

Guide for international families moving to India in 2026

Are you looking for a secure and promising future? It's no surprise that you are planning to move to the fastest-growing economies in Asia. India is known for its beautiful seasons, diverse languages, and vibrant culture and customs. For many expat families, moving to India means the chance to build thriving careers, raise children closer to family, and reconnect with long-cherished traditions. In fact, many expat families have an enriching experience in the country.

According to ExpatInsider, 72% of expats are satisfied with their financial situation in India. And last year alone, around 2,790 Indians moved back from the US. Marking one of the largest homecoming waves in recent times.

Living in India

Expat families moving to India will discover a number of advantages to calling the country home. Beyond its vibrant culture and incredible diversity, one of the crucial benefits is the affordability. You can enjoy a comfortable lifestyle, get access to reliable domestic help, and buy spacious homes at a reasonable price. In addition, India offers excellent school options, many globally-recognized, making it easier for families to ensure a strong academic foundation for their children.

India is expanding and has become an impressive place for investing money as well. A lot of options for business people to invest in this diverse country. Here are the benefits the country offers:

- Lower cost of living compared to the US and the UK
- Family support
- Affordable healthcare
- Spacious homes at reasonable rates
- Career opportunities at top companies
- Top international institutions
- Impressive investment opportunities
- Good telecommunication and internet connectivity
- Affordable domestic help

Thriving cities of India

Choosing a city is the first step towards the immigration process. Make sure you check all aspects of immigration (cost of living, education for kids, employment, and legal requirements) before you decide to move to a specific city.

Cities like Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune, and Chennai are among the preferred destinations for

NRI and foreign nationals. Good infrastructure, global educational institutions, diverse opportunities, and impressive investment opportunities are the major benefits of choosing to stay in the cities. For your information, NRIs returned in 2023 found the country to be a hub of

opportunities. The reason for moving was the lucrative job market for expats and foreign nationals.

Read more in detail about further:

- **Mumbai, India's financial capital, is a hotspot for impressive opportunities.** Mumbai also boasts some of the top international schools in India. Not only do you get to expand your career, but your kids can also study and plan their future in the city. According to [The Economic Times](#), a notable 23% of NRIs prefer Mumbai for immigration in India. Making it a leading destination for location and investment opportunities.
- **Pune, Stable and Affordable:** Pune has a high potential investment landscape compared to other major cities. With excellent educational institutions, cleaner air compared to major metros, and a strong expat presence, Pune provides families with a balanced lifestyle with plenty of green spaces and cultural comfort.
- **Bangalore, India's Innovation & Tech Capital:** Pleasant weather year-round, cosmopolitan culture, international schools, and thriving tech-driven job market. There are a number of benefits to choosing Bangalore for relocation. Known as the Silicon Valley of India, it has a flourishing startup ecosystem backed by world-class talent. NRIs can explore investment opportunities in fields like IT, AI, fintech, or e-commerce. In addition, Bangalore hosts the best day and boarding schools. Makes it easier for parents seeking a globally standard education for their kids.
- **Chennai, India's Gateway for Industry, Culture & Global Trade:** Chennai offers a strong IT environment, often attracting expats. It is also included in the list of the safest cities in India for females. Beautiful centuries-old temples, good culture and nightlife, and less chaos than other cities in India. The city hosts excellent schools, and the cost of living is reasonable for foreign nationals and families.

Apply for an Indian Visa

Like any other visa process, you first need to submit the essential documents to apply for an immigration form in India. Foreign nationals need to first register for a residential permit, which is issued at the time of registration. Here is the list of mandatory documents for applying for an Indian visa.

- **Original passport (Valid for at least 6 months)**
- **Valid address proof**
- **Proof of regular income: Bank statements,**
- **Letter of invitation**
- **Application form: a completed and signed visa application**

Ensure that all documents are up to date and valid. Once you have all the documents mentioned above, the next step is to choose the visa according to your purpose of moving. You also need to submit special documents based on the selected visa type.

Types of Indian Visa suitable and supporting documents

- **Entry Visa**
- **Employment Visa**
- **Student Visa**
- **Tourist visa**
- **Business Vis**

General and specific documents for a Visa and extension

It is crucial to know that you need to submit both general and some specific documents based on the Visa type:

- **Employment visa: Submit a copy of the employment contract, which must have details like job, salary, etc. The supporting documents for visa extension include original passport and visa, the registration with the Indian authorities, photographs, resident permit book, employment agreement, copies of the PAN card and the Income Tax, letter from the company specifying the extension of the employment** For employment Visa: **Submit the original passport and visa, the registration of the foreign national with the Indian autho and other specific documents.**
- **Business visa:** If you are seeking a business visa, submit a signed letter from the company with which the visa holder is going to work in the country. Other specific documents for extension include original passport and visa, a completed extension registration form, photographs, a resident permit book, a letter from the company with which the foreign national will do business in India, signed by the representative, copies of invoices relevant to the business relationship, bank statement proving the financial means of the applicant, and other documents as needed.
- **Student visa: for studying in India, submit documents from the school or college as proof of admission and nationality. If you wish to extend, you need a letter from the university, photographs, a statement showing financial means for one year of stay in the country, proof of residence, and other documents.**

Requirements to obtain a permanent residency in India

To qualify for permanent residency in India, applicants must meet a few key requirements. They should have lived in India continuously for at least 12 months immediately before applying, and one should have completed a total of 11 years of residence in the country before that one year.

In addition, the applicant must be of good moral character and should have adequate knowledge of one of India's officially approved languages.

The validity of the residence permit depends on multiple factors, ranging from the type and duration of the long-term visa. The permit will be issued for a duration of 1 to 5 years. It depends on the intention of staying in the country. It could be employment, education, or a business endeavor. You must renew the permit before it expires, ideally 60 days before the expiry date.

Why the World Is Moving Back to India?

The Indian economy is growing rapidly. Career and investment opportunities are attracting expat families immigrating from the US. According to a report from the World Bank, India reported 7.2% growth in 2023, making it the world's fastest-growing economy. Other motivations for moving to India could be family support, caring for ageing parents, raising kids in India, community support, and a desire to contribute to India.

For many families, India isn't just a place to reconnect with their roots; it's where the future looks the brightest. If you are moving to India, book a pre-moving appointment with Globe Moving - a 50-year-old company offering relocation services. They will prepare a customised plan for you to help you in the journey.