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Visa Waiver Program

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Important Notice

Overview

The [Visa Waiver Program](#) (VWP) enables most citizens or nationals of participating countries* to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without first obtaining a visa, when they meet all requirements explained below. Travelers must have a valid [Electronic System for Travel Authorization \(ESTA\)](#) approval prior to travel. If you prefer to have a visa in your passport, you may still apply for a visitor (B) visa.

Requirements for Using the Visa Waiver Program (VWP)

You must meet **all** of the following requirements to travel to the United States on the VWP:

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Travel Purpose Must be Permitted on a Visitor (B) Visa

Business:

Tourism:

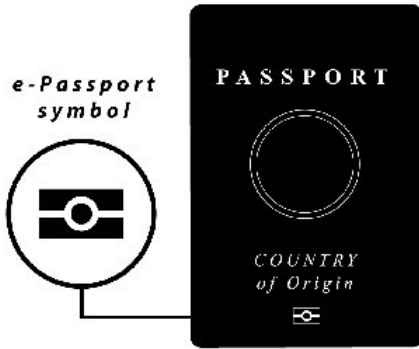
Travel Purposes Not Permitted on Visa Waiver Program – Examples:

Citizen or National of VWP Designated Country*

Citizens or nationals of the following countries* are currently eligible to travel to the United States under the VWP, unless citizens of one of these countries are also a national of Iraq, Iran, Syria, or Sudan.

Andorra	Hungary	Norway
Australia	Iceland	Portugal
Austria	Ireland	San Marino
Belgium	Italy	Singapore
Brunei	Japan	Slovakia
Chile	Latvia	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Liechtenstein	South Korea
Denmark	Lithuania	Spain

Organization (ICAO). You can readily identify an e-Passport, because it has a unique international symbol on the cover. More about [e-Passports](#) is available on the [DHS website](#) . See the example below:



Emergency and Temporary Passports

If you use an emergency or temporary passport to enter the United States on the VWP, the passport must be an e-Passport. This includes VWP travelers who are transiting the United States.

More information on frequently asked questions about VWP can be found at the following websites:

- [DHS Visa Waiver Program Requirements](#)
- [CBP Visa Waiver Program](#)
- [CBP ESTA](#)

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May I apply for a visa instead of using the VWP?

I was denied a visa under section 214(b). May I use the VWP?

Trips to Canada, Mexico, or nearby Islands

How can a country* join the VWP?

Entering the United States

Extending Your Stay

Change of Status

Reference

* With respect to all references to "country" or "countries" on this page, it should be noted that the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, Pub. L. No. 96-8, Section 4(b)(1), provides that "[w]henver the laws of the United States refer or relate to foreign countries, nations, states, governments, or similar entities, such terms shall include and such laws shall apply with respect to Taiwan." 22 U.S.C. § 3303(b)(1). Accordingly, all references to "country" or "countries" in the Visa Waiver Program authorizing legislation, Section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1187, are read to include Taiwan. This is consistent with the United States' one-China policy, under which the United States has maintained unofficial relations with Taiwan since 1979.

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FAQs: About Visas - the Basics

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