

## **Malaysia Listed In The Indian E-Tourist Visa Scheme**

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NEW DELHI, April 16 (Bernama) -- The Indian government announced that the e-tourist visa scheme has been extended to 31 more countries, including Malaysia.

This followed the Home Ministry's announcement on Wednesday that the ministry had decided to rename the tourist visa-on-arrival scheme as 'e-tourist visa'.

The scheme, aimed at avoiding inconvenience to foreign tourists who are misled by scheme's nomenclature, would fly into India presuming that they would be granted visa on arrival upon landing, reported the Times of India.

"It has been observed that the name of the scheme is creating confusion among tourists. Tourist presumed that visa will be granted on arrival..however in the current system the pre-authorisation of visa to foreigners is being given prior to travel," said a senior official of the Home Ministry.

According to the daily under the e-tourist visa scheme, a foreign tourist was required to apply for a visa online by uploading their photograph, passport and also paying the visa fee, online.

The visa authorities would then process the application and send them an electronic travel authorization, or simply e-visa, via e-mail within 72 hours.

The e-visa scheme currently covers 45 countries and can be availed across nine major international airports.

The daily added that with the expansion of the scheme by June, the list will go up to 76 countries and 16 airports.

The airports to be added to the existing list of nine where foreign citizens from eligible countries can land with an e-tourist visa are Jaipur, Amritsar, Gaya, Lucknow, Trichy, Varanasi and Ahmedabad.

The Home ministry in the statement also stated that the airports have been chosen due to the large number of foreign tourists they received on account of their proximity to major tourist spots.

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