

FANCY A NEW LIFE IN... NEW ZEALAND

We asked migration agent Paul Arthur, director of The Emigration Group, what's so attractive about a new life in New Zealand and how easy it is for Brits to emigrate there

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Three reasons why Brits move to New Zealand:

Lifestyle – sport, leisure and an outdoor lifestyle are regarded extremely highly in New Zealand. Economy – New Zealand has a prosperous, well-developed economy and there are still good career opportunities for skilled British workers. Living costs – the cost of living in New Zealand is lower than in both the UK and Australia. Brits selling up in the UK can end up with far more substantial homes in New Zealand.

The type of person suited to New Zealand:

New Zealand attracts those looking for a more rural way of life. The country has a tiny population of just over four million people, so it's usually Brits looking to escape the urban hustle and bustle of the UK that tend to emigrate there. Typically, it's families emigrating, usually young families, although we do see a greater age range in New Zealand, with people between 30 and 55 emigrating. This is because the most common visa used, the Skilled Migrant category, is open to anyone under 56.

The most common visa(s) for Brits:

The Skilled Migrant visa. This is similar to the visa of the same name for Australia; however in New Zealand successful applications tend to require a job offer.

Processing times and costs for visas:

With a job offer a visa application to New Zealand can be turned around in as little as three months, otherwise it takes between nine to 12 months. In terms of costs, the application fees for a family of four including visas, medicals and so on would be about £2,500, however this doesn't include getting professional advice.

Why most unsuccessful visa applications fail:

It's about getting the right advice and making sure you go for the most suitable visa category and have the right background to qualify. While you can be successful without a job offer, many successful visa applications usually involve the candidate having a job to go to. Emigration advisers can help with this. At The Emigration Group, for example,

we help Brits find jobs in New Zealand as well as advising on the visa application and providing resettlement help.

The number of Brits emigrating to New Zealand each year:

In the last five years the number of Brits emigrating to New Zealand has ranged from 10,000 to 15,000 a year.

Effect of the current economic slowdown:

The recession hasn't affected the visa quotas. The government has recognised that they still have roles to fill despite the impact of the global slowdown and hasn't reduced the quotas. It's also believed that New Zealand will emerge quicker from the recession than many other countries and thus skilled workers will be even more in demand.

Emigrant workers currently in demand:

Similar roles are in demand in New Zealand as in Australia, including medical professionals, teachers, IT specialists, and tradespeople.

Three British hotspots:

Auckland, Christchurch and Nelson. These are some of New Zealand's larger cities and offer good job opportunities, schools and amenities, yet they are close to beaches and scenery, giving easy access to the outdoor lifestyle.

www.emigrationgroup.co.uk

CASE STUDY

"I swapped Grantham for Auckland"

Dr Jamie Croxtall, originally from Grantham, took voluntary redundancy in order to emigrate to Orewa, a small coastal town just 20 minutes north of Auckland. Jamie now works as a medical writer for a publishing company called Wolters Kluwer and is based in Mairangi Bay. He says: "I get up at 6.50am and have breakfast on the terrace. Then I take an easy 20-minute drive to work. I work through until midday and then have a picnic on the beach for lunch. At 4pm I drive home and go straight down to the beach to catch some waves for a couple of hours. Then it's back home for a barbecue on the terrace." The move cost him £4,000, and while he hasn't invested in a property yet, the sale of his UK home will buy a far superior house in New Zealand.



To learn more about emigrating to New Zealand and other destinations visit **A Place in the Sun Live** exhibition, from 2nd-4th October at NEC Birmingham, www.aplaceinthesun.com

... OR WOULD YOU PREFER AUSTRALIA

We asked migration agent Sammy Naghi of Taylor Hampton Solicitors what Australia has to offer and how straightforward it is for Brits to emigrate there

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Three reasons why Brits move to Australia:

Warmer weather – this is one of the biggest reasons Brits emigrate to Australia. Better economic conditions – Australia has so far avoided entering a full-blown recession and recent statistics show the Australian economy grew by more than expected in the second quarter of 2009. Friendly, English-speaking nation – its desirable, low-cost lifestyle and world-class education and healthcare systems make Australia a very attractive option for Brits.

The type of person suited to Australia:

The lifestyle offers a much more relaxed vibe compared to the UK, with lots of beaches, coupled with an outdoors-orientated lifestyle. Due to the cut-off age for a lot of visa classes being 45 years, we're seeing young to middle-aged working families looking for a better life and opportunities for their children's future.

The most common visa(s) for Brits:

The most common visas for Brits come from

the skilled migration stream. The Employer Sponsored visas and the Skilled Independent visas are the most popular, but the State and Territory Sponsored visas have recently seen a big increase due to the government's decision in January 2009 to shift processing priorities. The most popular Family visas for Brits are the Partner visas, which are designed for people who are married or in a de facto relationship with an Australian citizen.

Processing times and costs for visas:

Predicting processing times since January 2009 has proven almost impossible. The new priority processing direction gives priority to permanent applications in the following order: 1) Employer Sponsorship, 2) State or Territory Sponsorship, 3) an occupation on the Critical Skills List, 4) an occupation on the Migration and Occupation Demand List, 5) all other applications.

Be prepared to wait for anything from 12 months for State Sponsored visas and occupations on the Critical Skills List, and two to three years for all other visa classes. The cost of the visa process varies but be prepared for anything from £4,000-£6,000 in total for a whole family, including legal costs.

Why most unsuccessful visa applications fail:

Australia has a visa system that is complex and legalistic, and each year many applicants fail because they either applied for the wrong visa class, submitted incorrect forms or fees, misunderstood the requirements or supplied insufficient, conflicting or false supporting documentation.

The number of Brits emigrating to Australia each year:

30,590 for 2008-09 – 17.9 per cent of the total Migration programme and up from 28,029 in 2007-2008.

Effect of the current economic slowdown:

The Australian government has reduced planning levels for the skilled migration stream to 108,100 for 2009-10, compared to 180,540 for 2007-08. While the skilled

CASE STUDY

"We moved to Oz within a year"

The King family decided to emigrate to Australia in January 2008. They attempted to tackle the visa process themselves, but it proved much harder than they had anticipated. After speaking with several migration agents, they found London-based migration agent Sammy Naghi of Taylor Hampton Solicitors, who looked after their emigration application and made the process much easier. The family made a visa application in March and it was granted less than six months later, in September. By January 2009, one year after making their decision to move down under, the Kings flew one-way to Australia, where they are now living the life they dreamed of on the beautiful Gold Coast, Queensland.



migration programme is not capped, all parent visas are subject to capping. In 2008-09 there were 2,000 visa places available worldwide under the parent category and 6,500 places for the contributory parent categories.

Emigrant workers currently in demand:

The Migration Occupation in Demand List (MODL) and the Critical Skills List are both good indicators of this. Accountants, computing professionals, dentists, engineers, gas-fitters, registered nurses, and secondary school teachers are examples of occupations on both lists.

Three British hotspots:

Perth remains one of the most popular areas for Brits. It has a population of around 1.5 million, of which 12.5 per cent is made up of British expats. Brisbane has recently overtaken Perth as the most popular migration destination in Australia and has the fastest-growing population of all Australian cities. Adelaide has seen an increase in popularity over the last couple of years, too. Adelaide house prices are affordable and well below those in Australian mainland capital cities, and the city has diverse job opportunities.

www.emigrate-to-australia.co.uk

Sammy Naghi (www.emigrate-to-australia.co.uk) will be exhibiting at **A Place in the Sun Live** exhibition, from 2nd-4th October at NEC Birmingham, where you can learn about emigrating to Australia and other destinations, www.aplaceinthesun.com.