

## Russian Visa

Foreign citizens (except for citizens of Belorussia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Tadzhikistan, Kirghizia) visiting Russian Federation need an entry Visa valid for the entire period of stay. Documents - passport and visa - are subject to passport control on entrance to and departure from the Russian Federation. You also required to hand back the originals of your documents when checking in at the hotel, getting on the train / plane, and embarkation aboard ships on both domestic and international lines.

There are several types of Russian visas: tourist visa, business visa, student visa, employment visa, personal visa, transit visa - each type corresponds to the purpose of visit; there are other types of visas such as: diplomatic visas, visas for officials and their family members and so on.

Russian visas are also categorised according to the number of entries (single entry visa or a multiple visa) and the period of stay (from several days up to few years). During the stay foreigners may combine purposes for their visit. Visitors may combine a business trip with a tourist trip or family visit. Visitors may not work or be paid a salary on the territory of the Russian Federation.

A Russian visa is issued by the Russian embassy or consulate in the country of your residence (citizenship) on presentation of a Letter of Invitation (visa support letter) issued by a travel agency registered as a tourist company in Russia (hotel) and authorized in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) with the official reference number.

To obtain a Russian visa the following documents must be presented to the Consular Service Department of the Russian Embassy:

- a completed application form – for a tourist visa; please specify “tourism” as a purpose of your visit
- national passport which should be valid for at least 6 months beyond intended stay and should contain at least two blank pages for the Russian visa
- 3 x 4 cm or 1,5 x 2 inch size photo
- Visa support letter: confirmation and tourist voucher; Russian embassy reserves the right to require the original of your visa support letter.

Additional documents may be required for persons travelling from : Algeria, Angola, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Jordan, India, Iraq, Iran, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ruanda, Syria, Somalia, Chad, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Turkey, Georgia and others.

Consular fee is to be paid at the Consular Service Department of the Russian Embassy; the amount to pay varies for each country and also depends on processing period for a visa.

In accordance with Russian law each foreign citizen staying at a hotel on the territory of the Russian Federation must register his/ her visa within 24 hours of arrival. When checking into the hotel each guest must provide his/ her passport, a valid visa / migration card (filled in on the plane / train or when going through passport control). On receipt of these documents the hotel fills in the arrival notice and registers each guest's visa with the Passport and Visa Service (PVS) of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs. The hotel must issue the arrival notice (or its copy) approved by PVS to each guest within 24 hours of his /her arrival at the hotel. The guest must give the original arrival notice back to the reception desk when checking out.

Violation of visa regulations, for example, loss of visa or departure out of Russia after expiration date of the Visa could be a subject to fine and could possibly cause complications on passport control.

It is recommended that all delegates carry a copy of the first page of their passports Russian Visa / immigration card with them at all times when on Russian territory..