

LIVE THE KIWI DREAM

WITH ITS ATTRACTIVE OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE AND EXCELLENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES, NEW ZEALAND HAS PLENTY TO OFFER POTENTIAL MIGRANTS, WRITES MARY O'BRIEN

Considering moving to New Zealand? Migrants seeking a lifestyle change will love New Zealand's beauty, friendly residents and high quality of life.

This beautiful country with its varied landscape offers all-year-round activities, beautiful beaches and lakes in summer and some of the best ski fields in the Southern Hemisphere in winter.

Its somewhere you can easily 'get off the beaten track'. New Zealanders are known for their love of the outdoors and adventure sports, probably because most are never very far from a great fishing spot, sprawling golf course, walking tracks, mountains or somewhere to take part in extreme sports. Its relaxed, laid-back lifestyle is perfect for families,

and children will generally enjoy spending more time outdoors.

New Zealand has vibrant and cosmopolitan cities; the biggest of which is the 'City of Sails', Auckland. In February 2014 Auckland was ranked third in the world in Mercer's Quality of Living Worldwide survey.

This survey had taken into account everything a Brit would want Down Under based on safety, education, culture, healthcare, environment, economic and political stability. Auckland came up trumps in all these.

SAFETY COUNTS

New Zealand arguably offers more safety for you and your children than the UK, as there is less crime and there are >>

Paradise found: Cathedral Cove on the Coromandel Peninsula

AFTER YOU ARRIVE

- Inquire about a furnished unit for the first four weeks. Hire a car at the airport, then after a few days purchase a car quickly as it is the best way to become familiar with your new surroundings.
- Start applying for jobs, and visit recruitment agencies – it helps if they can meet you face-to-face.
- Drive around different suburbs to see where you want to live. Try talking to locals in the area. Once you have an idea of where you can afford, which is handy for your job and so on, then you can look at renting for a few months or purchasing a property.
- If you are looking at buying a property bear in mind that you will require a 20 per cent deposit, and you can look at borrowing 80 per cent from a reputable bank.
- Try and do as much research of your own before you go, looking into factors such as the climate, job situations, rent and property prices for that area.
- If you have children, bear in mind that locations in good school zones are usually more expensive with rental and property prices.
- It's easy to view properties for sale or rent in New Zealand while you are in the UK. Look at websites such as www.nzherald.co.nz, www.realestate.co.nz and www.trademe.co.nz.
- The Real Estate Institute of New Zealand website at www.reinz.co.nz has news and useful links. You can also view valuations and other property statistics at www.qv.co.nz. The website for the Government Statistics Department offers quick links and statistics for property, migration and jobs at www.stats.govt.nz.

The attractive suburb of Mount Victoria to the east of Wellington, NZ's capital city



many safe natural environmental areas to relax and enjoy yourself without being scared. There are no snakes, insects or other dangerous animals, so New Zealand is the safest place in the world to walk without harm!

EDUCATION

Education in New Zealand is of a very high standard and is compulsory between the ages of five to 15.

Children attend primary school from five to 11 years old, intermediate school from 11 to 12 and high school from 13 to 17 (on average).

After children leave school there is the option of heading to university to pursue a degree or attending technical institute, perhaps as part of an apprenticeship, if the plan is to work in a trade.

Many people from overseas come to New Zealand especially for the high

quality education that they can get there and to enjoy the relaxed lifestyle.

HEALTHCARE

Healthcare is the next important aspect Brits looking for new life abroad. New Zealand has excellent medical facilities and with compulsory medical inoculations offered for all children this reflects on the long life that many Kiwis experience.

from 15 degrees Celsius in the north to 10 degrees Celsius in the south.

EMPLOYMENT

With an improving NZ economy, the unemployment rate is just six per cent and economists forecast it to fall further.

The country has always had a big demand for skilled workers, from IT specialists to construction workers. For job and salary information visit www.career.govt.nz and www.workandincome.govt.nz/find-a-job.

"THE COUNTRY HAS ALWAYS HAD A BIG DEMAND FOR SKILLED WORKERS"

LIFESTYLE CHOICE

Many Brits will find the climate in New Zealand to be very agreeable, especially compared to the UK. New Zealand generally has mild temperatures, moderately high rainfall and many hours of sunshine.

The climate in New Zealand tends to be cooler the further south you travel. Maximum summer temperatures generally average from 30 degrees Celsius in the north to 20 degrees Celsius in the south, while average winter maximum temperatures tend to range

from 15 degrees Celsius in the north to 10 degrees Celsius in the south. Jobs most in demand are in the construction, engineering, education, health and social services and oil and gas sectors. Visit www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/skills-need-in-newzealand for information. For salary indications visit www.newzealandnw.govt.nz.

■ **Mary O'Brien is director of New Zealand Mortgage Solutions. Tel: 0061 2 9620 5559. Email: mary@nzms.co.uk. Web: www.newzealandmortgages.co.uk.**



Glenorchy, one of the idyllic settings in Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* films

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check good sea freight shippers and ask them about quarantine regulations for your goods/car.
- Take personally your valuable paperwork like CVs, children's school reports, medical reports, personal and business reference letters and evidence of where you lived in UK.
- Contact a reputable NZ mortgage broker before you leave the UK as they can give you an indication of your New Zealand property affordability when you arrive in NZ.
- Open up a bank account from the UK by phoning a NZ bank (identity verification will usually be done on your arrival in New Zealand). This enables you to deposit money into that NZ account if the exchange rate is good before you leave the UK.
- Costs and quarantine regulations for pets can and do change, so do check out the current legislation at the New Zealand Embassy.



A grandfather and his granddaughter travel by cable car in Queenstown, in NZ's South Island