

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2023



Malaysia

New, simplified immigration initiatives under the new Visa Liberalization Plan

Executive summary

Effective 1 December 2023, Malaysia implemented the Visa Liberalization Plan, which introduced several initiatives to attract foreign nationals and generate national income.

Key developments

Under the Visa Liberalization Plan, the following initiatives went into effect on 1 December 2023:

- ▶ Until 31 December 2024, Indian and Chinese nationals who seek to enter Malaysia for up to 30 days for purposes other than work or study (e.g., business or tourism) will not require an entry visa. These individuals will be granted a Social Visit Pass (SVP) upon arrival, which cannot be renewed. Those who seek to stay for a period exceeding 30 days may apply for a Long-Term SVP (LTSVP) prior to travel. Indian and Chinese nationals who visit Malaysia for work or study purposes must continue to obtain a valid visa prior to travel. LTSVPs cannot be renewed.
- ▶ Until 31 December 2026, SVPs issued to residents or nationals of the following jurisdictions, who require a visa to enter Malaysia, will be valid for up to 30 days (up from 14 days previously): Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (Certificate of Identity holders), Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria and Rwanda. Further, until 31 December 2026, all entry visas, including Single-Entry Visas and Multiple-Entry Visas, will remain valid for up to six months (up from three months previously).
- ▶ Individuals who require a visa to enter Malaysia and seek to transit via the country for Umrah purposes are now

eligible to obtain an Umrah Transit Visa, which will enable them to stay in Malaysia for up to seven days. These individuals must submit applications for Umrah Transit Visas via travel agencies registered with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture. Previously, these individuals could not exit the airport in Malaysia when transiting through the country.

- ▶ Students who are nationals of the following countries and completed their bachelor's degree or above at an institution of higher learning in Malaysia are now eligible to apply for LTSVPs: Australia, Bahrain, Brunei, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States. Holders of LTSVPs can travel within and reside in Malaysia for up to 12 months, study, work part-time in certain sectors and sponsor dependents. Individuals who meet the relevant criteria must submit applications to the Malaysian Immigration Department headquarters.

Impact on employers

The Visa Liberalization Plan will benefit employers by streamlining the entry of business visitors and providing access to a larger pool of foreign talent.

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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