

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

**GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS.** Being the time and date recorded in the digital certificate as stipulated by the Law on Digital Certificates, Digital Signatures, and Electronic Documents<sup>1</sup>.

In exercise of the powers conferred by articles 12, 13 subsection 1), 47, 48, and 51 of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners number 8764, of August 19, 2009<sup>2</sup>; articles 6 and 8 of the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica issued via Executive Decree N° 36626-G, of May 23, 2011<sup>3</sup>; the General Guidelines for Entry and Stay Visas for Non-Residents are hereby issued<sup>4</sup>:

**CONSIDERING**

I. That the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners is the body of the Ministry of Governance and Police competent to exercise control and oversight of the entry of foreign persons into Costa Rica and to execute the migratory policy dictated by the Executive Branch, in accordance with articles 12 and 13 subsection 1) of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners number 8764, of August 19, 2009<sup>5</sup>.

II. That in accordance with articles 47, 48, and 51 of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners N° 8764 and 6 and 8 of the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica (Executive Decree N° 36626-G, of May 23, 2011), the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners must dictate the General Guidelines for Entry and Stay Visas for Non-Residents, in order to establish the countries whose citizens will not require a visa to enter the national territory under the migratory category of Non-Residents, those who will require a consular visa, and those who will require a restricted visa<sup>6</sup>. This is all in accordance with current international agreements and treaties and for reasons of security, convenience, or opportunity for the Costa Rican State<sup>7</sup>.

III. That Article 7 of the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica (Decree N° 36626-G and its amendments) points out in what is relevant<sup>8</sup>:

"Article 7.—The General Guidelines for Entry and Stay Visas for Non-Residents in the country shall divide the different countries of the world into four groups<sup>9</sup>:

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

1. In the first group shall be located the countries whose nationals may enter without the need to require a visa<sup>10</sup>. The maximum term of legal stay for foreign persons whose nationalities are located within this group shall be that determined by the official of the General Directorate competent to perform entry control into the country, which in no case may be greater than one hundred and eighty calendar days counted from their entry<sup>11</sup>.
2. In the second group shall be located the countries whose nationals will not require a visa to enter Costa Rica<sup>12</sup>. The maximum term of legal stay for nationals whose nationalities are located in this group shall be that determined by the official of the General Directorate competent to perform entry control into the country, which in no case may be greater than thirty days counted from their entry<sup>13</sup>.
3. In the third group shall be located the countries whose nationals will require a consular visa, which shall be understood as the authorization issued by a Costa Rican consular official to enter Costa Rica<sup>14</sup>. The maximum term of legal stay for nationals whose nationalities are located in this group shall be that determined by the official of the General Directorate competent to perform entry control into the country, which in no case may be greater than thirty days counted from their entry<sup>15</sup>.
4. In the fourth group shall be located the countries whose nationals will require a restricted visa, which shall be understood as that which must strictly be authorized by the Restricted Visas Commission<sup>16</sup>. The term of legal stay for nationals whose nationalities are located in this group shall be that determined by the Commission, which shall not exceed thirty days<sup>17</sup>."

IV. That in accordance with articles 39 of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners N° 8764 <sup>18</sup>; and 22 and 30 of the Regulation on Migration Control (Decree N° 36769-G, of May 23, 2011), to enter the country foreign persons must present a passport or valid and current travel document for the term determined by the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners in the General Guidelines for Entry and Stay Visas for Non-Residents<sup>19</sup>.

V. That the General Guidelines for Entry and Stay Visas for Non-Residents governing to date require various adjustments and some important modifications, for the purpose of having clear guidelines for the execution of effective migratory control and for the regulation of diverse exceptions, in accordance with the current situation<sup>20</sup>.

VI. That through resolution D. JUR-220-05-2024-JM-ABM of ten hours of May 17, 2024, published in Alcance N° 109 to La Gaceta N° 106 of June 12, 2024, and its amendments, the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners issues new administrative measures applicable to procedures and administrative proceedings of the Visa Unit, among others, that

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

are pending resolution or are presented in the future<sup>21</sup>.

## **THEREFORE**

This General Directorate proceeds to issue the new General Guidelines for Entry and Stay Visas for Non-Residents, in accordance with the following<sup>22</sup>:

---

### **FIRST: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Scope of application: These guidelines shall be of mandatory compliance for users in general, Migration Agents Abroad, Directorates, Managements, Units, Departments, Delegations, and Regional Offices of the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners<sup>23</sup>.
2. Scope: The present guidelines explicitly detail the countries whose citizens will not require a visa to enter Costa Rica under the migratory category of Non-Residents<sup>24</sup>; those that will require a consular visa, that is, a visa processed and authorized by a Costa Rican consul accredited abroad, in their function as a migration agent, pursuant to Article 21 of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners N° 8764<sup>25</sup>; and those that will require a restricted entry visa, that is, one whose granting is the exclusive competence of the Commission on Restricted Visas and Refuge, created by Article 49 of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners N° 8764<sup>26</sup>.

Also, the guidelines establish the maximum term of stay that may be authorized to foreign persons by the competent officials to perform entry migration control, according to the group in which the country of their nationality is located<sup>27</sup>. Finally, the guidelines will regulate the minimum validity that the passport of the foreign person intending to enter the country must have<sup>28</sup>.

The present guidelines do not apply to foreign persons, regardless of their nationality, contained in Article 4 of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners N° 8764, specifically for<sup>29</sup>:

1. "Diplomatic agents and consular officials accredited in Costa Rica, as well as other members of permanent or special diplomatic missions and consular offices, by virtue of the norms of International Law and treaties ratified by Costa Rica<sup>30</sup>. This provision shall be extended to the official's primary family nucleus<sup>31</sup>.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

2. Officials, representatives, and delegates, as well as other duly accredited members, of permanent missions or delegations to international organizations based in Costa Rica<sup>32</sup>. This provision shall be extended to the official's primary family nucleus<sup>33</sup>.
  - For the purposes of interpreting this norm, the primary family nucleus is understood as constituted by the spouse of the official, as appropriate, as well as the sons and daughters of either, under twenty-five years of age or older with a disability<sup>34</sup>; likewise, their parents, provided there is a dependency relationship<sup>35</sup>.
  - All indicated foreign persons must be bearers of a diplomatic or official visa to enter the national territory and remain in it, unless they are exempt from that requirement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, due to the principle of reciprocity or international regulations ratified by Costa Rica<sup>36</sup>. Said Ministry shall have exclusive competence in this matter<sup>37</sup>.

Other persons intending to enter Costa Rica via their diplomatic passports must present all ordinary requirements contained in current migratory legislation, including passport validity and presentation of the respective visa issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or by Consulates when applicable, in accordance with the entry groups established in this document, unless they have visa waiver agreements duly notified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners or unless they present one of the exceptions established in point **FIFTH** of this document<sup>38</sup>.

3. Activities authorized under the category "NON-RESIDENT MIGRATORY CATEGORY": Persons admitted into the country under the migratory category of "NON-RESIDENTS", subcategory Tourism, may only perform activities of rest, leisure, recreation, or any other for purposes of leisure, business, or professional, provided they are not activities implying remuneration or profit within the national territory, pursuant to what is established to that effect by the World Tourism Organization under the concept "Tourism"<sup>39</sup>.

Foreign persons authorized to enter the country under the Tourism subcategory, pursuant to these guidelines, may request a change of their migratory category or subcategory, pursuant to the requirements established by applicable legislation, except when these guidelines expressly establish the contrary<sup>40</sup>.

**4. Entry Requirements:** In accordance with articles 42 of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners N° 8764 and 30 of the Regulation on Migration Control (Executive Decree N° 36769-G), foreign persons intending to enter Costa Rica must provide:

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

1. **Passport or travel document:** Valid, current, and in good condition<sup>41</sup>. Only machine-readable or biometric passports or travel documents will be accepted, in accordance with guidelines established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and with the validity determined by these guidelines<sup>42</sup>.
2. **Visa:** When required as established by these guidelines<sup>43</sup>.
3. **Proof of economic solvency:** With a minimum of USD\$ 100.00 (one hundred American dollars) per month or fraction of a month of legal stay in the country<sup>44</sup>.
4. **Ticket:** Return ticket, boleto, or passage to the country of origin or continuation of travel, or the navigation plan stating the port of destination<sup>45</sup>.
5. **No impediment:** Not having an impediment to enter the national territory<sup>46</sup>.

---

## SEGUNDO: GROUPS FOR ENTRY INTO COSTA RICA

### I. FIRST GROUP:

- **ENTRY WITHOUT VISA**<sup>47</sup>.
- **MAXIMUM STAY:** UP TO 180 CALENDAR DAYS NOT PROROGABLE (It will only be extended for those granted less than 90 days and up to a maximum of 90 days)<sup>48</sup>.
- **MINIMUM PASSPORT VALIDITY:** UP TO ONE DAY (the term of stay granted by the migration control official shall not be greater than the validity of the passport)<sup>49</sup>.

#### Countries:

Germany 50, Andorra 51, Argentina\* 52, Australia\* 53, Austria 54, Bahamas 55, Barbados 56, Belgium 57, Brazil 58, Bulgaria 59, Canada 60, Croatia 61, Chile 62, Cyprus 63, Denmark\* 64, United Arab Emirates 65, Slovakia 66, Slovenia 67, Spain 68, State of Qatar 69, United States of America\* 70, Estonia 71, Finland 72, France\* 73, Hungary 74, Ireland 75, Iceland 76, Israel 77, Italy 78, Japan 79, Latvia 80, Liechtenstein 81, Lithuania 82, Luxembourg 83, Malta 84, Mexico 85, Montenegro 86, Norway\* 87, New Zealand\* 88, Netherlands (Holland)\* 89, Panama 90, Paraguay 91, Poland 92, Portugal 93, Principality of Monaco 94, San Marino 95, Peru 96, Puerto Rico 97, Serbia 98, South Africa 99, United Kingdom of Great Britain\*\* and Northern Ireland 100, Czech Republic 101, Republic of Korea (South Korea) 102, Hellenic Republic (Greece) 103, Romania 104, Holy See Vatican 105, Singapore 106, Sweden 107, Switzerland 108, Trinidad and Tobago 109, Ukraine 110, Uruguay 111.

- *\*Their dependencies receive equal treatment*<sup>112</sup>.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

- *\*\*Includes England, Wales, and Scotland<sup>113</sup>.*

**DEPENDENCIES:** Argentine, Australian, British, Danish, American, French, Dutch (Netherlands), New Zealand, and Norwegian dependencies receive equal treatment provided they carry a passport of the country of which they are dependent<sup>114</sup>.

- **ARGENTINE:** Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>115</sup>.
- **AUSTRALIAN:** Cocos Islands<sup>116</sup>, Christmas Islands<sup>117</sup>, Heard and McDonald Islands<sup>118</sup>, Norfolk Islands<sup>119</sup>.
- **BRITISH:** Anguilla<sup>120</sup>, Ascension<sup>121</sup>, Bermuda<sup>122</sup>, Gibraltar<sup>123</sup>, Cayman Islands<sup>124</sup>, Channel Islands<sup>125</sup>, Isle of Man<sup>126</sup>, Pitcairn Islands<sup>127</sup>, Turks and Caicos Islands<sup>128</sup>, British Virgin Islands<sup>129</sup>, Montserrat<sup>130</sup>, Saint Helena<sup>131</sup>, British Indian Ocean Territory<sup>132</sup>.
- **DANISH:** Greenland<sup>133</sup>, Faroe Islands<sup>134</sup>.
- **AMERICAN:** Guam<sup>135</sup>, United States Minor Outlying Islands<sup>136</sup>, US Virgin Islands<sup>137</sup>, American Samoa<sup>138</sup>.
- **FRENCH:** Guadeloupe<sup>139</sup>, French Guiana<sup>140</sup>, Martinique<sup>141</sup>, Mayotte<sup>142</sup>, New Caledonia<sup>143</sup>, French Polynesia<sup>144</sup>, Reunion<sup>145</sup>, Saint Pierre and Miquelon<sup>146</sup>, Saint Martin<sup>147</sup>, French Southern Territories<sup>148</sup>, Wallis and Futuna<sup>149</sup>.
- **DUTCH (NETHERLANDS):** Netherlands Antilles<sup>150</sup>, Aruba<sup>151</sup>, Bonaire<sup>152</sup>, Curaçao<sup>153</sup>.
- **NEW ZEALAND:** Cook Islands<sup>154</sup>, Niue<sup>155</sup>, Tokelau<sup>156</sup>.
- **NORWEGIAN:** Bouvet Island<sup>157</sup>, Svalbard and Jan Mayen<sup>158</sup>.

## II. SECOND GROUP:

- **ENTRY WITHOUT VISA<sup>159</sup>.**
- **MAXIMUM STAY:** UP TO THIRTY CALENDAR DAYS (prorogable up to a total of ninety calendar days, pursuant to applicable legislation)<sup>160</sup>.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

- **MINIMUM PASSPORT VALIDITY:** 90 CALENDAR DAYS<sup>161</sup>.

Countries:

Antigua and Barbuda 162, Belize 163, Bolivia 164, Dominica 165, El Salvador\* 166, State of Brunei 167, Russian Federation\* 168, Philippines 169, Fiji 170, Grenada 171, Guatemala 172, Guyana 173, Honduras\* 174, Northern Mariana Islands 175, Marshall Islands 176, Solomon Islands 177, Kiribati 178, Malaysia 179, Maldives 180, Mauritius 181, Micronesia (Federated States) 182, Nauru 183, Palau 184, Kingdom of Tonga 185, Samoa 186, Saint Kitts and Nevis 187, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 188, Saint Lucia 189, Sao Tome and Principe 190, Seychelles 191, Suriname 192, Taiwan (Region) 193, Tuvalu 194, Turkey 195, Vanuatu<sup>196</sup>.

- *\*See specific regulations section for the case of Republic of El Salvador, the Republic of Honduras, and the Russian Federation<sup>197</sup>.*

### III. THIRD GROUP:

- **GROUP ENTRY WITH CONSULAR VISA**<sup>198</sup>.
- **VISA VALIDITY:** A SINGLE ENTRY<sup>199</sup>.
- **DEADLINE TO STAMP VISA IN PASSPORT:** THREE MONTHS ONCE AUTHORIZED<sup>200</sup>.
- **DEADLINE TO ENTER COSTA RICA:** ONCE STAMPED IN THE PASSPORT, THE VISA MUST BE USED WITHIN A MAXIMUM TERM OF SIXTY BUSINESS DAYS<sup>201</sup>.
- **MINIMUM PASSPORT VALIDITY:** 180 CALENDAR DAYS<sup>202</sup>.
- **MAXIMUM STAY:** UP TO 30 CALENDAR DAYS, PROROGABLE UP TO NINETY CALENDAR DAYS<sup>203</sup>.

Countries:

Albania 204, Angola 205, Saudi Arabia 206, Algeria 207, Armenia 208, Bahrain 209, Benin 210, Belarus 211, Bosnia and Herzegovina 212, Botswana 213, Burkina Faso (Upper Volta) 214, Burundi 215, Bhutan 216, Cape Verde 217, Cambodia 218, Cameroon 219, Colombia\* 220, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) 221, Comoros 222, Chad 223, Ecuador 224, Egypt 225, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) 226, Gabon 227, Gambia 228, Georgia 229, Ghana 230, Guinea 231, Guinea-Bissau 232, Equatorial Guinea 233, India 234, Indonesia 235, Jordan 236, Kenya 237, Kosovo 238, Kuwait 239, Lesotho 240, Liberia 241, Libya 242, Lebanon 243, Madagascar 244, Malawi 245, Mali 246, Morocco 247, Moldova 248, Mongolia 249, Mozambique 250, Namibia 251, Nepal 252, Nicaragua\* 253, Niger 254, Nigeria 255, Oman 256, Papua New Guinea 257, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Western Sahara) 258, Central African Republic 259, Republic of North

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

Macedonia 260, Republic of the Congo 261, Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) 262, People's Republic of China\* 263, Lao People's Democratic Republic 264, Dominican Republic 265, Rwanda 266, Senegal 267, Sierra Leone 268, Sudan (North Sudan) 269, South Sudan 270, Thailand 271, Tanzania 272, East Timor 273, Togo 274, Tunisia 275, Uganda 276, Venezuela\* 277, Vietnam 278, Yemen 279, Djibouti 280, Zambia 281, Zimbabwe<sup>282</sup>.

- *\*See specific regulations section for China, Colombia, Nicaragua, and Venezuela<sup>283</sup>.*

#### IV. FOURTH GROUP:

- **GROUP ENTRY WITH RESTRICTED VISA<sup>284</sup>.**
- **VISA VALIDITY:** A SINGLE ENTRY<sup>285</sup>.
- **DEADLINE TO STAMP VISA IN PASSPORT:** THREE MONTHS ONCE AUTHORIZED<sup>286</sup>.
- **DEADLINE TO ENTER COSTA RICA:** ONCE STAMPED IN THE PASSPORT, THE VISA MUST BE USED WITHIN A MAXIMUM TERM OF SIXTY DAYS<sup>287</sup>.
- **MANDATORY PASSPORT VALIDITY:** 180 CALENDAR DAYS<sup>288</sup>.
- **MAXIMUM STAY:** UP TO 30 CALENDAR DAYS, PROROGABLE UP TO NINETY CALENDAR DAYS<sup>289</sup>.

Countries:

Afghanistan 290, Azerbaijan 291, Bangladesh 292, Cuba 293, Eritrea 294, Ethiopia 295, Haiti 296, Kazakhstan 297, Kyrgyzstan 298, Iran 299, Iraq 300, Jamaica 301, Mauritania 302, Myanmar (Burma) 303, Pakistan 304, Palestine 305, Syrian Arab Republic 306, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) 307, Somalia 308, Sri Lanka 309, Tajikistan 310, Turkmenistan 311, Uzbekistan<sup>312</sup>.

---

### THIRD: SPECIFIC REGULATIONS EL SALVADOR, RUSSIA, NICARAGUA, CHINA AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS, COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA AND HONDURAS.<sup>313</sup>

#### I. REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR<sup>314</sup>

According to the Reciprocal Administrative Agreement between the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners of the Republic of El Salvador and the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners of the Republic of Costa Rica, signed in San José on April 23, 2008, entry is permitted for nationals of El Salvador with their passport current until the day of its expiration date<sup>316</sup>. The term of stay granted by the migration control official shall not be

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

greater than the validity of the passport<sup>317</sup>.

## II. RUSSIAN FEDERATION

According to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the Government of the Russian Federation on Conditions for the waiver of visa formalities in mutual trips of nationals of the Republic of Costa Rica and nationals of the Russian Federation, of February 5, 2019, the stay of nationals of the Russian Federation shall be up to 90 calendar days, counted from the day of entry<sup>318</sup>.

## III. REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

1. The minimum validity the passport must have for Nicaraguan persons shall be 90 calendar days<sup>319</sup>.
2. The term of legal stay for Nicaraguan persons shall be a maximum of up to 90 calendar days<sup>320</sup>.
3. Nicaraguan citizens may request, at Costa Rican Consulates in Nicaragua and Panama, a single-entry transit visa or double transit visa, provided their trip is for commercial or labor reasons, including agricultural activities, domestic employment, construction, private security, and care of the elderly, persons with disabilities, and minors<sup>321</sup>. To opt for that transit visa, the following requirements must be presented:
  - A. Transit visa application form<sup>322</sup>.
  - B. Proof of payment of consular rights as appropriate<sup>323</sup>.
  - C. Travel tickets stating the dates of entry and exit from Costa Rica; in the case of the double visa, the ticket for the second entry must state a date within the following 90 days<sup>324</sup>.
  - D. Letter from the employer indicating time worked, functions, and salary<sup>325</sup>. In case the employer is a legal entity, a copy of the document demonstrating the legal existence of the company must also be attached<sup>326</sup>. Independent workers must provide income certification from an Authorized Public Accountant<sup>327</sup>.
  - E. Certification demonstrating that the person seeking the transit visa does not possess a criminal record<sup>328</sup>.
  - F. Passport in perfect condition with a minimum of 90 calendar days of validity from the date of entry into Costa Rica<sup>329</sup>.
4. Nicaraguan persons dependent on the persons indicated in the previous subsection may also opt for a transit visa, provided they have a first-degree link with the person

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

responsible for their maintenance (spouse, parents, children up to the age of 25)<sup>330</sup>. For these purposes, that link must be accredited with a suitable document issued no more than six months prior, unless the document expressly indicates an expiration date<sup>331</sup>.

5. Visa applications not contemplated in this section shall be governed by the guidelines for ordinary tourism visas established in the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica<sup>332</sup>.
6. Entry into Costa Rica with a transit visa shall be valid by air or land, through migration control posts duly enabled by the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners<sup>333</sup>.
7. The holder of a transit visa shall have a maximum term of 48 hours to perform transit through Costa Rica once they have entered the country<sup>334</sup>. The first entry into Costa Rica must be effected within the term of thirty calendar days from the date of issuance of the visa<sup>335</sup>. In the case of the double transit visa, the term to perform the second entry into Costa Rica is 90 days counted from the date of the first entry<sup>336</sup>. The 48-hour transit is merely for migratory purposes; however, for purposes of land exit tax payments, they must take into account that it is charged starting from a transit of 12 hours<sup>337</sup>.

#### IV. PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS

1. Nationals of Hong Kong and Macao holding current British or Portuguese passports will receive the same treatment as nationals of the first entry group, therefore they will not require a visa to enter the country and their stay will be up to one hundred and eighty days<sup>338</sup>. Nationals of Hong Kong and Macao who do not carry the referred travel document will require a consular visa and the corresponding provisions of the People's Republic of China will be applied to them<sup>339</sup>.
2. Persons of Chinese nationality holding a passport for public affairs shall not require an entry visa to national territory<sup>340</sup>.
3. Visa applications for minors of Chinese nationality shall be known and resolved exclusively by the Restricted Visas Commission<sup>341</sup>. Those applications must be processed exclusively by the parents, or by whoever reliably demonstrates being the legal representative or holding the custody, upbringing, and education of the minor<sup>342</sup>. The process to be followed for these requests will be that stipulated in Chapter Six, articles 125 and following, of the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica, Executive Decree N° 36626-G<sup>343344</sup>. <sup>345</sup>Ex<sup>346</sup>ceptions for entry to national territory, established in Section V, shall also apply to minors of Chinese nationality<sup>347</sup>.
4. Nationals of China, of legal age, holding passports issued in Beijing or Shanghai, may

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

exceptionally enter the country under the category of Non-Resident, subcategory Tourism, under the procedure established in the "Temporary Protocol for the promotion of Tourism from China"<sup>348</sup>. The term of stay shall correspond to that of the acquired tour and shall not exceed thirty days<sup>349</sup>. Persons entering the country pursuant to this exception shall not have the possibility of changing migratory category or subcategory<sup>350</sup>. Visa applications not contemplated in this section shall be governed by the guidelines for ordinary tourism visas established in the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica<sup>351</sup>.

## V. REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

1. **Passport validity and legal stay term:** The minimum validity the passport must have for Colombian persons shall be 90 calendar days and the term of legal stay for Colombian persons shall be up to 90 calendar days<sup>352</sup>.

## VI. BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Nationals of Venezuela must request the consular visa for tourism reasons before a third Costa Rican consulate accredited abroad according to the requirements established in the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica, Executive Decree 36626-G and what is established in the present guideline<sup>353</sup>. Visas for family reunification or those requested by companies and institutions registered with the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners shall follow the ordinary procedure and requests may be made before the Visa Unit of the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners, according to current regulations<sup>354</sup>. For purposes of consular or exceptional visa applications, a copy of the biographical page of the current passport without apostille will be accepted, because this document will be verified by the migration official when performing the respective migratory control upon entry to Costa Rica (Article 30 of the Regulation on Migration Control)<sup>355</sup>. For purposes of migratory control for both entry and exit to Costa Rica, the passport and its respective extension will be accepted provided it appears within the passport or is stamped or adhered to it, by means of a sticker and complies with regulations issued via ICAO, provided they comply with the validity established in these Guidelines<sup>356</sup>.

## VII. REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

Despite the Republic of Honduras being incorporated into the Second Group of these Guidelines, and therefore not requiring a visa to enter Costa Rican territory, they must present as an entry requirement, the certificate of police records, without apostille, demonstrating they do not have records in their country of origin<sup>357</sup>. This requirement shall be demanded of Honduran persons from 18 years of age<sup>358</sup>. The requirement of the certificate demonstrating the non-existence of records shall be demanded even if the person has a provisional visa granted by the Consulate, for subsequent processing in the Foreigners Management<sup>359</sup>.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

The requirement of the certificate demonstrating the non-existence of records shall not be demanded of Honduran persons traveling in air transit or who have any of the exceptions established in the fifth section of these Guidelines, titled: "Fifth: Exceptions For Entry Groups With Consular Visa Or Restricted Visa"<sup>360</sup>.

Honduran persons intending to enter Costa Rican territory under the migratory category of Non-Residents, subcategory "Personnel of Means of International Transport of goods" contemplated in numeral 87 subsection 5) of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners, shall only demonstrate via current transporter card that they work in activities of international transport of goods or cargo; as well as demonstrating during migratory control that they are performing activities of international transport of goods or cargo<sup>361</sup>. Furthermore, those persons may, during their legal stay in Costa Rican territory, perform pertinent procedures to obtain their Multiple Permit for Transporter, complying with requirements established by Article 165 of the "Regulation of Foreigners and Creation of Day of the Costa Rican Abroad...", executive decree 37112-GOB<sup>362</sup>.

---

## FOURTH: VISAS FOR AIRPORT TRANSIT

Any national of the countries of the fourth group, in addition to nationals of Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, India, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Togo, Djibouti, Yemen, and Venezuela, intending to enter the country by air under the migratory category of Non-Resident, subcategory Foreign Person in Transit, to effect change of aircraft, must strictly present the requirements and respect the procedures established by this General Directorate<sup>363</sup>.

Requirements for airport visa:

The requirements that must be presented for the airport transit visa before the authorized Costa Rican Consulate abroad, whether in the country of origin of the interested person or in a third country, are the following<sup>364</sup>:

1. Request addressed to the Consul of Costa Rica including the following information of the applicant<sup>365</sup>:
  - a. Full name and surnames<sup>366</sup>.
  - b. Nationality<sup>367</sup>.
  - c. Passport number<sup>368</sup>.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

- d. Place of residence<sup>369</sup>.
  - e. Profession or trade<sup>370</sup>.
  - f. Date and place of birth of the interested party<sup>371</sup>.
  - g. Place and approximate date of arrival and departure from Costa Rica<sup>372</sup>.
  - h. Expected time of stay at the International Airport of Costa Rica<sup>373</sup>.
  - i. Airline(s) with which they would travel<sup>374</sup>.
  - j. Final destination<sup>375</sup>.
  - k. Consulate to which to direct the visa for its stamping, in case of authorization<sup>376</sup>.
  - l. Means to receive notifications<sup>377</sup>.
  - m. Date<sup>378</sup>.
  - n. Signature<sup>379</sup>.
2. Copy of the biographical page of the passport or travel document, current, accepted by the Costa Rican State, with an expiration date not less than six months, except for exceptions established in these guidelines<sup>380</sup>.
  3. Reservation of the ticket or air boleto to verify the final destination of the trip<sup>381</sup>.
  4. Certification demonstrating the economic solvency of the applicant<sup>382</sup>.
  5. Certification of criminal records from their country of origin or residence in the last ten years<sup>383</sup>.
  6. If the person requires a visa to enter the country they are heading to, they must present the respective current visa issued by the country of final destination<sup>384</sup>.
  7. The Consul may request, if necessary, additional documents issued in the applicant's country of origin or residence, provided their presentation is fundamental for the analysis of the visa application<sup>385</sup>.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

Likewise, these requirements must adhere to what is established in the Law for Protection of the Citizen from Excess Requirements and Administrative Procedures<sup>386</sup>.

Applications from nationals of Cuba must be transferred by the Consul to the Visa Unit, to be assessed and resolved by the Commission on Restricted Visas and Refuge according to law<sup>387</sup>.

If the visa is authorized, the Consul must stamp it in the passport<sup>388</sup>. The foreign person has a non-prorogable term of three months to perform this procedure once notified of the authorization<sup>389</sup>. The validity for utilizing the visa, once stamped, is sixty calendar days<sup>390</sup>. In the stamped visa it must be indicated that it is a transit visa<sup>391</sup>. The exceptions of the following section apply to dispense with the transit visa<sup>392</sup>.

---

## **FIFTH: EXCEPTIONS FOR ENTRY GROUPS WITH CONSULAR VISA OR RESTRICTED VISA**

Nationals of countries with consular or restricted visa requirements, whose passport has the minimum validity established by nationality in this guideline, and who comply with any of the exceptions established below, may dispense with consular visas or restricted visas to enter Costa Rican territory<sup>393</sup>:

### **I. Entry with visas and residencies from the United States of America and Canada.**

Nationals of countries with consular or restricted visa requirements holding visas or residencies allowing multiple entries in any category, including the category of refugee and/or asylum and type D and C1/D visa exclusively, with a minimum validity of 1 calendar day in the United States of America and Canada may dispense with a visa to enter Costa Rica<sup>394</sup>. The term of 1 calendar day must be counted from the day they intend to enter Costa Rica<sup>395</sup>; however, the term of stay granted by the migration control official shall not be greater than the validity of the visa or residency presented as an exception<sup>396</sup>. Visas from the United States of America type C1, C2, and C3 correspond to transit visas and will not be accepted<sup>397</sup>.

### **II. Entry with residencies from Scotland, Wales, England, Northern Ireland, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and European Union countries\*.**

Nationals of countries with consular or restricted visa requirements holding a residency in any category allowing multiple entries or with a minimum validity of 90 calendar days, excluding the category of refugee and/or asylum in Scotland, Wales, England, Northern Ireland, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and European Union countries, may dispense with a consular visa to enter Costa Rica<sup>398</sup>. The term of 90 calendar days must be counted from the day they intend to enter Costa Rica<sup>399</sup>.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

*\*The countries that make up the European Union are: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and Sweden<sup>400</sup>.*

III. Entry with visas categories "C" and "D" of the Schengen Area\*\*

Nationals of countries requiring it under these guidelines may dispense with a consular or restricted visa to enter Costa Rica when they hold a Schengen Area visa category "C" exclusively for multiple entries and valid for up to 90 days or category "D" also exclusively for multiple entries and valid for up to 90 days<sup>401</sup>. In both cases, the minimum validity of the visa may be 01 calendar day counted from the day they intend to enter Costa Rica <sup>402</sup>; however, the term of stay granted by the migration control official shall not be greater than the validity of the visa<sup>403</sup>. In no case will visas in categories "C" and "D" be accepted whose start date of validity is subsequent to the date intended to enter Costa Rica<sup>404</sup>.

*\*\*The countries that make up the Schengen Area are: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Slovenia, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Sweden, and Switzerland<sup>405</sup>.*

---

## SIXTH. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.

### I. Issuance of visas for refugees, asylees, or stateless persons in countries of the third and fourth group.

1. Nationals of countries with consular visa requirements who hold legal stay as refugees or stateless persons must apply for a consular visa in their host country or at any Consulate of Costa Rica through the procedure established in the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica, Executive Decree 36626-G<sup>406</sup>.
2. Nationals of countries with restricted visa requirements who hold legal stay as refugees or stateless persons must apply for a restricted entry visa before the Restricted Visas Commission through the procedure established in the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica, Executive Decree 36626-G<sup>407</sup>.
3. Refugees of nationalities comprised in the entry groups with consular visa and entry with restricted visa may enter the country, without the visa requirement, if they hold exclusively refugee category in the United States of America or Canada, having to

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

provide, in addition to the travel document, the residency or refugee category valid for 90 calendar days counted from the date they intend to enter Costa Rica<sup>408</sup>. Otherwise, they must provide a consular visa or restricted visa, as appropriate, plus their travel document to enter Costa Rica<sup>409</sup>.

II. Entry to Costa Rica with travel document (Travel Document)

The travel document (travel document) shall be valid for entering Costa Rica according to what is established in Article 39 of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners<sup>410</sup>. This document must have the minimum validity established for each nationality in this guideline<sup>411</sup>. Likewise, an entry visa will only be required for those carrying this travel document who are nationals of the countries established in the entry groups with consular visa and entry with restricted visa in these guidelines, unless they have one of the exceptions of section FIFTH of this document<sup>412</sup>.

III. Entry to Costa Rica with travel document issued by the United Nations Organization known as Laissez-Passer

The travel document (travel document), issued by the United Nations Organization known as Laissez-Passer, shall be valid for entering Costa Rica according to what is established in Article 39 of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners<sup>413</sup>. This document must have the minimum validity established for each nationality in this guideline<sup>414</sup>. No visa shall be required for United Nations officials carrying this passport current, in good condition, and containing the security measures established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)<sup>415</sup>.

**IV. Mandatory requirements for visas and residencies issued by other countries.**

1. Documents of legal stay, visas, and residencies must be reliably demonstrated before the migration control official and strictly must contain the security measures established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)<sup>416</sup>. Stamps, handwritten documents, sheets, documents indicating residencies in process, residency extensions, residencies stamped in the passport, indefinite residencies, or documents with alterations will not be accepted<sup>417</sup>. Documents of legal stay must be in Spanish or English, or failing that, they must provide the corresponding translation into either of those two languages<sup>418</sup>.
2. When data or information of the passport, visa, and/or document of legal stay of a foreign person intending to benefit from one of the exceptions indicated previously do not coincide, the migration control official may perform the pertinent investigation, to determine the identity of the person<sup>419</sup>. For those purposes, the migration control official shall be empowered to request the marriage certificate, naturalization certificate, or any other document considered necessary<sup>420</sup>.
3. Visas and residencies established in the exceptions of point **FIFTH** of this document may be taken into account, even if printed in diplomatic or official passports<sup>421</sup>.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

The term of stay and passport validity shall be that established for each entry group with its respective exceptions<sup>422</sup>. The foreign person who does not have an exception for entry to national territory of those stipulated in this Guideline may process an entry visa according to what is established in the guidelines of the Regulation for the Granting of Visas, Executive Decree 36626-G<sup>423</sup>.

V. Issuance of two visas for tourists of any nationality of the entry group with consular visa. Consuls General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and diplomatic officials with consular functions are authorized to issue two consular visas for those persons justifying the need to enter the country twice and whose nationality is found in the third entry group of these Guidelines, according to the ordinary consular visa procedure established in the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica<sup>424</sup>.

---

## **SEVENTH: REGULATIONS FOR CONSULS GENERAL AND HONORARY.**

1. Consuls General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and diplomatic officials with consular functions may issue tourism visas and provisional visas in the categories authorized in the Regulation for the Granting of Entry Visas to Costa Rica, to any nationality of the consular visa group, including persons holding refugee and/or asylum category, following guidelines established in said Regulation, all in conformity with articles 22 subsection 5), 46, and 53 of the General Law on Migration and Foreigners<sup>425</sup>. Documentation not issued by the country where the consular visa is processed must be provided duly apostilled or legalized<sup>426</sup>. The cost of consular visas is that established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the cost of two visas must be paid<sup>427</sup>.
2. Honorary Consuls General, Honorary Consuls, and Honorary Vice-Consuls may only grant visas authorized by the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners, therefore all applications will be consulted with this dependency without exception<sup>428</sup>.

---

## **EIGHTH: FINAL PROVISIONS.**

1. Circular DG-30-10-2023-AJ published on October 6, 2023, and its modifications issued via resolutions DJUR-0583-10-2023-JM of October 24, 2023, and DJUR-655-11-2023-LSS-JM of November 30, 2023, are repealed<sup>429</sup>.
2. Nationals of countries not indicated in the previous groups are found included in the entry group with restricted visa<sup>430</sup>.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICE  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS  
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY AND STAY VISAS FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
AJ-484-11-2025

**EFFECTIVE:** From its publication in the Official Gazette La Gaceta<sup>431</sup>.

MSC. OMER BADILLA TOLEDO<sup>432</sup> **VICE MINISTER OF GOVERNANCE AND POLICE**<sup>433</sup> **WITH  
SURCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MIGRATION AND  
FOREIGNERS**<sup>434</sup>

1 time. (IN202501015269)<sup>435</sup>.