

Immigration to Thailand

A COMPREHENSIVE
GUIDE



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SYSTEM OF IMMIGRATION

Thailand, known as the “Land of Smiles”, for years, has been attracting people from across the world with its tropical beauty, temples, ancient structures, unique cuisine and vibrant nightlife. In Thailand, expats can find a home among a large community of fellow foreigners. Moreover, it is not surprising that Thailand welcomes millions upon millions of foreign tourists and residents each year because of its low cost of living and laid-back lifestyle.

The immigration department of Thailand is responsible for managing immigration-related matters in the country. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Royal Thai Police, specifically the Immigration Bureau. Thailand has specific immigration laws and regulations that govern the entry, stay and departure of foreign nationals.

VISION

The past few years since 2001 have witnessed growing warmth, increasing economic and commercial links, exchange of high-level visits on both sides, and the signing of various agreements leading to a further intensification of relations.

RESPONSIBILITY

The department handles the issuance of various types of visas and entry permits as:

- Immigration officers are stationed at airports, seaports, and land border crossings to enforce immigration laws and regulations;
- the department plays a crucial role in maintaining the security of Thailand's borders; and
- registration and reporting.





PURPOSE OF IMMIGRATION

Employment

Individuals may immigrate to Thailand for employment purposes. This includes obtaining work permits and visas to work for a Thai company or being transferred by an international company to a branch or subsidiary in Thailand. However, regardless of the work visa, to legally work and live in Thailand, one must obtain a work permit and an extension of their stay. A person must apply for a work permit at the Department of Employment in Thailand. The work permit's validity is one year or as long as the duration of work contract.

Retirement

Thailand is a popular destination for the person who wants to retire due to its warm climate, affordable cost of living, and attractive lifestyle. They can apply for a Non-Immigrant O-A visa or a one-year extension of stay based on retirement. Thailand offers two types of retirement visas:

- The one-year Thailand retirement visa (“O-A”): It is issued to all foreigners, valid for a year, and can be renewed annually.
- The ten-year Thailand retirement visa (“O-X”): It is issued to foreigners of certain countries, valid for five years, and can be renewed once more for a maximum of ten years.



Education

People may immigrate to Thailand to pursue education at universities, colleges, or language schools. Student visas can be obtained for the duration of the educational program. Moreover, to be eligible for the student visa, one also has to:

- take at least three courses and/or;
- have at least 15 hours of classes per week.

A Thai student visa is valid for 90 days, but the student can extend his stay at the Thailand Immigration Department.

Marriage

Foreigners who are married to Thai nationals can immigrate to Thailand on a Non-Immigrant O visa or a Marriage visa. These visas allow them to stay in Thailand and eventually apply for permanent residency or citizenship. The visa is usually issued for 90 days. In order to stay long-term in Thailand after entering on a Marriage Visa, one must first obtain an extension of your stay.

OTHER IMMIGRATION ROUTES

Investment:

Foreigners who invest a certain amount of money in Thailand may be eligible for an investment visa. This includes the Thai Investment Visa (Non-Immigrant B visa) for business owners, or the Thai Elite Visa, a long-term visa program for investors, retirees, or those seeking residence in Thailand.

Family reunification:

Immediate family members of Thai citizens, such as spouses, children, or parents, can immigrate to Thailand through family reunification visas. These visas allow family members to reside in Thailand and eventually apply for permanent residency or citizenship.

Humanitarian reasons:

Individuals who are seeking asylum or protection due to political, religious, or social persecution in their home countries may apply for refugee status in Thailand. The Thai government works with international organizations to process asylum requests.





TYPES OF VISA

Thai Elite Visa

Thailand Elite Visa is a long-term visa categorized under Privilege Entry Visa allowing residency in Thailand along with benefits for a period between 5 and 20 years depending on the chosen package in exchange of a membership fee. The Elite Visa is a 5-year renewable multiple entry visa with an extendable 1-year length of stay per each entry.

Tourist Visa

This is a multiple-entry or single-entry 60-day tourist visa for Thailand that can be extended by a visa run for an additional 30 days. If a visitor wants to prolong their stay over 30 days, they can change their visa to a non-immigrant one by travelling to a nearby city or nation, such as Penang or Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Non-Immigrant Visa

Typically, this is a single-entry visa for Thailand with a 90-day validity period. A visitor can extend your stay by performing a visa run to the border or a nearby city/country, just like with the tourist visa.

One Year Non-Immigrant Visa

This visa is frequently a multiple-entry visa to Thailand, which is good for one year. Visitor's stay is limited to 90 days per entrance, thus one must visit the border every 90 days to have the visa stamped at immigration (visa run).

Marriage Visa and Retirement Visa

For these 2 visa classes, there is no direct application process. Simply getting married to a Thai citizen is enough to qualify for a marriage visa in Thailand. Otherwise, a person must be 50 years of age or older to be eligible for a retirement visa in Thailand.

Business visa

This visa is intended specifically for visitors who wish to conduct legitimate business in Thailand. The term "Non-Immigrant Business Visa" is also used. You can open a bank account and obtain a work permit, but you must still run your visa every 90 days.

Permanent Resident Visa

One must have three consecutive stays in Thailand with one-year visa extensions in order to be eligible for this visa. Five years of marriage to a Thai requires a monthly income of 30,000 Baht. A single person's monthly income should be at least 80,000 Baht.





LICENCES AND DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Tourist Visa

There are certain documents you need to apply for your visa. These documents include the following:

- A valid Indian passport or travel document with an expiry date of no less than 6 months;
- A completed visa application form.
- Round-trip air ticket or ticket to another destination.
- Proof of financial means (10,000 baht per person/20,000 baht per family)
- Proof of Hotel or private accommodation booking.

Elite Visa

The applicant/member must have and maintain to have the following qualifications:

- Holder of a foreign passport
- The applicant has no overstay record in Thailand
- Not having been adjudicated bankrupt
- Not having been declared as a person of unsound mind, incompetence, or quasi-incompetence

Non- Immigrant Visa

The applicant/member must have and maintain to have the following qualifications:

- Passport, which must be valid for at least another six months and have at least two blank visa pages. If a person is applying for a one-year visa, his passport should be valid for at least another 18 months.
- A completed and signed Thailand Visa application form. One may be able to download it from the website of the Embassy or Consulate where he is applying .
- Passport-sized picture of yourself.
- Proof of sufficient financial means to cover the duration of your stay. You need 20,000 Thai Baht if you are traveling alone and 40,000 Thai Baht if you are traveling as a family.
- Payment of the Thai Non-Immigrant Visa fee

Marriage and Retirement visa

The applicant/member must have and maintain to have the following qualifications:

- The first step is to obtain a non-immigrant visa.
- Next, convert the non-immigrant visa to either Marriage Visa or Retirement Visa.
- These are the visa types that will allow a person to stay in Thailand for the whole 1 year (renewable) without going to the border or not leaving the kingdom anymore at all.



HOW WE CAN HELP ?

We are committed to providing support and supervision to ensure a smooth and hassle-free immigration experience. Here are some of the specific services our Team offers for immigration to Thailand:

- Eligibility Assessment:

Our professionals conduct thorough eligibility assessments for clients, helping them understand their chances of obtaining a particular visa or immigration status based on their individual circumstances.

- Information and Education:

Our team provides comprehensive information and education on various immigration processes and requirements in different countries. We offer guidance on visa types, eligibility criteria, necessary documentation and processing times.

- Process Guidance:

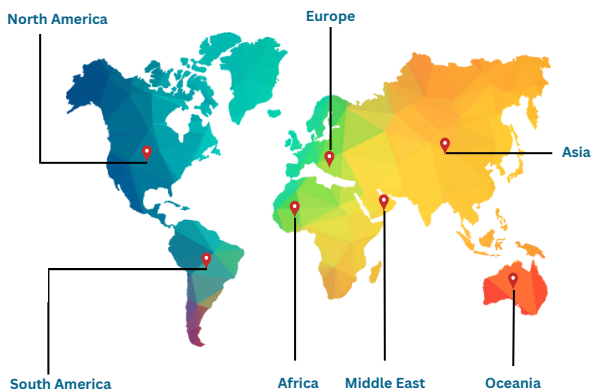
Our team offers step-by-step guidance through the immigration application process. We explain the sequence of steps, potential challenges and how to address them.

- Alternative Options:

If a client's initial immigration plan faces challenges, offer alternative immigration pathways that might be suitable for their situation.



SERVING CLIENTS WORLDWIDE



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