

Who can use the Visa Waiver Programme?

The nationalities currently entitled to use the VWP are as follows:

Countries

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

Nationals of these countries must hold a Machine Readable Passport (MRP) in order to travel under the VWP. Holders of non-MRP passports must obtain a US visa prior to travelling to the US.

How to obtain a Visa

Travellers requiring a US visa are advised to contact the US Embassy in their home country. If you are intending to travel to the US and require a US visa, you must make an interview appointment directly with the Embassy. Applying for a US visa can be a lengthy process which can take several weeks.

Travel Authorisation to the United States

If you are travelling under the Visa Waiver Programme, you must have Travel Authorisation. You can receive Travel Authorisation by completing the [online form](#) located at:

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html? flowExecutionKey= c3674AEF5-94B8-5471-A761-B0B8EBF31A17 k632F2AC5-34EF-BEC6-5DC8-7F002B7AF7EC>

The application process may take up to 15-20 minutes and authorisation is normally granted immediately, but may take up to 72 hours.

We recommend that you apply for authorisation at the time of booking or at least 72 hours before your flight, to ensure that you are able to travel. Those making late bookings can still apply, but there is a risk that they may not receive immediate confirmation.

ctms CANADA (Head Office)

5000 Dufferin Street, Suite 219, Toronto, Ontario Canada M3H 5T5
+1 416 665-CTMS (2867)

ctms USA

19068 NE 29th Ave, Miami, Florida, USA 33180
+1 305 936-5399

Once granted, Travel Authorisation is valid for multiple entries to the US for two years, unless any answers to the YES/NO questions on the form change or a new passport is required.

You are also required to provide Advance Passenger Information to the US government each time you travel to the US.

If you have a resident permit 'green card', or are travelling on a visa, you will not need to apply for authorisation as you are not travelling under the Visa Waiver Programme.

Advance Passenger Information

The US government requires all airlines flying to the USA to collect Advance Passenger Information from passengers prior to travel. Many other countries require this information too.

We strongly recommend that you provide your Advance Passenger Information to us in advance of going to the airport. You can do this when you make your reservation or when you check in online.

- Throughout 2009, the UK Government will implement its requirement for Advanced Passenger Information from all passengers travelling internationally into and out of the UK. This is being rolled out on a route by route basis over the coming year.
- The Governments of the countries listed below require airlines to collect Advance Passenger Information from all passengers prior to travel and in future this information will also be passed to the UK authorities.
- Advance Passenger Information means your passport/identity card details and in some instances, your contact information, are provided to the authorities before you travel.
- Airlines should only provide each country's Customs and Immigration Authorities with the required relevant information.
- Some governments also require airlines to provide them with direct access to airline passenger bookings, which may contain other passenger data.
- It is important that the information provided is accurate so you pass through Immigration on arrival in these countries without delay.
- You must provide this information when you check in and we strongly recommend that you do so in advance of going to the airport.

Countries requiring this information include:

Bermuda	Caribbean	Canada
China	India	Japan
Mexico	Spain	UAE
UK	USA	

The US–Visit Programme

This has been introduced to improve the safety and security of visitors to the US, as well as US citizens, by registering each visitor to the US by collecting unique data on arrival and collating this data again on departure. Currently this process applies to all passengers aged between 14 and 79 travelling to the US holding a visa, and all Visa Waiver Passengers (VWP).

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[ctms USA](#)

19068 NE 29th Ave, Miami, Florida, USA 33180
+1 305 936-5399

www.ctmstravel.com

p +44 (0)20 7866 8106
f +44 (0)20 7117 4526
e info.uk@ctmstravel.com

Skype [ctms_london](#)



Corporate Travel Management Solutions Ltd
11-15 Betterton Street, Covent Garden,
London WC2H 9BP

What does the US–Visit Programme involve?

On arrival in the US the immigration officer will collect unique data from each visitor in the form of fingerprints, using an inkless scanner, and a digital photograph. This takes place at the normal immigration desk as part of the entry process, and it is not expected that the arrival process will take any longer than usual.

All data obtained from visitors is stored securely and is made available only to authorised officials and selected law enforcement agencies on a need to know basis in their efforts to protect the US.

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