RESTRICTED AND PROTECTED AREAS.

Special Permits:-

Under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958, certain areas in the country have been declared as Protected Areas. Further some areas have been declared as Restricted Areas under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963. The part of the State of Jammu & Kashmir falling between the ‘Inner-Line’ and the International Border has been declared as a Protected Area under the Foreigners (Protected Area) Order, 1958.

As per the instruction contained in Chapter 18 of the Visa Manual para 18.1. (4), no foreigner except a citizen of Bhutan can enter or stay in the protected areas of the State without obtaining a permit from the Ministry of Home Affairs and District Magistrate, Leh. However, groups consisting of two or more persons sponsored by a recognized travel agent and to be accompanied by an authorized representative of a recognized travel agent who would act as the escort to the group, with a pre-drawn itinerary, can be allowed to visit the following places on identified tour circuits by the Ministry of Home Affairs and District Magistrate, Leh. The visit to all the places in each Sub-Division together shall be limited to the requisite minimum period, which should not exceed seven (7) days:

i)  **Khaltsi Sub Division (Droka Area)**
Khaltsi-Domkhar-Skurbuchan-Hanudo-Baima-Dha.

ii) **Nubra Sub Division**
- a) Leh-Khurdungla-Khalsar-Tirit up to Panamik.
- b) Leh-Khurdungla-Khalsar-Hunder-Turtuk-Pachathang -Tyakshi.
- c) Leh-Saboo-Digarla-Digar Labab-Khungru Gompa-Tanyakar (Only for trekking)

iii) **Nyoma Sub Division.**
- a) Leh-Upshi-Chumathang-Mahey-Puga-Tsomoriri Lake/Korzok .
- b) Leh-Upshi-Chumathang-Mahey up to Loma Bend
- c) Leh-Upshi-Debring-Puga-Tsomoriri Lake/Korzok.
- d) Leh-Kharu-Changla-Durbuk-Lukung-Spangmik – Man-Merak (Pangong Lake)

It is obligatory on the part of the tourist, tour operators and other agencies concerned with the organised tours to ensure that the tourist travel on the identified circuit only.
Leh- Manali Road may also be kept open to foreigners during the period between 15th July and 15th October subject to the following stipulations:-

a) The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh shall provide the necessary infrastructure. There should at least be a minimum police presence in the area to keep a watch on the foreigners in the area.
b) Tours to be organised by recognised travel agents only who will ensure that such groups do not split and are confined to the specified mode of conveyance viz. Jeep, matador, etc. By attaching their representative to the groups.

**Important Note:-**

It has been specially provided in para (5) (i) and (ii) of the Visa Manual that the Ministry of Home Affairs is the only competent authority to grant Protected Area Permit (PAP) in favour of the foreigners holding Diplomatic/Official Passport and to the citizen of following countries:-

1. Afghanistan
2. China
3. Pakistan
4. Myanmar
5. Foreign nationals of Pakistani origin.
   The above foreigners should need to approach Ministry of Home Affairs at least eight weeks before the date of the expected visit.

**INSTRUCTION FOR TRAVEL AGENTS/ TOUR OPERATORS/GUEST HOUSES:-**

1. Travel agents/tour operators shall ensure that the tourist groups sponsored by them are in possession of valid Restricted/Protected Areas Permit.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the travel agents/ tour operators to ensure that the tourist groups do not go to places other than the ones that are permitted and also ensure that they do not stay there after the expiry of the valid period.
3. Owners of the guest house/hotels must ensure that only foreigners with valid Restricted/Protected Area Permit stay with them. It is mandatory for the guest houses/hotels and also individuals to inform the local police about the arrival/departure of a foreigner within 24 hours if a foreigner stay with them.
4. Action such as black listing, suspending/ cancelling of licenses etc. will be taken against those who do not follow the above instructions under the Foreigners Act, 1946.
GENERAL INSTRUCTION:-

Possession of travel documents:- Every foreigner entering India must, under the provisions of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, and the Rules made there under, be in possession of a valid national passport or any other internationally recognized travel document establishing his/ her nationality and identity and bearing:-
   a) his/her photograph, and
   b) a valid visa for India granted by an authorized Indian representative abroad.

CATEGORIES OF VISA:-

Whenever a visa is granted to a foreigners an indication of the purpose of visit should be made in the visa endorsement. This can be done by indicating the specified letter for different categories of visa in the appropriate space provided in the visa sticker as indicated below:-

Diplomatic- D
Other Officials/Miscellaneous:- O
Entry Visa-X
UN Official-UD
Transit Visa-TR
Tourist Visa-T
Employment Visa-E
Student Visa-S
Journalist Visa-J
Business Visa-B
Missionary Visa-M
Mountaineering Visa-MX
Conference/Seminars Visa-C
Research Visa-R
Medical Visa-MED
Medical Attendant Visa- MED X
Universal Visa-U (for OCI Card holders)
Project Visa-P

NOTE:-

1. To visit places which has been declared as Restricted / Protected Areas, prior approval of Ministry of External Affairs required by the foreign diplomats and members of the United Nations and international Organisations holding Diplomatic (D) /Official (O) or UN Official (UD) visa/passport.
2. A foreign journalist, TV cameraperson etc. Including a foreign journalist already based in Indian (having Visa Type J), who desires to visit a restricted/ protected area or areas affected by terrorism, militancy or extremism etc. should be advised to apply through Ministry of External Affairs (External Publicity Division) of special permit giving full particulars, inter alia, of the purpose and the date of the proposed visit. These applications will be
processed in consultation with the agencies concerned and a permit may be issued or authorized by Ministry of Home Affairs.
The above foreigners indicated in note 1 and 2 shall apply for special permit from Ministry of External Affairs on the blow prescribed form:-
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs
(a) Request for special permit (for protected areas)
(Application to be submitted in duplicate)

1. Name of applicant (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) ____________________________
   (in capital letters with surname underlined)

2. Father’s/ Mother’s name ________________________________

3. Father’s/Mother’s nationality ______________________________

4. Surname at birth; if different ______________________________

5. Place & Date of birth (Name of Town & Country)________________________

6. Nationality:
   a) Present ____________________________________________
   b) Past, if different & till which date ________________________
   c) Reason for change _____________________________________

7. Occupation ____________________________________________

8. Permanent Address ______________________________________

9. Mailing Address in India, if any ____________________________

10. Reference:
    a) In country of applicant _________________________________
    b) India________________________________________________

11. Passport details: -
    Number ________________________________________________
    Issued by _____________________________________________
    At____________________________________________________
Valid upto _______________________________

12. Details of visa for India, if any obtained:
   Issued by ___________________________________________
   Number ____________________________________________
   At _________________________________________________
   Valid upto ________________________________________

13. Places proposed to visit __________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________

14. Route intended to be followed _________________________________________

15. Purpose of visit _____________________________________________________

16. Likely date of visit ___________________________________________________

17. Likely duration of visit _______________________________________________

18. Is any one accompanying the applicant? ________________________________
   If so, please give details ______________________________________________

19. Arrangements for travel and accommodation that may have been made
    ___________________________________________________________________

20. Details of previous visit to India _________________________________________

21. Whether previously visited any restricted/protected areas in India? ________
   If so, please give details of the places visited and the date of visit
   _____________________________________________________________________

22. Has any earlier request for permit been refused? __________________________
   if so, please furnish details ____________________________________________

   **DECLARATION**

The information given above is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.
Place________________________

Date:- _______________________  (Signature of Applicant)

Note:-

1. This application is to be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.
2. It is advisable to make the applicant at least eight weeks ahead of the
date of the proposed visit.
3. Application outside India are expected to route their application through
the nearest Indian Diplomatic or Consular Mission.
(b) Application for special permit (for restricted areas)  
(Application to be submitted in duplicate)

1. Name of applicant(Mr./Mrs. /Ms.)

2. Nationality

3. Occupation
(if Government employee, appointment held)

4. a) Address in India, if any
b) Address abroad

5. Passport Number
Dated
Place of Issue
Valid upto

6. a) Place(s) within the restricted area proposed to visit
b) Address of stay in the restricted areas

7. Period of proposed visit: From to

8. a) Route intended to be followed while entering /leaving restricted areas
b) Mode of journey

9. Purpose of visit

10. Whether applied for a permit to visit restricted or inner line areas before?
If so, details thereof. Also indicate whether permit was granted and for what period

11. Address to which permit, if granted, is to be sent

12. For Pakistani nationals only:
   a) Parentage
   b) Place of birth
   c) Date of birth

Signature of applicant
INSTRUCTION FOR NEPALI AND BHUTANESE CITIZENS:-

(1) Identity documents required for citizens of Nepal and Bhutan for travelling to India.

a) A citizen of Nepal or Bhutan entering India by land or air over the Nepal or the Bhutan border does not require a passport or visa for entry into India.

b) A citizen of Nepal when entering India over the Indo-Nepal border by air is, however, required to be in possession of any one of the following identity documents to establish his/her identity.
   i) Nepalese Passport.
   ii) Nepalese Citizenship Certificate.
   iii) Voter Identification Card issued by the Election Commission of Nepal.
   iv) Limited validity Photo-identity certificate issued by Royal Nepalese Mission in India when deemed necessary.
   v) For children between the age group of 10-18 photo ID issued by the Principal of the School, if accompanied by parents having valid travel documents. No such document is required for the children below the age group of 10 years.

c) A citizen of Nepal is required to be in possession of a Passport when entering India from a place other than Nepal.

d) A citizen of Nepal also requires a visa for Indian if he/she is entering India from China.

e) A citizen of Bhutan while travelling by between Bhutan and India, is however, required to be in possession of any one of the following identity documents to establish his/her identity.
   i) Bhutanese Passport.
   ii) Bhutanese Citizenship Certificate.
   iii) Voter Identification Card issued by the Election Commission of Bhutan.
   iv) Limited validity Photo-identity certificate issued by Royal Bhutanese Mission in India when deemed necessary.
   v) For children’s between the age group of 10-18 photo ID issued by the Principal of the School, if accompanied by parents having valid travel documents. No such document is required for the children below the age group of 10 years.
   vi) A citizen of Bhutan must be in possession of a Passport when entering India from a place other than Bhutan.
   vii) A citizen of Bhutan also requires a visa for Indian if he/she is entering India from China.