

Immigration Guide

Myanmar



Entry Visa

All foreign nationals are required to obtain a visa appropriate for their purpose of visit to enter Myanmar. Citizens of certain countries are eligible to apply for a visa on arrival at designated immigration checkpoints. However, it is advisable to obtain a visa in advance of travel.

Business Visitor

Foreigners entering Myanmar as a Business Visitor for business related activities such as attending business meetings will require a Business Visa.

Business Visa - Single and Multiple Journey Entry

A Business Visa (Single Entry) is valid for three months. Foreigners who enter with a Business Visa will be granted a stay of 70 days from the date of arrival.

A Business Visa (Multiple Journey Entry Visa), which is also available, is considered on a case by case basis. To be eligible for a Multiple Journey Entry Visa with a six-month validity, the foreigner must have travelled to Myanmar at least three times with Business Visas within a year. The validity of a Multiple Journey Entry Visa ranges from three months to a maximum of one year, subject to approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The period of stay in Myanmar granted with a Multiple Journey Entry Visa is 70 days from the date of arrival.

An extension of stay may be applied for within Myanmar prior to expiry of the duration granted.

Work Authorisation

A foreigner working in Myanmar will require a Stay Permit. The Stay Permit allows the foreigner to work for three months or one year without re-entry to Myanmar. A Stay Permit, together with a valid Multiple Journey Special Re-Entry Visa allows a foreigner to work, whilst travelling in and out of Myanmar. Holders of a Multiple Journey Special Re-Entry Visa must also have a valid Stay Permit.

For foreigners employed by companies set up under the Myanmar Foreign Investment Law (MFIL), the concept of a Work Permit has recently been introduced and will also be required along with the Stay Permit and Multiple Journey Special Re-entry Visa in order to work in Myanmar.

Application Process and Documentation Requirements

A Business Visa can be applied for via a Myanmar Embassy or Consulate in the applicant's country of residence. An original signed invitation letter and recommendation letter, in addition to other supporting documents such as a copy of the passport details page, passport size photos, etc., are required for the application. The applicant must bring along all the required supporting documents when travelling if he/she wishes to obtain a visa on arrival. However, it is highly advisable to obtain the visa in advance of travel as additional documentation may be requested at the discretion of immigration authorities to secure the visa on arrival.

For foreigners seeking to work in Myanmar, a number of supporting documents are required for the applications for Stay Permit and Multiple Journey Special Re-entry Visa. They include, but are not limited to, a copy of the passport, photos, curriculum vitae, cover letter from the sponsoring company, authorisation letter notarised and legalised by the Myanmar Embassy or Consulate in the applicant's country of residence, along with a number of company documents including the certificate of registration, permit, company affidavit, and recommendation letter from the respective authority. The authorisation letter may take several weeks to be obtained; hence, it is advisable to take this into consideration and plan well ahead of the move to Myanmar.

Similar requirements will apply for foreigners employed by companies set up under the MFIL to obtain the necessary Work Permit, Stay Permit, and Multiple Journey Special Re-entry Visa.

Timeline

The processing time for the Business Visa will vary depending on the country where the application is submitted. Applicants are advised to check with the Embassy or Consulate in the relevant country.

The processing time for a Stay Permit and Multiple Journey Special Re-entry Visa is approximately 7 working days following submission to the Myanmar immigration authorities. Although, gathering of the required supporting documents and obtaining the recommendation letter from the relevant authority may take several weeks.

Additional Points to Note

Though there is no restriction on the number of expatriate employees, foreigners cannot be appointed as directors in companies formed under the Companies Act and owned by Myanmar citizens. In addition, the employment of foreigners as experts, technicians, managers, general managers or managing agents in companies established under the MFIL must be approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission.

Contact

This Guide is intended to provide a general overview of the immigration requirements and options for foreigners seeking to reside and work in Myanmar.

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