

VISAS FOR COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN CITES COP19

| TYPE OF VISA | DEFINITION |
|---|---|
| Visa | A visa is an authorization granted to a foreigner to enter the national territory as a non-resident for a specific amount of time. It is required for citizens of countries which for reasons of migration policy need to ask for prior authorization from the National Migration Service in order to be able to enter the country. This authorization has to be obtained in the applicant's country of origin (at the Panamanian Consulate in that country) or can also be applied for by a lawyer residing in Panama. The application must meet all the requirements demanded by the Migration Authorities. If the visa is approved, the Panamanian Consulate will stamp the visa into the passport so that the person is able to travel to Panama. The foreigner needs to specify whether he/she is applying for a tourist visa (if so, specifying the intended length of stay) or an immigration visa; the Migration Authorities decide whether the visa will be granted or not and determine the duration of stay granted in Panama. |
| Requirements for entering Panama | Valid passport, proof of financial liquidity and a return ticket to the country of origin or residence when the migratory category requires it. Hence, the migratory classification made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is very important. If the person belongs to a country that may enter Panama with a stamped visa, there are two options: he/she can either apply for a visa at the Panamanian Consulate and arrive to Panama with a visa stamp already in his/her passport. If the person belongs to a country that is classified as visa only, he/she has no choice but to previously apply for the visa to be stamped at the Panamanian Consulate. In any case, he/she will need to meet further entry requirements (i.e., financial liquidity, a valid passport for at least three months and a return ticket to his/her country) |
| Visa abolition agreement | The countries in this category have signed agreements with Panama under which they are mutually exempt from any visa requirements to enter the other country. |
| Visa exemption | No visa is required for nationals of countries that appear in this category due to a unilateral decision adopted by the Panamanian Government. |

Every country that is a Party to CITES must check Annex 1¹ and determine whether its citizens require an authorized visa (*visa autorizada*) or a stamped visa (*visa estampada*) to enter Panama or whether the country is in the list of countries for which no visa is required (*supresión de visa en pasaportes ordinarios*).

Visa exemption is regulated by Executive Decree No. 521 of 6 August 2018. It establishes that foreigners who require a visa to enter the Republic of Panama and have a visa to enter Canada, the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Republic of Korea, the State of Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of Singapore and any of the States that make up the European

Union may enter the national territory of Panama as long as the visa granted by the countries mentioned above is a multiple entry visa, has been used previously in the territory of the granting State and its validity is not less **six (6) months** at the time of entering Panamanian territory.

If the participant does not have a visa issued by the abovementioned countries, he/she must verify the classification of his/her country and determine if a stamped or authorized visa is required. To apply for the visa, he/she must go personally to the closest Consulate or Embassy of Panama with his/her passport.

The following link² shows the existing Consulates and Embassies of Panama in the world.

¹ <https://www.migracion.gob.pa/images/img2021/pdf/PAISES%20CLASIFICACION%20DE%20VISAS.pdf>

² <https://mire.gob.pa/mapa-ubicacion-embajadas/>
