

Saudi Arabia Visa for Indians - New Rules, Types, Prices & Process

Saudi Arabia has become an increasingly popular destination for Indian travellers, whether for work, tourism, business, or pilgrimage. With updated regulations, varied visa types, and streamlined procedures, obtaining a Saudi visa has become more accessible than ever for Indians. Here's a comprehensive guide to understanding the new rules, visa types, associated costs, and step-by-step procedures to apply for a Saudi visa as an Indian citizen. Saudi Arabia has become an increasingly popular destination for Indian travellers, whether for work, tourism, business, or pilgrimage. With updated regulations, varied visa types, and streamlined procedures, obtaining a Saudi visa has become more accessible than ever for Indians. Here's a comprehensive guide to understanding the new rules, visa types, associated costs, and step-by-step procedures to apply for a Saudi visa as an Indian citizen.

New Visa Rules for Saudi Arabia

The following recent changes in Saudi Arabia's visa policies aim to encourage more tourism and simplify the visa process:

- **E-visa Options:** Saudi Arabia now offers e-visas for tourists, making it easier for travellers to apply for and receive their visas online. This feature is especially helpful for Indian travellers who previously had to wait in long queues or apply in person.
- **Longer Validity Periods:** The Kingdom now offers visas with extended validity, allowing travellers to stay longer within the country based on their visa type and purpose.
- **Simplified Umrah Visas:** For those travelling for Umrah (pilgrimage), the visa process has been relaxed. There are now specific Umrah visas separate from the Hajj, allowing Muslims from India to visit Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage with fewer restrictions and a faster application process.
- **Multiple-Entry Visas for Business:** For business travellers, Saudi Arabia now offers multiple-entry visas that allow travellers to enter and exit the country several times within a stipulated period, catering to those with frequent travel requirements.

These updated rules regarding Saudi Arabia visa for Indians offer more flexibility and accessibility, making the country a much more attractive travel destination.

Types of Saudi Arabia Visas for Indians

Saudi Arabia issues several visa types based on the purpose of travel, and each type has its own cost, validity, and document requirements.

- **Tourist Visa:** This visa allows Indian citizens to explore Saudi Arabia for leisure, cultural, or religious tourism (excluding Hajj). Typically valid for 1 year with multiple entries, each stay can last up to 90 days. Documents required include a valid passport, visa application, [travel online insurance](#), and proof of financial resources.
- **Business Visa:** Issued for official work, meetings, trade shows, or business conferences. Business visas can be single or multiple-entry, with validity ranging from 3 months to 1 year. Supporting documents usually include a letter of invitation from a Saudi company, passport copies, and visa application forms.
- **Visit Visa:** Intended for Indians visiting family or friends residing in Saudi Arabia. These can be single or multiple-entry visas, usually valid for 3 months, with an option to extend under certain conditions. Proof of relationship, such as family certificates or sponsorship letters from Saudi residents, is mandatory.
- **Work Visa:** Issued to Indian citizens who have secured employment in Saudi Arabia. This visa requires a confirmed job offer and employer sponsorship. The validity matches the employment contract, generally 1–2 years, and can be extended. Additional requirements include medical clearance and attested educational or professional documents.
- **Hajj and Umrah Visa:** Specifically for religious purposes, these visas are only valid during the pilgrimage period and cannot be used for other travel. Applicants need a confirmed Hajj/Umrah package, passport, and vaccination certificates.
- **Student Visa:** Issued to Indians enrolling in Saudi educational institutions. Validity depends on the duration of the course and enrollment status. Students must provide an admission letter, visa application, and passport.
- **Residence Visa (Iqama):** This visa is for Indians intending to stay long-term in Saudi Arabia, usually for work or family reunification. After entering Saudi Arabia, the resident must obtain an Iqama, which serves as the legal residence permit.

What is the processing time of Saudi Arabia visa from India?

Processing time varies by visa type. Generally:

- Tourist and visit visas: 4–7 working days.
- Work and residence visas: 2–3 weeks due to additional approvals, medical tests, and document attestation.
- Hajj/Umrah visas: Can take longer depending on the season and quota availability.

It is advisable to apply well in advance to avoid delays, especially during peak travel seasons such as Hajj, Ramadan, or major business events. Delays can occur if the application is incomplete or documents are missing.

Top Reasons Your Saudi Arabia Visa Can Get Rejected

Even minor mistakes can result in visa denial. Common reasons include:

- Incomplete Application Form: Leaving sections blank or providing incorrect details can lead to instant rejection.
- Incorrect or Missing Documents: Expired passports, missing invitation letters, or improperly attested documents are frequent causes of denial.
- Passport Issues: Passports with less than six months' validity or physical damage, like torn pages, often result in rejection.
- Previous Visa Violations: If you overstayed a previous visa or violated visa regulations in Saudi Arabia, the new application may be denied.
- Medical Test Failures: Required for work or residence visas, failure in mandatory medical exams can block visa issuance.
- Security Concerns: Applications may be rejected if your name matches restricted lists or if there are concerns regarding your criminal background.
- Financial Insufficiency: Failing to provide proof of sufficient funds, especially for tourist or visit visas, can result in rejection.
- Mismatch in Purpose of Travel: Using a tourist visa for work or other unauthorised purposes is a common reason for denial.

Ensuring that every form, document, and requirement is correctly submitted significantly increases the chances of approval.

Saudi Arabia Visa Fees for Indians

The cost of a Saudi Arabia visa for Indians varies based on the type and duration:

- **Tourist Visa:** Approximately ₹8,000 to ₹12,000 for a single-entry e-visa, while a multiple-entry tourist visa can range from ₹14,000 to ₹20,000.
- **Work Visa:** Costs vary widely and can range from ₹20,000 to ₹35,000 depending on the specific work requirements and length of employment.
- **Business Visa:** Fees generally range between ₹15,000 and ₹25,000, depending on whether it's a single or multiple-entry visa.
- **Umrah Visa:** While the visa itself may be free, travellers are typically responsible for the service and processing fees, which can amount to ₹5,000 to ₹10,000.
- **Family Visit Visa:** Fees for family visit visas range from ₹8,000 to ₹15,000 based on entry type and duration of stay.

Process for Applying for a Saudi Visa as an Indian Citizen

Identify the Right Visa Type

Choose the visa category that best suits your travel purpose. The Saudi embassy provides detailed descriptions of each visa type, allowing applicants to select the appropriate option.

Gather Necessary Documentation

The required documents typically include:

- A valid passport with at least six months' validity.
- Recent passport-sized photos.
- Completed visa application form.
- Proof of sufficient funds (bank statements) for travel.
- Confirmation of travel itinerary and accommodation details.
- Invitation letters for business, work, or family visit visas.

Additional documents may be required based on the visa type and purpose.

Submit Application

- For e-Visas: Apply directly on the official Saudi e-visa portal, where you can fill out the application form, upload documents, and pay the visa fee online.
- For Other Visa Types: Visit the Saudi consulate or a visa processing center. Submit your documents, complete biometric requirements, and make payments as instructed.

Wait for Approval

Processing times vary based on the visa type:

- E-visas: Processed within 2-3 business days.
- Work and Business visas: Typically take 1-2 weeks.
- Umrah visas: Usually processed within 5-7 days, particularly outside the peak season.

Receive and Verify Visa

Once approved, you will receive your visa electronically or on your passport, depending on the application type. Double-check all details, including name, entry type, validity, and permitted length of stay.