

PANAMA - CONVENTIONS / OFFICIAL MEETINGS

GENERAL INFORMATION - VISAS

Ordinary Passports vs Diplomatic Passports

Consular Department – Ministry of Foreign Affairs Panama

For individuals with **ORDINARY** passports

1. Countries requiring ***AUTHORISED VISA*** must observe the following requirements. Apply for visa at the Panamanian Consulate in the respective country. Applications are then submitted to the National Migration Service which, in conjunction with the Security Council, decides to approve or otherwise.

The following procedure applies to foreigners visiting Panama for meetings or conventions of official, government, international or Panamanian public or private entities. Applications accompanied by a note from a recognized international organization or processed by such organization (institution, government, etc.), and which comply with all lawful requirements, will be processed within 15 to 25 business days. The Panamanian Foreign Office channels may be used (Consular Department of the Directorate General of Foreign Policy).

2. Countries requiring a ***STAMPED VISA*** must observe the following procedure. Apply for visa at the Panamanian Consulate in the respective country. Compliant applications will be processed in 3 to 5 business days

For individuals with **Diplomatic, Consular, Official, Special, Laissez Passer, or Service and Public Passports**

1. Countries requiring ***AUTHORISED VISA*** must observe the following procedure. Apply for visa at the Panamanian Consulate in the respective country. Applications are then submitted to the Panamanian Foreign Office which, in conjunction with the Security Council, decides to approve or otherwise. Processing may require 5 business days.
2. Countries requiring ***STAMPED VISA*** must observe the following procedure. Apply for visa at the Panamanian Consulate in the respective country. Compliant applications will be processed in 3 to 5 business days.

FOR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN WITHOUT PANAMANIAN CONSULATE

Persons interested in travelling to Panama who require a visa must apply for it at the nearest Panamanian Consulate.

The following procedure applies to foreigners visiting Panama for meetings or conventions of official, government, international or Panamanian public or private entities (with invitation from the host institution or entity and approved by the Panamanian Foreign Office and the National Migration Service).

The organising institution must ask guests to e-mail scanned versions of the applicable documents. Such documents must be forwarded to the Ministry with an official note from the organisers.

For ordinary passports, the Foreign Office will forward all documents to the Directorate of the National Migration Service for approval. The Directorate will send a note to the organising institution authorising the visa, which will be stamped on the corresponding passport upon arrival in Panama.

For Diplomatic, Consular, Official, Special, Laissez Passer, or Service and Public passports, the Foreign Office will process the approval and send a note to the organising institution authorising the visa, which will be stamped on the corresponding passport upon arrival in Panama.

The organising institution must send a note to the guest/interested person informing of this communication and attach the visa authorization note issued by Migration or the Foreign Office, as appropriate. The guest/interested person must present such notes from the organizing institution and the relevant authority at the departure airport (airline counter) in order to be allowed to board the aircraft. Upon arrival in Panama, these notes must be presented to the Immigration authorities.

IMPORTANT: Executive Decree 248 of 21 July 2009 provides that: ***“...all persons, regardless of nationality, bearing a valid visa duly issued by the United States of America, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and any members of the European Union, and who have used such visa at least once to enter the issuing country, or who prove legal residence in such countries, may enter the national territory...” without requiring a visa.***