

## MEDIA INFORMATION

Paramaribo, 15 April 2019

### **New E-Visa and E-Tourist Card service launched for a smarter and faster entry into Suriname**

- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname and VFS Global partner to offer the new E-Visa and E-Tourist Card service for eligible travellers**
- **The New online platform offers quicker application and faster processing time**
- **The E-Visa applications to be submitted on <https://suriname.vfsevisa.com/suriname/online/>**
- **The E-Tourist Cards issued for tourism purposes are available on the same platform for travellers from 51 countries\***

In line with the Government of Suriname's initiative to promote tourism and business, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has partnered with VFS Global to offer the new E-Visa and E-Tourist Card service that will enable a faster and more convenient application, processing, and issuance of visa for leisure and business travellers. Visitors who are eligible to apply for one of the E-Visa categories will receive their travel authorisation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to their departure from their country of origin. E-Tourist Cards for tourism purposes are available on the same E-Visa platform and valid for a period of 90 days for a single visit. The new online service will be launched on 15 April, 2019.

Travellers can avail this simplified and seamless, highly secure online service by visiting <https://suriname.vfsevisa.com/suriname/online/> from a location of their choice, instead of having to visit the Embassy or Consulate in person. With online payment options available, travellers also can use the save and retrieve option for completing the form at a later stage. On arrival in Suriname, this also ensures a faster process at the airport, since there will be no more need to enter separate queues for Visa or Tourist Card services.

E-Visa applications are available for five visa categories and travel authorisation will be granted prior an applicant travels to Suriname. E-Tourist Cards are eligible for nationals of 51 countries\*) and will be provided fully electronically prior arrival on the same platform. No more paper form filling for a landing card is needed anymore on arrival.

### **3 SIMPLE STEPS TO GET YOUR SURINAME eVISA OR eTOURIST CARD**

**STEP 1:** Go to <https://suriname.vfsevisa.com/suriname/online/> and complete the registration process.

**STEP 2:** Complete the easy-to-use application form, seamlessly upload documents needed and proceed for online payment.

**STEP 3:** On the successful completion of the payment and once the visa decision is made, travellers will be informed about the outcome via email (for eVisa categories). The E-Visa or E-Tourist Card , if approved, will be provided electronically after application.

**Key benefits of the new eTourist Card and eVisa services for applicants:**

- Globally accessible and user-friendly website that provide online payment options
- Opt for save and retrieve option to complete the form at a later stage
- No more paper form filling of a landing card on arrival in Suriname
- Time and efforts saved from not having to visit the Consulate or Embassy in person for a visa
- Track status of application online or avail dedicated helpline and email support by well-trained staff

Travellers from the Netherlands currently account for a large majority of the inbound travel to Suriname, mostly to visit their family in the country and to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the interior. Additionally, Latin America accounts for a significant travel flow to Suriname for its shopping opportunities as well as eco-tourism destination.

Commenting on the launch of the new eVisa service, **Ambassador Luziano Truideman, Permanent Secretary for Administrative and Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname**, said *"As we are currently widening the diversity for tourists, the new E-Visa and E-Tourist Card online service enables a wider reach as well as easier access to nationals all over the world. This is complementary to the priorities set for the further development of our tourism policy. The fact that VFS Global already provided services to 62 client governments, reflects the experience and expertise that the Ministry was looking for its E-Visa and E-Tourist Card implementation."*

**Mr. Zubin Karkaria, CEO, VFS Global**, said *"VFS Global is proud to extend its eVisa solutions to the sixty-third partner/client government with the launch of the new Suriname eVisa portal. We estimate around 150,000 applications are likely to be processed using this solution going forward. With our best practises adopted across data security and compliance, this new portal will offer a highly secure and seamless experience that elevate the overall experience of the traveller. By offering a scalable and customisable experience, we also ensure our partners who avail our eVisa solutions have powerful and efficient system in place that is easily integrated with their existing immigration systems. I would also like to mention that since our operating presence in Suriname was established in 2015, we have grown our visa services operations in the country to serve the key client governments of The Netherlands and the United Kingdom who are serviced through our centres located in the capital city of Paramaribo by 15 local nationals who we have employed."*

Since 2002, VFS Global offers innovative and highly secure online visa solutions that enable applicants to apply for their visa on the move from anytime, anyplace. This includes promotion of the respective locations (Brazil, Thailand) and airlines (Emirates, Gulf Air) as the destination or travel partner of choice. The Electronic Visa (eVisa) is emerging as a convenient and revolutionary service in the travel domain as it now offers the visa applicants the unmatched convenience of applying for their visa from the location of their choice by leveraging on the highly secure and smart solution developed by VFS Global.

*\*Citizens of the following countries are eligible for eTourist cards: Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, United States, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela.*

### **About VFS Global**

VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. With 3034 Application Centres, operations in 146 countries across five continents and over 196 million applications processed as on 31 March 2019, VFS Global is the trusted partner of 63 client governments. The company offers differentiated services and solutions to its client governments. Visa and passport application processing which offer diplomatic missions an integrated process from submission to delivery. These services include operations, information and financial solutions for an end-to-end process, depending on specific consular requirements. VFS Global has a Swiss parentage and is a portfolio company of EQT, a leading global private equity firm headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden.

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