

Everything You Need to Know About Russia's New E-Visas

November 12, 2020



Fourteen Russian airports will welcome e-visa holders under the new rules. **Alexander Avilov / Moskva News Agency**

Citizens of 52 countries will be able to visit Russia with an electronic visa starting Jan. 1, 2021, according to Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's order [published](#) Wednesday.

While Russia's borders have partially reopened following a nearly total border shut-down in the spring, most foreigners are still not able to [enter](#) the country. The e-visa system is expected to boost Russia's tourism industry — which has already [lost](#) at least \$7 billion in revenue since pandemic restrictions were introduced in late March — once borders reopen.

Here is a closer look at how the e-visa program will work:

Who is eligible?

- Citizens of 52 countries, including EU member states, China, India, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Japan.

- E-visa holders can enter Russia for tourism, business and humanitarian activities as well as for private reasons such as visits to Russian relatives or friends.

How to get it?

- Eligible visitors will be able to apply for a visa on a special website administered by the Russian Foreign Ministry or through a mobile application.
- Applicants will be asked to fill out a form, upload a photo and scanned copy of their passport and pay a \$40 processing fee. Children under the age of six are exempt from the processing fee.
- E-visa applicants are not required to submit an invitation letter, proof of accommodation or ticket bookings.

How long will it take?

- Applications will be processed in no more than 4 days.
- The visas will be valid for 60 days from the day of issuance.
- A single e-visa allows foreigners to remain in Russia for up to 16 days. Visitors have to obtain a new visa each time they plan to enter Russia.

What to do at the border?

- E-visa holders can enter Russia through 29 [border crossings](#), including international airports in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Kazan, Krasnodar and Novosibirsk.
- Visitors will need to present a printed copy of their e-visa notification as well as a valid passport at border control.

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