# **OBTAINING AN EMERGENCY VISA TO VIETNAM**

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a country located in Southeast Asia, and is known for its beaches, rivers, and Buddhist pagodas, among many other monuments to their longstanding cultural heritage. This article will help you understand the process of applying for an emergency visa to Vietnam.

[**IMPORTANT:** Services that offer urgent or super-urgent visas to Vietnam usually process applications on working days, within two to four hours. It is in your best interests to apply for a speedy visa on any day that is neither a weekend nor a national/international holiday.]

It is important to understand the distinction between the types of visas available before looking up suggestions on how to obtain an emergency visa for Vietnam. The first classification is a tourist visa, applicable to those that are visiting Vietnam for holiday or vacation tour purposes. ON a tourist visa, a traveler can stay in the country for a duration of fifteen to thirty days normally.

Applying for an urgent tourist visa to Vietnam on a weekday usually takes about two to four hours of processing on a working day. Submitting the forms before 10 AM is considered a morning request, and is processed and concluded before 12 PM, while submissions closer to 1 PM are considered afternoon requests and closed around 3 PM to 5 PM.

The other kind of visa obtainable is a business visa. A business visa to Vietnam is considered a short stay visa by the government, and enables the holder to stay up to a maximum duration of twelve months within the country. While tourist visa applications can be expedited to within a single working day, the quickest way to avail an emergency business visa to Vietnam takes a usual minimum of two days, excluding weekends and national/international holidays, excepting special scenarios.

Apart from paying a service fee for processing your Vietnam visa, a visa stamping fee needs to be paid in cash at the visa counter present in the landing airport; this depends upon your duration of stay in the country, and your number of entries. Here is a comprehensive table of the same (fee amount is per person):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stamping Fee** | **Duration of stay** | **Number of entries** |
| $25 | Less than 90 days | Single |
| $50 | 30 to 90 days | Multiple |
| $95 | 90 to 180 days | Multiple |
| $135 | One year | Multiple |

While the above details are the outline of application processing behind requiring an emergency visa to Vietnam, there are some specifics to consider when it comes to emergency visa applications.

## **Rate differentiation between urgent and emergency visas:**

For instance, below are comprehensive tables for visiting Vietnam from India on both urgent/super-urgent tourist and business visas:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TYPES**  **OF**  **VISA** | **SERVICE FEE** | | | **STAMPING FEE** |
| **NORMAL PROCESSING** **(24-48 working hours)** | **URGENT** **(4-8 working hours)** | **EMERGENCY** **(1-4 working hours)** |
| 1-month single | $12/pax | +$19/pax | +$49/pax | $25/pax |
| 1-month multi | $15/pax | +$19/pax | +$49/pax | $50/pax |
| 3 months single | $29/pax | +$39/pax | +$69/pax | $25/pax |
| 3 months multi | $39/pax | +$39/pax | +$69/pax | $50/pax |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TYPES**  **OF**  **VISA** | **SERVICE FEE** | | | **STAMPING FEE** |
| **NORMAL PROCESSING** **(3-4 working days)** | **URGENT** **(4-8 working hours)** | **EMERGENCY** **(1-4 working hours)** |
| 1-month single | $90/pax | +$69 $/pax | +$89/pax | $25/pax |
| 1-month multi | $95/pax | +$69 $/pax | +$89/pax | $50/pax |
| 3 months single | $115/pax | +$69 $/pax | +$89/pax | $25/pax |
| 3 months multi | $130/pax | +$69 $/pax | +$89/pax | $50/pax |

Apart from the increase in service fees when applying for an urgent/emergency visa, private approval of your letters will include a $10 increase per each letter being approved privately.

It is always advisable to go for an emergency visa over an urgent visa, despite the increase in service fee, as the worst reliable situation you can land in by applying for an emergency visa is half as worse as when applying for an urgent visa. But, the decision to be made depends on the amount of time you have before you are in definitive need of a visa to Vietnam.

The terms “normal”, “urgent”, and “emergency” processing have been defined as such:

* Normal: to obtain a Vietnam visa within 24 to 48 hours on working days
* Urgent: to obtain a Vietnam visa within 1 to 4 hours on working days
* Emergency: to obtain a Vietnam visa within 30 minutes, or be delivered in-flight.

Apart from these, another category that exists is the “Penalty” category. Your visa will be classified under this category should you forget to apply for a visa in advance, but would like to land in Vietnam on a weekend or a national holiday. This service is expected to take thirty minutes to process a visa, with customer guidance being provided at the airport.

## **Visa on Arrival in Vietnam:**

Visa on Arrival (VoA) in Vietnam, if available, can be availed by showing the immigration authorities your letter of approval of VoA, and the visa is consequently stamped onto your passport. This service is accessible at the following airports:

1. Noi Bai Airport (Hanoi)
2. Da Nang Airport (Da Nang City)
3. Tan Son Nhat Airport (Ho Chi Minh City)
4. Cam Ranh Airport (Nha Trang City)
5. Cat Bi airport (Hai Phong City)
6. Lien Khuong Airport (Da Lat)
7. Can Tho Airport (Can Tho)
8. Phu Quoc Airport (Phu Quoc)

For a pre-approval letter for Visa on Arrival\*, there is a tabulation of the fees you are required to pay to the processing committee and the stamping authorities separately. This is tabulated as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of entry** | **Stay duration** | **Within 1 day** | **Within 4h** | **Stamping day** |
| Single | 1 month | $10 | $10 | $25 |
| Multiple | 1 month | $10 | $10 | $50 |
| Single | 3 months | $10 | $10 | $25 |
| Multiple | 3 months | $10 | $10 | $50 |

**\*NOTE**: The fee table does not apply to citizens of the following restricted nations: ALL AFRICAN NATIONALITY GROUPS; ALGERIA, MONGOLIA, BHUTAN , BAHRAIN, KUWAIT, GAMBIA, JORDAN, MOROCCO, OMAN, NEPAL, KENYA, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, TUNISIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, YEMEN, TIMOR-LESTE, NAMIBIA, and MALAWI.

## **Is there anything else I need to look out for?**

Apart from travel and/or personal emergencies, there are usually no other emergencies to look out for in relevance to emergency visas to Vietnam. As stated above, the rates depend heavily upon what kind of visa you require, and how fast. The worst that can happen to you is a penalty fee for not obtaining a visa in time, and getting your papers processed on location at a Vietnamese airport.

While it is generally recommended that you ensure your travel papers are with you well beforehand planning a trip to Vietnam, recommendations are not solutions in times of emergencies, unlike this article. Various officials are available throughout the chain of command, ready to help you take care of your emergency; there is no reason to panic in times like those. Apart from them, privileges such as personal VIP detail and airport fast tracking can be obtained to ensure that no such emergency repeats, ensuring a smoother course of travel throughout your journey.

Vietnam is much more than just a Southeast Asian country; it is a land rich in cultural and spiritual heritage, and in historic landmarks as well. And such a perfect destination requires the perfect tourist plan, with a perfect mitigation strategy should an emergency rear its head.