

## Visa Services

All foreign nationals, including children, require a visa to enter India. The only exceptions are nationals of Nepal and Bhutan who can enter India without a visa. (Note: Nepalese nationals need a visa if entering India from China).

Visa fees once deposited cannot be refunded even if requested service is modified or not granted.

Validity of the visa begins from the date of issue.

Certain areas in India have been designated as protected or restricted areas and foreigners can visit [these areas](#) (click here for more information) only after getting a valid PA/RA permit in addition to the visa.

Foreigners coming from or through yellow fever countries must have a valid vaccination certificate.

On arrival/departure, foreigners should fill up Disembarkation/Embarkation forms.

Foreigners entering India on long term visas valid for more than 180 days should follow the relevant [registration](#) formalities. All persons who hold Student Visa, Employment Visa and Research Visa which are valid for more than 180 days are required to get themselves registered with the nearest Foreign Registration Office (FRO) or Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) within 14 days of arrival in India.

For all other types of visas which are valid for more than 180 days registration is required only if the person plans to stay more than 180 days on any single visit. This registration should be done at the earliest but definitely before expiry of 180 days from the date of entry into India.

Children below 16 years are exempted from Registration formalities.

**CAUTION:** The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act bans all forms of wildlife trade. Violations of the provisions of the Act are punishable with heavy fines and imprisonment. Foreigners are therefore, advised not to buy any wildlife or wildlife products or derivatives, specially ivory articles, fur and skin articles derived from wild animals such as Shahtoosh.

**BEWARE:** Foreigners should not carry, buy, sell or use psychotropic drugs or any other narcotic substances while in India as their purchase, sale or possession is a cognisable offence.

**IMPORTANT :** Violation of visa rules, including overstay, indulging in activities other than the stated purpose of the visa, non-registration, etc. are treated very seriously and may lead to fines, debarment from future entry and even detention and imprisonment.

## **Visits to Restricted and Protected Areas**

Certain areas in India have been designated as protected or restricted areas. Entry of foreigners to such areas is limited to certain tourist locations only. For such tourist visits, special endorsements/permits are required.

### **Protected Areas**

1. Whole of Nagaland
2. Whole of Manipur
3. Whole of Mizoram
4. Whole of Arunachal Pradesh
5. Parts of Sikkim
6. Parts of Himachal Pradesh
7. Parts of Uttarakhand
8. Parts of Rajasthan
9. Parts of Jammu and Kashmir

### **Restricted Areas**

1. Whole of Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2. Parts of Sikkim

Only tourist groups, of 4 or more people, are allowed to visit Protected Areas. To obtain a Protected Area Permit, the group has to submit a letter of sponsorship from a recognized travel agency in India and also a pre-drawn itinerary together with their application. Validity of the Protected Area Permit varies from 5 days to 15 days depending on the places to be visited, so a confirmed itinerary showing duration of stay in each location is essential.

Permission to visit Restricted Areas can be given to individuals or to groups of 4 or more persons, but here also, a letter of sponsorship from a recognized travel agency in India and a confirmed, pre-drawn itinerary has to be submitted along with the application.