

**High Commission of India
Nairobi**

Dated: 12.10.2021

Subject: Relaxation on Visa & Travel restrictions for Foreign Tourists.

The Government of India has decided to start granting fresh **group Tourist visas** to foreigners coming to India through chartered flights **with effect from October 15, 2021**. **Individual Foreign tourists** traveling to India by flights other than chartered aircraft would be able to do so with effect from **November 15, 2021**. All COVID-19 protocols and norms notified by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare must be adhered to by the foreign tourists.

Free Tourist Visa to first 500,000 Tourists

As per the announcement from Hon'ble Finance Minister of India in July 2021, the first 500,000 Tourist Visas will be issued free of charge. The benefit of free of charge visa will be available only once per tourist during the issuance of the first 500,000 Tourist Visas.

The following points must be kept in mind while applying for the e-Visa (<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in>);

(i) Foreign nationals intending to visit India for tourism purposes will be allowed to enter into India on e-Tourist Visa/Tourist Visa through chartered flights **(for group tourism only)** from **15 October 2021**;

(ii) All individual foreign nationals intending to travel to India for tourism purposes through Vande Bharat Mission, Air Bubble Scheme or by any scheduled/ non-scheduled commercial flights as allowed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation would be permitted to enter India from **15 November 2021**.

(iii) The above mentioned foreign nationals would be required to obtain a **fresh e-Tourist/Regular Tourist Visa**. **Existing valid** e-Tourist Visa/Regular Tourist Visa continue to remain **suspended and cannot be used**. Please note that e-Tourist Visas are issued directly by Bureau of Immigration and regular tourist visas are issued by Mission or Consulates. E-Tourist Visa can be applied at: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

(iv) These e-Tourist/Regular Tourist visas would be issued for 30 days with single entry.

(v) Such foreign nationals shall be permitted to enter India by sea routes or by flights but **not through land Immigration Check Points**.

2. With this, the restrictions placed on visa and international travel stand further eased given the present overall COVID-19 situation. For more information and regular updates on travel and visa restrictions kindly visit the High Commission of India website - <https://hcinairobi.gov.in> and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare website - <https://www.mohfw.gov.in> for updated COVID-19 protocols.
