



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection



# Visa Waiver Program Travelers

## Electronic System for Travel Authorization

All Visa Waiver Program (VWP) travelers are now required to obtain a travel authorization via the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to traveling to the United States under the VWP. ESTA is accessible online at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> for citizens and eligible nationals of VWP countries.

## How the Electronic System for Travel Authorization Works

Log onto the ESTA Web site at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> and complete an on-line application. Travelers are encouraged to apply as soon as travel is planned. The web-based system will prompt you to answer basic biographical and eligibility questions typically requested on a paper I-94W form. The Web site is translated into multiple languages, however all answers must be submitted in English.

Applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel. A third party, such as a friend, relative, or personnel in the travel industry, may file an application on your behalf. However, the traveler is responsible for the truthfulness and accuracy of all information submitted on his or her behalf.

In most cases, you will receive one of these responses within seconds:

1. **Authorization Approved:** Travel authorized.
2. **Travel Not Authorized:** Traveler must obtain a nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate before traveling to the U.S.
3. **Authorization Pending:** Traveler will need to check the ESTA Web site for updates within 72 hours to receive a final response.

### An approved travel authorization via ESTA is:

- Required for all VWP travelers prior to traveling to the U.S. under the VWP;
- Generally valid, unless revoked, for up to two years or until the traveler's passport expires, whichever comes first;
- Valid for multiple entries into the U.S.; and
- Not a guarantee of admission to the United States at a port of entry. ESTA approval only authorizes a traveler to board a carrier for travel to the U.S. under the VWP.

The United States Government does not charge a fee to obtain information about, apply for, or obtain a travel authorization through the ESTA Web site. VWP travelers should be aware that unauthorized third-parties have established Web sites that charge a fee to provide information about ESTA and to submit ESTA applications on behalf of VWP travelers. These businesses and Web sites are not endorsed by, associated with, or affiliated in any way with DHS or the United States Government. Use of a private service to apply for travel authorization via ESTA will not expedite the granting of approval.

ESTA enhances the security of the VWP and has allowed the U.S. Government to expand membership in the program, which enables visitors from participating countries to travel to the U.S. for business or pleasure for 90 days or less without first obtaining a visa. Additional information regarding the VWP and ESTA is available at [www.cbp.gov/esta](http://www.cbp.gov/esta).

### **Eligible Countries:**

Countries currently enrolled in the Visa Waiver Program include:

Andorra	Lithuania
Australia	Luxembourg
Austria	Malta
Belgium	Monaco
Brunei	The Netherlands
Czech Republic	New Zealand
Denmark	Norway
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Republic of Korea
France	San Marino
Germany	Singapore
Hungary	Slovakia
Iceland	Slovenia
Ireland	Spain
Italy	Sweden
Japan	Switzerland
Latvia	United Kingdom
Liechtenstein	

### **Waiver of Rights**

As a condition of each admission into the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, the submission of biometric identifiers (including fingerprints and photographs) during processing upon arrival in the United States shall reaffirm the waiver of any rights to review or appeal of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer's determination as to admissibility, or to contest, other than on the basis of an application for asylum, any removal action arising from an application for admission under the Visa Waiver Program.



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