



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-36, 5 September 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

### Brazil

[Visa waivers extended for US, Canada, and Australia](#)

Brazil's new government has indicated its intentions to resume the requirement of entry visas for citizens of the US, Canada, and Australia. According to the current government, plans were put in place to allow for the resumption of entry visa applications on 1 October 2023.

[Read More](#)



## Asia Pacific

### China

[China removes pre-entry COVID-19 testing](#)

The government of China announced that individuals no longer need to undergo pre-entry COVID-19 nucleic acid or antigen testing while travelling to China. This change is expected to bring the tourism market back to its pre-pandemic levels by the first half of next year, with a noticeable increase in the number of large-scale inbound tourists.

[Read More](#)

## Indonesia

### [New Indonesia golden visa program launched for foreign investors](#)

The government of Indonesia has recently introduced the Indonesia golden visa program, with the intention of attracting foreign investors. This program is offered to both individuals and corporations, granting them a special visa to stay in the country for a period of five to ten years. The main objective behind this initiative is to stimulate the country's economy.

[Read More](#)

## Indonesia

### [Indonesia updates the list of countries of visa-on-arrival \(VoA\) and e-VoA holders](#)

The immigration department in Indonesia has recently revised the countries eligible for electronic e-VoA for tourists, government officials, and business travelers. The e-VoA can be utilized for purposes such as tourism, official visits, business meetings, shopping, meetings, and transit. Visitors are allowed to stay in Indonesia for a period of 30 days, and this can be extended for another 30 days.

[Read More](#)

## Singapore

### [Singapore opens door wider to foreign workers at hotels, restaurants](#)

The Singapore Ministry of Manpower has expanded the eligibility criteria for work permits to people from Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand for occupations such as hotel housekeepers, porters, Indian restaurant cooks, and metal workers. Previously, work permits were only granted to residents of Malaysia, mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, South Korea, and Taiwan. In addition to work permits, Singapore also has programs such as the employment pass for foreign professionals and the S pass for skilled workers.

[Read More](#)

## South Korea

### [Korea Visa Application Centers start operations in Chennai and Bengaluru](#)

The Republic of Korea's Consulate General in Chennai have inaugurated visa application centers in Chennai and Bengaluru from 1 September 2023, to improve ease of use for travelers in the area.

[Read More](#)

## South Korea

### [South Korea to waive visa fee for Chinese tourists, increase flights between countries](#)

The government of South Korea announced measures to eliminate visa processing fees for Chinese tourists until the end of December and enhance air travel between the two nations.

Chinese nationals are still required to obtain a tourist visa for South Korea, but this new initiative would exempt them from paying the visa fee of approximately US\$13.60.

[Read More](#)



## Europe and Africa

---

### Bulgaria

#### Bulgaria working to facilitate migration process for highly qualified foreign specialists

The Bulgarian government announced that the Bulgarian authorities are collaborating to simplify the process of hiring highly qualified foreign specialists. Additionally, the ministry of internal affairs, labor and social policy, foreign affairs, and innovation and growth have increased their efforts to streamline this process.

[Read More](#)

### Finland

#### Finnish embassy in Moscow to handle all visa & immigration matters following consulate general in St. Petersburg closure

The Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that their general consulate in St. Petersburg will no longer provide visa application customer service from 1 September 2023. Individuals can schedule appointments for visa application and residence permit identification. However, due to limited resources, there will be reduced availability of time for both processes, namely submitting visa applications and completing residence permit identification.

[Read More](#)

### Finland

#### Finland increases prices for some documents issued by its embassies and Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Finnish government has announced that there will be a price increase for certain official services offered by the country's embassies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland has stated that the decision to raise prices was authorized by the government's finance committee on 31 August 2023.

[Read More](#)

### Finland

#### Finland restricts residence & movement in some areas for safety purposes

The Finnish authorities have announced that for safety concerns, they will be implementing residence and movement limitations in specific locations. They have provided an explanation stating that a total of 102 locations have been included in the list where restrictions on residence and movement will be enforced. Out of these, 33 are airports, and 69 are major transportation hubs.

[Read More](#)

## Norway

### Norway to close its embassy in Mali by the end of 2023

Norwegian officials have informed that their embassy in Bamako, the capital city of Mali, will be shut down by the end of this year. The decision has been made by Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs due to safety concerns. The move comes after the UN Security Council decided to conclude the UN Operation MINUSMA by the end of 2023.

[Read More](#)

## Uganda

### Government issues fresh guidelines for Ugandans visiting visa free countries

The government of Uganda has released new guidelines for trips to countries that have a visa-free agreement with Uganda. These guidelines aim to address the increasing difficulties faced by Ugandan citizens when visiting these countries. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has stated that all travelers now must have confirmed hotel reservations in the destination country, a letter from their host, and a return ticket before leaving Uganda.

[Read More](#)



**Thomas Wolf**  
Head of KPMG's Global  
Immigration Network  
T: +49 30 530 199-300  
E: [twolf@kpmg-law.com](mailto:twolf@kpmg-law.com)

[social.kpmg](#)



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

© 2023 Copyright owned by one or more of the KPMG International entities. KPMG International entities provide no services to clients. All rights reserved.

KPMG is a global organization of independent professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. KPMG is the brand under which the member firms of KPMG International Limited ("KPMG International") operate and provide professional services. "KPMG" is used to refer to individual member firms within the KPMG organization or to one or more member firms collectively.

KPMG firms operate in 143 countries and territories with more than 265,000 partners and employees working in member firms around the world. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such. Each KPMG member firm is responsible for its own obligations and liabilities. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG International Limited and its related entities do not provide services to clients. For more detail about our structure, please visit <https://kpmg.com/xx/en/home/misc/governance.html>.

