

Essential Safety Information :

- ➔ Before you travel, make sure your passport is valid and will not expire while you are away. Most countries will not accept your passport if it has expired.
- ➔ Always take good care of your passport. Don't give or handover your passport to anyone. You need that to go and come in every country of the world. Without a passport you will not be able to get in the plane.
- ➔ Keep your passport with you at all times. If you are visiting friends or family, make sure that your passport is in a safe place. If you are in a hotel or shopping around the town, always check on it.
- ➔ Do you have a duplicate copy of your passport? If not, make at least 3 photocopies of your passport. Leave one behind at your permanent address, 2nd copy with you when you are traveling but not with the original passport (or keep it with your traveling companion). In case you lose your passport, you would need the photocopy for your identification. While making photocopy, make sure to copy all the relevant pages of your passport (mainly the page with your photo and profile)
- ➔ If you have a scanner - scan your passport and send it to your own e-mail address. It could be very helpful in case if you lose your passport and photocopy can't be located.
- ➔ If in case, you lost your passport, notify the local police authority and contact your embassy immediately. Do not delay on reporting the loss of your passport. Your travel arrangement might
- ➔ When it comes to traveling abroad, the first piece of document you need is a passport. It is the most important document. Following are some of the very things you should keep in mind: be delayed due to loss of your passport.

Where else do you need a passport?

If you are pulled over or stopped by the law enforcement officers in a foreign

- ➔ country, passport is your first identity along with your international driver's license.

If you like to use your credit card for your shopping needs, passport can be used as your identification.

PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENT

- a) Valid passport is required for nationals of all countries for a visit to Bangladesh. However, passports are not required for the holders of identity certificate, laissez passers issued by United Nations and its affiliated bodies and continuous Discharge certificate/Nullies/ Seaman Book (Travelling on duty to join or repatriate from ship) issued by any country recognized by Bangladesh.
- b) Visas are required for nationals of all countries with the following exceptions: Bhutan, Barbados, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cyprus, Fiji, Western Samoa, Tonga, Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Mauritius, Malawi, Maldives, Singapore, Switzerland, St. Kitts and Nevis, Ghana and Gabon. 'No visa required' means that no visa is required for stay in Bangladesh up to 90 days only. For further extension of stay permission is required. European, North American and Australian passport holders of

Bangladesh origin do not required visa provided they pay US\$ 50.00 or equivalent and have their passports stamped "No visa required for travel to Bangladesh" by Bangladesh Missions abroad.

c) The Immigration Authority may issue landing Permit (LP) or Visa-on-Arrival (VOA) to the following category of visitors:

1. Residents and Nationals of the countries where Bangladesh Missions are not located and countries which extend LP or VOA formalities of Bangladesh. Nationals (on reciprocal basis); this however will not be applicable to residents and nationals of those countries against which the government has imposed sanction or embargo.
2. Foreign investors with proper documents or documents certified by the officials of the Board of Investments (BOI) or Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) or Ministry of Industry presented at the Airport on the arrival.
3. Foreign delegates invited by Ministries or Division of the Government of Bangladesh to seminars, workshops, or International conventions for only the tenure of the stated event provided written request along with testifying documents satisfies the Immigration Authority.
4. Foreigners directly involve in export oriented establishments with documents & TIN (Tax Identification Number) of the concerned export oriented establishment certified by Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) or Bangladesh Garment Manufactures and Exporters Association (BGMEA) or other association of export oriented institutions of Bangladesh;
5. Foreign passport holders of Bangladeshi origin by birth, there children or spouse;
6. Foreign husband/wife of a Bangladesh national;
7. Foreigners with certified documents issued by Tablig Committee, Kakrail Mosque, Dhaka for the purpose of Tablig Jamat and
8. Doctors/Medical team with invitation letter issued by foreign embassies in Bangladesh, United Nations and/or its affiliate organizations for the purpose of emergency treatment and medical care of its officers or employees.

In all cases of LP or VOA the following procedures or conditions must be observed:

- a. Arriving foreigners must have a return ticket and at least US\$ 500.00 endorsed in their passport.
- b. Entry-Exit of persons issued with LP/VOA must be through the same airport; and
- c. LP/VOA may be issued for a maximum period of 30 (thirty) days unless otherwise stated and will not be extended under any circumstances (nor extendable).

Baggage rule of Government of Bangladesh

List of Taxable Baggage Items

- (a) Imported goods, other than personal and household items are taxable.
- (b) Each person is allowed two suitcases not exceeding 65 kg total as personal and household luggage. However, if the 3rd suitcase is of Magazines which are used for education purpose are not taxable.
- (c) Imported items which are used for commercial purposes are taxable
- (d) Bangladesh citizens are not allowed to import Alcohol/Alcoholic beverages.

The following items which may be imported as personal/Household items, are taxable as per the tax mentioned in brackets.

1. Television:

- (a) up to 21" Tk. 5000/-
- (b) up to 25" Tk. 7500/-
- (c) up to 29" Tk. 10,000/-

2. VCR/VCP/ Satellite receiver Tk. 3000/-

3. VCD/DVD/LD/MD Player Tk. 4000/-

4. Music center:

- (a) with general CD and detached Speaker Tk. 2000/-
- (b) Component system (CD/VCD/DVD/LD/MD set) Tk.8000/-
- (c) Detachable ` (CD/VCD/DVD/LD/MD Set) Tk.15,000/0-

5. Refrigerator /Deep Freezer Tk. 5000/-

6. Dish Washer/Washing /Knitting Machine Tk.3000/-

7. Electric Sewing Machine/Knitting Machine Tk.1000/-

8. General Photocopier/ Photo Enlarger Tk. 10,000/-

9. Aircooler/AirConditioner:

- (a) Window type Tk. 10,000/-
- (b) Split type Tk. 25,000/-

10. Fax Machine Tk. 5000/-

11. Oven:

- (a) Microwave oven Tk. 2000/-
- (b) Gas oven with burner Tk. 5000/-

12. Dish Antena Tk. 7000/-

13. Gold bar or bullion (Maximum 5 kg) Tk. 300 (per 11.664 gm)

14. Silver bar or bullion (Maximum 20 kg) Tk. 6/ (per 11.664gm)

15. Mobile/Cellular Telephone tk. 5000/-
16. Airgun/Air rifle Tk. 2000/-
17. Candelabrum Tk. 300/- per point
18. Carpet up to 15 square metere Tk. 500sq. meter.

Schedule-2

Duty & Tax free goods

1. Cassette Player/Two-in-one
2. Disk man/Walkman (Audio)
3. Portable Audio CD player
4. Desktop / Laptop Computer (with Printer & UPS)
5. Video Camera
6. Still Camera
7. General/Push button/Cordless telephone Set
8. General/Electric Oven
9. Rice Cooker /Pressure Cooker
10. Blender/Juicer/Coffee Maker
11. General and Electric Type writer
12. Sewing Machine (manual)
13. Table/Pedestal Fan
14. Sports materials (for personal use)
15. 200gms gold/silver ornaments (Not more than 12 pcs of each item)
16. One Cartoon Cigarette (200 stick).

Currency: Bangladeshi Taka (Tk) = 100 poisha. Notes are in denominations of Tk 500, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1. Coins are in denominations of 500, 100, 50, 25, 10 and 5 poisha.

Currency exchange: All foreign currency exchanged must be entered on a currency declaration form. Hotel bills must be paid in a major convertible currency or with travellers cheques. Many shops in the cities will offer better rates of exchange than the banks.

Credit cards: Limited acceptance of MasterCard, Diners Club and American Express. Check with your credit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other services which may be available.

Travellers cheques: Can be exchanged on arrival at Dhaka Airport. To avoid additional exchange

rate charges, travellers are advised to take travellers cheques in US Dollars or Pounds Sterling.

Exchange rate indicators against Sterling and the US Dollar: The following figures are included as a guide to the movements of the Taka against Sterling and the US Dollar:

Currency restrictions: The import of foreign currency is unlimited (subject to declaration at time of arrival for sums in excess of US\$5000). The export of foreign currency is limited to the amount declared on arrival. The import and export of local currency is limited to Tk100.

Banking hours: 0900-1500 Sunday to Thursday

Duty Free and Customs

The following goods may be imported into Bangladesh without incurring customs duty: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 225g of tobacco; 1 bottle of alcoholic beverages (non-Muslims only); a reasonable amount of perfume; gifts up to the value of Tk500.

Note: Duty-free items may be bought at the duty-free shop at Dhaka Airport on arrival.

Prohibited items: Firearms and some animals.

Customs Regulations: There are restrictions on importing currency and weapons. Contact the Embassy of Bangladesh for specific information

Some Useful Tips:

- ➔ Make sure you have the proper health/immunization requirements .
- ➔ Carry as much currency in travelers checks as possible.
- ➔ Keep a copy of all documents and credit card information in a safe place .
- ➔ Find out some information about your destination. It is to your advantage to know some basic phrases in the local language, basic facts, places of interest, how to get around etc.
- ➔ Check all your travel documents to make sure that they are in order.
- ➔ Passports should be valid for a few months after your return date.
- ➔ Bring your address and telephone book. Make sure you have jotted down important telephone numbers in case of emergency.
- ➔ Check the weather conditions of your destination.
- ➔ Become very alert when you are pushed around or distracted in a crowd.
- ➔ When staying at a hotel, have your keys ready before you reach your room.
- ➔ Every time you are in your hotel room, you use the double lock at all times.
- ➔ If any of your important travel documents such as passport are lost or stolen, immediately notify the local police. If you know that your country has an embassy in that country, report this to them and they can help you process temporary travel documents. For credit cards make sure you call the issuing bank immediately so that they can stop the card from being used illegally.

Note: As regulations are liable to change at short notice it is advisable to check details with the Embassy.