



Australian Embassy Bangkok
Visa and Immigration Office

APPLYING FOR A VISITOR VISA - TOURIST STREAM
Subclass 600

IMPORTANT CHANGES 23 MARCH 2013

There are important changes to the Australia's Visitor visa arrangements occurring from 23 March 2013. Under these new arrangements, currently existing visitor and business visitor visa subclasses will be simplified and replaced by new visa categories that will better reflect the purpose of the visits. General Information about these changes is available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/visitor/>

The new visa subclass for a Visitor Visa is Subclass 600.

Note: Persons who hold a visa issued before 23 March 2013 will continue to be able to use that visa until it expires or is cancelled.

Who should apply for a Visitor Visa Tourist Stream, Subclass 600 visa?

A Visitor Visa Tourist Stream is for applicants to visit Australia for a holiday or recreation, or to visit family and friends. This visa may also be used for other short-term **non-work** purposes including study for less than three months.

I am taking my family with me; can they be included in my application?

You cannot include your family as dependants on your application; they must apply for a visa in their own right and pay the applicable Visa Application Charge (VAC).

What if I want repeat visits and long stays in Australia?

This visa is designed only to allow temporary travel to Australia for tourism purposes or to visit family and friends. It cannot be used for long-term stays or residence. To be eligible for a further Tourist visa in the future, you must maintain extended periods of time outside of Australia.

If you would like to migrate or spend longer periods in Australia, you should explore more appropriate visa options which may be more suitable.

For more information please visit: <http://www.immi.gov.au/migrants/>

How much will this visa cost?

There is an application charge for this visa. This will not be refunded if your application is unsuccessful, or if you decide to withdraw your application after you have lodged it. The application charge covers you and all family members included in your application. **See:** <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/990i/990i-charges.htm>

Where do I lodge my application?

All applications should be lodged at:

Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC)
VFS Thailand

people our business

Floor 34, Thai CC Tower
889 South Sathorn Road
Bangkok (next to Surasak BTS Station)
Further information on the Australian Visa Application Centre is available at www.vfs-au.net

What happens after I have lodged my application with the Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC)?

Once you have lodged your application with AVAC, it is forwarded to the Australian Embassy in Bangkok. AVAC issues you with a receipt of your payment and tracking number so you can track your application.

Who will assess my application and how long will it take?

The time taken for applications to be assessed fluctuates based on the number of applications received at any one time by the department.

For all Visitor Visa Tourist Stream visa applications lodged through our **Service Delivery Partner**, AVAC, the current service standard is **10 working days**.

All visa applications not lodged through our Service Delivery Partner, AVAC, will be processed according to the Department's Service Standards of one month.

For all Visitor Visa Tourist Stream visa applications lodged directly with the Australian Embassy Thailand by **mail/courier**, the departmental service standard is **one month**.

What will help me get my application processed faster?

As stated above all Visitor Visa Tourist Stream applications are assessed in the order they are received by this office, however you should ensure you lodge a complete visa application. A complete visa application is one that provides all the information necessary for a decision to be made.

You should ensure that you lodge a complete visa application. While the department may ask you to provide more information in order to determine whether you meet the criteria for grant of the visa, a decision on the visa application may be made solely on the information provided at the time of application.

Note: The Visa Application Charge will not be refunded if a decision is made to refuse to grant the visa because you did not satisfy the criteria for grant of the visa.

Do I need to have a health examination?

Generally, applicants for Visitor Visa Tourist Stream are not required to have a medical examination. A medical may be requested if you:

- are likely to enter a hospital or health care area, including nursing homes, for any purpose
- are over the age of 75
- present any indications you may not meet the health requirement
- wish to stay in Australia for longer than 3 months

The department uses an online health system known as eHealth to record your health examination results and conduct your health assessment. The "E Health" program requires that medical examinations be conducted only after a visa application has been validly lodged with the Embassy. Once the application is lodged, the case officer will provide you with a "Health Assessment" letter (by email, mail or fax). The Panel Doctor will need to see this

letter as part of the medical examination process and you should take the letter with you when you go to the Panel Doctor for your examination.

Medical examinations must be undertaken by a doctor from a list of approved doctors provided by the Visa and Immigration Office, Australian Embassy Bangkok. A list of these doctors is on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/t/thailand/panel-doctors.htm>

Can I ask another person to deal with the Embassy?

Australian privacy laws prevent this office from responding to enquiries from people not authorised by the applicant. This includes the person providing support to the application. If you want to authorise another person to be able to discuss your application with this office, or receive correspondence about your application, you should indicate this by using a Form 956 which must be signed by both applicant and authorised person.

Without a Form 956 we cannot talk about your case to anyone else, including your partner or family members. Please see http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/application-forms/forms_num2.htm

Application Document Checklist

This application document checklist details the information and supporting documents (personal, health and character) required to assist with the lodgement of a complete application with the department. You may also need to provide additional information and documentation after you have made your application if the department requires it.

After completing this checklist, please attach it to the front of your application.

- Form 1419 Application for a Visitor Visa – Tourist Stream to Visit Australia for tourism or other recreational activities. Please ensure that the application form is completed in English and signed by you, the applicant.
- Visa Application Charge- See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/990i/990i-charges.htm>
- A clear photocopy of your passport biodata page (the page with your photo). Your passport should be valid for the total period of your stay in Australia, or for a minimum of 6 months
- One recent passport sized photograph (45mmx35mm), no more than six months old, of you this should be of the head and shoulders only against a plain background. Print your name on the back of your photograph.
- Copy of your Thai National Identification Card
- Evidence of family (copy of House Registration Certificate), employment and other ties to your country of usual residence
- If visiting or travelling with a relative - evidence of your relationship with the person you are visiting, for example, marriage certificate(s), birth certificate(s), house registration, statement detailing the relationship, or a combination of these documents.
- Where someone is supporting your application you should provide a letter of invitation and evidence of your relationship with the person, for example: correspondence (emails, letters, messaging), telephone bills, photographs, money transfers, or evidence of their financial support.
- Evidence that you have adequate personal funds, or access to adequate funds to

support yourself (and any family members travelling with you) during the period of intended stay, for example, a current bankbook or bank statement with at least 6 months history of transactions. **If you are providing a bankbook, you must provide the original bankbook;** this will be returned to you with your passport.

- If you are employed; evidence of current employment in the form of an original letter from your employer outlining your present position, length of service, salary and period of approved leave. If you are self-employed, you need to provide evidence of business ownership such as business registration or shareholder's certificate.

Applicants under 18 years of age

- An original statement from an Amphur office (Thai Government District Office) giving permission from the non-travelling parent/s or legal guardian/s for the child to travel to Australia; **or**
- Form 1229 (available from AVAC or the immigration website www.immi.gov.au) signed by the non-travelling parent/s.

If applicable, the following should also be provided:

- A Por Kor 14 covering non-marital status of the applicant's parents and the custodial circumstances of the applicant; **or**
- if the applicant's parents were married, their divorce certificate with memorandum attached; **or**
- Court Orders stating the change of parental power over the applicant.

Applicants over 75 years of age

- Requires a health check up (see above)
- Medical insurance to cover your full stay in Australia

Other documents

- Other information to show that you have an incentive and authority to return to your home country.
- If visiting relatives or friends, a letter of invitation from your relative or friend in Australia. If your relative or friend is paying for your visit, evidence that they have the necessary funds.

Other important things to note:

- **Do not** provide original documents unless requested. You should provide 'certified copies' of original documentation.
- **Do not** book airline tickets for travel to Australia unless your visa has been granted. This office cannot assume responsibility for meeting deadlines imposed by your proposed travel arrangements.

Label free evidence of Visitor Visa – Tourist Stream

Australia's modern electronic visa system **does not** require you to have a visa label placed in your passport to confirm your immigration status and entitlements in Australia. When you check in to fly to Australia, the airline staff will electronically confirm that you have authority to travel to Australia prior to you boarding the aircraft.

The visa is linked to the passport number that you provided in your application. If you obtain a new passport after visa grant, you should advise the department of the new passport details. If you do not provide us with the details of any new passport, you may experience delays at the airport and may be denied permission to board your flight to Australia.

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