

A silhouette of a person standing in a modern building, holding a suitcase. The person is positioned in the center, looking out through large glass windows. The building's interior features curved architectural elements and a reflective floor. The background shows a clear sky. Two vertical red bars are present: one on the top left and one on the bottom left.

# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES VISA GUIDE- YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO RESIDENCE AND VISIT VISAS

**IBDO**



## LIVING AND WORKING IN THE UAE

The United Arab Emirates has introduced different long-term residence visas for investors, entrepreneurs, and specialised talents in the last few years. In September, the rulers of the UAE unveiled the 'Projects of the 50' to establish a complete development cycle leading to UAE Centennial 2071. With Green Visa being one of the key projects, we look at that, and other residence and visit visas currently available for foreign nationals.

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### GREEN VISA

On the launch of 'Project of 50', Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, said the green visa and the federal freelancer's visa expand the self-residency status to investors, entrepreneurs, highly skilled individuals, top students, and graduates in specialised fields such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and digital currencies.

Green visa holders can sponsor young people until the age of 25 instead of 18, sponsor parents, and have a greater grace period of 90-180 days to leave the country upon job loss or retirement, instead of 30, Al Zeyoudi said.

More details of how exactly the system works will be announced shortly by the Federal Authority.

### UAE RESIDENCE FOR EMPLOYEES SPONSORED BY COMPANY

Procuring a work visa involves the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE) and the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) of the emirate where the person is employed.

The work residency permit on the employee's passport denotes that the employed Company sponsors him.

#### VISA VALIDITY

Up to 3 years depending on the employee's place of registration

### RESIDENCE VISA SPONSORED THROUGH FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

Any foreign national with a valid UAE residence visa can sponsor residence visas for their families subject to meeting minimum requirements such as accommodation and salary. The minimum salary requirement is AED 5,000 plus accommodation.

#### VISA VALIDITY

Up to 3 years

### RESIDENCE VISA THROUGH PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

The Dubai Land Department allows a real estate investor to apply for a UAE residency visa if he owns a freehold property in Dubai with a minimum value of AED 750,000. The Property should not be mortgaged or shared.

The Investor will be eligible for a 3-year visa if the property value is 750,000 to DH 1 million. If the Property is valued at more than DH 2 million, they will be eligible for a 5-year visa.

#### VISA VALIDITY

Up to 5 years



### UAE GOLDEN VISA: LONG-TERM RESIDENCY

In 2019, the UAE implemented a new system for long-term residence visas. This system allows foreigners to live, work and study in the UAE without the need for a sponsor. These visas are issued for 5 or 10 years.

The 10-year visa is granted to investors, entrepreneurs, specialised talents, and researchers in various fields of science and knowledge, PhD holders, doctors, engineers specialised in computers, electronics, programming, electronics and active technology, and bright students with promising scientific capabilities. However, they have to meet certain criteria to be eligible.

#### VISA VALIDITY

Up to 10 years



### BUSINESS VISA

A business visa is part of the Golden Visa system under which foreigners can obtain a long-term visa for themselves and their dependents. An eligible entrepreneur is anyone who has set up a business of his own at some point in his career and wishes to do so again in the UAE. In addition, professionals from any country with entrepreneurial experience are eligible to apply for a business visa.

### FREELANCER VISA

The concept of freelancing in the UAE has been on the rise in recent years much in line with the global trend. With the introduction of Freelance Permits in the region, professionals working in the fields of media, education and information technology can obtain a license issued by select Free Zones. The permits are issued to natural persons without a need to set up a limited liability company. Freelancer Permits allow only the permit holder to work. Although the permit holder cannot hire employees with this permit, they

can obtain a UAE residence visa for themselves and their immediate family under their sponsorship, including their spouse and children.

### REMOTE WORK VISA

Considered the first of its kind in the region, the Remote Work visa enables professionals from all over the world to live and work remotely from the UAE even if their companies are based in another country by meeting minimum requirements.

#### VISA VALIDITY

1 year



### RETIREMENT VISA

The UAE Cabinet has approved a law to provide retired residents over the age of 55 a long-term visa for a period of five years.

For a retiree to be eligible for a renewable retirement visa, they must fulfil one of the following criteria:

- ▶ Invest in a property worth Dh2 million
- ▶ Have financial savings of no less than Dh1 million
- ▶ Have an active income of no less than Dh20,000 per month.

#### VISA VALIDITY

Up to 5 years



### SPECIAL VISA

The UAE Cabinet issued a resolution, granting the citizens of countries suffering from wars and disasters a special residency visa. It also allowed widows, divorced women and their children to renew their residency visas without a sponsor, renewable once.

#### VISA VALIDITY

1 year





### TOURIST & TRANSIT VISA

The UAE Government issues several types of visas and entry permits based on the purpose of your visit. Below are the types of visas available for foreign nationals planning to visit the UAE.

### TOURIST VISA ON ARRIVAL

Citizens of more than 50 countries do not require advance visa arrangements to enter the UAE and can obtain a visa upon arrival for 30 days with a 10-day grace period for an extension.

### TOURIST & TRANSIT VISA WITH AN ENTRY PERMIT

Tourist visas are for those not eligible for a visa on arrival or a visa-free entry to the UAE. Below are the single and multiple entry visit visa options available in the UAE.

#### 1 TRANSIT VISAS

Transit visas are issued typically for 7- or 14- days validity.

#### 2 SINGLE ENTRY

A single-entry visa that allows you to stay in the UAE as per the type of visa. The validity of this type of visa is for 30 days (short term) or 90 days (long-term tourist visa).

#### 3 MULTIPLE ENTRY TOURIST VISA FOR ALL NATIONALITIES

A new multiple-entry tourist visa is now available for all nationalities. The five-year visa enables tourists to enter multiple times and remain in the country for 90 days on each visit, which can be extended for another 90 days.

### EVISA FOR GCC RESIDENTS

GCC residents and their companions need to apply online for a visa to enter the UAE. The visa is valid for 30 days and is extendable once for 30 days.

### MEDICAL TREATMENT VISA

UAE has launched an updated medical treatment visa, allowing foreign patients to visit the UAE for treatment. These are renewable if the hospital issues a request.

### VISA VALIDITY

90 days



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