

How to do your Paperwork for Indonesia, from Davao Philippines

Not finished yet... 2/18/2017

1 Register & Fill Out Vessel Declaration

Go to the [YachtERS](#) website, and create a login. Then fill out your captain's info, your boat info, and your cruise info. If you are not sure of the answers to some questions, put something in so you can complete the entire document. You don't have to complete it all at one sitting, as your login will let you back in to update your information.

You will need

1. A boat photo as a JPG file
2. The Captain's photo (ie passport type photo) as a JPG
3. A copy of your boat registration as a JPG file.
4. (??) Not sure if this was required... JPG copies of passport photo pages for each crew.
5. Once you create a login on this system, you can go in and change your crew and your entry/exit and Ports List plan right up until you arrive at the Customs office, as Customs has a terminal in their office in the "approved" entry ports.

The last page of this process asks for several items a normal yacht doesn't have, including an International Plant and Animal Quarantine Certificate, a Ship Sanitation Control Certificate, and an International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis. I didn't do anything with that. I did download the Maritime Declaration of Health to fill out and present on arrival.

When you finish, print/save the Vessel Declaration PDF file from the YachtERS site, and remember your login information.

You will email the Vessel Declaration to your sponsor for a social visa, and also provide a copy with your visa application, and (maybe) need a printed copy for check-in.

2 Staying In Indonesia Longer than 30 Days

2.1 *Visa on Arrival*

Most first-world country passport holders can get a free "visa on arrival" that is good for 30 days, but is NON-EXTENDABLE. To renew the free 30-day visa on arrival, you will need to exit Indonesia. There appears to be no way around this (though maybe an agent in Bali or Jakarta could figure it out).

However, I have heard/read that if you do the visa on arrival properly, you can renew this visa for another 30 days. (I believe it is a matter of paying the \$35 fee on arrival vs accepting the "free" version, and you must do this on arrival.) It may matter where you check in. Friends who checked in in Sorong with a "visa on arrival" were only given 30 days, non-renewable, but I don't know if they asked the right questions on arrival. Some of the Bali websites talk about how to pay the fee on arrival by air, I don't know how it can be done when arriving by yacht.

To be sure you get a renewable visa, good for longer than 30 days, your best bet is to get what is known as a Social / Cultural Visa, or a B211 / 60 visa.

2.2 Social / Cultural Visa Extendable Up To 6 Months

If you wish to stay longer than 2 months, you can apply for a Social Visa. This is sometimes known as a B211/60 visa. On the forms we filled out, it is also known as a "Visit Visa", with subcategory of "Social Visa". This currently (in Davao at least) requires you to have a "sponsor letter" from an Indonesian citizen. *Someone in Jakarta told one cruiser he didn't need to get a sponsor letter—just showing bank account with sufficient money in it to repatriate yourself was sufficient. However, when this cruiser tried to get a Social Visa with just a bank statement in Davao, this didn't work.*

A Social Visa gives you an initial 2 months, extendable in 1 month increments up to a total of 6 months.

Getting Your Sponsor Letter for a Social Visa: You need to contact someone who will furnish a "sponsor letter". In the past, this has been provided by the rally organizations, but it is not difficult to get a sponsor letter without being associated with a rally.

We used Ruth at Isle Marine info@islemarine.com (other contacts given below). Email Ruth or one of the other Indo contacts suggested below, and ask if they can give you a sponsor letter for a B211 Social Visa.

Ruth's fee is around \$35 USD for up to 3 people/1 boat, and she takes Paypal or a direct transfer to her bank. Ruth generally wants this by email:

1. The Vessel Declaration PDF file from #1 above
2. Copies of the photo passport pages from each crew member's passports
3. Information about WHICH Indonesian consulate you will be getting your visa from

Other cruisers have used the following other contacts in Indonesia for help in getting a Social Visa:

Raymond Lesmana (the organizer of several Sail Indonesia Rallies)

raymondlesmana@ymail.com Cost: Quoted around \$75 USD in late 2016. Raymond comes well-recommended by many cruisers.

ASWINDO and **Dr. Aji Sularse** used to organize the Samal to Raja Ampat Rally. But in 2016 the turnout was so low that they did a poor job of organizing and supporting the rally. As the Rally Lead for the cruisers in 2016, if we sent an email to Dr. Aji with 3 questions about procedure, only one would be answered. And we got into several unexpected SNAFUs because of the changing regulations in Indonesia.

ASWINDO did not do a good job of making sure we understood and were in compliance with the new rules, and we ended up with a problem with our TIP because of that.

Second, an email to them in late 2016 asking for sponsorship possibilities in 2017 was never answered (or answered several weeks late, in someone else's case). I have no idea whether they are interested in sponsoring individual boats going forward, or what the cost is, but here is their contact info:

Aji's secretary/admin: evaismayanti@gmail.com Dr. Aji: sularso.aji@gmail.com and another email address we have: aswindo.skt@gmail.com

As reported on Noonsite, people in other locations (Malaysia) have applied for and received a Social Visa from an Indonesia Consulate WITHOUT having a sponsor letter, but the only person who has tried it at the Davao Indonesian Consulate, failed to get a visa. He ended up getting a sponsor letter from Ruth.

1. Ruth will email you a Statement Letter for you to sign (one for each person). Print and sign it and send it back to her. It essentially gives her permission to be acting as your agent, and also informs

you and everyone else *“I would like to confirm that Rutyasi Pilemon is not responsible on anything I am doing or done in Indonesia. Everything I am doing or anything about me is my own responsibility. Rutyasi Pilemon also will not represent me in any legal matters.*

Ruth will also give bank details or ask you if you want to pay by Paypal.

2. If paying by Paypal, Ruth will send a Paypal invoice. Mine was \$45 (includes apparently terrible exchange rate and a markup for Paypal fees).
3. Once you have paid, Ruth will email you copies of a Sponsor Letter and her ID card.
4. Note that the visa application in Davao asks for the Sponsor’s address and phone number. It would be a good idea to get this information directly from Ruth (we scrambled and guessed at it from her ID card and the phone number on the Isle Marine website).

3 Applying for the Social Visa at the Indonesian Consulate

Once you have your sponsor letter and a copy of your sponsor’s ID card, you are ready to apply for a Social Visa.

Here is what is required for each passport/visa:

1. Sponsor letter & Sponsor’s ID card
2. Visa Application form
3. Copy of the Vessel Declaration from YachtERS (see #1 above)
4. 2 passport photos
5. Passport with 6 months validity from the date of your planned arrival in Indonesia
6. Old passport, if you have recently renewed your passport and previously went to Indonesia.
7. P2,250 (About \$50 USD).

I could not find the application form online. A friend picked up some extras, and it was different than the PDF file I found on the Indonesian Embassy website in Manila, and different from the one on the Indonesian Embassy in the US. I scanned a copy, but it’s a funny length (longer than A4 but shorter than 8.5x14 US legal size). You could print it in pieces and then tape it together, if you want to fill it out ahead of time.

The Indonesian Consulate in Davao is on Ecoland Drive on the south side of Davao (about a P90 taxi ride from Chinatown). Both Google Maps and Maps.Me show it in the right place, and most taxis know where it is. WEAR RESPECTABLE CLOTHES (no flip flops, shorts, T-shirts, etc).

Because traffic is light at the Indonesian Consulate in Davao, and there were only two of us applying, we were able to get the visas done “while we waited”. We arrived at about 10am and were finished with visa’s in passports in by 11:30am. Alternatively, you could drop the paperwork and your passports off and come back later, if you wanted.

2. We found Google Translate on a smart phone to be invaluable in Indonesia, because you can use your camera to “look” at a phrase in Indonesia, and Google will translate it for you (this feature requires internet access, but you can pre-download the Indonesian dictionary and can translate (by typing in) things while off the grid, with Google Translate).
3. **Customs Clearance:** When you clear in, take your printed Declaration Form with you, plus crew lists, copy of yacht registration, etc.
4. Make SURE that when you leave the Customs office, you understand how long your yacht can stay in Indonesia without any further extensions. (I think it is a year with possible extensions up to 5 years, but not positive—it should say on the form they give you). DO NOT ignore this—if you overstay your “Temporary Importation” they automatically assume you have imported your yacht into Indonesia, and you are immediately liable for the 30-40% duty. They are serious about this! We once were given only 90 days when we thought we had a year!! (because we did the procedure wrong in 2016, as part of a Rally, without using the YachtERS system).
5. **Lots of copies.** Every officer that visited our boat (4 total offices...Immigration, Customs, Port Captain, Health, I think) wanted copies of our Boat Registration/Documentation and Passports and/or Crew List, plus whatever clearance paperwork we got from our previous port. So make sure you have plenty of copies. It’s also a good practice to copy or scan your port clearances from the previous port and make sure you keep one entire set. (Several times we’ve given up a clearance document to one guy only to be asked for it again by the next guy).
6. **More Copies.** Once you’ve cleared in, it’s a good idea to make copies of the new paperwork you’ve been given, and keep one set secure. This makes sure that you don’t give away a piece of paper in a later interaction with an official that you might be asked for by someone else later.

6 Social Visa Renewal

Visa Renewal: Be sure to start your renewal approximately 1 week before your initial 60 days is up.

Your social visa sponsor will need to send you a new sponsor letter for your renewal, and (at least with Ruth) there is a separate fee for that. There is also a fee you must pay to renew at Immigration—in 2016 it was about \$35 per passport.

Some Immigration offices will turn around a renewal in a day, others (Sorong, specifically) take 7 days, unless you pay an “expedite fee” (this was \$100 USD per passport in 2016).

The first renewal, (at least in Sorong), mid-week, you will need to report to the Immigration office for a photo and fingerprint. That may be why it takes so long. Also whether the Immigration office is considered a 1st Tier, 2nd Tier or 3rd Tier Immigration office probably impacts the renewal timeframe.

7 References

Indonesian Immigration Site: <http://www.imigrasi.go.id/index.php/en/>

Philippine Consulate Site: http://www.indonesianembassy.org.ph/consular_services/visa-cultural.html
However, their visa page seems out of date, and doesn’t match the Indonesian Site. An email to the address on the website was never returned.

Davao Consulate Contact Info: 082-299-2930, 31, 32, 33, 34

Sherry s/v Soggy Paws, February 18, 2017
Holiday Oceanview Marina, Samal Island, Philippines