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INDIA REAL TIME

How Many Countries Can Indians Visit Without a Visa?

By **CORINNE ABRAMS**

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This post was updated on Mar. 2.

Where can Indians travel internationally without a visa? Not that far, but further than Pakistanis, according to an index that measures freedom of movement for different nationalities.

India comes 85 out of 199 countries in the Henley & Partners Visa Restrictions Index that ranks nations according to the number of places its passport holders can visit visa-free.

Germany came top in the passport power list. Its citizens can visit 177 countries without a visa.

Sweden was in second place with 176 destinations and Finland, France, Italy, Spain and the U.K. shared third place with 175.

The U.S. came in fourth with access to 174 countries without extra travel papers.

India shared its ranking with Mali and Uzbekistan, from where passport holders also have visa-free access to 52 countries.

Pakistan came second-to-last on the list with visa-free access to only 29 countries.

Citizens of Afghanistan hold the least powerful passports allowing them to get into just 25 countries without additional permission.

Henley & Partners said the two countries travel documents were “the worst passports in the world.”

MORE IN VISAS

- U.S. Companies' Demand for H-1B Visas Hits New High (<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2016/04/13/u-s-companies-demand-for-h-1b-visas-hits-new-high/>)
- India Challenges U.S. Temporary Visa Scheme (<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2016/03/04/india-challenges-u-s-temporary-visa-scheme/>)
- Indians Now Need More Than Visas to Gain Entry to U.S., Says Foreign Ministry (<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/12/31/indians-now-need-more-than-visas-to-gain-entry-to-u-s-says-foreign-ministry/>)
- Is the U.S. Going to Slash the Number of H-1B Visas It Issues? (<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/12/10/is-the-u-s-going-to-slash-the-number-of-h-1b-visas-it-issues/>)
- U.S. Firms, Workers Try to Beat H-1B Visa Lottery System (<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/06/03/u-s-firms-workers-try-to-beat-h-1b-visa-lottery-system/>)

A country's score on the index, and the visas its citizens are required to obtain for travel "reflect strongly on each country's relationships with others," the firm that specializes in residence and citizen-planning said.

Restrictions, or lack of them, take into account diplomatic relationships between the countries, reciprocal visa arrangements, security risks, and the risks of violations to visa and immigration rules, the website of Henley & Partners said.

The company said that it treated e-visas and visas on arrival the same as if no visa were required, so long as obtaining the documents was straightforward — a simple fee and evidence of hotel reservation and return ticket for instance.

If there were more conditions, such as obtaining consular approval or an invitation letter for the application, then the index treated it like a requirement for a standard visa.

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