- [New features will allow Group Visitor Visa applications to be shared more easily with others, supporting coordination across multiple applicants and parties.](#)
- [Enhancements include streamlined processes for both ADS group applications and ADS Free and Independent Traveller applications submitted through approved agents.](#)
- [Additional guidance and updates will be shared ahead of the transition to support readiness.](#)

China

Snapshot

- China remains a key tourism market for New Zealand, and INZ continues to strengthen our engagement with this important market, while also ensuring the immigration process is quick and easy.
- Between **1 January and 30 June 2026**, a total of **88,143** visitor visas were approved with an approval rate of **96%** and **68,309** NZeTA requests were approved with an approval rate of **99.9%**. During that same period, a total of **161,626** Chinese visitors arrived in New Zealand on an NZeTA or visitor visa.
- Most Chinese visitors are issued a five-year multiple-entry visitor visa.
- Visa processing times have improved year on year. The average processing time in the first **six** 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 **30 June 2026** we have received **99,271** requests and **85,627** travellers have arrived since the trial began on 3 November 2025.
- In the month of **June 2026** alone, we received **9,055** requests. 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.
- We have simplified Chinese online guidance to support applicants, including: [Visitor Visa application guide for citizens of China : Immigration New Zealand](#).
- INZ and Tourism New Zealand have an updated Memorandum of Understanding with selected Chinese travel agents under the ADS and Free and Independent Traveller (FIT) scheme, including a 5-day turnaround commitment.

Transit update

- Since the transit changes to allow Chinese nationals to transit New Zealand on an NZeTA came into effect on 27 October 2025, as at **30 June 2026** we have received **11,798** requests for a transit NZeTA from Chinese nationals, and **8,572** of these have transited through 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 30 June 2026**, **32,817** visitor visas were approved with an approval rate of **83%** and **40,335** Indian visitors arrived in New Zealand.
- Visa processing times have improved year on year. The average processing time in the first **six** months of this year was **7** working days, compared with **9** 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 – 30 June 2026)

	Submitted	Decided	Approved	Declined	Arrivals	Average processing time (working days)
Total	216,061	223,638	196,830	24,600	206,323	5

Total Visitor Visa applications and Visitor Visa arrivals from all nationalities (01 January – 30 June 2025)

	Submitted	Decided	Approved	Declined	Arrivals	Average processing time (working days)
Total	221,596	229,053	202,663	24,186	206,908	6

Visitor Visas applications – Top 5 nationalities approved and declined (01 January – 30 June 2026)

Nationality	Approved	Average processing time (working days)	Nationality	Declined	Average processing time (working days)
China	88,139	4	India	6,352	6
India	32,816	6	Pakistan	3,631	10
Philippines	14,943	4	China	2,931	4
Thailand	8,309	4	Nigeria	1,295	10
Indonesia	7,841	4	Fiji	1,166	6

Visitor Visas applications – Top 5 nationalities approved and declined (01 January – 30 June 2025)

Nationality	Approved	Average processing time (working days)	Nationality	Declined	Average processing time (working days)
China	103,139	5	India	6,798	7
India	29,547	7	China	3,824	5
Philippines	12,552	4	Pakistan	2,154	15
Thailand	8,250	5	Fiji	1,182	10
Fiji	6,824	10	Philippines	984	4

China

China Visitor Visas and NZeTA (01 January – 30 June 2026)

Category	Submitted (applications)	Decided (applications)	Approved (applications)	Approval rate	Arrivals
All Visitor Visas	88,054	91,402	88,139	96%	95,959
General Visitor Visa	48,371	51,187	48,283	94%	67,440
Business Visitor Visa	19,229	19,255	19,104	99%	2,783
Group Visitor Visas	17,880	18,243	18,220	100%	23,705
Other	2,574	2,717	2,532	93%	2,031
NZeTA	68,356	68,364	68,309	99.9%	65,680
Total	156,410	159,766	156,448	97% (average)	161,639

China Visitor Visas (01 January – 30 June 2025)

Category	Submitted (applications)	Decided (applications)	Approved (applications)	Approval rate	Arrivals
All Visitor Visas	103,250	107,276	103,139	96%	103,758
General Visitor Visa	57,386	59,909	56,153	94%	72,013
Business Visitor Visa	24,636	25,275	25,038	99%	3,203
Group Visitor Visas	19,183	19,960	19,931	100%	26,730
Other	2,045	2,132	2,017	95%	1,812
Total	103,250	107,276	103,139	97% (average)	103,758

India

India Visitor Visas (01 January – 30 June 2026)

Category	Submitted (applications)	Decided (applications)	Approved (applications)	Approval rate	Arrivals
All Visitor Visas	38,786	39,727	32,816	83%	40,335
General Visitor Visa	30,210	31,581	25,537	81%	33,757
Business Visitor Visa	1,986	1,981	1,823	92%	1,073
Group Visitor Visas	1,736	1,749	1,688	97%	1,967
Other	4,854	4,416	3,768	85%	3,538
Total	38,786	39,727	32,816	88% (average)	40,335

India Visitor Visas (01 January – 30 June 2025)

Category	Submitted (applications)	Decided (applications)	Approved (applications)	Approval rate	Arrivals
All Visitor Visas	35,483	36,952	29,547	80%	37,019
General Visitor Visa	28,754	30,581	23,955	78%	32,025
Business Visitor Visa	1,896	1,945	1,803	93%	1,052
Group Visitor Visas	480	469	401	86%	338
Other	4,353	3,957	3,388	86%	3,604
Total	35,483	36,952	29,547	85% (average)	37,019