



<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>

ESTA, the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, is an internet security measure for all travelers using the Visa Waiver Program for short trips to the United States. When required, all visa waiver travelers, including all children, must have an ESTA authorization for travel to the United States.

#### ESTA Required Now

Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Hungary  
Republic of Korea  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Slovakia

#### ESTA Required as of January 12, 2009

Andorra  
Australia  
Austria  
Belgium  
Brunei  
Denmark  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Japan  
Liechtenstein  
Luxembourg  
Monaco  
The Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Portugal  
San Marino  
Singapore  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom

#### Who may use ESTA?

- Travelers may register themselves
- Family members may register other relatives, e.g. parent/child
- Travel service providers may register their clients

#### How does ESTA work?

- Each traveler must provide biographic info, passport info, and answer several questions about their personal background
- ESTA will respond “travel authorized yes/no” or “pending”
- No case will remain in pending status for more than 72 hours
- ESTA will provide a unique case number to permit travelers to update information

Why should a VWP traveler use ESTA before January 12, 2009?

- Authorization is valid for multiple trips for two years or until the date of expiration of a passport that expires in less than two years
- No specific travel plans are required
- Avoid problems upon arrival in the United States, e.g. “refoulement”

What does a traveler do when authorization is denied?

- Double-check that personal info is correct. Resubmit corrections after 10 days
- Apply for a nonimmigrant visa in the standard manner. Consult <http://france.usembassy.gov>

Please remember the other important criteria for using the Visa Waiver Program:

- All visa waiver travelers must have a machine-readable or biometric passport. Please refer to the attached chart.
- Visa waiver travelers may not stay more than 90 days in the United States
- If entering the US by air or sea, traveler must hold a return or onward ticket
- If entering the US by land from Canada or Mexico, the traveler must be in possession of a completed form I-94W, issued by the immigration authorities at the port of entry, and a USD\$6.00 fee, payable only in US dollars.

*Travelers with visas do not need to use ESTA, e.g. students, journalists*

**Questions about ESTA may be submitted to the ESTA Program Management Office**

**at**

**(202) 344-3710**

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