



Immigration News Highlights

2024-30, 23 July 2024



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

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[Americas](#)

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Americas

United States

Reminders on the Process to Promote the Unity and Stability of Families

The Department of Homeland Security announced the initiation of a process to consider parole in place requests for certain noncitizen spouses of US citizens who have resided in the US for at least 10 years. The application period will begin on 19 August 2024, and any submissions made before that date will be rejected.

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United States

US opens embassy in Vanuatu

The United States opened its embassy in Port Vila, Vanuatu. This move also signifies broader diplomatic engagement with Pacific neighbors. Diplomatic relations between the US and the Government of Vanuatu began in 1986.

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Asia Pacific



Japan

[Japan to ease entry for tourists with pre-clearance](#)

The Japanese government will introduce a pre-clearance system starting in January 2025, initially for tourists from Taiwan. This system is intended to streamline the travel experience, particularly after Japan's increasing number of visitors.

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New Zealand

[New Zealand Parent Resident Visa allows children to sponsor parents to live permanently](#)

The Parent Resident Visa allows New Zealand residents and citizens to sponsor their parents for residence in New Zealand. The process involves submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI), which may lead to an Invitation to Apply if selected. The visa costs start at NZD3180, and there is an annual limit on the number of visas that can be granted. The requirements for sponsors have changed, with new income and sponsorship criteria. The selection process for EOIs occurs through a regular ballot to reach 500 visa approvals each year. Once selected, EOIs go through a checking process, and successful applicants are invited to apply for residence.

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Oman

[Omani citizens can travel visa-free to Singapore](#)

Singapore authorities announced the lifting of visa requirements for Omani citizens, allowing them to obtain an entry card prior to arrival instead. This change allows Omani passport holders to travel visa-free to Singapore for stays of up to 30 days. In addition, Omani citizens are granted visa-free entry to 48 other countries. Omani citizens intending to travel to Singapore must submit a Singapore Arrival Card online at least three days before arrival.

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Oman

[Omanis travelling to Turkey via Iraq require a multiple entry visa](#)

Oman authorities announced that citizens traveling by road through Iraq to Turkey must obtain a multiple-entry visa for Iraq. The embassy in Iraq provided guidance on obtaining the visa, emphasizing the need for multiple-entry visas for those returning through the same road. Furthermore, Omani travelers to Turkey also need to apply for a Turkey eVisa.

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Philippines

[Foreign cruise tourists can enter Philippines without a visa](#)

The government of Philippines launched the Cruise Visa Waiver Program, exempting foreign travelers entering via cruise from needing a visa. The program allows for single-entry use and offers a maximum 14-day stay in the country. Eligible applicants, who must arrive and depart via cruise ship, are required to be handled by the Bureau of Immigration's accredited cruise tour operator and hold a passport valid for at least six months from their arrival date.

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United Arab Emirates

UAE hikes visa application fees for Nigerians

The UAE implemented a non-refundable visa application fee of NGN688,000 for travelers from Nigeria. This decision follows the recent lifting of the ban imposed on Nigerian nationals. Prior to the ban, the visa application fee was NGN155,000. Travelers to the UAE from Nigeria shall be required to provide a bank statement with a minimum balance of USD10,000, as well as round-trip flight tickets and proof of confirmed and paid hotel booking.

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Europe and Africa

Germany

Minimum required amount for a Blocked Bank Account increased for student visa

German authorities announced that starting from 1 September 2024, students applying for a German student visa will require a minimum of EUR11,904 in a Blocked Bank Account, an increase of 6.2 percent from the previous amount of EUR11,208. This adjustment is considered to reflect the growing living costs in Germany, and students will only be allowed to withdraw a maximum of EUR992 per month from this account.

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Italy

Italy opens new visa application center in Indonesia

Italy has opened a new Visa Application Centre in Jakarta, Indonesia, to streamline the visa application process for Indonesian and foreign nationals residing in Indonesia or East Timor.

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Portugal

Portugal to start issuing 10-Year valid passports

Portugal has decided to extend the validity of its passport from five to ten years as part of the "More simplification, less bureaucracy" program. Additionally, the electronic passport with biometric information is the standard type issued, with various other passport types available for different purposes. The decision to extend the passport validity period comes as authorities issued four million passports from 2019 to 2023.

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South Africa

Extension of visa concessions to foreign nationals

South Africa's Minister of Home Affairs extended temporary visa concessions until 31 December 2024 to protect foreign nationals dealing with delays in processing their visas, waivers, and appeals. This move aims to address the backlog of visa. The extension also outlines specific considerations for different visa categories and instructions for those wishing to abandon their applications or travel.

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South Africa

South Africa introduces 5-year multiple entry visas for Nigeria business travelers

South Africa has implemented a five-year multiple entry visa for business individuals, aiming to foster travel between South Africa and Nigeria. Consul-General of South Africa to Nigeria, revealed this development during a sponsored Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce July 2024 Meeting.

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