

The assignment of authorization to permit an alien who obtains an exemption visa to enter into the Kingdom of Thailand for temporary stay

The recent Royal Thai Police Orders regarding permission to stay for Aliens, effective 1 October B.E. 2549 (2006), have authorized the following changes:

1. Foreigners exempted from Tourist Visa requirements

Nationals from 36 designated countries may travel to Thailand for the purpose of tourism as frequently as they wish without a visa and will be permitted to stay for a period of not exceeding 30 days on each visit. They may, however, re-enter and stay in Thailand for a cumulative duration of stay of not exceeding 90 days within any 6 month period from the date of first entry.

The 36 countries include Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brunei, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UAE, USA, and the UK.

2. Countries with bilateral agreements on the exemption of visa requirements with Thailand

Nationals from countries which hold bilateral agreements on the exemption of visa requirements with Thailand may travel to Thailand as frequently as they wish without a visa and will be permitted to stay for either a period of not exceeding 30 or 90 days according to the respective agreement.

Laos, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Macau hold such bilateral agreements with Thailand whereby the agreed period of stay is 30 days. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Republic of Korea and Peru concluded such bilateral agreements with Thailand whereby the agreed period of stay is 90 days.

3. Foreigners with Tourist Visa

On entry into Thailand, nationals from 38 designated countries and passport holders from Hong Kong and Macau who hold a Tourist Visa will be permitted by the Immigration Officer to stay in Thailand for a period of not exceeding 60 days. As for nationals from other countries who hold a Tourist Visa, they will be permitted to stay in Thailand for a period of not exceeding 30 days. Should such nationals wish to extend their stay, they may apply for extension of stay at the Immigration Bureau for further 30 days but must not exceed the cumulative duration of 90 days from the date of first entry. The granting of extension of stay is under the discretion of the Immigration Officer (application fee 1,900 Bath).

The 38 countries and 2 special Administrative Region include Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brunei, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UAE, USA, UK, Laos, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Macau.