

## VISA IRAN

Entry visas are required by all nationalities travelling to Iran and for residents of the UK and Canada a pre-authorisation code is required from the Iranian authorities.

KE will obtain the authorisation code and invitation letter for all clients. To do so, we require your full passport information and a clear electronic scan of the information page of your passport when you book. Your passport must have a remaining validity of 6 months after your dates of travel to Iran. The prior authorisation can take up to 30 working days to process (but is usually 14 days), so we advise forwarding this information when you book. KE will request the authorisation code 8 - 10 weeks prior to departure for all group members and will forward the authorisation number to all clients once received so you can apply for your visa. Note that the visa application must be made at the embassy stated in your application. Upon receipt of your authorisation code you will need to make your visa application to the embassy you nominated when you submitted your passport details to KE (we will check this with all clients). To make the application you will need to complete the application form and submit 2 passport sized photographs with your passport (which should have 2 blank pages). Women **must** wear a head scarf for these photographs and on visiting the embassy. We will provide guidance notes on completing the application form with your booking confirmation.

**EARLY BOOKING is recommended due to the complexities of the Iranian visa application process.**

### UK Passport Holders

On 23 March 2016, the Iranian Embassy in London announced that they would commence offering a visa service. Applicants to the Iranian Consulate in London will need to apply in person. A completed visa application form, original passport with 6 months validity, and 2 passport sized photographs are required (ladies need to have their hair covered by a headscarf in the photos). It is not possible to check if an authorisation code has arrived before your visit to the embassy. It is therefore advisable to leave 5 working days after you receive your authorisation code from KE before arranging your visit. The embassy will not accept your application if they have not received your authorisation code.

For full details refer to the Iranian Embassy website:

<http://london.mfa.ir/index.aspx?fkeyid=&siteid=234&pageid=33953> (note that the consulate page is under construction following the recent changes but shows clearly the opening times of the consulate and the current address: 50 Kensington Court, London, W8 5DD).

### Currently (30/08/18) the visa fees are:

5 working day service	£165 (payable in cash)	24 hour express service	£250 (payable in cash)
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*Please note that these prices are subject to change and we recommend that you take some extra cash with you to your appointment.*

For the 5 day service, you will be allocated a date and time to return to collect your passport or you can provide a Special Delivery self-addressed envelope and your passport will be returned to you (this takes 7 – 10 working days in total). It is easier if you arrive at the consulate with a Special Delivery Envelope purchased from a post office.

For the express service, after submitting your application, passports you may be able to collect your passport on the same day or the following day. Please be aware that although the service is called “same day” this generally refers to a next day service.

Currently, visa applications can only be lodged on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 2pm and 5pm. You should also ensure you have completed the application form – a copy will be sent to you with your booking confirmation. Please also ensure you have the requisite sum in cash with you to pay for your visa and two passport sized photos.

The Iranian Embassy in Dublin offers a similar service:

<http://dublin.mfa.ir/index.aspx?fkeyid=&siteid=230&pageid=5397>

Note that any passport showing an endorsement of visit or visa for Israel, either valid or expired, will not be accepted.

If you have visited Iran in the last 5 years, under recent changes you will need to get a visa to visit the USA rather than enter via the ESTA visa waiver system. The visa process involves completing an online form then visiting a US Embassy or Consulate for an interview. You will have to explain that you visited Iran as a tourist and if issued, your US visa will be valid for 10 years and multiple entries.

### US Passport Holders

As from the end of January 2017 the Republic of Iran has issued a 90 day visa ban for US passport holders and American citizens. Please check with the American State Department for the latest up to date information.

### Other Passport Holders

Any non-UK residents should contact their local Iranian Embassy for further details as to the current application process. Many nationalities can obtain visas on arrival.