

RUSSIA TO DROP VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICANS

Russian president Vladimir Putin announced he wants to make Russia a visa-free destination for South Africans. This would form part of a move to stimulate tourism from Russia's Brics partners. Liberalising the visa regime almost always leads to an increase in tourist inflows and it's worth considering an extension of the visa-free travel already enjoyed by tour groups from China to other BRICS countries. Visits from Israel doubled after visas were abolished, while those from Turkey grew 41 percent.

PHUKET INCREASES SECURITY AFTER BANGKOK ATTACKS

Phuket has increased security throughout the island following the recent bomb attacks in Bangkok, increasing surveillance at checkpoints on the island and may set up additional checkpoints as needed. The checkpoints may cause traffic delays. Security measures have also been increased at Phuket International Airport.

THE ONLY INDEPENDENT LOUNGE OPERATING

Lounge Pass are delighted to be able to inform you they now supply lounge access to travellers at one of the busiest airport terminals

London Heathrow Terminal 5, which is used by over 30 million fliers a year. They are very pleased to present, Aspire, The Lounge and Spa at LHR T5

NEW VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-SA PASSPORT HOLDERS

Kenya has introduced new requirements for passport holders who require a visa to enter the country. **This does not affect South African passport holders.** Effective 1st of September, Kenya will introduce mandatory electronic visa applications. Travellers will be denied boarding of their flight to Kenya or denied entry to Kenya if they do not have a printed copy of their e-visa with them.

BAG-FREE TRAVEL AVAILABLE AT GATWICK

London Gatwick has announced Portr has just launched its AirPortr luggage transfer service at the airport. Gatwick passengers can now take advantage of the same-day, on demand luggage service which provides bag-free travel to and from their home, workplace or holiday destination within London, Gatwick and surrounding areas connecting to the London corridor. AirPortr's team of concierges and drivers collect and deliver passengers baggage between their location

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and the airport within hours and at a time suited to them. Arriving passengers can also offload their bags with the AirPortr team when they land and travel straight to their destination, avoiding carrying luggage around with them all day.

VARIOUS DUBAI VISAS

96 Hours Visa- this Visa is valid only for 96 hours and is ideal for travelers to the United Arab Emirates who plan to stay for a period of less than 4 days. This type of Visa is preferred by travelers having business meetings or taking stopovers en route to their journey.

Short Term Visit Single Entry Service (14 days) - this visa is non-extendable, valid for 14 days stay from the date of issue.

Short Term Visit Single Entry Tourist: this visa is non-extendable, valid for 30 days stay, this visa is valid for 60 days from the date of issue 90 Days

Visit Visa- This Visa is valid for 90 days availed by travelers having a longer stay in UAE. This type of Visa is preferred by travellers going to UAE for holidays, visit family/friends or for business training.

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