



Thailand Tightens Visa Exemption Rules to Curb Abuse and Attract Quality Visitors

Effective from 14 November 2025, the Thai government will implement significant and long-term changes to its visa exemption policies. The revised framework is designed to attract so-called “quality visitors”—including highly skilled professionals, genuine retirees, and high-spending tourists—while strengthening enforcement against crime and the misuse of tourist visa exemptions by individuals residing in Thailand unlawfully.

These changes mark a clear policy shift away from tolerance of repeated short-term entries and toward stricter immigration compliance.

Stricter Limits on Visa-Exempt Entries

The new policy directly impacts travellers who previously relied on frequent exit-and-re-entry practices under the visa exemption scheme.

Air arrivals:

Recent guidance indicates that visa-exempt entry by air will be limited to two (2) entries per calendar year. Depending on nationality, eligible travellers may still receive a stay of 30, 60, or 90 days per entry, but repeated arrivals will be closely scrutinised.

Land border crossings:

Entry via land borders—such as from Myanmar, Laos, or Malaysia—will be subject to even tighter controls. Travellers are generally permitted no more than two (2) land-border entries per year, often

with a 15-day stay granted. Same-day exit and re-entry are considered high-risk behaviour and may result in refusal of entry.

Enhanced documentation requirements:

Immigration officers are required to verify that entrants are genuine tourists. Travellers must be prepared to present:

- An onward or return flight ticket,
- Proof of sufficient financial means for the intended stay, and
- Confirmation of hotel or alternative accommodation bookings.

Failure to provide adequate documentation may lead to denial of entry, even where visa exemption would otherwise apply.

With these changes, long-term stays in Thailand through repeated visa exemptions are no longer viable. Foreign nationals intending to enter Thailand more than twice per year should apply for a visa that accurately reflects the purpose of their stay via the Thai e-Visa official website (www.thaievisa.go.th) prior to travel.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us via info@bgloballaw.com

