



Chandrawat  
& Partners



# Immigration to LAOS

| A comprehensive guide

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# Immigration to Lao PDR

The immigration of the **Lao PDR (Public Democratic Republic)** is the entry into and departure from the country of Lao citizens, foreigners, aliens and stateless people, including their vehicles whose documents are duly declared in compliance with the regulations.

The immigration management of the Lao PDR is to facilitate, control, monitor and inspect the entry-departure of the Lao PDR.

Foreigners are persons holding other nationalities, including aliens and stateless people who enter into the Lao PDR for a visit, travel, work 2 performance, either official or unofficial, with a duration of stay, and for living in the Lao PDR.

The management of foreigners in the Lao PDR is the facilitation, monitoring, inspection of the movements of foreigners who come for duty performance, business operations, visits, tourism purposes or work within a specified duration, and for living in the Lao PDR.



# State Policy Towards the Immigration

The State promotes, encourages and facilitates the works of immigration and foreigner management of the Lao PDR by building up a comprehensively systematic infrastructure, and providing staff, budgets, vehicles, equipment to be used in such works in order to generate correctness, smooth, strength and modernization.

## **Principles on Activities of Immigration of the Lao PDR-**

Activities of Immigration and Foreigner Management of the Lao PDR shall comply with the following principles:

- Be in line with the constitution, laws, regulations, international treaties and conventions that the Lao PDR is a party;
- Ensure that the services are convenient, rapid, transparent and modernized;
- Manage centrally and unanimously throughout the country;
- Ensure national stability and social security, safety and order





# General Requirements of the Immigration of the Lao PDR

General requirements of individuals to enter into and depart from the Lao PDR are as follows:

- Lao citizens, aliens, foreigners and stateless people shall hold the absolutely complete and legitimate travel documents;
- Individual holding multiply legalized passports, and nationalities, shall use the passport declared at the front-end departed checkpoint or the latest checkpoint before arriving at the Lao PDR as a travel document for entering into the Lao PDR;
- Individual holding absolutely complete and legitimate passport with the entry stamp from the immigration police officer at a checkpoint or has his/her stay permit legally renewed, such passport shall be used on his/her departure from the Lao PDR;
- Individual from countries that require no immigration entry stamp on the passport shall follow the bilateral agreement or Agreement of the Government of the Lao PDR;
- In case the passport is lost or unusable, a certified document from local police and Immigration Police Department shall be presented to support the request for a new passport issuance by its embassy, consulate, then, request an exit visa from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before being able to depart from the Lao PDR.

# Prohibition

## **Prohibition of Entry into the Lao PDR**

The foreigners and stateless people who are not allowed to enter into the Lao PDR are as follows:

- Individuals whose activities have been violated against the stability, security and benefit at large of the nation, including those who have degraded and disgraced Laos;
- Individuals who have robbed or involved in intercountry robbery, act of terrorism, transnational crime, human trafficking, illegal immigration or smuggling people into and out of the Lao PDR, prostitution, prostitute trading and sexual abuse or have information on such crimes;
- Individuals who are in the prohibited list of entry into the Lao PDR; Individuals who use illegal travel documents, such as, documents of other holders, forgery, documents with some modified data, incomplete or invalid;
- Individuals who have insufficient financial status to cover the temporary stay duration in the Lao PDR; Individuals who have contagious diseases, serious chronic diseases as per the international regulations and announcements from relevant sectors.

## **Prohibition of Departure from the Lao PDR**

Individuals who are not allowed to depart from the Lao PDR are as follows:

- Individuals who have committed violation of the stability, security and benefit at large of the nation, including those who have degraded and disgraced Laos;
- Individuals who use illegal travel documents, such as, documents of other holders, forgery, documents with some modified data, incomplete or invalid;
- Individuals who are involved in criminal cases or civil cases which are still in the prosecution or fine implementing process, civil compensation has not been completed, in accordance with the proposal of the investigating-interrogating organization, the office of the public prosecutors, the people's court, relevant sectors, officials processing information or litigants.



# Visa categories

Visa categories of the Lao PDR are as follows:

- Diplomatic visa (D-A1)
- Official visa (S-A2)
- Spouse visa (SP-B3)
- Courtesy visa (C-B1)
- Tourist visa (T-B3)
- Short-term visa (NI-B3)
- Long-term visa (I-B3)
- Permanent visa (P-B3)
- Expert visa (E-B2)
- Transit visa (TR-B3)
- Business visa (NI-B2 or I-B2)
- Student visa (ST-B2)
- Media visa (M-B2)
- Labour visa (LA-B2)



In case a passport still remains valid but has no more page for visa stamp, passports of foreigners or territories that the Lao PDR has yet diplomatic or consulate relations and due to the reason diplomatic relations or national stability, the diplomatic officials or consulate officers or officers at visa-on-arrival unit will issue an attachable visa stamp page to.

## **People to be granted Multiple Entry-**

- Diplomats who have been assigned to be posted in the Lao PDR;
- Diplomats who have been assigned to be posted in the Lao PDR but have their embassies in other countries;
- People who come to perform their duties for a short period of not exceeding sixty days;
- Foreigners and stateless people who come to perform their duties in the Lao PDR for the period of more than sixty-one days and have been registered or have their identity card issued or have their stay permit card issued.

# Types of Travel Documents

- Travel documents consists of passports, border pass, temporary border pass and other substitutable travel documents.
- Passport is an intercountry travel document issued by a relevant authority of the country.
- **Border Pass is a multiple entry**- exit type of document that the relevant authorities issue to their citizens to use for border crossing at international border checkpoints, local border checkpoints and traditional border checkpoints to border-attached provinces of both countries with the scope of limit according to the bilateral agreement.
- **Temporary Border Pass is a single entry**-exit type of document that the relevant authorities issue to their citizens to use for border crossing at international border checkpoints, local border checkpoints and traditional border checkpoints to border-attached provinces of both countries with the scope of limit according to the bilateral agreement.
- Other substitutable travel document is a type of document used as a substitute of a passport, issued by relevant authorities of a country or an organization that the Lao PDR acknowledges, mainly Travel Document for stateless people, Laissez-passer, Temporary Passport and Certificate of Identity.



# Stay

## **Determination of Stay Duration**

The immigration police officers at border checkpoints are to determine the stay duration of foreigners and stateless people, based on each visa category or bilateral agreement or Government agreement.

## **Extension of Stay Duration**

Foreigners and stateless people who have been approved to stay in the Lao PDR and wish to extend their stay shall apply for the extension of stay with relevant immigration police officers before it expires. Each extension of the stay duration for each visa category is specified in separate regulations.

## **Stay Permit**

Foreigners, stateless people who come for a visit or tourism, for work or an activity performance with time limit and for living in the Lao PDR are able to stay in accordance with the approval of relevant officers of the Ministry of Public Security.

## **Accommodation**

Accommodation is a guesthouse, hotel, rented house and overnight accommodation.

## **Declaration of Stay**

Foreigners and stateless people shall declare their travel documents used to enter into the Lao PDR or their stay permit cards to the accommodation responsible people for registration in accordance with the regulations.

## **Registration of Stay**

The foreigner management police officers register the stay for the foreigners and stateless people who come to perform their tasks in the Lao PDR, by sealing each ninety-day stamp on a page of travel document.

# Issuance of Stay Permit Card

The foreigner management police officers issue the Stay Permit Cards to foreigners and stateless people who come to perform their tasks in the Lao PDR and to individuals who legally register their marriage with Lao citizens. Investors, developers of projects or concessions with the Government of the Lao PDR will receive the Stay Permit Cards with one to five-year validity and renewable.

## **Conditions for Registration and Issuance of Stay Permit Cards**

Hold passport with validity of six months or more;

Hold Spouse Visa (SP-B3);

Hold Official Visa (S-A2), Courtesy Visa (C-B1), Long-Term Visa (I-B3), Student Visa (ST-B2), Media Visa (M-B2), Expert Visa (EB2), Business Visa (NI-B2) and Labor Visa (LA-B2);

Hold proposal document from a relevant organization or company that holds domestic, foreign investment license or concession license approved by the Government of the Lao PDR.;

Hold another visa as per the agreement of the Government or hold no visas as per the bilateral agreement.

## **Abolishment of Registration and Stay Permit Card**

The registration and stay permit card of foreigners and stateless people shall be abolished in case their activities violate against the regulations and laws or are irrelevant to the specified purposes.

### **Return of Stay Permit Card**

When foreigners and stateless people completed their activity performance in the Lao PDR, the relevant organizations, projects, companies and sectors shall inform and return the stay permit cards of such people to Foreigner Management Department or provincial, municipal Public Security Headquarters or immigration police officers at border checkpoints.



# How we can help?

If clients are looking to immigrate to Laos, our team can be a valuable resource to help them navigate the complex immigration process. Here are a few ways the team can assist the client.

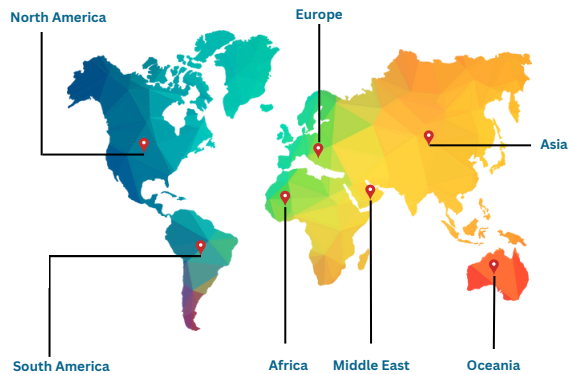
Our team can assist in preparing and submitting visa application. Our team can ensure that all necessary documents are complete, accurate, and meet the requirements of the Laos authorities.

Immigration law can be complex and our specialized law firm will have in-depth knowledge of the relevant laws, regulations, and procedures related to immigration to Laos. Our team can assess the eligibility, review documents, and provide accurate information tailored to specific circumstances.

Our team can help explore and understand the various visa options available for immigration to Laos. Our team can assess goals and qualifications and provide advice on the most suitable visa category for various situation, whether it's a short-stay visa, long-stay visa, start-up visa, or residence permit.



## SERVING CLIENTS WORLDWIDE



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Chandrawat & Partners is a leading and rapidly growing full-service firm providing high quality professional and corporate services to foreign and local clients, representing companies and individuals in a wide range of sectors through separate entities established in various countries worldwide.

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