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Sunset over the Waitakere Ranges, West Auckland

NZ Specialists

When considering migration there are so many questions that need to be answered. We will try, but if we don't know the answer then we will probably know someone who does. Some of the topics other migrants have asked for information on include:-

- Buying a House
- Renting property on your arrival
- Banking
- Tax & Trusts laws (UK to NZ)
- Child care and schooling
- Moving money to NZ
- Moving Pets to NZ
- Relocating your belongings
- Buying and Driving a car in NZ
- Kiwisaver (NZ pension scheme)
- Tax advice on keeping a UK rental property

If you would like information regarding the above topics or you have other topics to suggest then please email us and request the info. We have teamed up with a number of specialist providers who have built businesses helping people like you.

New Zealand market update

Blimey, what a month! It started with an icy blast charging up the country creating havoc everywhere it went. Airports in Wellington and Christchurch were temporarily closed, schools were shut and we even had a snow fall on Queen Street in Auckland; the first recorded snow in the city since 1939! In a complete turn around I spent this weekend mowing the lawn in shorts and a t-shirt as we enjoyed sunshine and temperatures of around 17 degrees Celsius.

September brings the official end of winter and the start of spring and with it the beginning of the earthworks season in the construction sector. The general feel from clients is one of optimism for the year ahead but still with an element of caution as we move out of recession. September also brings the Rugby World Cup which is causing great excitement throughout the country. In a country as rugby mad as New Zealand it would be foolish to suggest that most of the population won't have at least one eye on the competition. The event is really starting to take hold now and on September 9th when things kick off the place will be really buzzing!

Currently much of the focus is understandably on Christchurch and the reconstruction process. Civil clients have spent the past 3 months organising their teams to be ready for the first wave of work to come through in September. Unfortunately conversations last week confirmed that the work was not coming through as quickly as hoped and than many companies are still waiting for things to improve. Many are putting this down to the scale of the project and the need to get the alliance framework in place. The alliance is now known as the Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team or SCIRT for short.

In the construction field there are still numerous factors causing delays to the commencement of the rebuild. Although the bad weather of the past month did delay the deconstruction in the city centre the work is moving at a faster pace than ever and is looking good for completion in April 2012. The other big area of concern is with insurance and the inability to rebuild without it. Depending on who you speak to depends on the answer you get; either way it's turning out to

be a very complicated matter. As we understand it the award of new insurance is dependent on a period of between 28 and 90 days without another earthquake of magnitude 4.0 or higher. Once that period is achieved then technically insurance companies will award new policies to begin the reconstruction.

Although the logic behind this policy is sound there is still a growing frustration amongst many in the construction sector at the inability to move forward with the reconstruction. One of my clients has 5 new supermarkets to build throughout the city but all of them are on hold because they can't get the insurance cover to start the work. Others have mentioned that many of the smaller operators have 2 weeks work ahead of them but nothing after that which could result in them going out of business. This is the strange reality on New Zealand's biggest building site and the main reason why so little recruitment is going ahead. Regardless of the delays one thing that all our clients agree on is that when things do finally start moving there won't be enough people here to cope with all the work; we look forward to that point!

Outside of Christchurch it is business as usual with work slowly increasing and a number of new projects coming through the system. The consultants are becoming increasingly busy and are looking for a wider range of skills. Areas with a particular increase in activity include water, bridges and geotechnical where the focus is on those with 3 – 15 years consultancy experience. As the year goes on other areas such as traffic and highways will also have increased activity levels and as such will look to hire. All of this bodes well for the contractors as projects flow through to the construction phase in 2011/12.

As ever we're always happy to hear from anyone wanting to know more about opportunities in New Zealand and if you've already planned a visit or a permanent move then let us know so we can assist. The blog is being regularly updated with construction information from around the country and can be directed to your linked-in account for easy access. The job board is also regularly updated so keep your eye on new roles as they appear and contact us if anything comes up that's of interest. In the mean time good luck to whatever team you support in the World Cup and keep well.

Auckland proves to be good value

Auckland is the seventh-cheapest tourist-friendly city in the world, a travel website has found.

The website TripAdvisor has launched TripIndex, which compares the cost of 50 tourist cities around the world.

The cities were ranked on the prices of an 8km taxi ride, a night in a four-star hotel, some pizza and a dry martini from a five-star restaurant.

Auckland came seventh, with a total of \$173. Number one, Bangkok, cost \$131.80 and Beijing \$141.30.

The most expensive city was Paris, which cost \$507.20.

The only Australian city to make the list was Sydney, which fell close to the middle on \$280.30.

Auckland Mayor Len Brown said the news was "fantastic" in the lead-up to the Rugby World Cup.

He said he was surprised Auckland was cheaper than cities such as Marrakesh in Morocco.

Former head of Tourism Auckland Graeme Osborne said the result was a mixed blessing.

"It's marvellous and helpful to be communicating our affordability, but it's also an indication that we're coming through a really hard time."

Auckland could afford to increase its prices further because of its growing popularity as a destination, he said.

Mr Osborne said tourist demand had been down recently, so prices had fallen to reflect that.

"We're hoping that with this news going to the world, that it will remind people about how great a value-for-money destination we are."

So it's an extremely positive message to be communicating to our key markets, but it's a reminder that our marketplace is a little bit suppressed."

TOP 10 CHEAPEST CITIES:

1. Bangkok
2. Beijing
3. Sharm el Sheikh
4. Kuala Lumpur
5. Sofia
6. Budapest
7. Auckland
8. Marrakesh
9. Warsaw
10. Dubai

Source: NZ Herald
Thursday August 4th 2011 1:24pm

Phil Keeley Case study of moving to NZ

Current Employer: HEB Structures, Project Engineer

Phil first contacted us back in April 2009 at the height of the recession. Following the information in the newsletter Phil committed to a move at the start of 2011 and in June bit the bullet and moved to New Zealand. On arrival he was interviewed by a number of companies throughout the country and decided to join HEB Structures; notably because the company would take his career in the desired direction. Phil is currently based in Tauranga and when we met up last he was telling me of the funny looks he received for learning to surf in the winter!

Q. What inspired you to consider moving New Zealand?

A. I thought the way of life seemed better. Nicer weather, friendly people and a relaxed lifestyle. So far all my expectations have all been met.

Q. Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

A. New Zealand is everything I expected and wanted it to be. It's a beautiful country and the people are friendly. I have only been here a few weeks so I haven't had a chance to explore the country much yet but what I have seen and experienced has all been good.

Q. How has your life changed since moving to New Zealand?

A. Life has changed, it's nice to wake up every morning and get a chance to look out onto the beach.

I'm also becoming mellow; the kiwis will teach you how to relax!

Q. What one thing would you have done differently?

A. Took time out to see more of the country before starting work. I started work within three weeks of being here. I wish I took a week or two longer.

Q. What things do you wish you had known about before moving?

A. Food can be a little more expensive than the UK because it fluctuates with the seasons; you just have to shop around a bit more.

I can't speak for everyone that has come over from the UK or other countries but things do work a little differently in my field to back home. We don't use Quantity Surveyors on every job like the UK so I'm getting used to doing more commercial work myself. It's not a big change but it did come as a bit of a surprise; nothing I can't deal with.

Q. What advice would you pass to someone commencing the process?

A. Do as much research as you can before making the move. Too much knowledge is never a bad thing. If you have the option then try and travel the country a little and see where suits you best as you'd be surprised how different each place can be. Speak to the guys at Catalyst about anything; they know your job market, they're honest and have a wealth of knowledge about the country too.

Q. Looking back with hindsight, do think you have made the right move?

A. Definitely, there is no doubt about it. It is too early to say if I'll stay for good, but I'd bet my last penny I'll be hanging around these shores for a while.

Useful Facts:

1st Contact - 10th April 2009

1st Interview - 23rd June 2011

Job Offer - 6th July 2011

[1st contact to] Start - 12th July 2011
(2 Years 3 months 2 days)

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New Zealand Medical Entitlements

New Zealand is one of the safest countries in the world and has a world-class, publicly-funded health service. However the risk of injury can be high due to the amount of adventurous activities, and most visitors are not covered by the public health system, so we recommend that all visitors should have travel insurance that includes health cover. We do have reciprocal health agreements with Australia and the United Kingdom, but conditions apply.

If you're injured while in New Zealand, the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) may be able to help with the cost of treatment and support while you're here. However it is not a replacement for travel insurance, and does not cover illness, disrupted travel plans, or emergency travel to get you back home

Overview

The main factor in knowing what you're entitled to is what VISA you possess. If your VISA duration is longer than 2 years (applicable to residency applications and 2+ year work permits) then you are entitled to cheaper care (PHO, see below) which allows you to save money on doctors visits. If you are on a temporary VISA (visitor, WHV, etc) then you are not able to apply with the PHO for cheaper care. As a UK or Australian resident however you are always covered for accidents and emergencies under reciprocal health agreements. We strongly advise fully comprehensive medical insurance cover.

What is the PHO?

Under the Public Health Organisation (PHO) cheaper medical care can be obtained from your local doctor / GP. Typically a doctor will cost between \$70 and \$90 per visit (so you won't want to see the GP when you just have the sniffles!). If registered with the PHO this is generally half the price – around \$35-\$50. Medication is priced similarly to the UK with a generic prescription cost, but this is only applicable to certain medication.

Do note that if you are not registered with the PHO (and your Visa is valid for less than 2 years) you will have to pay for any tests you undertake. Medical tests (generally undertaken by the private company "Labtests") range anywhere from \$9-\$60 (and upwards) per test, so if you require an explorative blood test then expect to pay \$200+.



What you need to do before you depart to New Zealand

Arrange fully comprehensive travel cover, depending on your VISA type and what you intend to be doing here (if you are wanting to go Hiking, Skiing or Sky diving then you will find personal insurance jumps up in price).

No vaccinations are required to enter New Zealand (if you are travelling from a tropical country then please check this with NZ immigration or your local doctor).

Anyone bringing in a quantity of medication should bring a doctor's certificate to avoid any issues whilst travelling.

Biggest health risks in New Zealand

The weather - in particular the sun. New Zealand's weather is somewhat unpredictable but you should always wear / pack sun tan lotion. New Zealand's ozone layer is one of the thinnest in the world, and as a result you can be turned from a white fish to a red lobster in minutes, even on an overcast day!

Additionally research has shown that asthma sufferers may be more at risk of an attack in New Zealand (due to certain pollens in the air). If you are prone to asthma attacks then be sure to keep your inhaler with you at all times.

Read more about ACC's automatic, no-fault injury cover:

<http://www.acc.co.nz/making-a-claim/am-i-covered/index.htm>