

UAE Launches 10-Year Blue Visa for Environmentalists

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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01

INTRODUCTION

The United Arab Emirates is enhancing its global leadership in sustainability and innovation with the new Blue Visa. This long-term residency option aims to attract and keep environmental experts worldwide, supporting the UAE's sustainable development goals and advanced technology efforts.

Here are the details of the Blue Visa and other long-term residency options in the UAE, along with the latest updates on visa policies in Oman.



02 KEY FEATURES OF THE BLUE VISA

The UAE Cabinet approved the Blue Visa on May 16. This self-sponsored, long-term visa is for foreigners who have made significant contributions to environmental protection. It lets recipients live and work in the UAE for up to 10 years.

This move supports the UAE's declaration of 2024 as the Year of Sustainability, emphasizing its commitment to environmental care.

03 ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Candidates must demonstrate significant achievements in environmental protection and sustainability. Applications for the Blue Visa can be submitted directly through the electronic portal of the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security (ICP) ICP Portal or via nominations by competent authorities.

04 PREVIOUS LONG-TERM VISA INITIATIVES

The Blue Visa is part of the UAE's plan to provide long-term residency options. It follows the Golden Visa, introduced in 2019, and the Green Residence Visa, launched in 2022. The Golden Visa offers a 10-year residency to investors, entrepreneurs, top talents, and high-earning professionals.

The Green Residence Visa provides a five-year residency for exceptional talents, skilled professionals, freelancers, investors, and entrepreneurs.

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GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, COP28 President and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, stated:

“ *The blue residency visa aims to attract global environmental leaders to contribute to the UAE's sustainable economic and social development. It underscores the nation's dedication to leveraging advanced technologies and artificial intelligence to create impactful solutions. With a forward-thinking approach, these solutions will address climate challenges and transform them into opportunities for a brighter future for humanity and our planet.*



For more information on the Blue Visa and how to apply, visit:

[Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security ICP Portal](#)

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OMAN WORK VISA NEWS

Oman's thriving economy continues to attract foreign professionals and investors.

Expatriates looking for opportunities in Oman must meet the following criteria to get a work visa:

- ✔ Be between 21 and 60 years old.
- ✔ Obtain an employment contract.
- ✔ Employers must apply for the employment visa on behalf of the employee.

The application process involves:

- ▶ Obtaining a labor license from the Ministry of Manpower.
- ▶ Receiving Labor Clearance status to start hiring foreign employees.
- ▶ Issuing a letter of invitation to the employee and obtaining the employment visa.
- ▶ Applying to the Royal Oman Police.
- ▶ Obtaining a residence card for the employee within 30 days of entry.

For more details on work visas, visit:

[Royal Oman Police Website.](#)



07 SCHENGEN VISA WAIVER FOR OMANIS

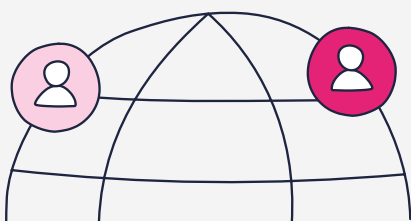
Oman is working towards visa-free travel to the EU. Discussions are ongoing with the European External Action Service of the European Union to advance the Schengen visa waiver. This would allow Omani citizens to travel to the Schengen Area for up to 90 days within six months for tourism or business.

08 VISA-FREE TRAVEL TO OMAN

Oman has recently abolished visa requirements for citizens from 103 countries, allowing them to stay for up to 14 days without a visa. This list includes countries from the EU, South America, Asia, North America, and others. For a full list of eligible countries and more details, visit the [Royal Oman Police Website](#).

09 OMAN EVISA SYSTEM

For those not eligible for visa-free travel or who wish to stay longer, Oman offers an eVisa system. This system, implemented in 2018, allows tourists to apply for single-entry or multi-entry tourist visas online. For more information and to apply, visit the [Oman eVisa Portal](#).



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SUMMARY

The UAE's new Blue Visa aims to attract global environmental leaders, highlighting its commitment to sustainability and innovation. Meanwhile, Oman is updating its visa policies to make it easier for foreign professionals and tourists to visit.

Both countries are focusing on international collaboration and economic growth, demonstrating their proactive approaches to global challenges and a sustainable future.





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