

Global Immigration alert

March 2026

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Bahrain

Bahrain introduces exceptional visit visa extensions and overstay fine waivers

Executive summary

In response to the regional travel disruption in the region, Bahrain's Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) [introduced](#) temporary measures benefiting visit visa holders both inside and outside the country. These measures include waiver of overstay fines for individuals whose permitted stay expired on or after 28 February 2026, and exceptional three-month validity extensions for visit visas that were valid as of the same date.

Key developments

The authorities introduced the following temporary measures:

- **Overstay fines waived for affected visit visa holders:** All individuals inside Bahrain on visit visas expiring on or after 28 February 2026 are exempt from overstay fines. The exemption applies for one month following the official reopening of Bahrain's airspace, allowing stranded visitors additional time to depart without penalty. Individuals are advised to monitor official government channels for announcements regarding the reopening of airspace.
- **Exceptional three-month extensions for unused visit visas:** Visit visas that were valid as of 28 February 2026 will receive an additional three-month extension for individuals outside Bahrain who obtained their visa before that date but were unable to travel due to the conflict and airspace restrictions.

The NPRA, under the Ministry of Interior, has stated its commitment to streamlining procedures for travelers and addressing these exceptional circumstances.

Employers with globally mobile staff may consider the following:

- Inform employees in Bahrain whose visit visa stay expired on or after 28 February 2026, as they may fall under the temporary overstay fine waiver.
- Monitor government and aviation updates to understand timelines, including any grace periods once airspace reopens fully.
- Identify visit visas valid as of 28 February 2026 but unused due to flight suspensions, and communicate to the affected employees on the three-month validity extension.
- Adjust business travel arrangements as needed.

Impact on employers

Business travelers and short-term assignees may remain in Bahrain without incurring penalties while outbound commercial flights are disrupted. This reduces urgent repatriation pressure but requires employers to track the new departure window timelines aligned with the eventual reopening of the airspace. In addition, inbound business visitors whose visas were valid but unused will benefit from an automatic three-month validity extension, providing more flexibility for rescheduling travel once airspace conditions normalize.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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