

Thailand Visa Information

This information is intended to provide travelers outside the Kingdom of Thailand with information regarding the Thai visa process to enable you and members of your district to effectively plan travel to the Kingdom of Thailand to attend the 2012 Rotary International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand.

Who Requires a Visa?

To determine if your country of residence requires a tourist visa for entry into the Kingdom of Thailand, please visit <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2637.php>. The visa process may require a personal application at a Royal Thai Embassy or Royal Thai Consulate-General; to find the embassy or consulate nearest you, please visit <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2712.php>. Citizens of many African and Latin American countries will need to provide proof of Yellow Fever vaccination; see <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2482.php?id=2494> for more information.

Citizens of over 40 countries, including the United States and many Western European countries as well as Brazil, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and several Asian countries, are eligible for the Tourist Visa Exemption and do not need to apply for a visa. For more information on this program, please visit <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2482.php?id=2490>. Citizens of several other countries, including India, may apply for a visa on arrival in Thailand, which is good for 15 days from the date of entry. For more information about Visa On Arrival, please see <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2482.php?id=2491>. Please note that the list of countries eligible for visa on arrival is subject to change, and you may wish to apply for a visa in advance.

Advance Travel Planning

Advance travel planning is critical to ensure you have done everything possible to obtain a Thai tourist visa to attend the 2011 RI Convention. Registrants need to consider the entire process that begins with registering for the convention with Rotary International through the visa interview. The length of time needed for the visa process may vary substantially from country to country; please contact your nearest embassy or consulate as early as possible to determine requirements in your country. By following the steps below, you will ensure that you have allotted a sufficient amount of time for a visa application to be processed for the 2012 RI Convention.

Step 1 – Register for the convention through RI Registration Services. After your registration is processed, RI Registration Services will send the main registrant an email which will include the registration confirmation and letter of invitation in PDF format. This is normally sent within 2 weeks of registration, with additional time at peak periods. Those registrants who do not have email, or whose email attempt failed, are sent confirmation materials by post. Depending on your country of residence, if materials are sent by post it could take 2-5 additional weeks to receive the mailed confirmation packet.

Step 2 – Research procedures for obtaining a visa by locating the nearest Thai embassy to your country of residence. The following site, <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2712.php>, provides links to all Thai embassies and consulates throughout the world. Thai visas generally require the recipient to enter the Kingdom of Thailand within 3 months of issuance.

Step 3 – Follow the Thai embassy's instructions and apply for a visa. Many countries will require a personal interview as part of the visa application process.

Step 4 – Gather the required documentation for your personal interview with the visa consular, including registration confirmation, hotel confirmation, letter of invitation, your return air ticket, evidence of adequate finance, and any other documents requested.

Step 5 – Arrive on time to the visa interview with all required documentation. It is the registrant's responsibility to provide the Thai embassy with any and all documentation that may facilitate the visa process and includes all fees and expenses associated with obtaining a visa.

Visa Application Timeline

1 June – 1 November 2011 – Register for the 2012 RI Convention with Rotary International either through Member Access with credit card payment or download a form at www.rotary.org .	30 November 2011 – If you registered on or before 1 November, you should have received your confirmation documents by this date. Contact RI Registration Services at ri.registration@rotary.org if you have not received your confirmation documents.	1 January 2011 – Contact your nearest Thai embassy or consulate by this date to determine when and how to apply for your visa.	6 May 2012 – Deadline for RI Registration Services to receive written cancellation and refund request if the visa is denied. Contact RI Registration Services at e-mail ri.registration@rotary.org to submit your registration cancellation.
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What Should I Expect at the Interview with the Visa Consular?

Requirements for personal interviews vary by embassy/consulate. As a visa applicant, you must prove to the consular officer that you will be able to support yourself while in Thailand, have a return air ticket, are eligible to attend the meeting, and provide any requested supporting documentation. Remember that the visa consular has sole discretion in determining who will receive a visa.

IMPORTANT! Review the requirements that the Thai embassy requires for your country of residence and bring any and all documentation that would support your request for a visa with you to the interview.

Should you receive a visa denial, send your cancellation and refund request directly to RI Registration Services at ri.registration@rotary.org or fax: +1-847-556-2194 by the 6 May 2012 deadline date. Refer to the registration and event ticket order form for the complete cancellation policy.

To cancel your hotel reservations or host event tickets, follow the cancellation policies as indicated on the respective forms.

What Can Rotary International Do For Attendees That Require a Visa?

Encourage early registration!! Rotary International's involvement in the visa process is limited to providing the emailed or mailed registration confirmation materials that includes the registration confirmation and letter of invitation and providing the Kingdom of Thailand with a list of convention registrants on a regular basis. The visa consular has sole discretion in reviewing and determining who receives a visa for entry into the Kingdom of Thailand.