



Australia's visa arrangements for tourists and visitors

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Department of Home Affairs
Australian Embassy, Bangkok

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Home Affairs brings together Australia's federal law enforcement, national and transport security, criminal justice, emergency management, multicultural affairs and immigration and border-related functions, working together to keep Australia safe

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Australian Embassy Bangkok

- The Temporary Entry processing team assesses Visitor visas, Temporary work and Student visa applications
- The Family migration team assesses Partner and Child migration applications and Citizenship by descent applications
- Refugee and Humanitarian program
- Mekong Enforcement and Engagement Unit – program integrity checks and capacity building

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Visitor visa

- Interest from Thai visitors to Australia continues to grow
 - 59,000 finalised in Bangkok in 2017-18
 - 6% increase since 2016-17
- February, March, April and September are our busiest months for Visitor visa processing in Bangkok
- There are many different types of visas
- Use Visa Finder to determine the most beneficial for your client www.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas

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Visitor visa (subclass 600) – Tourist stream

- For tourism activities: holiday or visit family and friends
- Cannot undertake business activities
- Conditions may vary:
 - Single or multiple entry
 - Stay period typically three months
 - Validity typically three or twelve months (but can be up to three years)
- Permits study in Australia for up to three months
- Parents of Australian citizens or permanent residents can request a longer period of stay (up to 12 months) and validity (up to three years)

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Tourist stream – supporting documents

- Evidence of employment (if any)
- Evidence of funds
- Evidence of support (financial, accommodation)
- Evidence of relationship with the supporter (friend, relative, partner)
- Consent for minor travelling without a parent
- Any other evidence (e.g. evidence of intended activity)
- Decision may be made on the documents submitted at time of application – no further request for information

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Visitor visa (subclass 600) – Business stream

- For business visitor activities only
- Cannot work, provide services or sell goods to the public
- Conditions may vary:
 - Single or multiple entry
 - Stay period typically three months
 - Validity typically three or twelve months (up to 3 years)
- Permits study in Australia for up to three months

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Business stream – supporting documents

- Evidence of employment (if any)
- Evidence of funds
- Evidence of support (financial, accommodation)
- Evidence of the activity or event and/or invitation
- Decision may be made on the documents submitted at time of application – no further request for information

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Transiting Australia

- Some passengers can transit Australia without applying for a visa, only if:
 - entering Australia by aircraft
 - holding confirmed onward booking within 8 hours of arrival
 - holding valid travel documents for onward destination
 - not leaving airport transit area (that is, luggage has been checked through to final destination); and
 - have an eligible passport
 - **includes Thailand**
 - immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/transit-771/travellers-eligible-to-transit-without-visa

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Transiting Australia

If not eligible for transit without visa, must apply for a visa:

- Transit visa (subclass 771)
- This visa allows the holder to transit through Australia
- No longer than 72 hours transit
- Permitted to leave the airport lounge
- Online lodgement only including required documents:
 - Complete online form
 - Confirmed onward booking
 - Correct documentation to enter a third country (e.g. visa)
- For transit longer than 72 hours > Visitor visa

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Online lodgement

- All temporary visas processed by Home Affairs in Bangkok can be applied for online
- Agents can lodge an application on behalf of applicant using ImmiAccount www.homeaffairs.gov.au/immiaccount
- All supporting documentation must be scanned and uploaded
- Biometrics must be provided at an AVAC (operated by VFS Global)
- Payment is made by credit card in Australian Dollars
- If travelling as a group, lodge online as a group

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Online lodgement

- Mandatory online lodgement for Visitor visas is coming soon – likely mid 2019 (to be confirmed)
- Approximately 80 per cent of Visitor visas are already lodged online
- Clients will no longer be able to lodge paper based applications through VFS

Paper lodgement

Australian Visa Application Centres (AVAC) in Thailand are operated by VFS Global.

Applications may be lodged by appointment

Two convenient locations:

- **Bangkok:** Trendy Office Building (28th Floor); Sukhumvit Soi 13
- **Chiang Mai:** Siriphanich, 191 Huaykaew Road
- Phone: 02 118 7100 and email: info.dibpth@vfshelpline.com
- Website: www.vfsglobal.com/Australia/Thailand

Biometrics

- Most visa applicants in Thailand must provide their biometrics (face photo and fingerprints)
- This is done in person at an AVAC (in Bangkok or Chiang Mai) operated by VFS Global
- Applicant must bring their passport
- For applications lodged online, the applicant will be sent an email, which they then take to an AVAC
- Applicants must make an appointment
- VFS service fees apply
- **If Biometrics are not provided within 14 days of lodgement, the application will be refused**
- Reasonable requests for extensions may be considered via email to immigration.bangkok@dfat.gov.au

Health and Character

- All applicants must meet Australia's health requirements
 - Checks needed depend on visa type, stay period, purpose of stay and existing health conditions
 - The case officer will advise clients what checks are required
- Everyone who wants to enter Australia must be of good character and will be assessed against the character requirement.
 - Always encourage applicants to declare past conduct, any criminal record

Updating client details and checking visa status

- Prior to visa decision:
 - Online lodgements: via ImmiAccount
 - Paper lodgements: email immigration.bangkok@dfat.gov.au
- After visa decision:
 - For online lodgements: via ImmiAccount
 - For paper lodgements: submit Form 929 to 929@homeaffairs.gov.au
- Check visa conditions, validity and stay periods using Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO): immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/check-conditions-online

Global visa processing times

Visa types	Stream	75% of applications processed in
600 Visitor	Tourist	16 days
600 Visitor	Business	9 days
771 Transit	Transit	9 days

*The above statistics are current as at 19 December 2018 (for month ending November 2018)

- Allow more time during peak periods, such as Songkran

Reminders

- Songkran peak – apply early!
- Mandatory online lodgement is coming soon
- Provide Biometrics as soon as possible - if not provided within 14 days, application will be refused
- Applicants should include all that they want considered in their application. Decisions may be made without further requests for information
- If you want to contact the Department on behalf of a visa applicant, you must have their consent – use **Form 956 or 956A**

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More information

- Home Affairs (all visa information)
 - immi.homeaffairs.gov.au
- Australian Embassy Thailand – visas and migration
 - thailand.embassy.gov.au/bkok/Visas_and_Migration.html
- Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC) (operated by VFS Global)
 - www.vfsglobal.com/Australia/Thailand
- Bangkok immigration office email
 - immigration.bangkok@dfat.gov.au
 - Urgent processing requests (compelling or compassionate reasons)
 - Updating client details prior to visa decision
 - Responding to requests for information
 - Where an error has been identified
 - We will not respond to emails if the enquiry is answered by our website FAQs

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Questions



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