



# GPI POLICY - IMMIGRATION VISA & SETTLEMENT INFORMATION

## **Rationale:**

The Government of Pitcairn Island and the Pitcairn Island Council welcome applications for Settlement, short- or long-term visitor visas, business visa, work permits and land on which to build a home on Pitcairn.

## **Objective:**

This policy provides prospective applicants with current and accurate, information about applying for Settlement and Visitor Visas, work permits and land on Pitcairn Island.

## **References:**

Immigration Control Ordinance of the Laws of Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands  
Land Tenure Reform Ordinance of the Laws of Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands  
GPI Policies: Health Policy; Pitcairn Island Loan Policy; Employment Policy; Safeguarding Children on Pitcairn Island Policy; Education Policy.

## **Immigration & Visa Options:**

1. Settlement. The Pitcairn Island Settlement application is for those wishing to apply to live permanently on Pitcairn Island.
2. Long-Term Visitor Visa. The long-term Entry Clearance Visa is for those wishing to apply to visit Pitcairn for more than 14 days or more.
3. Business Visa. The Pitcairn Island Business Visa is for those wishing to apply to visit Pitcairn for economic/commercial reasons and remain for a time on the island.

## **How to apply to Settle on Pitcairn**

Prospective Applicants can visit [www.immigration.gov.pn](http://www.immigration.gov.pn) or contact the Pitcairn Islands Immigration Officer at [immigration@pitcairn.gov.pn](mailto:immigration@pitcairn.gov.pn) to access a Pitcairn Settlement Application form.

Applicants are required to send scanned copy of the completed form and a scanned copy of the passport photo pages of all applicants to the Immigration Officer on Pitcairn Island: [immigration@pitcairn.gov.pn](mailto:immigration@pitcairn.gov.pn) and the Pitcairn Island Office: [admin@pitcairn.gov.pn](mailto:admin@pitcairn.gov.pn)

Pitcairn Island Office Admin will acknowledge your application and carry out initial checks. If your application appears to be non-credible at this point it will be deleted.

Once you have submitted your application, the Pitcairn Island Office (PIO) will contact you. PIO will tell you how to pay the application fee. The PIO may ask for any further documentation needed to complete any sections of the form you may have missed.

Date Policy last reviewed: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Date Policy due for next review: July 2022



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Please Note: You must pay the fee before your application can be considered.

Your application will then be considered by the Pitcairn Island Immigration Officer and the Pitcairn Island Council. Upon their recommendations. You will be informed that your application has either:

- Been progressed to the next step.
- Been deferred – you will be told the reason and any requirements you need to meet in order to progress.
- Or, refused – you will be told the reason.

If your application proceeds to the next step you will be asked to attend an interview with the Deputy Governor, who is based in Auckland, New Zealand. The interview can take place in person, by Skype or by phone. You may be asked for further information, including evidence of income and (if applicable) your sponsor's income.

Following your interview, the Governor will make the final decision on your application. You will be informed in writing of the outcome of your application. This will be either:

- Your application is successful.
- Your application has been deferred. You will be told of any requirements you need to meet.
- Your application has been refused. You will be told the reason. The Governor's decision is final.

If your application is successful you will receive a letter from the Governor formally offering you entry clearance for settlement on Pitcairn. Under Pitcairn's Immigration Control Ordinance you must arrive on Pitcairn within 12 months of the date of this letter. If this is likely to cause difficulties you should raise it at the earliest opportunity with the Pitcairn Island Immigration Officer at: [immigration@pitcairn.gov.pn](mailto:immigration@pitcairn.gov.pn)

NOTE: Pitcairn Island welcomes applicants who wish to move to Pitcairn Island with dependent children under the age of 18. Please contact the Deputy Governor for further information.

As your application progresses, you should contact the Pitcairn Islands Travel Coordinator to ensure there are berths available at the time you're intending to travel and make provisional travel bookings.

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### Immigration & Settlement Application

The Offices of the Governor, Deputy Governor, the PIO, the Pitcairn Island Council and the Pitcairn Island Immigration Officer agree to adhere to the following time frames when managing and communicating on active GPI Settlement Applications: -

	Step	Maximum timeframes
1.	Immigration Officer responds to queries received by contact form.	5 working days
2.	Applicant sends application form to Immigration Officer, copied to PIO.	n/a
3.	PIO sends applicant details of how to pay the fee, DG carries out passport checks not PIO and informs Immigration Officer of outcome.	5 working days
4.	Immigration Officer assesses the application and completes part 1 of the rating form.	5 working days
5.	Immigration Officer (via chief immigration officer)- refers application to Council on standard template to assist them in making a recommendation.	Next Council meeting
6.	Council makes a recommendation to the Governor via the Deputy Governor, using standard template.  Decision will be to refuse, defer or progress application.	5 working days after Council
7.	Deputy Governor issues a written response to the applicant explaining the interview process, the timeframe and the financial evidence required.  If an interview is deferred due to travel restrictions or other factors (such as a global pandemic) the applicant will be advised.  If recommendation is to refuse application, reasons are given in the response.	60 working days
8.	If recommendation is to progress application:	

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8a.	The Deputy Governor will obtain financial evidence from the applicant(s) which will be checked.	As with 7 above, within 60 working days
8b.	Deputy Governor invites applicant for interview.  After interview, DG completes part 2 of the rating form.	As with 7 above within 60 working days
8c.	Following interview, Deputy Governor makes recommendation to Governor.  Decision will be to refuse, defer or grant application.	5 working days
9.	Governor approves the Deputy Governor's recommendation.	10 working days
10.	Deputy Governor informs Immigration Officer in writing of Governor's decision. The Governor's decision is final.	10 working days
11.	Immigration Officer, via Chief Immigration Officer, conveys Governor's decision to Council.	Next Council meeting
12.	The Governor writes to the applicant and grants entry clearance for settlement.	10 working days from 9.
13.	Applicant presents entry clearance letter to Immigration Officer on Pitcairn on arrival.	12 months from 12.

### **Applying to work On Pitcairn Island**

Short or long-term visitors and those approved for settlement may apply for advertised work positions on Pitcairn. Short or long-term visitors must apply for a Pitcairn Work Permit via the Pitcairn Island Council. A fee of NZ\$50 applies

### **Applying for Land use on Pitcairn Island**

The Land Tenure Reform Ordinance (Part III, Section 4(2)) only makes provision for those normally resident on Pitcairn to (or former permanent residents) to apply for land. Under the Immigration Control Ordinance (Part V, Section 12(2)) immigrants arriving for settlement will not be considered for permanent residence until two years after entry.

However, under this policy the Island Council has agreed that new immigrants, who have sufficient funds for building their own home or business, can immediately apply to the Pitcairn Island Land Court for leasehold land i.e., ('house land', 'garden land', 'forestry land' and 'commercial land') on a

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## GPI POLICY - IMMIGRATION VISA & SETTLEMENT INFORMATION

provisional basis. That land will be allocated to the Government of Pitcairn until such time as the new immigrant gains permanent residence.

In pursuing this option the new immigrant will accept the risks associated with not possessing leasehold tenure of the land. For example, if the immigrant is not granted permanent residence status after two years or is not subsequently granted leasehold tenure of the land by the Lands Court, the land will remain allocated to the Government of Pitcairn and the Government of Pitcairn will not be liable to provide compensation to the immigrant, including for any costs incurred in relation to the development of the land or the construction of any structure on it.

**Accommodation:** The following options exist for providing existing accommodation for immigrants.

1. Temporary home-stay accommodation with a local family can be arranged. Details can be found at [www.visitpitcairn.pn](http://www.visitpitcairn.pn)
2. There are also a number of semi-private rental units that can be rented. Details of most of these can also be found at [www.visitpitcairn.pn](http://www.visitpitcairn.pn)
3. There are sometimes privately owned but unoccupied detached houses on the island. The owner or trustee of these properties can be approached about the possibility of purchasing or renting such properties on a short or long-term basis. The purchase price or rental charges, and any arrangements for maintaining and/or improving such properties, are to be negotiated directly between the owner/trustee and the new immigrant. The Pitcairn Island Council encourages the parties to establish a mutually agreeable and sustainable long-term arrangement that works for both parties.
4. There may occasionally be government owned accommodation options available for rent. The availability and arrangements for such accommodation will be determined by the Community Development Division Manager and will be discussed with the Island Council.

### **Children:**

The safety of children on Pitcairn Island is of paramount importance. All immigrants will attend the full child safety program. Any immigrants with families must comply with all current and future child safety and well-being assessment measures. Ref: Safeguarding Children on Pitcairn policy.

### **Education:**

Immigrants arriving for settlement can take immediate advantage of the Pitcairn Island Education Policy.

### **Health:**

Immigrants arriving for settlement can take immediate advantage of the Pitcairn Health Policy. (Health care is provided in a modern clinic with an external contracted Doctor and local nurse. It should be noted that if a serious illness occurs medical evacuation to a hospital in Tahiti or New Zealand would be required.

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