



High Commission of India Kuala Lumpur

Indian nationals getting stranded in Malaysia

The Government of Malaysia has a visa-free entry facility for Indian nationals. Under this scheme, Indian passport holders are permitted entry without a visa for up to 30 days per visit, subject to fulfillment of prescribed conditions. The visa free entry is not meant for entering Malaysia for the purposes of employment.

2. The guidelines issued by the Malaysian Government to avail visa free entry into Malaysia by Indian passport holders are as follows:

- i. The passport must have minimum validity of six (6) months;
- ii. Confirmed Return Flight Tickets;
- iii. Confirmed Hotel Booking; and
- iv. Compulsory online submission of the Malaysia Digital Arrival Card (MDAC) within three (3) days before the arrival date. The online MDAC forms for international travellers are available via <https://imigresen-online.imi.gov.my/mdac/main>

3. There have been instances where Indian nationals did not meet the stipulated conditions for visa free entry as given in the para-2 above. Such individuals are denied entry into Malaysia after their arrival at the Malaysian airports. Thereafter, the concerned airline that brings such individuals to the Malaysian airport, is obligated to return them to the point of their embarkation.

4. A significant number of these cases involve Indian nationals who are ECR (Emigration Check Required) passport holders, who are invariably misled with false promises of employment by unscrupulous agents in India and Malaysia. The majority of the affected individuals are unskilled/semi-skilled labourers and

hail from several states in India including Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

5. Following issues of concern have come to the notice of High Commission:

- Indian nationals travelling under the pretext of tourism but intending to look for employment are often denied entry on arrival. Those who manage to enter the country, often overstay beyond 30 days and thus declared “illegal”.
- Entry is also refused to those Indian nationals who are genuine tourists but fail to provide valid documentation, including return tickets, proof of accommodation, and financial means.

6. It has been observed that unscrupulous agents in India and Malaysia are enticing a large number of Indian nationals with the prospects of employment and arrange their travel to Malaysia on tourist visa to get free entry and stay for 30 days. Such individuals become illegal after expiry of 30 days and thus are vulnerable to various forms of exploitation locally. They are also subjected to detention, imprisonment and associated legal actions by Malaysian enforcement agencies.

7. In view of the above, Protector of Emigrants (POE) and BOI Offices are requested to take following steps:

A. Advisory and Pre-Departure Scrutiny:

- All POE offices are requested to issue public advisories in local language and exercise strict scrutiny of Indian nationals, especially ECR passport holders, departing to Malaysia especially from Trichy, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Cochin, Bengaluru and Jalandhar international airports.

B. Pre-Departure Assessment by BOI Officials:

BOI officials is requested to conduct thorough interviews of ECR passport holders (particularly first-time travellers) on:

- Purpose and duration of visit

- Confirmation of return ticket
- Source and confirmation of accommodation
- Identity and contact details of any travel agent involved
- Proof of sufficient funds for the entire duration of stay

C. Identification and Reporting of Unscrupulous Agents:

- Passengers deceived by agents should be encouraged to provide full details of such agents. Information may be compiled and shared with State and Central government authorities for appropriate action.

D. Awareness and Sensitization:

- State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh are requested to initiate extensive awareness campaigns by disseminating correct travel procedures and risks associated with misuse of visa-free entry to Malaysia for employment purpose.

8. The relevant guidelines are available on the the High Commission's website <https://hcikl.gov.in> and may be used for reference and public awareness.

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