

From 1 April 2020, a Caribbean visa is mandatory for nationals of Venezuela

From 2 March onwards you can make an appointment for a visa application at the VFS Global Caracas office from 1st April onwards. In order to accommodate travellers who do not have a visa in time during the interim, a **'grace period' will be in place from 1-30 April 2020**.

Please note: this arrangement does not guarantee access to the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom. It is always up to the local border authorities to determine whether the conditions have been met.

Venezuelan travellers who possess a valid multiple short-stay visa or residence permit for the Schengen area, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada or the United States are exempt from the visa requirement.

Questions and Answers

Q: Does the grace period apply to the entire Caribbean zone of the Kingdom?

A: Yes to the entire Caribbean zone: Curaçao, St. Maarten, Aruba, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

Q: What does it mean exactly?

A: A Caribbean visa is mandatory for Venezuelan nationals as of 1 April 2020. During the month of April 2020 compliance with this requirement will be dealt with in a lenient manner. However, the grace period does not guarantee access to the Kingdom parts. It is always up to the local border authorities to determine whether the access conditions are met.

Q: How long can I stay if I travel before 1 April 2020?

A: Once admitted to the territory, admission applies until the end of the admitted period as determined by the local admission authority upon entry.

Q: Can I invoke the grace period after 30 April 2020 due to special circumstances?

A: No, after 30 April 2020 the grace period ends and the visa requirement is strictly enforced.

Q: What should I do if I have booked a ticket for after April 30, but there are no slots available for applying?

A: At the time of planning the trip, an applicant must take into account the timely application for a visa. VFS has opened the slots since 3 March for the period from 1 April onwards. If a trip has already been booked for after 30 April, the applicant must monitor the appointment slots in time.

Does the grace period apply to multiple journeys between 1 April and 30 April 2020?

A: Yes, all Venezuelan nationals who travel to the Caribbean between 1 April and 30 April are covered by the grace period.

Q: When do you qualify for the grace period?

A: This applies to all Venezuelan nationals requiring a visa and travelling to the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom between 1 and 30 April.

Q: What is meant by the temporary introduction of the visa requirement, until when does the visa requirement apply?

A: The temporary visa requirement has been introduced as part of a broader package of measures to prevent irregular migration. As soon as irregular migration comes under control a decision will be taken as to whether the visa requirement will be necessary any longer.