

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 (Drokpa Area)**
Khaltsi-Domkhar-Skurbuchan-Hanudo-Baima-Dha.

- ii) Nubra Sub Division**
 - a) Leh-Kahrdungla-Khalsar-Tirit upto Panamik.
 - b) Leh-Khardungla-Khalsar-Hunder-Turtuk-Pachathang -Tyakshi.
 - c) Leh-Saboo-Digarla-Digar Labab-Khungru Gompa-Tangyar (Only for trekking)

- iii) Nyoma Sub Division.**
 - a) Leh-Upshi-Chumathang-Mahey-Puga-Tsomoriri Lake/Korzok .
 - b) Leh-Upshi-Chumathang-Mahey upto 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 and**
- 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 below prescribed form:-

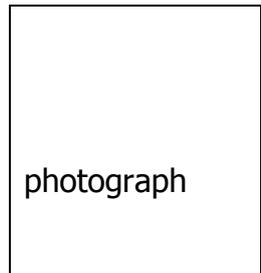
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs

(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 application at least eight weeks ahead of the date of the proposed visit.
3. Applications 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 documents 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.