

Russian Visa Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Russian Visa?

A Russian visa is a stamp or endorsement placed by Russian officials on a passport that allows the bearer to visit Russia. Russian visas are obtained from the local Russian Consulate for the purpose of the visit. "Visit" is further defined as the reason for entry, usually business, tourist or transitory.

What is the difference between a passport and a Russian visa?

A passport is an official government document that certifies one's identity and citizenship. The passport serves two purposes: to regain entry into the United States and is a requirement by many countries to gain entry to the country you are visiting.

A visa is an official government document that temporarily authorizes you to be in the country you are visiting. Many countries require a visa to gain entry. The visa usually is in the form of a stamp IN the passport and is obtained from the country you are visiting.

Do I need a Russian visa?

All non-Russian citizens (including children) are required to obtain a visa from a consulate in advance of their trip to the Russian Federation. In order to get one, you need an invitation from a Russian citizen or company, which is then taken to a Russian embassy or consulate, where the actual visa is issued. Within 72 hours of arrival in Russia, the visa needs to be registered by the person/organization that issued the invitation. IMAC will obtain the invitation and all necessary documents from Russia, on your behalf; and, will register the visas upon entry into St. Petersburg.

How long is a visa valid?

A Russian visa is valid for the exact period of stay your invitation dictates; and, can only be prolonged in the case of missing your flight; accident or serious illness for a maximum of two weeks.

How do I obtain a visa or an invitation to Russia?

IMAC will obtain the visa and all necessary supporting documents on your behalf. All visas fees are included with your trip package; no additional fees would be required unless the visa application and passport are not submitted by the January 31, 2008 deadline.

Can my visa application be rejected?

The Russian Consulate reserves the right to process applications as long as it deems necessary and may invite applicants for a personal interview; and/or may reject applications if it is believed the applicant's entry into Russia would not be desirable.

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What if my visa is lost or stolen in St. Petersburg?

If your passport or visa is lost or stolen immediately contact an IMAC representative who will assist you in obtaining a new exit visa. An official document confirming that your passport or visa was lost must be obtained from the local police precinct. To make the processing easier we recommend you to state that your documents were lost, not stolen. You will then need to visit the American Embassy or Consulate to obtain a new passport. Welfare staff from the consular office will help you to get exit visa.