

UAE visa amnesty offers cheaper flights for overstayers

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 01 September, 2024



UAE: Overstaying residents in the UAE will soon have access to discounted airfares to return to their home countries as part of the upcoming visa amnesty. The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security (ICP) confirmed that they have secured agreements with major UAE airlines, including Emirates, Etihad, and Air Arabia, to offer reduced ticket prices. This initiative aims to assist residents facing financial challenges in leaving the country during the amnesty period.

The ICP mentioned that several coordination meetings were held with airline representatives to discuss the possibility of lowering ticket prices. The airlines responded positively, agreeing to offer these discounts specifically for those taking advantage of the amnesty to exit the UAE.

Running from September 1 to October 30, 2024, the amnesty allows residents with expired visas or other documentation issues to leave the country without facing overstay fines or exit fees. While the amnesty program covers various visa types, it excludes those who entered the UAE illegally.

Residents with existing biometric records can apply for an exit permit online, while those without must visit designated centers for fingerprinting. The exit permit is valid for 14 days, and any delays in departure could lead to the reinstatement of previous fines and restrictions.

-B