



## **Consulate General of the United States of America**

*Montreal, Canada  
1155 St. Alexandre Street  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 3Z1*

### **Visa Waiver Program (VWP) Information**

Subject to certain conditions, the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) permits citizens of the following countries to enter the United States **without a visa** for business, pleasure or transit **for a period not to exceed 90 days**.

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

As of October 26, 2006, any passport issued, renewed or extended on or after this date by a Visa Waiver Program country (VWP) must be an e-Passport (an e-Passport has an integrated computer chip) for VWP travelers to be eligible to enter the United States without a visa. Travelers whose passports do not meet this biometric requirement will need to obtain a valid U.S. visa for admission into the United States. A VWP traveler who has a valid, machine-readable passport with a digital photograph does not need a new e-Passport if the digital photograph passport was issued before October 26, 2006. If a VWP traveler has a valid, machine-readable passport without a digital photo, a new e-Passport is not required if the machine-readable passport was issued before October 26, 2005.

**Please note – effective July 1, 2009 bearers of electronic temporary or emergency passports from countries in the Visa Waiver Program (i.e., e-passports) that were issued on/after October 26, 2006 will not be required to apply for U.S. visas to travel to the United States. Bearers of non-electronic emergency and temporary passports from countries in the Visa Waiver Program issued on/after October 26, 2006 will be required to apply for U.S. visas.**

All Visa Waiver Program travelers entering the U.S. by AIR or SEA will be required to present an approved (ESTA) ELECTRONIC SYTEM FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION before boarding. ESTA applications may be submitted through the following website:

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

**Beginning September 8, 2010, the Department of Homeland Security will require travelers from the Visa Waiver Program countries to pay operational and travel promotion fees when applying for the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). The new fee will be \$14.00 USD and may be paid through the following credit cards: MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover. Payments may also be made with a debit card that holds the Visa or MasterCard symbol. You are not required to re-register when the new fees go into effect if you already have a valid ESTA.**

**All passports for VWP travelers from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Republic of Korea, and the Slovak Republic MUST be electronic.**

**\*As of May 1, 2006, German temporary/emergency passports will no longer be valid for Visa Waiver Program (VWP) travel.**

To take advantage of the VWP, you **must** meet the following criteria:

1. You must have a valid passport issued by one of these countries.
2. Your business or tourist trip to the U.S. may not exceed 90 days.
3. ESTA approval as outlined above.
4. You must have adequate financial resources to pay for your trip.
5. If you are a visitor to Canada and traveling by land to the U.S., you must possess a round-trip ticket to your place of residence.
6. If you are arriving in the U.S. by air or sea, you must possess a round-trip ticket on a participating airline valid for travel to a port outside of the U.S.

#### **Notes**

- Landed immigrants in Canada are eligible to use the VWP **IF** they meet these conditions.
- VWP visitors may not change to a different status while in the U.S. Citizens of VWP countries who want to work or study in the U.S. must still obtain the appropriate E, F, H, J or L visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate outside of the U.S. **before** traveling.