

Visa Waiver Program

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) enables nationals of certain countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. VWP eligible travelers may apply for a visa, if they prefer to do so. Not all countries participate in the VWP, and not all travelers from VWP countries are eligible to use the program. VWP travelers are required to apply for authorization through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), are screened at their port of entry into the United States, and are enrolled in the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program. For more information see the VWP website at http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html?css=print.

Paying expenses for a visitor

When a visitor comes from a visa waiver country, they may enter with only an I-94 which will be stamped WT for "waiver tourist" or WB for "waiver business". WT is the equivalent of a B-2 tourist visa and WB is the equivalent of a B-1 business visa. The rules are the same. NWRA may pay for reasonable incidental expenses while a visitor is in the U.S. for a business purpose, and within the effective dates of the travel authorization. Incidental expenses include lodging, meals, laundry, travel (such as bus, taxi's), etc. We may also pay for travel to and from the U.S.

Which countries participate in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP)?

As of February 2009, 35 countries participate in the Visa Waiver Program, as shown below:

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

Which travelers may use the Visa Waiver Program to enter the United States?

Nationals of the 35 countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program may use VWP if: They have received an authorization to travel under the VWP through the [Electronic System for Travel Authorization](#) (ESTA)

- They present a machine-readable passport valid for six months past their expected stay in the United States. In some cases an electronic integrated chip is also required. See website for more information.
- The purpose of their stay in the United States is 90 days or less for business. Transit through the United States is generally permitted.
- If arriving by air or sea, they are traveling on an approved carrier (See the [approved carriers list](#)) and have a return trip ticket to any foreign destination;
- They can demonstrate the intent to stay 90 days or less in the United States and demonstrate sufficient funds to support themselves while in the United States.

Is there a fee to use the Visa Waiver Program (VWP)?

There is a small land border fee for VWP travelers arriving at land ports of entry.