



Visiting Lodges Overseas

Many of our members travel overseas and visit Lodges whilst they are in other countries. It is important therefore for brethren to check that the Lodges they are visiting belong to a Grand Lodge that is recognised by the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

To avoid the danger, and potential embarrassment to hosts, of being invited to associate in a Masonic context with an unrecognised constitution, brethren should check with the National Office before leaving New Zealand.

An email advising the destinations you intend to visit will be answered with a letter to your Lodge Secretary enclosing a Travel Certificate and a list of Lodges and other information about the country you are visiting. The Travel certificate confirms to those other constitutions that you are a fully paid up member of this Constitution and should be used in conjunction with your Master Masons Certificate to authenticate your membership. The certificate is sent to you via the Lodge Secretary so that he can confirm your dues are up to date before issuing the certificate to you.

Please also remember that the Masonic Convention is that Grand Secretaries must conduct communication between Grand Lodges. Individuals and Lodges should not attempt to make direct contact with the Grand Secretary of another Constitution unless they have been given permission to do so.

Therefore if you are thinking about visiting overseas you need to plan ahead. As well as obtaining the Travel Certificate do some research on the Lodge meetings in the country you are visiting. Much of this can now be found on-line. Check out the dress requirements and carefully pack your regalia especially if you have an officers collar – this can raise some interesting queries if going through an x-ray at immigration!

