

Important information for Business/Work visitors to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

During a business or work visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia there are certain rules and regulations you need to be aware of in order to avoid any unexpected penalties and inconveniences.

Visa Duration

Visa validity starts from the **Issue Date** stated on the visa. You can enter the Kingdom at any time after this date as long as it is within the **Visa Duration** (e.g. 180 days). Once the visa has expired it cannot be extended and you will need to apply for a new visa in order to visit the Kingdom. The Saudi Embassy/Consulate issues two **Visa Types**, Single Entry and Multiple Entry, and six types of **Visa Duration**:

Single entry	Multiple entry				
90 days	180 days	365 days	730 days	1095 days	1825 days

N.B. Visas with 1825 days' validity are currently only issued to US and UK nationals. Visas with 1095 days' validity are currently only issued to Japanese nationals. **The Visa Duration for all visas is counted in days, not months.**



Stay Duration

Depending on the duration of the visa issued by the Embassy/Consulate, you are entitled to stay in the Kingdom for a certain number of days in each visit, starting from the date you enter the Kingdom. You must exit the Kingdom before you reach the end of the **Stay Duration**. If your **Visa Duration** is still valid, and you have a multiple entry visa, you can enter the Kingdom again to start another **Stay Duration**. You can enter the Kingdom up to the last day of the **Visa Duration** and stay for the **Stay Duration** (regardless of the **Visa Duration** having expired). Just like the visa validity duration mentioned above, the **Stay Duration** is also counted in days, not months.

Overstaying the duration of a single stay is a serious offence under Saudi law and comes with a penalty of ca. SR 30,000, deportation (or imprisonment before deportation) and a ban on entering the Kingdom again for up to five years. You are solely responsible for any penalties incurred for overstaying the Stay Duration.

Travel Advisory

Photographing government buildings, military installations, and palaces is not allowed. You should also avoid photographing locals, particularly women. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and consists of four weeks of fasting. During Ramadan it is forbidden to eat, drink or smoke in public during daylight hours.

Make sure that you carry your passport with you at all times. **If you are found without your passport with a stamped visa, you may face penalties and/or deportation.**

Alcohol and drugs are banned in the Kingdom. Female visitors are advised to follow Saudi norms regarding clothing. You are not allowed to enter the holy cities of Makkah & Madinah using a business/working visit visa unless you have special permission to do so.

The type of 'transportation' (**Mode of Travel**) printed on your visa indicates whether or not you can enter/exit KSA by road. If the mode of travel is 'Air' then you will not be able to enter/exit the country by road and hence will not be able to visit Bahrain via the *King Fahd Causeway*. If the **Mode of Travel** on the visa states 'Open', this allows you to enter KSA by road, air and sea.

N.B. On your first visit, make sure the customs staff at the airport write the entry number on your passport, otherwise you may encounter difficulty in leaving the country at the end of your stay.