

Pacific Repatriations – Country Overview

Last updated 28 October 2020

Green – generally open pathway home

Yellow – pathways but some limitations (demand outstrips seats)

Red – no pathways home at present

Country	Overview ¹
Cook Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook Islanders are New Zealand citizens and do not participate in the RSE scheme. • Weekly Air NZ passenger flights from AKL-RRO operate on Saturdays. • Cook Islanders wishing to return home should purchase a ticket from Air NZ. <p><i>Cook Islands was expected to return to level 1 settings from 23 October, but reversed this decision in light of the recent port-related case. Current settings remain as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cook Islands border remains closed for all passenger travel, with exemptions allowed for Cook Islanders, permanent residents of the Cook Islands, Cook Islands work permit holders and Cook Islands resident permit holders. Contact the Cook Islands High Commission in NZ for further information. • Travellers must undertake a pre-departure COVID test within 4 days of departure and provide a medical clearance verifying a negative result. • All travellers to the Cook Islands are required to undergo monitored self-isolation on arrival for 14 days, as well as undertake medical clearance screening and a COVID-19 testing regime. <p><i>Settings from 23 October:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook Islands residents and Permit Holders travelling from New Zealand are permitted to travel to Cook Islands, provided that the person travelling has not been outside of New Zealand/Cook Islands in the 14 days prior to travel. • A COVID test is required to be undertaken within 96 hours of departure.
French Polynesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Polynesia's border is open to all nationals and visitors. • There are no direct commercial flights – travellers originating from New Zealand will need to transit through Europe or the US. The AKL-LAX-PPE route remains open. • Travellers are required to: complete pre-departure testing and provision of a negative test result within 3 days prior to arrival; complete of a medical information sheet; compulsory travel insurance for non-residents. • Visitors are required to self-administer a COVID-19 test between 4 and 7 days after arrival and required to quarantine if positive.
Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 September there were 10,222 Fijian nationals on temporary visas in New Zealand. Of these, 75 are RSE workers, none requiring urgent repatriation.

¹ Please note that the number of temporary visa holders and RSE workers stated below is sourced from INZ data. Total numbers are subject to change.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inbound passengers to Fiji are limited to Fijian citizens/passport holders only, with case-by-case exceptions for diplomats and valid permit holders. Fiji is also selectively granting new permits on a case-by-case basis for individuals who possess specialised skills that aid Fiji's COVID-safe economic recovery. All incoming travellers on diplomatic passports must seek entry approval no later than one month before travel. • Weekly Air NZ passenger flights from AKL-NAD operate on Thursdays and are approved by Fiji's Ministry of Aviation on a weekly basis. Flights are limited to 150 passengers. • Fijian citizens are encouraged to return a negative test prior to boarding, no matter where in the world they are. If they are unable to get one, then one will be conducted upon arrival in Fiji. • Non-Fijian nationals, including New Zealand and Australia citizens, are required to return a negative COVID-19 test at least 72 hours before departure. The Fiji Government has issued very strict requirements about the format in which test results are presented, and what test information must be included. Passengers are advised to contact the Fiji High Commission in Wellington to get further advice on test requirements. • All inbound passengers to Fiji are required to undergo 14 days quarantine on arrival. Non-citizens will be required to bear all costs related to quarantine and testing.
Kiribati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 September there were 525 i-Kiribati nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 288 are RSE workers, at least 82 require urgent repatriation according reports in July. 7 scholarship students including dependents also require urgent repatriation). • There are currently no commercial pathways home for i-Kiribati. • Kiribati has 20 rooms available for quarantine/treatment and 60 beds for group isolation. When the border opens to nationals, people arriving into Kiribati will be required to quarantine for 14 days. • Kiribati is providing a daily allowance and paying for accommodation to stranded I-Kiribati. Stranded i-Kiribati should contact Director of Labour at Kiribati's Ministry of Employment and Human Resources Mrs Batetaake Tatoa (director@employment.gov.ki) and/or Tekotaake Keariki (slo.eu@employment.gov.ki) for more information on this assistance.
Nauru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 September there were 25 Nauru nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 5 are RSE workers, who all require repatriation according to reports in July. There is 1 scholarship student needing repatriation. • Nauru nationals can return home through commercial channel, and the border remains open to nationals. • There are limited flights to Nauru operated by Air Nauru out of Brisbane. • Nationals in New Zealand need to transit Australia to access these flights. Please check Australia Home Office for the most up to date information on transiting Australia: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/transit-771/travellers-eligible-to-transit-without-visa • All nationals departing from Brisbane to Nauru are temperature-screened before boarding. • All nationals returning to Nauru need to ensure they spend 14 days prior to entry to Nauru in a safe country, currently considered as Australia (with the exception of State of Victoria), Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, FSM,

	<p>New Caledonia, NZ, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All nationals returning to Nauru will need to undertake a COVID-19 test on arrival and spend 5.5 days in quarantine. Nauruans in New Zealand requiring consular or other assistance should contact Masau Detudamo at the Nauru Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: detudamo@gmail.com
New Caledonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Caledonia's border are currently closed except to French citizens and New Caledonian residents. All international flights have been suspended until 27 March 2021 with the exception of repatriation and freight flights. The only airline with flights in and out of New Caledonia is Air Calin, with routes to Sydney and Paris (via Tokyo). Travellers to New Caledonia must provide a negative test within 72 hours of departure and undertake 14 days of supervised quarantine on arrival including a testing regime. There are 2 scholarship students requiring repatriation.
Niue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niueans are New Zealand citizens and do not participate in the RSE scheme. Borders are open to travellers from Niuean nationals usually resident in Niue, other permanent residents of Niue and those classified by the Government as essential workers. Government of Niue prioritises entry for Niuean and other nationals usually resident in Niue. Australia and other third country based travellers must undertake 14-days quarantine in New Zealand prior to departing for Niue. Currently a maximum of 50 passengers are allowed to travel on the fortnightly passenger flights from Auckland to Niue. All travellers to Niue must undertake a COVID test within 4 working days of departure to Niue, and provide a negative result. From 2 Nov travellers will be required to submit two clear COVID-19 tests prior to departure. Self-isolation for returning travellers will be trialled for the first two flights in November – provided NZ remains at level 1. Individuals interested in a flight to Niue must register interest with the in-country travel agency Peleni's Travel (info@pelenistravel.com). Niue's Department of External Affairs coordinates closely with Peleni's Travel on the final approved passenger list for each flight. Travellers should also register their interest in future flights with Air NZ.
PNG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 10 September there were 404 PNG nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 53 are RSE workers. All potential travellers are required to liaise with a local High Commission/Embassy, or to contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Internal Trade (dfait20@gmail.com) in order to register details and seek authorisation to return to PNG. Commercial flight options, though reduced, are currently operating from Brisbane, Cairns and Singapore. It is currently difficult to get seats from Auckland to Brisbane. Nationals in New Zealand need to transit Australia to access these flights. Australia's current transit policy allow Pacific Islanders returning to the Pacific to transit without a visa provided they stay airside and their connecting flight is in under 8 hours (only possible on Tuesday). Transit approval/visas will be required for those that require a transit window greater than 8 hours, or if

	<p>travellers need to cross the border (e.g. picking up bags and checking into flights). Please check Australia Home Office for the most up to date information on transiting Australia: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/transit-771/travellers-eligible-to-transit-without-visa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At check-in, passengers must show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proof of a COVID-19 test done within 7 days of travel to PNG, indicating a result that the person does not have detectable levels of COVID-19. (PNG specifies that only a 'Real time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction' test result will be accepted. This poses no issues for travellers from NZ as this is the type of test that is provided nation-wide). - A passport - Confirmed ticket - Approval from DFAIT and/or PNG's SOE Emergency Controller; and - Evidence of a booking in a hotel for 7 days' isolation when isolation at home is not possible • From 21 July, all incoming self-funded quarantine applications for authorisation to enter PNG will only be required to present the following when submitting an application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A letter of request containing full name of traveller consistent with passport, date of birth, nationality, passport type, visa number, visa expiry date, intended arrival date in PNG and preferred quarantine location. ○ An air passenger travel form completed with factual information. Reliable contact number, temporary address must be quarantine location/address. • Further information of the process, including a copy of the Direction, can be obtained by sending your request to emails covid19-travel@police.gov.pg and covid19-travelapprover@police.gov.pg • RSE workers will be provided PNG government-funded quarantine (currently: Hideaway Hotel, Lamana Hotel, Gateway Hotel). • Individuals who are arriving from Australia (excluding Victoria), New Zealand, and most of the Pacific Islands, are required to undertake home isolation for 7 days. Where segregating at home is not possible, inbound travellers need to hotel quarantine for 7 days.
Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 September, there were 3,795 Samoan nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, approximately 1,259 are RSE workers. None are requiring urgent repatriation. There are 4 scholarship students including dependents, who also require urgent repatriation • The following flights for the remainder of 2020 will be operated by Air NZ B789 aircraft with seating capacity of up to 302 passengers per flight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Friday 30 October - ex-Auckland ○ Friday 13 November - ex-Auckland ○ Friday 4 December - ex-Auckland ○ Friday 11 December - ex-Auckland • The Government of Samoa prioritises entry for (in order) returning residents with returning tickets; returning resident students; individuals whose travel permits or visas for New Zealand have expired; essential workers; medical transfer patients; families with children and/or persons over the age of 60 years; sports teams and seasonal employees with expired contracts; general

	<p>returning residents; and those with any other special and relevant grounds for essential travel to Samoa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On arrival, all incoming air passengers to Samoa, including Air New Zealand, NZDF and Air Ambulance staff, must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present hard-copy evidence of a negative COVID test result received within three days before departure to Samoa (a lab test result is required; a note or text message from a physician will be insufficient); - Present hard-copy evidence of a medical clearance letter from a registered GP confirming they do not show signs or symptoms of flu or respiratory illness (which is different from clearance of being fit to travel); and - Enter into 14 days' managed isolation.
Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 September there were 574 Solomon Island nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 392 are RSE workers, 88 require urgent repatriation according to July/August reports. 4 scholarship students also requires urgent repatriation. • Solomon Islands borders are currently closed, but approved repatriation flights (non-scheduled and chartered) have occurred for nationals and foreigners with Prime Minister-level exemption to enter (i.e. diplomats, technical advisors, and members of the private sector). • There are no regular, scheduled commercial passenger flights between Honiara and New Zealand or Australia. • All people entering Solomon Islands from a COVID affected country (including New Zealand) will be required to provide two negative COVID tests 14 days prior to travel and to undergo 14 days isolation in an approved facility. • Pre-departure tests must be undertaken strictly 10 and 2 days prior to travel with results sent through to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services the day before the flight. A medical declaration form must be conveyed to health authorities 5 days prior to travel. Failure to complete these processes will result in passengers being barred from boarding their flight. • All passengers will be screened by health authorities upon their arrival in Honiara. 14 days of quarantine is required upon arrival in Solomon Islands with incoming passengers required to undertake 3 negative COVID-tests before being released. These are typically taken on days 1, 7, and 13. • Persons entering Solomon Islands from a high risk COVID affected country will be required to provide 3 negative test results 21 days prior to arrival and to undergo 21 days isolation in an approved facility from arrival and pass four COVID-19 tests in-country. • Stranded Solomon Islanders needing to return home should contact the Solomon Islands High Commission.
Tokelau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelauans are New Zealand citizens and do not participate in the RSE scheme. There are 3 scholarship students requiring repatriation. • Passenger services to Tokelau are suspended, and the border remains closed. • There are currently no commercial pathways home for Tokelauans. • Those seeking an exemption to the border closure must be pre-approved by Tokelau government prior to departure from New Zealand. Exemptions are likely to be considered only for Tokelau nationals usually resident in Tokelau or Tokelau government officials. Where exemptions are granted, the traveller would need medical clearance (within 3 days) prior to travel and will be screened on arrival.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning Tokelauans would likely need to complete 14 days in self-isolation in New Zealand, followed by 14 days managed isolation in Samoa, and then 14 days managed isolation on their home atoll in Tokelau. Self-isolation in New Zealand can be undertaken at home, while managed isolation in Samoa must be undertaken at a designated hotel or community facility. Managed isolation in Tokelau would take place in designated facilities. • From 7 August, Samoa has permitted returning Tokelauan Residents to transit home in certain circumstances. • Tokelauans seeking to return to Tokelau are advised to contact the Government of Tokelau in the first instance to seek an exemption to the border closure. • There are currently a number of scholarship students (incl dependents) needing urgent repatriation. There are also Tokelauan officials currently in New Zealand requiring repatriation.
Tonga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 September there were 4,477 Tongan nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, approximately 1,634 are RSE workers, with at least 487 requiring urgent repatriation as reported in July/August. 16 scholarship students including dependents also require urgent repatriation. • The next flight from Auckland to Tonga is confirmed for 19 November. • Tongan nationals returning to Tonga will be required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain a negative C-19 test within 4 working days prior to departure; and - Undergo 14 days of quarantine on arrival in Tonga. - Undergo an additional week of self-isolation. • Current quarantine capacity is around 150 people. • Tongan nationals stranded in New Zealand should register at https://citizensregistration.gov.to/wp/?fbclid=IwAR0Q1Yixu3JnAjwnEYFcxAJJryuBnlgd9yCIfv2ONJJa2Y2HQsLXPpPdyC as well as contacting Air New Zealand to register their interest in flights.
Tuvalu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 September there were 306 Tuvaluan nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 114 are RSE workers, around 14 require urgent repatriation according to the Tuvalu government. There are also 4 scholarship students requiring urgent repatriation. In total 100 Tuvaluans are seeking repatriation from New Zealand. • There are currently no commercial pathways home for stranded Tuvaluans in New Zealand. • Tuvalu Cabinet has confirmed two NZDF repatriation flights from New Zealand to Tuvalu on 5 and 19 November, carrying 60 passengers per flight. These flights are subject to the requirement that there must have been no new local transmission case in New Zealand within 28 days to the flight departure dates. Passengers will be subject to the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All passengers and crews must be tested negative prior to boarding the flight; ○ They must be isolated after the test until they board the flights to avoid contact with the public; ○ They must not come into contact with anyone from the isolation facility into the flight; ○ They must wear PPE at all times during the transition through checking in. ○ They must quarantine for 14 days on arrival.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Tuvalu's State of Emergency, the border is closed to any aircraft, vessel or ship until March 2021. The Prime Minister may grant exemptions for various humanitarian and medical reasons, such as for monthly cargo vessels from Fiji. • Tuvalu nationals stranded in New Zealand should contact the Tuvalu High Commission on (04) 472 1001 or info@tuvaluhc.org.nz
Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 September, approx. 2,944 Vanuatu nationals on temporary visas in New Zealand. Of these, approximately 2,350 are RSE workers, a significant number still require repatriation. There are 2 scholarship students requiring repatriation. • Vanuatu borders are closed. All flights require exemptions. • Air Vanuatu is now running fortnightly freight flights, which can accommodate approximately up to 80 passengers each from New Zealand to Vanuatu, and a small number of New Zealanders from Vanuatu to New Zealand. • To book on one of these flights, names should be registered with the Vanuatu High Commission in Wellington, which will result in an approved list of names going to Air Vanuatu for ticketing and arranging payment. • Vanuatu does not require any special pre-departure measures. • Everyone entering Vanuatu is required to enter government approved quarantine for 14 days. • Planning for possible further charter flights can occur, but please get in touch if you have plans or proposals in place as quarantine space in Vanuatu is limited so not all flights may be approved.