

Pacific Repatriations – Country Overview

Last updated 14 January 2021

Green – generally open pathway home

Yellow – pathways but some limitations (demand outstrips seats)

Red – no pathways home at present

Please be aware that this information is for planning purposes only and should not be publically distributed. Travellers should undertake their own research and due diligence when planning travel, as information may change.

Country	Overview
Cook Islands	Weekly Air NZ passenger flights from AKL-RRO operate on Saturdays. - 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 96 hours of departure and provide a medical clearance verifying a negative result, and pass a health clearance process at Auckland airport. Cook Islanders wishing to return home should purchase a ticket from Air NZ.
French Polynesia	Commercial flights are available. Travellers originating from New Zealand need to transit Europe or the US. The AKL-LAX-PPE route remains open. - French Polynesia's border is open to all nationals and visitors. - 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	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. Fijians wishing to return home should purchase a ticket from Air NZ. - 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. - A pre-departure COVID-19 test for all travellers is mandatory. Acceptable tests are quantitative RT-PCR or Cepheid GeneXpert (Xpert® Xpress SARS-CoV-2). - Note that other rapid point of care RT PCR, or antigen/ antibody tests are not accepted. A nasopharyngeal sample must be the sample tested. The COVID-19 test must be on the RT-PCR testing platform and the traveller is required to carry the printed test result while travelling. Travellers unable to test in country

	of departure must contact the Department of Immigration (email: borderrequest@immi.gov.fj or crmt@govnet.gov.fj) - 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. Passengers are advised to contact the Fiji High Commission in Wellington to get further advice on test requirements, including timings.
Kiribati	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.
Nauru	There are limited flights to Nauru operated by Air Nauru out of Brisbane. - Nauru nationals can return home through commercial channels, and the border remains open to nationals. - 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 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, New Caledonia, NZ, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. - All nationals departing from Brisbane to Nauru are temperature-screened before boarding. - 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	The only airline with flights in and out of New Caledonia is Air Calin, with routes to Sydney and Paris (via Tokyo). - New Caledonia's border are currently closed except to French citizens and New Caledonian residents. - 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.
Niue	There is a fortnightly flight from Auckland to Niue. Currently a maximum of 30 passengers are allowed to travel on each flight. - Borders are open to travel 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. Cabinet approves all travellers. • All travellers to Niue must undertake a COVID test within 4 working days of departure to Niue, and provide a negative result. • Self-isolation for returning travellers may be permitted, subject to cabinet approval, provided NZ remains at level 1. Self-isolating passengers are required to submit two clear COVID-19 tests prior to departure (these must be within four working days of departure, and the other is to be taken nine days prior to that, have a self-isolation plan approved, and demonstrate that there are no vulnerable people at the same address. • 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	• There are no direct flights between New Zealand and PNG. Commercial flight options, though reduced, are currently operating from Brisbane, Cairns, Singapore, and Hong Kong. • 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 individuals travelling to PNG (national and non-nationals) must obtain approval from PNG's Controller prior to boarding an aircraft bound for PNG. • All potential travellers (PNG Nationals) should make contact with a local High Commission/Embassy, or to contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (dfait20@gmail.com). All approval request should go through PNG's Controller team via (covid19-travel@police.gov.pg and covid19-operations@police.gov.pg) in order to register details and seek authorisation to return to PNG. • Individuals self-funding their travel to PNG applicants are required to present the following information when submitting an application: ○ 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-operations@police.gov.pg • At check-in, passengers must show: ○ 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 ○ Where self-isolation at home is not possible, evidence of a booking in a hotel for 7 days' isolation. ○ Individuals who have not spent the 14 days prior to their entry to PNG in one of the countries listed here must quarantine at a designated hotel in Port Moresby at the individual's expense (or at the Controller's sole discretion at the Government expense): NZ, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Australia, New Caledonia, Kiribati, RMI, Tonga, Tuvalu, Nauru, FSM, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Samoa, Palau, Niue. • Individuals who are arriving from Australia, 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. • From 1 December, travellers who are approved for entry will be required to wear tracking devices and download a tracking app on their smart phones. This does not apply to travellers who received their entry approvals prior to 30 November. The only exemptions will be for those travelling from countries listed in Schedule 2 of Measure 2 (13 Nov - including New Zealand, Australia and countries indicated above) who are staying in designated hotels and diplomatic passport and UNLP holders. • Copies of the Measures can be found here: https://covid19.info.gov.pg/ • From 1 December, the Government has indicated that it will no longer cover the quarantine costs of in-bound PNG citizens. RSE workers returning to New Zealand in 2020 have typically been provided with provided PNG government-funded quarantine at a hotel in Port Moresby. Workers should contact the PNG High Commission in Wellington.
Samoa	• The first Air NZ repatriation flight for 2021 has been approved for January 22 from Auckland, with priority accorded stranded Samoan seafarers including those marooned following the cancellation of the November 27 Los Angeles charter flight. • Further repatriation flights for the first quarter of 2021 have also been approved to operate on 12 February, 5 March and 26 March. Flights beyond March are being considered by the Government of Samoa. • Weekly Friday inward cargo service/outward passenger service have been approved to 26 March 2021. • 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 returning residents; and those with any other special and relevant grounds for essential travel to Samoa. • All incoming air passengers to Samoa including Air New Zealand, NZDF and Air Ambulance staff, must: - Present hard-copy evidence of a negative rtPCR COVID test result obtained within three days before departure to Samoa (a lab test result is required; a note or text message from a physician will be insufficient);

	- Have a GP complete the Samoa Ministry of Health Medical Clearance form within 72 hours of boarding the flight to Apia; and - Be prepared to enter into 21 days' managed isolation on arrival. • In addition, as of 11 January 2021, the following restrictions apply: - Samoa prohibits entry of all passengers originating or transiting the UK or South Africa entry into Samoa; - Samoa will assess entry on a case by case basis for passengers travelling or transiting from a number of other countries, most notably New Zealand, Australia and the United States; - Passengers (with the exception of New Zealand originating passengers) must provide evidence of a Blood Serology for COVID 19 Antibody test within 5 days of boarding the flight to Apia; and - Samoa bans entry for all travellers with a history of a positive test within the last six months • Samoans wanting to return home should contact the Samoa High Commission in Wellington or the Samoa Consulate General in Auckland.
Solomon Islands	• There are irregular unscheduled commercial passenger flights between Honiara and New Zealand (Auckland) or Australia (Brisbane). This includes an intended weekly flight for 16-20 people from Brisbane. • 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, humanitarian workers, and members of the private sector). • 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 between 14-12 days and 72 hours 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 0-3, 6-8, and 12-13. • 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 at least 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 (http://sihc.org.nz/index.php/contact/).
Tokelau	• The Tokelau border remains closed except for repatriations and exemptions on a case-by-case basis. • Repatriation passengers from New Zealand have been going into managed isolation in Apia for 14 days in followed by additional ten days' self-isolation in Samoa before travelling to Tokelau, where they are undergoing a further 14 days managed isolation. • All medical, quarantine and transport costs for repatriations are being met by the Government of Tokelau.

	- Exemptions are available for essential workers. Tokelauans wanting to return to Tokelau should contact Sene Kerisiano, Tokelau Health Adviser (merrykalanilei@gmail.com)
Tonga	Repatriation flights from Auckland resumed on 14 January and are scheduled every three weeks after that. Passenger lists are managed by the Government of Tonga. - All passengers returning to Tonga are required to: - 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. - Anyone transiting through Auckland from a third country must spend 14 days in New Zealand MIQ under the border exception process, before onwards travel to Tonga. - Current quarantine capacity is a maximum of around 300 people with 240 people accommodated in the current repatriation round. Tongan nationals stranded in New Zealand should register with the Government of Tonga at https://citizensregistration.gov.to/wp/?fbclid=IwAR0Q1IYixu3JnAjwnEYFcxAJJryuBnlgd9yCIFv2ONJJa2Y2HQsLXPpPdyc as well as contacting Air New Zealand to register their interest in flights.
Tuvalu	There are currently no scheduled commercial pathways home for stranded Tuvaluans in New Zealand. There are irregular charter flights from/to Fiji. - Tuvalu Cabinet cancelled the two repatriation flights from New Zealand to Tuvalu on 5 and 19 November. Tuvalu has not yet made any plans to repatriate their nationals from New Zealand in 2021. - Under Tuvalu's State of Emergency, the border is closed to any aircraft, vessel or ship until 26 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	- Vanuatu borders are closed. All flights require exemptions. It is expected that Air Vanuatu will resume Wednesday fortnightly freight flights in 2021 which can accommodate approximately up to 160 passengers each from New Zealand to Vanuatu, and a small number of New Zealanders from Vanuatu to New Zealand. - Vanuatu requires all passengers entering Vanuatu from New Zealand to obtain a negative COVID-19 test prior to departure. - Everyone entering Vanuatu is required to enter government approved quarantine for 14 days. To book a 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.