

## The Visa Waiver Program

The Visa Waiver Program allows foreign nationals from certain countries to travel to the United States for business or pleasure, for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. Travelers admitted under the Visa Waiver Program must agree to waive their rights to review or appeal, as explained in the Waiver of Rights section of the Application screen.

For further information refer to § 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1187, and 8 C.F.R. § 217.

## Countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program

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

## Eligibility for admission under the Visa Waiver Program

You are eligible to apply for admission under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) if you:

- Intend to enter the United States for 90 days or less for business, pleasure or transit;
- Have a valid passport lawfully issued to you by a VWP country;
- Have authorization to travel via the Electronic System for Travel Authorization;
- Arrive via a VWP signatory carrier;
- Have a return or onward ticket;
- Establish to the satisfaction of the inspecting United States Customs and Border Protection officer that you are entitled to be admitted under the Visa Waiver Program and that you are not inadmissible under the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- Waive any rights to review or appeal of the admissibility determination of the United States Customs and Border Protection officer, or 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.
- Reaffirm, through the submission of biometric identifiers (including fingerprints and photographs) during processing upon arrival in the United States, your waiver of any rights to review or appeal of the admissibility determination of the United States Customs and Border Protection officer, or 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.
- Obtain an Authorization Approved determination following a travel authorization application.

- Not pose a threat to the welfare, health, safety, or security of the United States.
- Have complied with all conditions of any previous admission under the Visa Waiver Program.

## Passport requirements for travel under the Visa Waiver Program

- The passport must have a machine-readable zone.
- October 26, 2005 – Each VWP passport issued on or after this date must have a digital photo.
- October 26, 2006 – Each VWP passport issued on or after this date must be an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner.

**EXCEPTION:** To be eligible for the VWP, persons presenting United Kingdom passports must possess the unrestricted right of permanent abode in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man

**EXCEPTION:** Citizens and nationals of Slovenia may use only the red cover Slovenian passport for admission under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

**EXCEPTION:** Effective July 1, 2009, VWP countries' emergency or temporary passports must be electronic passports.

- Citizens of the following VWP countries are required to present electronic passports: Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Malta, South Korea, and Greece.
- Citizens from VWP eligible countries other than Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Malta, South Korea, and Greece must present a machine-readable passport. A machine readable passport contains two lines of text with numbers and chevrons (<<<) at the bottom of the personal information page with the passport bearer's picture. Document requirements vary according to the date a passport was issued or renewed as follows:
  - Machine-readable passports issued or renewed/extended before 10/26/05 have no additional requirements.
  - If a passport was issued or renewed/extended on or after 10/26/05 and does not meet the following requirements, the traveler must obtain a visa:
    1. Machine-readable passports issued or renewed/extended on or after 10/26/05 through 10/25/06 must meet the following requirements. A digital photograph printed on the passport data page is required OR an integrated chip containing information from the data page (e-passport). A digital photo is one that is printed on the page, not a photo that is glued or laminated into the passport.
    2. Machine-readable passports issued or renewed/extended on or after 10/26/06 are required to be e-passports.
  - For more information, please see the Customs and Border Protection Web site, [CBP.gov](http://CBP.gov), under Travel, For International Visitors, Visiting for Business or Pleasure, Visa Waiver Program.