



Immigration News Highlights

2023-11, 14 March 2023





The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



Americas

Brazil

[Brazil to resume visa requirements for US, Japan, Australia, Canada](#)

Brazilian authorities shall reinstate restrictions on entry visa for citizens of the United States, Japan, Australia, and Canada. This decision will be announced publicly and communicated to the Governments of the respective countries.

[Read More](#)

Canada

[Immigrating to Canada under the Express Entry system to change](#)

The Canadian Express Entry System is set to undergo several amendments as a consequence of the Bill C19 receiving royal assent. The Comprehensive ranking System, used to analyze and rank individuals in the pool will be updated as these amendments come into effect. The new ranking system shall be based on economic goals, and factors like previous employment record, fluency in French or English, etc. shall be taken into consideration.

[Read More](#)

United States

[US CDC to lift COVID testing requirements for travelers from China](#)

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that from 10 March 2023 onwards, air passengers travelling from China, Hong Kong, and Macao would no longer be required to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test in order to get entry in the United States.

[Read More](#)

United States

[USCIS Updates Policy Guidance on Mobile Biometrics Services](#)

An updated policy guidance has been issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services explaining the mobile biometrics services provided and the process for collecting biometrics of the requestors in remote locations.

[Read More](#)

United States

Processing times for passports are increasing

As per the recent time frames posted on the website of U.S. State Department, the Processing times for passports in United States have increased, and applicants are advised to apply minimum four to six months prior to their planned travel. Routine services and expedited services can take 8 – 11 weeks and 5 – 7 weeks respectively in processing between application submission and passport receipt by the applicant.

[Read More](#)



Asia Pacific

China

China to fully reopen borders to foreigners

China will allow all categories of visas to be issued for the first time in three years since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, effective 15 March 2023. Areas that did not issue visas prior to the pandemic will revert back to offering visa free entry, including the cities of Hainan, Guangdong, and all ports in Shanghai.

[Read More](#)

India

India restores e-Visa services for Saudi nationals with immediate effect

Indian authorities announced the restoration of e-Visa facility for Saudi Arabian nationals, effective immediately. The facility of e-Visa has been restored in all the five visa sub-categories: e-tourist visa, e-business visa, e-medical visa, e-medical attendant visa & e-conference visa.

[Read More](#)

Kuwait

Kuwait opens door to long-term expat residence with major visa announcement

The Kuwaiti Public Manpower Authority (PAM) announced their plans for making amendments in rules for expats aged over 60 with educational qualifications of a higher secondary degree or lower. These expats will be allowed to transfer their residence to the private sector.

[Read More](#)

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabi Simplifies Visa Requirements for Residents of Gulf Countries

The application process for the Saudi Arabian tourist visa has been simplified for the residents of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. The visa fee is US\$80 (300 SAR) and upon approval, the documents shall directly be mailed to the applicant. The applicants are required to have GCC residency permit with minimum of three months' validity and a passport valid for at least six months.

[Read More](#)

Taiwan

Requirement of Polio vaccination for some foreign national travelers

The authorities in Taiwan have made it mandatory for travelers from certain foreign nationals to be vaccinated against polio in order to enter or exit Taiwan, and are required to submit the vaccination proof for the same. Nationals of Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Israel, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Pakistan shall be subjected to the new rule.

[Read More](#)



Europe and Africa

European Union

EU Council Approves Visa-Free Entry for Kosovo Citizens From 1 January 2024

The Council of European Union has approved visa-free entry for citizens of Kosovo effective 1 January 2024. The changes will allow Kosovo nationals to travel to EU countries for a stay period of 90 days within a period of 180 days.

[Read More](#)

Netherlands

Dutch Immigration Centre in Zevenaar Now Accepts Family Reunification Applications

The family members travelling for the family reunification can apply after arriving at the Netherlands at Immigration and Naturalization service (IND) in Zevenaar instead of Ter Apel, effective 6 March 2023. The decision is taken to reduce the burden on Ter Apel's application center.

[Read More](#)

Portugal

Portugal to Freeze Golden Visa Applications Made After February 16

As per the authorities in Portugal, all the applications made for Portugal's Golden Visa after 16 February 2023 will be frozen. The announcement was made in accord to the official abolishment of Portugal's Golden Visa scheme in February 2023.

[Read More](#)

United Kingdom

UAE, other GCC countries first to get UK's new ETA scheme

The authorities in United Kingdom announced that the visitors from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and Jordan would get the benefits from new Electronic Travel Authorization scheme first. As per the officials, Qatari visitors will be the initial group to be allowed to apply for an ETA in October 2023. The scheme will be expanded globally in 2024.

[Read More](#)



Thomas Wolf
Head of KPMG's Global
Immigration Network
T: +49 30 530 199-300
E: twolf@kpmg-law.com

[social.kpmg](#)



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

© 2023 Copyright owned by one or more of the KPMG International entities. KPMG International entities provide no services to clients. All rights reserved.

KPMG is a global organization of independent professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. KPMG is the brand under which the member firms of KPMG International Limited ("KPMG International") operate and provide professional services. "KPMG" is used to refer to individual member firms within the KPMG organization or to one or more member firms collectively.

KPMG firms operate in 143 countries and territories with more than 265,000 partners and employees working in member firms around the world. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such. Each KPMG member firm is responsible for its own obligations and liabilities. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG International Limited and its related entities do not provide services to clients. For more detail about our structure, please visit <https://kpmg.com/xx/en/home/misc/governance.html>.