

4th UNWTO Silk Road Ministers' Meeting at ITB Berlin 2014

Date
5 March 2014

Part of:
ITB 2014

11:00 - 13:00

Messe Berlin
Berlin Room Hall 7.3
Berlin
德国



As a complex network of routes spanning over three continents, the success of Silk Road tourism relies heavily upon the ability of tourists to cross borders. This Meeting brought Ministers of Tourism together to discuss how Silk Road countries can advance the visa facilitation agenda in 2014/2015 and beyond. At the meeting, UNWTO released the results of its latest visa facilitation report on Silk Road countries and ministers exchanged experiences and strategies for facilitating visas across the regions.

Travel Facilitation and the Silk Road: Why is it important?

UNWTO's latest Tourism Visa Openness Report shows that between 2010 and 2013, a total of 44 destinations worldwide facilitated the visa process for citizens of 20 or more countries, translating into 6,000 improvements of visa requirements. Many countries and regional blocs have advanced visa facilitation policies by implementing regional agreements, outsourcing visa processing, issuing visas on arrival and establishing e-visa systems.

Yet in spite of these significant advances, on average two thirds of the world's population still require a visa prior to departure. Restrictive visa issuance policies and complicated entry formalities continue to stifle travel and tourism growth, particularly from emerging economies.



[+] Publications



[Introduction to the Silk Road Programme](#)



[+] UNWTO video channel

According to recent research by UNWTO and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC), supporting visa facilitation will help stimulate the economy and generate employment - as many as 5.1 million additional jobs in the G20 economies by 2015, and 2.6 million new jobs in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies by 2016.

The *Tourism Visa Openness Report for the Silk Road Countries* launched at the meeting can be found here:

- **Tourism Visa Openness Report for the Silk Road Countries (2014)**
- **Доклад об открытости туристических виз для стран Шелкового пути (2014)**

Meeting Information:

Session 1 - Presentations:

- **'Taking a Collaborative Approach to Sustainable and Competitive Tourism on the Silk Road'** by Ms. Alla Peressolova, UNWTO Silk Road Programme Manager
- **Presentation of UNWTO's new study on 'Visa facilitation in the Silk Road Countries'** by Dr. Dirk Glaesser, Acting Director, Sustainable Development of Tourism, UNWTO

Session 2 - Roundtable Protocol:

- **Conclusions & Minutes: Visa Facilitation and the Silk Road**

Additional Meeting Information:

- **Silk Road Ministers' Meeting - Programme (English)**
- **Программа - Русский**
- **Registration List**
- **Press Release - Silk Road Ministers' Meeting**
- **Пресс-релиз - Русский**
- **ITB Map and Room Location**
- **Exhibition Grounds - Drop-off Point**

Additional Visa Information and Reports:

- **Tourism Visa Openness Report: Visa facilitation as means to stimulate tourism growth (2013)**
- **The Impact of Visa Facilitation in APEC Economies (2013)**
- **Tourism Visa Openness Report: Updated for the 5th T.20 Ministers' Meeting (2013)**
- **The Impact of Visa Facilitation on Job Creation in the G20 Economies (2012)**
- **For full information on UNWTO's work on travel facilitation, please click here**



Introduction to the
UNWTO Silk Road
Programme by Alla
Peressolova



The UNWTO World Tourism Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations