بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Maldives Immigration
Male, Maldives

News

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e-Gate Services Extended to Foreign Travellers at Velana International Airport

In line with the vision of President Dr Mohamed Muizzu to enhance travel efficiency and provide a more seamless travel experience, Maldives Immigration has extended its Electronic Gate (e-Gate) services at Velana International Airport (VIA) to eligible foreign travellers. The initiative has been advanced under the leadership and active efforts of the Minister of Homeland Security, Labour and Technology, Mr Ali Ihusaan, in support of the President's vision of modernising the country's immigration services.

A total of 35 e-Gates are operational at VIA, comprising 20 gates at arrivals and 15 at departures. This expansion marks a significant step in modernising immigration services, with the facility now available to both Maldivian citizens and eligible foreign travellers holding electronic passports. With its expansion to foreign nationals, the Maldives becomes the first country in South Asia to offer automated immigration clearance to international travellers on such an extensive scale.

For a country like the Maldives, which welcomes thousands of international visitors daily, the expanded service is expected to significantly reduce immigration processing times and waiting periods. Initially, foreign travellers holding passports from 46 eligible nationalities and travelling on 31 participating airlines will be able to use the e-Gates for immigration clearance, subject to the applicable eligibility requirements and procedures.

The upgraded system incorporates advanced biometric technology, including facial and iris recognition, to verify passenger identities against information stored in electronic passports. Through facial recognition, eligible passengers can complete the immigration clearance process in approximately 6-7 seconds. This significantly improves processing efficiency, reduces queues and facilitates smoother passenger movement, particularly during peak travel periods.

The system also incorporates advanced passport authentication features to strengthen border security. Passive Authentication (PA) verifies the authenticity and integrity of the information stored in the passport chip, while Active Authentication (AA) confirms that the chip is genuine and has not been cloned. Together with biometric verification, these security measures help prevent identity fraud and enhance the reliability of automated immigration clearance.

In addition, foreign nationals entering the Maldives on tourist visas will receive an electronically issued Tourist Visa upon completing immigration clearance, either through the e-Gates or at immigration counters. Details of the visa, including the permitted duration of stay, will be sent to the email address provided by the traveller when completing the Traveller Declaration through the IMUGA portal. The system will automatically cancel the visa upon the traveller's departure from the Maldives.

Extending automated immigration clearance to eligible foreign travellers at both arrival and departure points represents a major advancement in the modernisation of immigration services in the Maldives.

Through the continued integration of advanced technology, Maldives Immigration remains committed to strengthening border security, improving operational efficiency and providing a faster, more convenient and seamless travel experience.

