

Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2023



China Mainland

China Mainland eases travel restrictions and reinstates certain visa-free policies

Executive summary

Effective 15 March 2023, the Chinese authorities lifted the ban on entry for individuals holding valid Chinese visas issued before 28 March 2020 and reinstated certain visa-free policies which were suspended following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also resumed the issuance of visas to foreign nationals traveling to China Mainland for tourism or medical treatment.

Key developments

The authorities in China Mainland as well as their embassies in multiple countries announced that the following changes went into effect on 15 March 2023:

- ▶ Foreign nationals who hold valid visas issued by China Mainland before 28 March 2020 can once again enter China Mainland.
- ▶ Eligible individuals can resume applying for port visas (i.e., visas on arrival).
- ▶ Certain visa-free policies have been reinstated, including visa-free entry to Hainan for nationals of 59 jurisdictions, 15-day visa-free travel for foreign tourists entering by cruise via Shanghai ports, visa-free entry to Guangdong for foreign tourist groups arriving from Hong Kong or Macau, and visa-free entry to Guilin (of the Guangxi Autonomous Region) for foreign tourist groups arriving from ASEAN jurisdictions.
- ▶ Foreign nationals who seek to travel to China Mainland for tourism or medical treatment can resume applying for visas for these purposes.

Impact on employers

These developments may benefit employers by enhancing the speed of deployment of their impacted employees to China Mainland for assignment, employment or business purposes and simplify the immigration process for these individuals' dependents.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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