



**World  
Choir  
Games**

**AUCKLAND 20  
LAND 24**  
**AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND**

**JULY 10-20, 2024  
AUCKLAND,  
NEW ZEALAND**

**VISA INFORMATION AND  
TRAVEL ADVISORY**



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The visa information in this document is current as of 24 November 2023.



## 1. PLANNING YOUR TRAVEL TO NEW ZEALAND

This document has been prepared for choirs participating in the World Choir Games 2024 (WCG2024) in New Zealand.

Some basic preparation before you travel will ensure that you can fulfil the entry requirements and processes for New Zealand and will contribute to your experience in New Zealand being positive and memorable.

The following content is provided for information only and all participants must complete their own specific individual requirements.

We encourage people to monitor the Immigration New Zealand website (Immigration New Zealand) for any changes to the visa requirements for entering New Zealand.

## 2. IMMIGRATION AND 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 authorities may require to facilitate your entry into New Zealand.

If you do not have the correct visa 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.

For complete and more detailed information on passports and visas you should visit the Immigration New Zealand website: [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

## 2.1 Visa

Your visa requirements will vary depending on your participation in the WCG2024 as well as the number of times you intend to travel to New Zealand.

### Staying in New Zealand

The different visa requirements depend on your participation as well as length of intended stay are outlined in the next section.

For a full list of visa options, please visit the Immigration New Zealand website: [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

Participation in the event	Type of visa required
WCG2024 Choirs (Amateur)	Visitor visa* or a Group Visitor Visa **

\*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.

If you are not from a visa waiver country, you will need to apply for a visitor visa or a group visitor visa before you come to New Zealand.

## 2.2 Requirements for a visitor visa / visa waiver travel

### 2.2.1 Electronic Travel Authority

Immigration New Zealand introduced a New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) in late 2019. Visitors from visa waiver countries who have not been granted a visa will need to apply for an NZeTA before travelling to New Zealand.

### 2.2.2 Passport

Your passport must be valid for at least three (3) months past the date that you intend to leave New Zealand and be in good condition.

### 2.2.3 Evidence of funds

You will need to prove you have a minimum of NZD\$1,000 per person per month of your visit – or NZD\$400 per person per month if accommodation has been paid in advance. Immigration New Zealand will require proof that accommodation has been paid.

### 2.2.4 Supporting documents – visitor visa/group visitor visa

Applicants will need to submit the following supporting documentation:

- A fully completed online visitor visa application form
- Passport sized photo
- Evidence of funds to support your stay in New Zealand (NZD\$1,000 per month or NZD\$400 if accommodation is prepaid)
- Evidence of onward travel from New Zealand
- Application fee
- Letter of invitation from the WCG2024.

- If applying on behalf of a minor, you will also need to provide the below additional information with their visa applications.
  - o if they're under 18 they need parents' consent to complete an application form - their parents are required to sign the application form on their behalf
  - o if they are under 16, they will also need provide evidence (declaration from parents consenting to the travel) that their parent/s consent for them to travel either with the group or without one of their parents'. Noted this is generally if they are intending to stay for 12 months or more but an Immigration Officer can still request for this information. Therefore, best practice would be for them to provide this information with the visa application and to travel with this information as well.
  
- Immigration New Zealand may request additional information to that mentioned above as part of the requirements for assessing the visa application. If additional information is requested, it must be provided to the case officer.

Important information for group visitor visas:

The choirs will be able to apply for group visas, but they need to meet the below requirements.

- Group applications cannot be bigger than 30 people therefore this would mean that the choirs will need to apply for more than one group visitor visa to suit their needs.
- The group must arrive together in New Zealand and must depart together as well. If anyone wants to remain for longer they will need to obtain the appropriate visa for this.
- There will need to be an appointed leader for the group/choir, and they have the below responsibilities
  - o present their group visa on arrival with the passports or travel documents of the people named in it; and
  - o ensure that the group stays together as a single unit on arrival and completes all necessary arrival formalities.
  - o The group members do not get individual visa letters/labels. The visa is instead endorsed as a group letter containing the names of all members. This needs to be presented by the leader of the group when travelling to or entering New Zealand.
  - o The group leader can be appointed for the whole choir but will need to be doing above for the multiple groups within the one choir.

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.

### **2.3 Apply in good time !!**

Please ensure that visa applications are submitted well before your intended travel date. Please also ensure that you check whether your proposed travel route will require any transit visas and allow sufficient time to obtain these.

Information on the processing time can be found on the website of NZ Immigration.

Current Information on processing times:

- 90% of applications for a visitor visa are processed within 31 weekdays (minimum 20 weekdays, excluding public holidays)
- Most NZeTA requests are processed within 72 hours. Many requests are processed more quickly but some may take longer.

### **2.4 Fees**

People travelling under the visa waiver provisions who need apply for an NZeTA will need to pay a NZD\$52.00 application fee, if applying on Immigration New Zealand's free app. This fee includes the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy of NZD\$35.00.

Anyone who will be applying for a visa will need to pay the visa application fee. Any facilitation fees charged by the Visa Application Centres will also require payment. This link will take you to a calculator which will indicate what fees you may be charged: [INZ Office and Fee Finder](#)

### 3. ARRIVING INTO NEW ZEALAND

#### 3.1 Declarations

You must complete an arrival declaration before reaching passport control in New Zealand. On it you will declare what you are – or are not – bringing into the country.

Up-to-date advice on the arrival process can be found on the New Zealand Customs Service website through this link: <https://www.customs.govt.nz/personal/travel-to-and-from-nz/travelling-to-new-zealand/on-your-arrival/>

#### 3.2 New Zealand Traveller Declaration

Note that the New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD) is an online system that will soon replace the paper Passenger Arrival Card. Travellers arriving at all New Zealand international airports now have the option to complete a digital declaration instead of a paper arrival card, before travelling to New Zealand as early as 24 hours before departure.

For complete and more details information on the NZTD and Passenger Arrival Card, please visit: [Arriving in New Zealand | Immigration New Zealand](#) and [Home | New Zealand Traveller Declaration](#)

#### 3.3 Completing the New Zealand Passenger Arrival Card

Before you disembark from your ship or plane you will be given a New Zealand Passenger Arrival Card to complete. This Arrival Card must be fully and accurately completed before you get to Passport Control on arrival.

Full compliance with Customs and Biosecurity requirements detailed on the Passenger Arrival Card is required and expected. On the Arrival Card you will declare what you are – or are not – bringing into the country.

Translations to assist with the completion of the Passenger Arrival Card are available in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Cook Island Māori, Czech, Dutch, Farsi, Fijian, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Māori, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Samoan, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Thai, Tongan, Urdu, Vietnamese.

Translated versions of the Passenger Arrival Card can be found on this link: [New Zealand Customs Service: Passenger Arrival Cards](#)

Either way, your Arrival Card must be fully completed in ENGLISH.





### 3.4 eGate

SmartGate, or eGate as it is known in many parts of the world, is a fast and easy way to self-process through passport control. SmartGate facilities are available at Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch Airports for arriving (and departing) passengers. You can use SmartGate if you are a New Zealand, Australian, UK, US or Canadian ePassport holder over 12-years old. You will still need to complete a Passenger Arrival Card (or Departure Card when departing).

Further information about SmartGate can be found here: [eGate \(customs.govt.nz\)](https://www.customs.govt.nz/eGate)

#### 4. APPENDIX A: Visa Waiver Countries

A person who is visiting New Zealand for three (3) months or less and is from a visa waiver country (see list below), will not need to apply for a visitor visa before arriving in New Zealand as long as the purpose of the visit is for a lawful purpose as specified in immigration instructions. For more specific details on what a lawful purpose is, please follow this link: <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual/34338.htm>.

A person is deemed to apply for a visitor visa by completing the “New Zealand Passenger Arrival Card” and if granted entry permission, will also be granted a visitor visa. A person may stay in New Zealand in accordance with the conditions on their visa. All visitor visas are now electronic, meaning a person may not be given a stamp or label in their passport.

United Kingdom (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.

Australian citizens and permanent residents do not usually need a visa to travel to New Zealand. For more information on this: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/visas/visa/australian-resident-visa>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** It is a general guide only and there are some instances where special conditions apply. For full details of visa exemptions, and for the most complete information on all your immigration and visa requirements for visiting New Zealand, please go to [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

Citizens of the following countries do not require a visa to travel to New Zealand, but only if the person concerned is seeking a visitor visa current for not more than three months and the purpose of the visit is not for medical consultation or treatment:

Andorra	Macau (only if you have a Macau Special Administrative Region passport)
Argentina	Malaysia
Austria	Malta
Bahrain	Mauritius
Belgium	Mexico
Brazil	Monaco
Brunei	Netherlands
Bulgaria	Norway
Canada	Oman
Chile	Poland
Croatia	Portugal (if you have the right to live permanently in Portugal)
Cyprus	Qatar
Czech Republic	Romania
Denmark	San Marino
Estonia (citizens only)	Saudi Arabia
Finland	Seychelles
France	Singapore
Germany	Slovak Republic
Greece	Slovenia
Hong Kong (residents with HKSAR or British National–Overseas passports only)	Spain
Hungary	Sweden
Iceland	Switzerland
Ireland	Taiwan (if you are a permanent resident)
Israel	United Arab Emirates
Italy	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)
Japan	United States of America (USA) (including USA nationals)
Korea, South	Uruguay
Kuwait	Vatican City
Latvia (citizens only)	
Liechtenstein	
Lithuania (citizens only)	
Luxembourg	