

Global Immigration alert

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Thailand

Thailand announces its revised visa exemption and visa on arrival policies

Executive summary

On 31 August 2026, Thailand published revisions to its visa exemption and visa on arrival (VoA) policies in the Royal Gazette. The measures will take effect on 15 September 2026. The changes revoke the previous 60-day visa exemption program, reduce the list of countries and territories eligible for visa-exempt entry, introduce a limited 15-day visa exemption program for certain nationalities and significantly restrict access to VoA.

Background

On 19 May 2026, the Thai Cabinet [approved](#), in principle, a comprehensive review of the country's visa exemption measures and entry privileges for foreign nationals to address the misuse of such privileges and strengthen national security controls.

Key developments

Effective 15 September 2026, the Thai government has implemented the following changes to its visa exemption and entry privileges framework:

- Revocation of the 60-day visa exemption previously available to nationals of 93 countries and territories for tourism, short-term work and short-term business visits.
- Reduction in the number of countries and territories whose nationals may enter Thailand without a visa for tourism purposes and stay for up to 30 days. The revised program now applies to nationals of 60 countries and territories, and includes Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece (Hellenic Republic), Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Malaysia, Maldives, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

- Under the 30-day visa exemption scheme:
 - Land border entries are limited to two entries per calendar year, except for passport holders from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.
- Introduction of a new 15-day visa exemption scheme for tourism purposes for nationals of Mauritius and Seychelles. Under this scheme, land border entries are limited to two entries per calendar year.
- Reduction in the number of countries eligible for VoA at designated immigration checkpoints from 31 to three countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus and Serbia.

Nationals of the following jurisdictions continue to qualify for visa-free entry under separate visa exemption arrangements:

- 90-day visa exemption: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and the Republic of Korea.
- 30-day visa exemption under separate bilateral arrangements: the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong SAR, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macao SAR, Mongolia, Russia, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.
- 14-day visa exemption: Cambodia and Myanmar (international airports only).

Foreign nationals who are already in Thailand under the previous 60-day visa exemption or VoA arrangements may remain in the country until the expiration of their currently authorized stay period.

Impact on employers

Employers should review the traveler's nationality, purpose of travel and intended duration of stay before confirming travel arrangements on or after 15 September 2026. As the revised visa exemption schemes are intended for tourism purposes and do not expressly cover business activities, business travelers should consider obtaining a Non-Immigrant B (Business) visa prior to entering Thailand.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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