

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM Office of International Activities

The **Visa Waiver Program (VWP)** enables citizens of certain countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. Not all countries participate in the VWP. Some restrictions apply to the program for citizens of VWP countries as well. For further information on how a country's eligibility for the visa waiver is determined, go to the State Department travel web site at http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_novisa_waiver3.html

Currently 35 countries participate in the Visa Waiver Program. They are the following:

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

If you are planning to travel to the United States, we want you to be aware of changes to visa policies that may affect your travel. These changes have come about since 11 September 2001 to increase the United State's ability to verify the identity of all travelers who enter the US each year.

A new automated system (**ESTA**) to screen passengers traveling to the U.S. under the VWP has also been implemented. Beginning on August 1, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security started accepting voluntary **ESTA** applications. As of January 12, 2009 **ESTA** become mandatory for VWP travelers. Please visit http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/ or http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html to learn more.

After 26 October 2004, there is a requirement that Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries must have **machine readable passports** and any passports issued after 26 October 2005 must include **biometric data**. Biometrics are unique personal features which help identify the passport holder (the three most common are the **face, finger** and **iris**). You should contact your country's passport issuing agency or authority if you have any doubts related to whether your passport meets these requirements.

Travelers from Visa Waiver countries **without** biometrically enabled passports must apply for and obtain "B" visas for travel to the United States, even if they are citizens of those countries. In addition, resident non-citizens or expatriates living in a Visa Waiver country must apply for and obtain a B visa (for example, a resident in a Visa Waiver-eligible country within the European Union, who holds non-EU citizenship and a non-EU passport and / or holds resident alien or refugee or other non-citizen status within that country).



For more information about the Visa Waiver Program, log onto www.unitedstatesvisas.gov
You can also visit these sites:

Español: <http://madrid.usembassy.gov/cons/nonimmigwvipimportantsp.html>

Français: <http://french.france.usembassy.gov/niv-exemption.html>

Deutsch: <http://www.us-botschaft.de/germany-ger/visa/index.html>

Italiano: <http://italy.usembassy.gov/visa/default-it.asp>

日本語: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/visa/tvisa-waiver.html>

På norsk: http://norway.usembassy.gov/non-immigrant_visas.html

Português: http://portugal.usembassy.gov/niv_waiver_program2_port.html