



Consulate General of India
Melbourne

Dated: 14th October 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Resumption of Tourist Visas w.e.f. 15.10.2021 for Group Tourists and 15.11.2021 for individual Tourists (First 500,000 Tourist Visas to be issued on Gratis basis)

In view of improved COVID-19 situation in India, Government of India has decided to commence issuing Tourist Visas. **The first 500,000 Tourist visas would be issued free of charge.**

More details on tourist visas are as follows:

(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 **15th 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, Government of India would be permitted to enter India from **15th November 2021;**

(iii) All such desirous foreign nationals would be required to obtain a fresh e-Tourist/Regular Tourist Visa from Bureau of Immigration or Mission/Consulate. Please note that e-Tourist Visas are issued directly by Bureau of Immigration and also can be applied at: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

Regular Tourist visa can be applied through VFS only at:

<https://services.vfsglobal.com/aus/en/ind>

In case of Regular Tourist Visa applications lodged through VFS, the applicant will have to bear VFS Service Fee and any other charges, as applicable.

(iv) Existing valid e-Tourist Visas/Regular Tourist visas issued before 15th Oct, 2021 will remain suspended. All foreign tourists will have to seek fresh tourist visas.

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

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

(vii) The first 500,000 tourist visas would be issued on 'Gratis' basis and admissible **only once per tourist**.

2. Foreign nationals desirous to visit India for tourism purposes are encouraged to apply for Tourist visas as per above guidelines.
