

Global Immigration alert

July 2025

Kenya

Updated Electronic Travel Authorization eligibility criteria

Executive summary

Kenya recently updated the list of foreign nationals who are exempt from the requirement to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) prior to admission to Kenya.

Background

The eTA portal is a semi-automated system that determines foreign nationals' eligibility and provides them authorization to travel to Kenya. Possessing an eTA does not guarantee entry into Kenya. Admissibility will be determined at the point of entry. Historically, permanent residents of Kenya, holders of valid Kenyan work permits and passes, and foreign nationals with passports endorsed with valid Kenya re-entry passes have been exempt from the eTA requirement. Additionally, nationals of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa), Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda are also exempt from the eTA requirement for stays of up to 180 days.

Key developments

Following the recent change, nationals of the following countries are now exempt from the eTA requirement for stays of up to 90 days: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei, Comoros, Cyprus, Dominica, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malaysia, Maldives, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), Samoa, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In addition, nationals of the following countries are now exempt from the eTA requirement for stays of up to 60 days: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sudan, Togo and Tunisia.

Foreign nationals seeking to transit through Kenya without leaving the airport or ship during their layover, members of international flight and ship crews and owners of private aircrafts stopping over for refueling are now also exempt from the eTA requirement.

Impact on employers

Companies that employ impacted individuals will benefit from the updated rules, which are expected to reduce the time and cost associated with impacted individuals' international travel for business and work.

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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EYG no. 005718-25GbI

2101-3682263
ED None

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