



Immigration News Highlights

2023-15, 11 April 2023



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



Americas

Colombia

Colombia launches a digital nomad visa

Colombian authorities have launched a digital nomad visa. In order to be eligible for the visa, one would have to belong to a country that is exempt from needing a short-stay visa in Colombia, would have to possess a valid passport, proof of presence of employment in home country, and a minimum income level of COP3 million.

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United States

Employers may file H-2B petitions for FY 2023 late second half returning workers

The USCIS announced the opening of supplemental cap H2-B applications for workers for the latter half of the fiscal year of 2023. The applications will be open for the employment start dates from 15 May 2023 to 30 September 2023.

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United States

Regulations under Exchange Visitor Program modified for Ukrainian students

The US authorities announced the waiver and modification of regulations under the Exchange VISITOR Program for Ukrainian students holding a J-1 non-immigrant visa. Qualifying students will be exempted from the compulsory requirement of a “full course of study,” and shall be allowed to pursue work on or off-campus for more than 20 hours a week and for longer than 12 months.

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Asia Pacific

Japan

[Japanese electronic visas to be made available to more countries](#)

The government of Japan has expanded the availability of the Japanese electronic tourist visa for more countries, including South Africa, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, and Taiwan. Nationals of these countries can submit their tourist visa applications on the Japanese eVisa website.

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Japan

[Japan starts visa waiver procedures for Qatari passport holders](#)

Japanese authorities announced the commencement of the visa waiver procedures for passport holders of the State of Qatar. For the same, eligible individuals will be required to submit their passport along with the passport registration application form to any Japanese diplomatic mission. The passport should be valid for more than six months.

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Pakistan

[Government to give Pakistanis work visas for employment abroad](#)

The government of Pakistan has entered into agreements with at least fifty countries, including Saudi Arabia, where one million Pakistani workers will be issued work permits to find employment in these countries. The measure was taken to tackle the employment crisis in Pakistan.

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Singapore

[COMPASS system updated](#)

The government of Singapore has updated the COMPASS (Complimentary Assessment) points based system used for issuing Employment Passes (EP). The changes will enter into effect 1 September 2023 onwards. EP applications will be assessed across four main categories- salary, qualifications, diversity and support for local employment.

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United Arab Emirates

[UAE launches 'one-touch' Golden Visa service](#)

UAE simplified the application process for a golden visa by launching the One Touch Golden Visa service. The service is meant to help applicants with their applications for the Golden Visa, issuance of visas under other categories, naturalization of status, issuance of residency or identity and the renewal procedures for all these.

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United Arab Emirates

[New entry permit fees for 10-year residency applicants announced](#)

The government of the United Arab Emirates increased the entry permit fees for applicants to the country's Golden Visa with a validity period of 10 years. The current charge of AED1,250 will include an issuance fee of AED1,000, an application fee of AED100, a fee for smart services of AED100, a fee of AED28 for electronic services, and AED22 for ICP.

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Europe and Africa

Egypt

[Visa-on-arrival made available for Indians travelling to Egypt](#)

Egyptian authorities announced their decision to offer visa-on-arrival for Indian travelers. The visa will have a validity of 30 days from the date of arrival.

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Netherlands

[Passengers can now reserve a time slot for security check](#)

Dutch authorities announced the launch of services for passengers enabling them to reserve a time slot for security checks at the Schiphol airport. The reservation can be made free of charge, and up to three days prior to the date of departure.

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South Africa

[South Africa to extend the validity period of certain visas and waiver applications](#)

The South African government has extended the period for foreign nationals to renew their visas or visa waivers in order to continue staying in the country. Individuals with pending applications in lieu of the same have received an automatic extension of stay until 31 December 2023.

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Switzerland

[Switzerland to ease work permit procedures for third-country citizens](#)

Swiss authorities will now be subjecting individuals from third countries to easier work permit procedures. Several measures have been implemented which would reduce the administrative hurdles for those wishing to obtain a work permit in the country.

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