



Global Immigration alert

October 2024

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka reinstates ETA two months after suspending the e-Visa system

Executive summary

Effective 27 September 2024, Sri Lanka reinstated its Electronic Travel Authorization ([ETA](#)) system for all short-term visitors, two months after suspending its new e-Visa system.

Background

In April 2024, Sri Lanka replaced its ETA portal, which was operated by local agencies, with a new e-Visa portal, which was managed by several third parties. The e-Visa portal was suspended on 2 August 2024 after an order by the Supreme Court, following protests regarding increased visa costs, allegations of corruption and court complaints against government officials. During the suspension period, visitors were temporarily required to apply for a visa on arrival at a Sri Lankan airport or a pre-arrival visa at the headquarters of the Sri Lankan Department of Immigration.

Key developments

Effective 27 September 2024, all foreign nationals visiting Sri Lanka for up to 30 days for business or tourism purposes must apply for an ETA prior to entry. ETA holders can stay in Sri Lanka for up to 30 days initially and apply to extend their authorized stay period for up to five additional months. Visitors can no longer apply for a physical visa or visa on arrival.

The Supreme Court is expected to continue hearing the case regarding the e-Visa portal in October 2024. The Sri Lankan authorities may update the admission requirements further based on the Court's orders.

Impact on employers

Employers may inform employees of this development and support them with completing relevant formalities and obtaining necessary documents to mitigate business disruptions.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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