



Siam Legal International Issues Guide on Australia Tourist Visa for Thai Nationals

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Siam Legal International, a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of operation in Thailand, is advising Thai nationals planning to visit Australia to seek professional guidance before applying for the Australian Visitor Visa Subclass 600, as the application process requires significantly more preparation than most first-time applicants expect and errors at any stage can result in refusal and a harder subsequent application.

Thai passport holders are not eligible for Australia's Electronic Travel Authority or eVisitor programs, meaning a formal visa application is required before travel. The most common pathway is the Visitor Visa Subclass 600 Tourist Stream, which allows stays of three, six, or twelve months depending on what is applied for and what is granted. Most first-time applicants receive a three-month visa. The visa does not permit paid work in Australia, though short-term study or training programs of up to three months are permitted. The application is submitted entirely online through Australia's ImmiAccount portal and involves account creation, form completion, document upload, and payment of an application fee of approximately 200 Australian dollars. In some cases, a biometrics appointment at VFS Global in Bangkok is also required before the application can be processed.

The single most critical factor in every Subclass 600 assessment is the Genuine Temporary Entrant requirement. Australian immigration officers must be satisfied that the applicant genuinely intends to return to Thailand after the visit and has sufficient ties to Thailand to do so. These ties typically include employment, property ownership, family dependents, or ongoing business commitments. Applicants are required to demonstrate that they have sufficient funds to support themselves during the visit and that their travel purpose is clearly defined and consistent with their personal and financial circumstances. Standard processing takes two to four weeks for most applications, though this varies by individual circumstances. Where the Department of Home Affairs requests further information during processing, applicants have a 28-day window to respond, and missing that deadline results in automatic refusal regardless of the strength of the underlying application.

"The Australian visa process is more demanding than most Thai applicants anticipate, and the consequences of getting it wrong extend beyond a single refusal," said Rex Baay, Operations Manager at Siam Legal International. "A refused application creates a negative immigration record that makes every subsequent application harder to approve. The most common cause of refusal is not missing documents but documents that do not tell a coherent enough story about the applicant's ties to Thailand and genuine intention to return. Preparing a strong, consistent application from the outset is significantly easier than trying to overcome a prior refusal." A full step-by-step guide to the Australian tourist visa process for Thai nationals, including eligibility requirements, document checklists, and common refusal reasons, is available in Siam Legal's Australia visa guide for Thai citizens.

Common causes of refusal include insufficient evidence of ties to Thailand, inconsistent financial documentation, a vague or unconvincing travel purpose, thin travel history, and undisclosed prior refusals or overstays in Australia or other countries. A weak employment letter, an unclear statement of purpose, or a financial history that does not reflect the applicant's stated circumstances can each be sufficient grounds for refusal on their own. Applicants should submit their applications at least four to six weeks before their intended travel date, provide a clear cover letter explaining the purpose of the visit and the planned return date, and ensure that three to six months of bank statements reflect a consistent and realistic financial history rather than artificially inflated balances introduced shortly before the application. Any prior visa refusals in Australia or other countries must be disclosed and directly addressed in the new application rather than omitted.

Siam Legal International is a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting foreign nationals in Thailand, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm provides comprehensive legal and immigration support across visa planning, application processing, and long-term compliance.

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American-managed Thailand law firm with 22+ years' experience. Experts in corporate setup, BOI, FBL, family & divorce, property, litigation, immigration, notary, wills, contracts & due diligence across Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya & more.

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