

Press Release



Ministry of Justice

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K-ETA Policy Highlights from the First 8 Months, and Detailed Information for Users

- January 2021 marks the first 8-month anniversary of the Republic of Korea's Korea Electronic Travel Authorization (K-ETA) implementation.
 - Following trial operation from 3 May 2021 to full operation since 1 September 2021, Korea has become the 5th country in the world to carry out the ETA policy, not to mention the first to be implemented in Asia. Due to COVID-19, K-ETA is currently applied to 50 countries (refer to attachment 1).
 - With K-ETA, nationals of 112 countries which were previously eligible to enter Korea visa free are required to apply online (or via mobile app) for a K-ETA by submitting information before traveling to Korea.
- During the last 8 months of implementation, a total of 493 high-risk foreigners including child sex and drug offenders were blocked from boarding a flight bound to Korea. By assisting in expedited entry processing to 1,827 business persons who were invited by Korean companies amid the current COVID-19 situation, K-ETA is being credited for contributing not only to strengthen border safety and management but also to domestic companies.
- In recognition of these achievements, K-ETA was selected "Best

Practice” by the United Nations Office of Counter-terrorism last year on the Border Security and Management assessment.

- K-ETA was awarded the bronze prize among the 896 policies submitted for the ‘2021 Government Innovation Integration Contest for Best Practices’ in October, and in November, a booth for K-ETA was exhibited in the ‘2021 Korea Innovation Fair’ under the category ‘Safe Korea’.

- The Ministry of Justice plans to put together a detailed Q&A (refer to attachment 1) based on the questions received by applicants, in order to provide a more easy and convenient application process.

- Moreover, there have been quite a few reports regarding websites that charge a large fee for K-ETA application.

- Please use the official K-ETA website for K-ETA application to avoid falling victim to spam or being overcharge. (refer to attachment 2)

- Users can apply for K-ETA for themselves or family members, and friends, etc. via the official K-ETA website easily and conveniently (refer to attachment 1).

* PC: www.k-eta.go.kr, Mobile app: K-ETA.

* If you have any questions when applying for K-ETA, please use the K-ETA website’s ‘Ask Us’ service or call +82-2-2666-0463.

- Korea Immigration Service (KIS) Commissioner Jae-Yoo Lee emphasized, “KIS will spare no effort in providing satisfactory service by listening closely to user opinions and reflecting their needs to the policies.”

1. Who can apply for K-ETA at the moment?
2. I'm not sure how to apply for K-ETA. How can I apply for K-ETA?
3. What are the purposes of the visit that are allowed to enter with K-ETA?
4. How to enter the address?
5. When I upload my photo, it says that the file size limit exceeded. What should I do?
6. How much is the K-ETA fee?
7. The visa-free entry of my country is suspended but I stay in the country/region where visa-free entry is available. Can I apply for K-ETA?
8. When I select my nationality, it says "Selected country/region is not eligible or temporarily suspended for K-ETA". What should I do?
9. Can I apply for K-ETA via private agency websites?
10. How can I apply for K-ETA for 'Priority Entry (Business) Persons'?
11. I have both Korean and foreign nationality. Do I need to apply for K-ETA?
12. If I obtain K-ETA approval, am I exempted from quarantine? And where do I apply for quarantine exemption?
13. I want to extend the period of stay after entering Korea via K-ETA. Is it possible?
14. I want to change the status of stay after entering Korea via K-ETA. Is it possible?

Q1. Who can apply for K-ETA at the moment?

A. Due to COVID-19, currently the nationals of 50 countries/regions who want to enter the Republic of Korea visa-free (refer to table 1) can apply for K-ETA.

- With K-ETA being implemented on September 1, 2021, those who used to enter Korea visa-free should apply for K-ETA. The airline may reject to issue the boarding pass if the nationals of the K-ETA required countries do not have a valid K-ETA.
- The nationals of 62 countries/regions (refer to table 2) where visa-free entry is temporarily suspended are required to obtain a visa at a diplomatic mission of the Republic of Korea. (As of January 2022).

[TABLE 1] 50 Eligible Countries and Regions for K-ETA

Albania, Andorra, Barbados, Dominica, Guam, Guyana, Holy See, Ireland, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, New Caledonia, Nicaragua, Palau, Saint Kitts-Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Slovenia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, Greece, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Romania, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Sweden, Spain, Slovakia, Estonia, Austria, Italy, Czech Republic, Croatia, Portugal, Poland, France, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Singapore

[TABLE 2] 62 Countries and Regions Currently Suspended for K-ETA

Asia (16)	Macau, Malaysia, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Kuwait, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Hong Kong
Americas (23)	Guatemala, Grenada, Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Brazil, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Haiti, Antigua and Barbuda, El Salvador, Uruguay, Jamaica, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, Peru, Canada, Argentina, Honduras, Paraguay, Ecuador
Europe (4)	Russia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia
Oceania (11)	Nauru, New Zealand, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, Australia

Africa (8)	Republic of South Africa, Lesotho, Morocco, Mauritius, Botswana, Seychelles, Eswatini, Tunisia
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Q2. I'm not sure how to apply for K-ETA. How can I apply for K-ETA?

A. You can apply for K-ETA for yourself or on behalf of somebody else via the official K-ETA website (www.k-eta.go.kr) or via the mobile application (K-ETA). You can easily apply for K-ETA by following the steps as below.

Step 01	- Select the nationality based on your passport (NOT on the country of residence or departure) - Read 'the collection and use of personal information' and 'the terms and conditions of use' and select 'Agree'
Terms and Conditions Agreement	



Step 02	- Enter the passport number (to verify whether there is a submitted or saved application) - Enter the E-mail address to receive the K-ETA application result
Enter e-mail	



Step 03	- Upload the image of bio-data page on the passport (JPG/JPEG, lower than 300KB) <*NOT mandatory> (Official mobile K-ETA application will adjust the capacity, size of the photo automatically) - Select the nationality and sex, enter the name, date of birth, passport number, etc.
Enter Passport Info.	



Step 04	- Enter the dual nationality/citizenship when applicable, purpose of entry, address, contact information, etc. - Upload your portrait photo (JPG/JPEG, lower than 100KB, less than 700*700 pixels) (Official mobile K-ETA application will adjust the capacity, size, and format of the photo automatically)
Enter Application Info	



Step 05	- Check if you have entered all the information correctly (If you want to correct the information, click 'Edit') - If you want to add members, click 'Add Members' (You will be directed to 'STEP 03'. Enter the required information)
Check Info	



Step 06	- Make payment using the credit or debit cards (VISA, MASTER, JCB or AMEX) enabled for overseas payment
Make Payment	

Q3. What are the purposes of the visit that are allowed to enter with K-ETA?

A. K-ETA is an online travel authorization the nationals of visa-free entry countries are required to obtain before entering the Republic of Korea for the purpose of tour, visiting relatives, participating in events or meetings, or business (excluding profit-making activities). If your purpose of visit falls under K-ETA, you can enter the country via K-ETA without a visa. If your purpose of visit is employment, study, immigration, etc., you need to obtain an appropriate visa at a diplomatic mission of the Republic of Korea, not K-ETA.

* Currently, the nationals of 50 countries/regions can apply for K-ETA (refer to Table 1)

Q4. How to enter the address?

A. To search for the address, click the [Find Postal Code] button and enter both the 5 digit postal code and the road name excluding building number in English in the 'Address Finder' pop up window. Note that Korean or special characters such as hyphen (-) cannot be entered.

Q5. When I upload my photo, it says that the file size limit exceeded. What should I do?

A. There is the limitation with the file sizes because numerous K-ETA applications from all over the world are being submitted. The sizes of the portrait photos need to be less than 100KB and 700*700 pixels. If you find it difficult to resize the photos, you can install the mobile application (K-ETA) to take the pictures. Then, the photos will be resized automatically and

uploaded instantly.

* You can install the mobile application (K-ETA) from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android Phone).

Q6. How much is the K-ETA fee?

A. The K-ETA application fee is 10,000 KRW per person (9~10 USD, additional charges are not included) and it can be paid with one of the global online payment enabled international credit cards or debit cards such as VISA, MASTER, JCB, or AMEX. Note that the application fee is non-refundable after payment is made regardless of the result of the application.

Q7. The visa-free entry of my country is suspended but I stay in the country/region where visa-free entry is available. Can I apply for K-ETA?

A. The K-ETA application is based on the nationality of the applicants' passport. The country of departure or residence, possession of visas from other countries (including permanent residency status) are irrelevant to determine the applicants' eligibility for K-ETA. If you hold a passport of a country where visa-free entry is suspended, you must obtain a visa to enter the country.

Q8. When I select my nationality, it says "Selected country/region is not eligible or temporarily suspended for K-ETA". What should I do?

A. The nationals of visa-waiver countries/regions (B-1) and designated visa-free entry countries/regions (B-2) are eligible for K-ETA (112 in total). However, due to COVID-19, currently only the nationals of 50 countries/regions (refer to Q1) can apply for K-ETA. The nationals of K-ETA suspended countries or K-ETA ineligible countries need to obtain a

visa at a nearest diplomatic mission of the Republic of Korea.

Q9. Can I apply for K-ETA via private agency websites?

A. The official K-ETA website (www.k-eta.go.kr) and the mobile application (K-ETA) are the only official application channels operated by the government of the Republic of Korea. And the Government of the Republic of Korea has not appointed any agency for K-ETA application. Please be aware of those websites because some are charging excessive processing fees or trying to deceive the applicants.

Q10. How can I apply for K-ETA for 'Priority Entry (Business) Persons'?

A. The domestic company needs to apply for K-ETA for 'Priority Entry (Business) Persons' through the department in charge related to their business institutional industry on behalf of the foreign invitees. After verifying the entry purpose, the department in charge sends an official letter to the Ministry of Justice to review the validity of the K-ETA issuance. For more information, refer to [Notice]-[K-ETA Application Guide for 'Priority Entry (Business) Persons' (effective from 1 September)] updated on the official K-ETA website.

Q11. I have both Korean and foreign nationality. Do I need to apply for K-ETA?

A. By the rules, those who have Korean nationality must use the Korean passport to enter and leave the Republic of Korea. In this case, they do not need to apply for K-ETA.

Q12. If I obtain K-ETA approval, am I exempted from quarantine? And where do I apply for quarantine exemption?

A. K-ETA is irrelevant to the quarantine exemption. Therefore, even if you

receive K-ETA approval, you need to be quarantined unless you are eligible for the exemption. For quarantine related matter, contact the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency and for the quarantine exemption, contact a diplomatic mission of the Republic of Korea (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Q13. I want to extend the period of stay after entering Korea via K-ETA. Is it possible?

A. In principal, foreign nationals cannot stay in Korea beyond the period of stay granted upon entry. If they want to stay long-term, they need to obtain an appropriate visa at a diplomatic mission of the Republic of Korea. Those who enter Korea visa-free via K-ETA can stay up to the visa-free sojourn period* granted to their country per visit. For details, refer to the [Notice]-[Allowed Period of Stay by Country Eligible for K-ETA] updated on the official K-ETA website.

Q14. I want to change the status of stay after entering Korea via K-ETA. Is it possible?

A. In principal, those who want to enter Korea for profit-making activities, study, or work are required to obtain a visa suitable for the purpose at a diplomatic mission of the Republic of Korea, not K-ETA. It is not allowed for those who enter Korea with K-ETA to change the status of stay in principal. But, if you want to check the possibility, contact the 1345 Immigration Contact Center or visit the Hi Korea website (www.hikorea.go.kr).

Attachment 2**Attention Notice on Non-official Websites**

Beware of NON-OFFICIAL Websites and Agencies for K-ETA

- The Government of the Republic of Korea has implemented the Korea Electronic Travel Authorization (K-ETA) from September 1st, 2021.
- Recently, some non-official K-ETA application websites were found to be illegally collecting a higher fee than the official fee and relevant damage cases have been reported. Please be careful to protect yourself from damages due to fraudulent non-official K-ETA websites and agencies.
- Kindly note that the Government of the Republic of Korea has not designated any agency for K-ETA application.
- Please make sure to apply through the K-ETA official website (www.k-eta.go.kr) or mobile app (K-ETA).
- Please be extra cautious to avoid any financial damages or frauds due to non-official application agencies.



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