

A free Visa regime is implemented for nationals of China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Japan with immediate effect, **until 31.03.2024, launching as a pilot program to rebuild the tourism industry** in line with the Cabinet of Ministers Approval 23/1885/602/023 dated 24.10.2023.

02. Nationals of the above-nominated countries possessing **Diplomatic, Official, Public Affairs, Service, and Ordinary passports are eligible to enjoy a visa-free regime under this scheme.**

03. Above nominated nationals should apply Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) before arriving in Sri Lanka subject to granting/issuing free of charge up to 31.03.2024.

04. The validity period of this free ETA is 30 days and permits double entry from the date of initial arrival to Sri Lanka.

05. Countries already entered bilateral reciprocal agreements for visa exemption for Diplomatic, Official, Service, or Public Affairs passport holders (China, India, Russia, Indonesia, and Thailand) may enjoy the exemption period already agreed.

06. The free ETA validity period (30 days) expires on or before 31.03.2024; the particular applicant is not eligible for further extension and should leave the country. If the free visa period of 30 days expires after 31.03.2024, the applicant is eligible to obtain a visa extension on payment basis by approaching the Department of Immigration and Emigration, Battaramulla, or online.

Ex1. If a person applies ETA under this scheme and arrives in Sri Lanka on the 1st of March 2024, he/she shall be issued a 30-day visa-free period up to 31.03.2024. This can be availed double entry from the date of initial arrival to Sri Lanka subject to no extension for a further period.

Ex2. If an applicant arrives in Sri Lanka with a free ETA on the 5th of March, 2024, he/she shall be issued a 30-day free visa up to the 04th of April 2024. During this period applicant can utilize double entry from the date of initial arrival. If the applicant desires to extend the visa further, relevant payment is applicable for the extension.

07. Though the validity period of ETA obtained by the applicant is valid for 180 days, one has to arrive in Sri Lanka before 31.03.2024 to avail of this special visa-free regime and thereafter an applicant shall obtain ETA on a payment basis at the port of entry to Sri Lanka or online.

08. Please note that this particular visa-free regime applies to the above seven nominated countries and the rest of the countries may follow the general rules and regulations applicable to Sri Lanka ETA.