

VISITOR VISAS



The Hong Kong Travel Pass

(a super-charged Visitor visa)

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Applying for a 3 Year Visitor Visa?

The HKSAR Travel Pass is designed for foreign nationals who frequently visit Hong Kong for short periods, allowing efficient clearance through immigration formalities upon arrival and departure, enabling you to focus on your business activities.

However, family members cannot be included in any Travel Pass application. To be eligible for a HKSAR Travel Pass, you must have made at least three separate trips to Hong Kong in the previous 12 months entering via the airport, have pre-existing employment in another country - which will continue after receiving the Travel Pass, be a citizen of a country that enjoys visa-upon-arrival access to Hong Kong, and satisfy the Director of Immigration that granting a Travel Pass will positively benefit the Hong Kong economy.

In special circumstances, the Immigration Department may waive the three-trip rule. To obtain a Travel Pass, you must provide evidence that you have a genuine need for frequent visits to Hong Kong, which will benefit the local economy, and your application is supported by detailed written representations, ideally from a local sponsor, along with the application form.

In cases where the three-trip rule is waived, you must prove that your visits will bring substantial benefits to the HKSAR, and you must provide significant documentary evidence in support.

The benefits of the HKSAR Travel Pass include efficient clearance through immigration formalities upon arrival and departure from Hong Kong by using the Hong Kong Residents' counters.

However, the Travel Pass has its limitations, as it does not grant residency rights in the HKSAR, and you cannot secure a Hong Kong Identity Card, Dependant Visas for your family, or employ/sponsor a foreign domestic helper.

With the Travel Pass, you are allowed to visit Hong Kong frequently and for extended periods as a visitor; however, the Travel Pass does not permit you to take up employment in Hong Kong, establish or join any business, or be employed by a business entity in Hong Kong.

To make a successful case for a Travel Pass, you should clearly articulate the reasons for your frequent trips to the HKSAR in the past 12 months, explain how these trips have led to growth opportunities for your employer, possibly resulting in a formal business presence in Hong Kong in the future, indicate the specific value of your firm's turnover attributed to your Hong Kong activities and how local contacts have benefited, provide a detailed plan for your company's activities in Hong Kong, and illustrate your role in it, and obtain solid, extensive representations from your Hong Kong contacts to support your application.

Once approved, the Travel Pass allows a two-month (60 days) period of stay upon each entry, with unlimited entries permitted, is valid for three years, and is issued as a special booklet by the Immigration Department, which must be presented during immigration clearance formalities along with your passport.

In case of refusal, there is no appeal process for a Travel Pass, and any person holding a Travel Pass can be removed from Hong Kong at any time.

Hong Kong Immigration Department's Form ID 888 is utilized for frequent business visitors applying for a Travel Pass. This form comprises five sections: personal particulars, current overseas employment, details of the last three visits to Hong Kong, specific reasons for a Travel Pass, Hong Kong referee details, and applicant's declarations.

The personal particulars section is relatively straightforward. However, as the applicant's continued employment in their home country is a prerequisite for the Travel Pass, this section should be completed thoroughly.

It is advised to elaborate on the nature of this employment in the accompanying letter. When detailing previous visits to Hong Kong, provide headline information in the form and record the details in the company letter.

In the section outlining reasons for the Travel Pass, write "please see the accompanying letter" where you present your arguments for obtaining the Travel Pass. The Hong Kong referee should ideally provide a supporting letter to be included in the application bundle. After the referee's name, include "please see accompanying letter of support" to indicate the presence of the supporting letter. Lastly, the applicant's declaration is crucial for the application to proceed. There are two places to sign: at the bottom of page one, confirming the correctness, completeness, and truth of the information provided on that page, and on page two, initiating the formal application process. By providing all the necessary information and

supporting documents, applicants increase their chances of successfully obtaining a Travel Pass for their frequent visits to Hong Kong.

To apply for a Hong Kong SAR Travel Pass, applicants must submit the following documents:

- Form ID 888, completed and executed by the applicant with a recent passport-sized photograph affixed;
- Acknowledgement Card ID 889;
- Address Labels ID 839, completed with the applicant's full correspondence address;
- A photocopy of the valid passport, including relevant personal particulars pages and records of at least three visits to Hong Kong in the preceding 12 months;
- A second passport-sized photograph identical to the one appended to the form;
- The Official Fee;
- A letter from the applicant's current employer in support of the application, including the company's background information;
- A supporting letter from the applicant's major business contact in Hong Kong if the visits are primarily for business purposes;
- Detailed representations illustrating how the applicant's frequent or extended visits will be of 'especial benefit' to Hong Kong if the visits are for purposes other than business.

If your 60-day limit of stay under the Travel Pass is set to expire you should make an exit and a re-entry within your valid limit of stay. Extensions of stay applications at Immigration Department HQ will not be entertained except in the most exceptional of circumstances.

Useful Resource 1	The Travel Pass
Useful Resource 2	The Shenzhen Shuttle
Useful Resource 3	Overstaying Your Visa
Useful Resource 4	Long Stay Visitors
Hong Kong Visa Handbook Contents	
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