



GPI POLICY – IMMIGRATION VISA & SETTLEMENT INFORMATION

References:

LAWS OF PITCAIRN, HENDERSON, DUCIE AND OENO ISLANDS

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

GPI Policies

GPI Pitcairn Health Centre Operational Policy

GPI Health Funding Policy

Pitcairn Island Loan Scheme Policy

GPI Personal Loan Scheme Policy

GPI Subsidised Travel & Baggage Allowance Policy

GPI Employment Policy

GPI Employment Guidance

GPI Safeguarding Children on Pitcairn Island Policy

GPI Education Policy

GPI Partners Communication Policy

Rationale:

The Government of Pitcairn Island and the Pitcairn Island Council welcomes applications for Settlement, short or long-term visitor visas, business visas, work permits and, when applicable for new migrants, land on which to build a first home on Pitcairn

Objective:

This policy provides prospective applicants and the Pitcairn Council with current and accurate, information about Settlement, visitor visas, work permits and Council held, first home land for new migrants.

Abbreviations

GPI - Government of Pitcairn Island

DG - Deputy Governor

PIO - The Pitcairn Island Office

PIC - The Pitcairn Island Council

GPI SA - Government of Pitcairn Islands Settlement Application

GPI SA Form – Government of Pitcairn Islands Settlement Application form

GPI LTV – Government of Pitcairn Islands Long-term Entry Clearance Visa

GPI BV – Government of Pitcairn Islands Business Visa

GT – The Government Treasury Office

PI-IO – Pitcairn Island Immigration Officer

LAT - Land Allocation Title

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Definitions:

Normally Resident: This refers to those who, having been granted settlement by the Governor, normally live on Pitcairn Island.

It also refers to new migrants who, after having completed their 2-year settlement period, and having been granted permanent resident status by the Governor, normally live on Pitcairn Island,

It also refers to those with right of abode who normally live on Pitcairn Island

Pitcairn Island Immigration & Visa Options:

Settlement:

Those wishing to apply to live permanently on Pitcairn Island are required to submit a GPI Settlement Application (SA Form) to the PI-IO and the PIO in the first instance. See Contacts & Annex A (GPI Settlement Application form).

Long-Term Visitor Visa:

Those wishing to apply to visit the Pitcairn Islands for more than 14 days are required to submit a Long-term Entry Clearance Visa application to the PI-IO and the PIO in the first instance. See Contacts and Annex B (GPI Entry Clearance Application form).

This criterion includes long term scientific researchers and, if applicable, those also applying for Business Visas

Business Visa:

Those wishing to apply to visit the Pitcairn Islands to undertake business, research and/or media production for commercial gain, are required to submit a Business Visa Application to the PI-IO and the PIO in the first instance (see Contacts and Annex B).

ACTIVITIES

1) How to Apply to live Permanently on Pitcairn Island

1.1 Prospective applicants are encouraged to research and review information at www.immigration.pn before submitting a GPI SA.

1.2 Prospective applicants are encouraged to review the GPI Passenger Shipping schedule at www.visitpitcairn.pn to consider suitable travel dates and/or contact the GPI Tourism Travel Coordinator (see Contacts).

1.3 Applicants can download a GPI SA form from www.immigration.pn or contact the PI-IO to request a form via email (see contacts)

1.4 If more than one person is applying to live permanently on Pitcairn each should submit

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a separate GPI SA form.

- 1.5 Parents/Guardians can submit a GPI SA on behalf of a minor (i.e., a person under the age of 18).
- 1.6 Applicants are required to send a scanned copy of their completed SA forms along with a scanned copy of their passport bio page to the PI-IO and the PIO in the first instance (see Contacts and Annex A).
- 1.7 On receipt of a GPI SA the PIO and/or the PI-IO will respond to the sender to advise their application has been received.
- 1.8 The PI IO and the PIO will undertake an initial review of the application
If an application is deemed to be non-credible at this point it will be deleted and no-further correspondence will be entered into.
- 1.9 When an application is deemed credible the PIO will issue an invoice for payment of the GPI SA fee with payment instructions. The PIO and/or the PI IO may request further documentation needed to complete any sections of the form which may have been missed.
- 1.10 If the GPI SA fee is not paid within 60 days the application will not be progressed.
- 1.11 On receipt of payment the reviewed GPI SAs is submitted to the PIC for consideration at the next available sitting of the PIC. Following the determination of the PIC the applicant will be advised about the status of their application i.e., that it has been either progressed to the next step or declined
- 1.12 The GPI is not obligated to provide a reason why a particular application has been declined.
- 1.13 When the PIC recommends that a GPI SA be progressed to the next step the Island Secretary will advise the PI IO of that decision. The PI IO will convey this decision to the Deputy Governor, copying-in the mayor (as Chief Immigration Officer).
On receipt of Council's recommendation, the applicant will be contacted by the office of the Deputy Governor to progress the application and set a time for a settlement interview.
- 1.14 The settlement interview can take place in person, virtually or by phone.
At that time applicants may be asked for further information, including evidence of income and (if applicable) information about the applicants identified sponsor. \

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1.15 Following the GPI SA interview, the Governor of the Pitcairn Islands will either approve or decline an application. Applicants will be informed in writing as to whether an application has been approved or declined.

1.16 The Governor is not obligated to provide a reason why a particular application has been declined.

2) When a GPI SA is Approved.

2.1 When a GPI SA is approved the applicant will receive a letter from the Governor granting Entry Clearance to settle on Pitcairn.

2.2 Those approved for settlement are required, under the Pitcairn Island Immigration Control Ordinance, to arrive at Pitcairn within 12 months of the date of their letter of approval from the Governor.

2.3 Should an approved new migrant not be able to meet this requirement they must contact the PI IO to discuss options (see Contacts). The PI IO will pass this information to the Deputy Governor and the PIC for consideration.

3) GPI Management of Active Settlement Applications

3.1 The Offices of the Governor, Deputy Governor, the PIO, the PIC and the PI IO have agreed to adhere to the following procedures and time-frames when managing and communicating on active GPI SAs

STEP	ACTIVITY	MAX TIMEFRAMES
1.	The PI IO responds to all GPI SA enquiries in the first instance.	5 working days
2.	Applicants email their GPI SA forms to PI IO, copied to the PIO.	n/a
3.	The PIO acknowledges receipt of a GPI SA and issues an invoice for payment of the application fee. The GPI SA becomes active on receipt of payment. The DG undertakes passport checks and informs the PI IO of clearance.	5 working days
4.	The PI IO reviews the active GPI SA and completes Part 1 of the GPI SA rating form.	5 working days
5.	The PI IO submits the active GPI SA and Part 1 of the GPI SA Rating Form to the Mayor (as Chief Immigration Officer), via the Island Secretary for Council's consideration.	By next available Council meeting

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6.	<p>The PIC makes a recommendation, to either decline or progress the GPI SA. Their recommendation is conveyed, by the Island Secretary to the PI IO who then asks the Governor, via the Deputy Governor, to either decline or approve the active GPI SA</p> <p>If an active GPI SA is declined, applicant will be advised accordingly.</p> <p>The Deputy Governor is not obligated to provide a reason why a particular application has been declined.</p>	5 working days after Council
	When Council recommends a GPI SA should be progressed, the following applies.	
7.	7.a. The Deputy Governor issues a written response to the applicant to set a time for a settlement interview, explaining the interview process, timeframes involved and requesting any required financial evidence.	60 working days
	7b. The Deputy Governor will obtain any required financial evidence from the applicant(s), which will be checked.	As with 7 above, within 60 working days
	7c. It is the responsibility of the Deputy Governor to ensure that the settlement interview is noted and Part 2 of the GPI SA Rating form completed The Deputy Governor provides the PIC Mayor with a copy of the Settlement interview notes.	As with 7 above within 60 working days
.	7d. Following the interview, the Deputy Governor makes formal recommendation to the Governor to either decline or grant Entry Clearance for Settlement to the applicant based on the verifiable information gathered.	5 working days
8.	The Governor approves the Deputy Governor's recommendation.	10 working days
9.	The Deputy Governor informs the PI IO, in writing, of the Governor's decision. The Governor's decision is final.	10 working days
10.	The PI IO, via the mayor, as Chief Immigration Officer and the Island Secretary, conveys the Governor's decision to the PIC.	Next available Council meeting
12.	The Governor writes to the applicant to formally grant Entry Clearance for Settlement.	10 working days from Point 9.

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13.	The approved new migrant presents their Entry Clearance letter to the PI IO on arrival at Pitcairn Island. If there are valid reasons why an approved new migrant cannot travel to Pitcairn to initiate settlement, within the prescribed time frames, they may apply to the Governor for an extension.	12 months from Point 12.
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4. Applying to work On Pitcairn Island

4.1 Short or long-term visitors and those approved for settlement may apply for advertised work positions on Pitcairn.

4.2 Only short or long-term visitors must apply, in writing to the Pitcairn Island Council, via the Island Secretary for a Work Permit. A fee of NZ\$50 applies payable at the GT Office.

5. Approved new migrants can apply to the Pitcairn Island Council for a one-off New Migrant Home Land within their 2-year (non-consecutive) settlement period

5.1 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.

The Land Tenure Reform Ordinance (Part III, Section 4(2)) reflects this requirement, making provision for only those normally resident on Pitcairn (or former permanent residents) to apply for land.

5.2 The PIC, HMG and the office of the Attorney General recognize that the 2-year time frame required within the Land Tenure Reform Ordinance (Part III, Section 4(2)) may hinder the prospects of new migrants' being able to purposefully build a life on Pitcairn.

Therefore, under the GPI Immigration Visa & Settlement Information Policy the Island Council, in agreement with HMG and the office of the Attorney General, makes provision for approved new migrants, who have sufficient funds to build a home, to request the PIC to make application to the Lands Court for a leasehold land section on which to build a first home.

5.3 When approved new migrants have completed their 2-year (non-consecutive) settlement period they are eligible to access the GPI Home and Personal Loans schemes.

5.4 New migrants are required to submit a New Migrant Home Land Application to the Mayor and PIC, via the Island Secretary, requesting that it make application to the Lands Court for a one-off home land section, on which the new migrant can build a first home.

5.5 New Migrant Home Land Applications may be made to Island Council at any time within the 2 (non-consecutive permanent residency period. However, a request will not be progressed until such time as the applicant(s) are on-island.

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- 5.6 The New Migrant Home Land Request form is available via the Island Secretary (see Contacts & Annex C)
- 5.7 On receipt of a New Migrant Home Land request the mayor will assign a Councillor as primary liaison to the applicant.
- 5.8 The mayor will table the New Migrant Home Land Request at the next available PIC meeting and advise the Island Secretary/Land Registrar, to alert the Lands Court that a request has been lodged, prior to making formal application to the Lands Courts.
- 5.9 When the Lands Court, grants New Migrant Home land, to the PIC, the land's LAT is held by PIC, for the new migrant(s), until such time as they reach the 2-year permanent residency requirement.
- 5.10 When new migrants have resided on Pitcairn for 2 (non-consecutive) years they will receive formal notification, from the Governor, stating they have been granted permanent residency.
- 5.11 When New Migrant who have utilized Council's New Migrant Home Land offer, have been granted permanent residency they must then write to the Mayor, via the Island Secretary to request that Council notifies the Lands Court to request that the LAT for the land in questions be transferred to the new migrant as lease holder.
- 5.12 New migrants who make request to the PIC to apply to the Lands Court, for New Migrant Home Land, will do so with the understanding of the risks associated with not possessing leasehold tenure of the land.
- For example, if a new migrant is not granted permanent resident status after 2 non-consecutive years and is not subsequently granted leasehold tenure of the land by the Lands Court, the land will remain allocated to the PIC and the PIC will not be liable to provide compensation to the new migrant, including for any costs incurred in relation to the development of the land or the construction of any structure on it.
- 5.13 A New Migrant Home land site, held by the PIC, will be no bigger than 1500 sqm.
1500sqm is large enough to build a comfortable home with a domestic garden and orchard.
- 5.14 The PIC will not apply to the Lands Court, for a LAT, on any other type of land category, for a new migrant, under this policy, including business or commercial land.

6. New Migrant Temporary Accommodation:

- 6.1 The following options exist for providing existing accommodation for new migrants when they first arrive at Pitcairn should they not have family living on Pitcairn.
- 6.2 Temporary home-stay accommodation with a local family can be arranged by the applicant. Options can be found at www.visitpitcairn.pn

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- 6.3 There are also a few private self-catering rental options. Details of these options can also be found at www.visitpitcairn.pn
- 6.4 The PIC encourages accommodation providers/homeowners and prospective tenants to establish mutually agreeable and sustainable long-term arrangements that works for both parties. However, it is recognised such arrangements are private.
- 6.5 Short-term government accommodation options are also available for rent. The availability and arrangements for tenancy will be determined by the PIC and HMG Administrator.
- 6.6 New migrants are required to make application, in writing, to the PIC for possible short-term government accommodation, prior to submitting a GPI SA or, if needed, in advance of returning to the island, within their 2-year (non-consecutive) settlement period.
- 6.7 New migrants are not permitted to camp on non-residential land or Council managed land whilst awaiting home land application approval. This being due to fire risk management and health and safety.
- 6.8 New migrants may camp on land occupied by an existing, resident homeowner if given permission to do so, for an agreed period.

7 Subsidised Freight for New Migrants

- 7.1 Approved new migrants are entitled to the subsidised freight cost of NZ\$350 per cubic within their 2 year (non-consecutive) permanent residency period on household goods shipped to Pitcairn for settlement.
- 7.2 Approved new migrants, who wish to build their first home (within their 2 year non-consecutive permanent residency period) are entitled to the subsidised freight cost of NZ\$350 per cubic meter. This rate applies to all building /construction materials, fittings and tools. This provision excludes water tanks which are freight free.
- 7.3 After new migrants have been granted permanent residency, they continue to be entitled subsidised freight costs of NZ\$350 per cubic meter. This provision excludes water tanks which remain freight free.

8. Container Shipping – Size Requirements

Only 6ft Containers are permissible for freighting goods from NZ to Pitcairn on the GPI chartered vessel. This being due to Pitcairn’s limited unloading facilities and health and safety requirements for longboat crew and landing personnel. Goods too large for 6ft containers are managed as break-bulk.

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9. Subsidised Travel on the GPI Charter Vessel for Approved New migrants

Approved new migrants are entitled to travel between Pitcairn / Mangareva and/or New Zealand at the subsidised local rate of NZ\$500 per person, each way.

10. Registering and Operating a Business on Pitcairn

Approved new migrants may register and operate a business on Pitcairn from the time they first arrive at Pitcairn and begin their 2-year permanent residency period.

11. Education

GPI SAs with children should discuss educational needs with the DG when interviewed.

12. Medical Treatment & Medication Costs

New approved migrants are required to provide evidence of private medical/travel insurance prior to travelling to Pitcairn. Private travel/medical insurance must be maintained by approved new migrants throughout their 2 year (non-consecutive) permanent residency period see GPI Health Centre Operational Policy.

New approved Migrants are required to pay full costs for treatment and medications at the Pitcairn Island Health Center through-out their 2 year (non-consecutive) permanent residency period
See GPI Health Centre Operational Policy.

13. Contacts

Pitcairn Islands Immigration Officer: immigration@pitcairn.gov.pn

The Pitcairn Island Office (Auckland NZ): admin@pitcairn.gov.pn

Visit Pitcairn Website: www.visitpitcairn.pn

GPI Travel Coordinator: tourism@pitcairn.pn

Immigration Website: www.immigration.pn

ANNEXES

- a) GPI Settlement Application Form
- b) GPI Entry Clearance Application form for LTV & Business
- c) New Migrant Home Land Application Form
- d) New Migrant Temporary Accommodation Application form

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