

**Government of India
Ministry of Tourism
Travel Trade Division**

File no. TT-202/8/2022

Dated 22.03.2022

To,

The President of
IATO, ADTOI, ATOAI, TAAI, FAITH, FHRAI, ITTA, HAI

Subject: Restoration of tourist visa and commencement of schedule commercial international flights.

Sir/Madam,

As you are aware that the Ministry of Home Affairs had earlier relaxed the restriction for all foreign nationals intended to visit India for Tourism purpose subject to the Covid related guidelines of the MoH&FW. The e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa is fully restored for all individual foreign nationals intended to visit India for tourism purpose w.e.f 15th November, 2021. Initially the e-Tourist/Tourist Visa is being issued with the validity of 30 days. Further, the Government of India has announced first 500,000 free visas to the international tourists.

2. In addition, Ministry of Home Affairs has recently issued following instructions restoring long term visa facilities which were available to tourist in past:-

i. Currently valid e-Tourist Visa issued for five years, which was suspended since March 2020, shall stand restored to nationals of 156 countries, as indicated in Annex. I to this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 30.03.2021 with immediate effect. Nationals of these 156 countries will also be eligible for issuance of fresh e-Tourist visa as per the Visa Manual, 2019

ii. Currently valid Regular (paper) Tourist Visa with validity of 5 years, issued to foreign nationals of all countries, which remained suspended since March 2020, shall stand restored. Fresh Regular (paper) Tourist visa up to 5 years validity may also be issued to the nationals of the eligible countries subject to the restrictions imposed from time to time.

iii. Currently valid old Long duration (10 years) Regular Tourist Visa which remained suspended since March, 2020 shall stand restored for the nationals of USA and Japan. Fresh Long duration (10 year) Tourist Visa can also be issued to the nationals of USA and Japan.

3. It has also been clarified that the foreign nationals on Tourist/ e- Tourist Visas may enter in to India only through designated sea immigration Check Posts (ICPs) or Airport ICPs by flights, including those under the Vande Bharat Mission or 'air bubble' scheme or by any flights as allowed by the DGCA or MoCA.

Contd/--2

4. Further, MoCA/ DCGA have also issued instruction of resumption of Scheduled International Commercial Flights with effect from 27th March, 2022 subject to strict adherence of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare guidelines for international travel" dated February 10, 2022.

5. These steps of Government of India for restoring long term visa and resumption of scheduled international commercial flight has been long awaited by the tourism industry, which has been suffering the most due to COVID pandemic. It will provide an impetus to economic recovery for the tourism sector, with borders opening for tourists. We look forward to connecting our customers to the people and places they love.

"India is ready to welcome the foreign tourists"

Your Sincerely



(Niraj Sharan)
Assistant DG (TT)

Copy to:

1. Social Media Team, Publicity Division, Ministry of Tourism