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EMIGRATION

New Zealand

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

PICTURES ISTOCK

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