Guidelines for Foreign Nationals: Protected Area Permit (PAP) Application

Foreign nationals planning to visit Sikkim require a **Protected Area Permit (PAP)** (previously referred to as the ***Inner Line Permit / ILP***) to enter Sikkim. No foreigners are allowed to enter or stay in Sikkim without obtaining a requisite PAP/RAP. Eligible Foreign travellers can obtain the permit through any of the three authorized channels detailed below.

Authorized Application Channels:

Channel	Eligibility & Timing	Issuing Authority / Access Point
1. Indian Missions	Prior to departure / while applying for an Indian visa	All Indian Embassies, High Commissions, and Consulates abroad
2. e-FRRO Portal	After arrival in India	Online via the official Ministry of Home Affairs portal (indianfrro.gov.in) *Fees chargeable (approximately INR Rs. 2,880/- Per Head)
3. IVFRT Portal	Prior to or upon arrival in Sikkim (Strictly on Emergency Cases)	Concerned PAP issuing authorities under Sikkim Tourism & Civil Aviation Department viz., TICs (Outside State), DTOs (District Tourism Offices), Check post Offices at border. * Free of Cost

Application Options Breakdown

Option 1: Prior to Travel to India through Indian Missions Abroad in accordance with the circular no 248 of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Govt. of India. **(Pre-arrival in India)**

- **Who it is for:** Foreign Travellers applying for their regular or e-Tourist Visa before departing their home country.
- **How to apply:** Request the Sikkim Protected Area/Restricted Area Permit endorsement simultaneously with their visa application at the nearest Indian Embassy or Consulate.
- **Outcome:** The permit endorsement will be issued alongside their travel visa.

Option 2: Prior on Arrival through Online via e-FRRO (Post-Arrival in India)

- **Who it is for:** Foreign Travellers applying for the PAP to Sikkim subjected that they are already landed in India on a valid visa.
- **How to apply:**

1. Log on to the official **e-FRRO platform**.
2. Complete the online permit application form under the Sikkim PAP section.

3. Upload the required documents (valid passport, active Indian visa, passport-size photograph).
4. Pay the applicable fees as prescribed by the MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs).
5. Receive the electronic permit via their registered email address upon approval.
6. The processing and approving of PAP may take minimum of 3 to 4 days to maximum of 15 days of working hours depending upon the case scenario.

Option 3: Prior on Arrival through Tourism Department PAP issuing authorities via IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking) Portal

- **Who it is for:** Tourists seeking state-level processing directly through Sikkim Tourism authorities only on Emergency Cases.
- **How to apply:**

1. Access the IVFRT-integrated facilitation counters managed by the Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim (available at major entry points at border areas and tourist facilitation centres outside State).
2. Submit their physical travel documents (original passport, valid Indian visa/e-Visa printout, and passport-size photographs) for portal verification.
3. Receive their validated PAP slip for onward travel within permitted sectors.

- **Where to apply:**

- TIC, Delhi
- TIC, Kolkata
- TIC, Bagdogra
- TIC, Siliguri
- Check post Office, Melli
- Check post Office, Rangpo
- Check post Office, Ramam
- TIC, Pakyong Airport
- Permit Cell, HQ Gangtok

*IVFRT ISSUES PERMITS ONLY ON EMERGENCY CASES. APPLICANTS SHOULD ORDINARILY AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE FACILITIES PROVIDED THROUGH INDIAN MISSIONS ABROAD OR THE e-FRRO PORTAL.

Key Requirements & Notes for Foreign Travellers:

- **Standard Validity:** The initial permit is typically issued for a stay of up to **30 days** and can be extended further up to **30 days** through the e-FRRO and IVFRT portal.
- **Mandatory Documents:** A passport valid for at least 6 months, a valid Indian Visa / e-Visa, and recent passport-size photographs, details of port of arrival and departure.
- **Special Areas:** Standard PAP allows for entry to Sikkim, and areas where RAP permits are not required.