

M.A. (II Semester)

Paper Code: MGEO SEC 207

Paper Name : Tourism and Hospitality Management

Topic: FORMALITIES AND REGULATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL TOURISM

Faculty Name: Dr. Debjani Sarkar Ghose

Head, Department of Geography, Patna Women's College, Patna

Introduction

Formalities of travel in a foreign country refers to the official documents and certificates need to be completed by the tourists before they can leave their country or enter another country. Formalities and regulations of international tourism is completely different from national tourism. It is essentially important for individual and group travel to start the process of collecting the documents much before the starting the tour.

For international tourist, the possession of passport of the country residing and valid visa of the country intended to visit is a must. In some countries visa might be obtained after arriving the country. Generally, there is no restriction on Indian and foreign nationals visiting any states and islands in India except for the border States and islands, for which a special entry permit is required. Apart from Passport and Visa, the proof of place to stay, health insurance and travel insurance are necessary requirements. One must be aware of the custom regulations, Emigration and Immigration rules, taxes to be paid while arriving, permissible weight of the luggage before the onset of the journey.

Formalities of International Travel

For international travel first and foremost thing that is required, is the possession of passport.

I. Passport

The passport is a document that the National Government issues to the citizen of the country. It contains person's name, date of birth, gender, address and place of birth. The purpose of the passport is to identify the holder of the document. Passport is used to regain entry into country of citizenship.

Passport can be Ordinary passport, Official passport, Diplomatic Passport or Emergency Certificate. For Indian citizens, ordinary passport needs to be renewed every ten years.

Next in importance after passport, is the visa of the country intended to travel by the tourist.

II. Visa

A visa is an official permission that certain country needs to grant a passport holder of another country before their visit to the foreign country. A visa is a temporary authorisation for a passport holder to travel to a country other than the one he or she holds a passport of. The visa is usually stamped on a passport, but at times it can be separate document too. There are some basic types of visa that every country grants its visitors, but specific categories of visa differ from Nation to Nation.

The broad categories of visa are:

Tourist Visa- A country grants tourist visa for travel purpose.

Transit Visa- A transit visa is issued to a person if he or she is travelling through a country and is not staying there. A transit visa is usually valid for five days or less and is granted if a person is passing through a second country to reach a third destination.

Business Visa-Businessman who wish to travel a country for commercial purpose are granted business visa.

Temporary Workers Visa- This category of visa is for workers who are temporarily employed in a foreign country.

Student Visa- Student visa is for students who go to study in a foreign country.

Certain countries require an interview or needed medical screening prior to apply for a visa. Visa can be cancelled in case of emergency. Like in the current situation of Pandemic, international travel and visa has been cancelled.

The tourists generally insured their travel while travelling abroad.

III. International Travel Insurance- International travel insurance is a type of insurance policy that offers coverage against medical expenses, trip cancellation, trip delay and more. International travel insurance is done by the traveller to take care of all the mishaps during foreign trip. Overseas travel insurance companies might cover loss of checked in baggage, cashless hospitalization abroad, no medical test for individuals above 80 years of age,

etc. are covered by most of the variants offered by these insurance companies. There are many advantages for purchasing international travel insurance. Some of **these** are:

Emergency Medical Treatment and Assistance - Medical Insurance is one of the most important document in international travel. It provides cover in case of any medical assistance required while travelling. Moreover, it also covers pre and post hospitalization expenses. An international travel medical insurance is a variant of travel insurance policy, which protects the traveller against any medical contingencies.

Group Travel Insurance

Group travel insurance is a type of travel insurance plan, meant for large groups of people travelling abroad together. Most travel insurance providers offer this type of policy to a group of minimum 10 people. Such policies are usually opted by the organizations and companies that organize educational trips, pilgrimage trips, industrial training, organizational tours etc.

Emigration and Immigration

Emigration is the act of leaving a resident country or place of residence with the intent to settle elsewhere.

Immigration describes the movement of people into one country from another (to permanently move to a country). Hence one might emigrate from one's native country to immigrate to another country.

In case of international tourism, citizens of a country must for emigration checking after taking boarding pass while travelling by air. Emigration Officials check the necessary documents, pas port, visa, expiry date, tickets, the purpose of visit, the proof of stay in the destination country etc. Once they are satisfied, they allow the passenger for security check after clicking their photographs for official documents.

After arrival of the country of destination, the checking of documents by immigration officials is a must. Once they are satisfied a foreigner can enter the destination country. They also keep record and photograph of the foreign national entering their country. Thus, emigration and immigration officials check the international tourists and keep the record of the entry and exit.

Regulations to be followed by the International Tourists.

There are various international health regulations to be followed by the traveller.

International Health Regulations

The International Health Regulations or IHR(2005), represents an agreement between 196 countries including all WHO member States to work together for global health security.

Through IHR, countries have agreed to build their capacities to detect, assess and report public health events. World Health Organization (WHO) plays the coordinating role in IHR and together with its partners, helps countries to build capacities. IHR also includes specific measures at ports, airports, ground crossings to limit the spread of health risk to neighbouring countries. It also prevents unwarranted travel and trade restriction to keep trade and traffic disruption to a minimum.

Customs Regulations- Every country has their own customs regulations. The Central Board of Excise and customs (CBEC) is the apex body for the customs matter.

The Federal U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency is responsible for the enforcement of US Customs laws, which regulate the flow of goods, people and material into and out of USA. Some of the goods are prohibited by law. Some goods are restricted or dutiable items. Examples of restricted items include firearms, certain fruits and vegetables, animal products, animal by products and some items.

Dutiable/Restricted items in India:

- Large quantities of cosmetics, toiletries, food etc.
- Tobacco and alcohol products (duties over 200 %)
- Electronic equipment and appliances (only one of each is allowed)
- New items and consumables
- Professional equipment may be imported duty free with evidence and certificates proving qualifications of professions to customs.
- Gold or silver in any form other than ornaments

Prohibited Items- Weapons, firearms and ammunition, Live plants, Walkie-Talkies, Pornographic Materials, Politically sensitive literatures etc.

Taxes Paid by the Travelers

Tourism is a complex industry of numerous sub-sectors. It is challenging to define what exactly is a tourism product and how to tax it. Tourism is not a single commodity, but rather a collection of different goods and services provided by a wide range of suppliers.

The tourism value chain encompasses a variety of products including hotels, air carriers and transport companies, tour operators, travel agents, rental agencies and countless suppliers from other sectors.

Taxes and fees levied at different points of total tourist expenditure are as follows:

- 1. Travels and Fees-** Visa fees, airport taxes, visa cost
- 2. Commissions-** International travel agent, domestic tour operator, service tax, VAT.
- 3. International Travel-** Airline ticket, fuel charges, tariffs, Commute to and from airport.
- 4. Domestic, Travel-** Local transport costs, Transit fees
- 5. Lodging-** Room fares, Hotel Fares, Local Taxes
- 6. Others-** Fees and permits for site access, local tours, food and others.

Indirect Taxes applicable to tourism Sectors-

Service Tax- Room Rentals, Restaurant services, Convention Services, Rent a Cab Services, Dry cleaning services, Health Club, Spa, Beauty Parlour Services, Internet Services, Money changing services, air and train tickets.

VAT- Sale of food and beverages in restaurants, Sale of food under banquet arrangements, Sale of goods from retail shops, in room service foods etc.

Customs and Excise- Customs duty payable on import of capital goods, motor cars etc., Central Excise on manufacture of bakery products, State Excise on manufacture of Bakery Products, State Excise on alcoholic beverages

Other Taxes – Luxury tax on room rentals, entertainment tax on casinos, discos, video game parlour etc., State entry tax, Road tolls, Motor Vehicle tax, Different taxes in airports etc.

Thus, tourism is a profit making industry, which is suffering tremendously throughout the World at the current pandemic situations.

