

ESTA Visa Waiver Program USA Application Information

Background Information

Under the Visa Waiver Program, citizens of participating countries are able to travel to the United States without obtaining a visa for stays under 90 days. ESTA is an automated system that determines the eligibility of visitors to travel to the US under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). The ESTA application collects biographic information and answers to VWP eligibility questions.

A list of all participating countries is available on the next page.



How It Works

The Department of Homeland Security and the United States Customs and Border Protection have provided a secure public website with an automated form for you, or a third party, to complete in order to apply for a travel authorization.

The ESTA is electronically linked to your passport and is **valid for two years** or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. You must have a **valid biometric passport**, an **email address**, a **credit card** and your **hotel information** to complete the online form.

You can now apply as a group of up to a **maximum of 50 applications** to be paid with a single payment. The persons in the group are not required to travel together. You will need to set up a Group ID for the main admin contact.

Where to Apply

Please ensure that you use the official Department of Homeland Security website:

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>

Through the official website the ESTA fee is **\$40.27 USD**. Alternative websites will charge an additional admin/processing fee on top of this.

Most ESTA-eligible applicants will get their authorization straight away.

It is recommended that travellers apply as soon as they begin preparing travel plans and no less than 72 hours prior to departure. It is advisable for a copy of the ESTA confirmation for each passenger to be retained by the party leader prior to travel as this may be requested at immigration.

Changes to USA Visa Waiver Program from 1 April 2016

Under the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015, travellers in the following categories are not eligible to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program:

- Nationals of VWP countries who have travelled to or been present in North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, or Yemen on or after 1 March 2011
- Nationals of VWP countries who have travelled to or been present in Cuba on or after 12 January 2021
- Those nationals of VWP countries who are also nationals of Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, or Syria

Please view additional details regarding these requirements at www.cbp.gov/ESTA

If you're not eligible to travel under the VWP you still may be able to travel to the United States with a valid nonimmigrant visa. You should evaluate any current or future travel plans to the United States, and, when possible, apply for a nonimmigrant visa approximately three months in advance of your desired travel. If your travel is imminent, most U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide have short wait times for visa interviews, and expedited appointments are available at most locations for urgent business, medical, or humanitarian travel.

To begin the process to apply for a U.S. nonimmigrant visa, you will find information and application materials at travel.state.gov

Which Countries Participate in the Visa Waiver Program?

 Andorra	 Hungary	 Norway
 Australia	 Iceland	 Poland
 Austria	 Ireland	 Portugal
 Belgium	 Israel	 Qatar
 Brunei	 Italy	 San Marino
 Chile	 Japan	 Singapore
 Croatia	 Latvia	 Slovakia
 Czech Republic	 Liechtenstein	 Slovenia
 Denmark	 Lithuania	 South Korea
 Estonia	 Luxembourg	 Spain
 Finland	 Malta	 Sweden
 France	 Monaco	 Switzerland
 Germany	 Netherlands	 Taiwan
 Greece	 New Zealand	 United Kingdom