



ACN : 003 377 188
Product Support
Level 7
316 Adelaide Street
Brisbane
QLD 4000

FAQ – US VISA WAIVER

Disclaimer: This FAQ does not constitute visa advice. Visa advice can be obtained from the US Department of Homeland Security or visa advisory service providers.

The Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) was implemented by the United States Department of Homeland Security on August 1, 2008. The purpose of ESTA is to pre-screen customers that intend to visit the United States on the visa waiver program.

Registering for pre-approval through ESTA is voluntary until January 2009. **From 12 January 2009, it will be mandatory for all travellers to the United States from visa waiver countries (including Australia, New Zealand, the UK and Japan among others) to obtain approval.**

To find out if your passport allows you to travel under the visa waiver program, please refer to the website below:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html#countries

It is important to understand that an approval given under the ESTA does not guarantee entry, but it allows you to travel to the United States and ask for admittance to enter. ESTA is an online fully automated system that verifies your name and personal details against a number of law enforcement databases.

How to apply for the Travel Document under the ESTA?

- Logon to: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>
- Complete the on-line application which is currently only offered in English
- Expect to take about 15-30 minutes to complete the on-line application
- Make sure the application is submitted at least 72 hours prior to travel

What information is required to obtain a Travel Authorisation?

- Name
- Nationality
- Birth date
- Passport details
- Convictions, arrests or any communicable diseases
- Previous visa denial or denial of entry or volunteer withdrawal of request to enter

It is not necessary to have a flight ticket or hotel booking in order to apply. If you are planning to visit the United States within 3 - 12 months, it is recommended to apply in advance in case you are not approved for a Travel Authorisation but need to apply for a visitor visa.

Who needs to apply?

- Visitors that intend to travel to the United States by air or sea carrier
- All visitors must have their own Travel Authorisation including children and infants
- All visitors must also have their own passport

How much does it cost?

Currently there is no fee to obtain the Travel Authorisation. This may change however, so it is recommended to apply for a Travel Authorisation if you plan to visit the United States within the next 3 - 9 months.

When should I apply for the Travel Document?

You should apply more than 72 hours before you travel. However, you do not need to have a flight already booked. If you know you will be travelling to the United States within the next 3 -12 months, it is recommended to apply early in case you get denied and need to apply for a visitor visa. Applying for a visitor visa to the US can take weeks or even months.

What if my itinerary details change? Can I update the Travel Authorisation?

Yes. You can easily update the itinerary details. Once you have applied for and obtained your first Travel Authorisation, you will be given instructions for how to update it.

Can my travel consultant help me?

Due to privacy legislation, your travel consultant is unable to assist you with your Travel Authorisation. Each adult travelling should complete their own authorisation and the appropriate parent / guardian should complete it for each child and infant.

For ALL information - Logon to: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>

Providing false information when applying for a Travel Authorisation can make you permanently ineligible to visit the United States. It is extremely important that you carefully read the questions and understand the information you are expected to provide.

IF YOU HAVE EVER BEEN DENIED A VISA, YOU CANNOT VISIT THE US UNDER THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM. YOU MUST APPLY FOR A VISITOR VISA