

TOURISM & TRAVEL POLICIES – ELECTION 2020

The tourism industry has been hard hit by the loss of international visitors due to COVID, with New Zealanders holidaying domestically, rather than overseas, only partially replacing that lost revenue. Key issues for the coming term will be how much more support the industry will get from government and for how long, and what a recovery will look like post-COVID in what may be a very different international travel environment.

NEW ZEALAND LABOUR PARTY

- Continue the [tourism recovery fund](#) worth \$400 million aimed at helping the tourism industry recover from the impact of Covid-19.
- Continue the strategic recovery plan for the [international](#) education sector.
- Allocate a 10 percent quota for critical workers that are not from NZ to come into the country. [Immigration](#) criteria would be reviewed to allow for a broader range of workers to enter NZ.
- Continue the Jobs for Nature programme to nurture our environment and improve our tourism infrastructure

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL PARTY

- End the [tourism fund](#), which provides financial support to tourism businesses affected by Covid-19 and instead establish the Tourism 2025 Fund.
- Use the [Infrastructure Bank](#) to work with local government to build the new infrastructure needed to cope with tourism numbers across regional New Zealand.
- Implement a consistent and transparent national framework for freedom camping.
- Investigate a freedom camping license regime, enforced by local councils that would provide for a fee paid for by freedom campers.
- Provide a grant for an annual tourism conference in 2021 and 2022- TRENZ, an annual conference organised by Tourism Industry Aotearoa was cancelled in 2020.
- Launch the New Zealand Tourism Festival to showcase the regions of New Zealand and encourage domestic tourism.
- Ensure there are no new bed taxes in NZ.
- Put a [freeze](#) on any more government levies and charges being slapped on tourists.
- Make the [Minister of Tourism](#) a senior minister within Cabinet who is accountable to the sector.
- Enhance the collection of accommodation and tourism data.
- Modernise legislation including the Conservation Act 1987 and National Parks Act 1980 to be more tourism friendly.
- Change the criteria for the \$50 million Regional Events Fund so that private businesses can also bid for events and help stimulate domestic tourism.
- Allow travel bubbles with neighbouring Covid-free countries.
- Investigate streamlined travel arrangements for low-risk countries and territories.
- Allow [private](#) accommodation providers to become approved service providers for quarantine.
- Allow [seasonal and skilled](#) agricultural workers to enter NZ.
- Allow [tertiary](#) education providers to bring international students into NZ.

GREEN PARTY OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND.

- Upgrade walking tracks, huts and other tourism [infrastructure](#).
- Fund [regional](#) rail and in safe cycling infrastructure.
- Limit visitor numbers at popular tourism sites.
- Work with local councils to address waste issues, including plastic water bottles
- Encourage low impact recreation and ecotourism over high-carbon tourism.
- Introduce stronger controls on vehicle camping, which would also encourage visitors to use local accommodation providers.
- Consider special planning zoning for camp grounds, which are diminishing in the face of rising land prices.
- Review the NZ Tourism Strategy in light of Covid-19, and strengthen its commitment to sustainability and protecting areas for local communities to enjoy.
- Ensure that the [national tourism strategy](#) represents a sound basis for sustainable tourism.
- Protect the intellectual property rights of tangata whenua and require agencies who register brands to have a Te Tiriti based policy when accepting new brands.
- Support and promote the growth of Māori and ecological tourism with a focus on promoting kaitiakitanga and sustainable business.
- Support local community initiatives to manage their own tourism ventures, develop distinct identities and protect cultural and historic landscapes and townscapes.
- Establish a brand-mark system to authenticate tourism products and services based on Aotearoa New Zealand cultural heritage, aligned with any similar tangata whenua system.

ACT NEW ZEALAND

- Abolish the \$35 International Visitor Conservation and [Tourism Levy](#).
- Ban councils from using the rating system to impose a hotel bed tax.
- Allow high-value tourists into the country, using private sector operated managed isolation and quarantine facilities.
- Mandate DOC to encourage private sector tourism on conservation land.

NEW ZEALAND FIRST

- Utilise [tourism](#) to support thriving and sustainable regions
- Explore ways to improve productivity within the tourism industry
- Help New Zealand deliver exceptional visitor experiences
- Use tourism to protect, restore and champion New Zealand's natural environment, culture and heritage
- Work towards tourism improving the lives of New Zealanders.
- Continue to support initiatives such as the 'Go with Tourism' programme.
- Work with the sector to reset the [international student](#) market so that when it is safe to restart this sector it is done safely and is rebuilt to provide quality education and experiences to these students but also provide high quality income for our nation. International Education must not be used as a back door to immigration.