



How to Get a Visa to Visit Any Country in the World

Everything You Need to Know About Visas

You're going abroad! Great...but what now? Before you board your flight to your dream destination, there are some important things you need to consider. In order to leave and reenter your home country you will definitely need a passport (but you knew that already, right?). BUT, sometimes you will also need a visa to enter the country of your choosing!

What is a visa?

A visa is a record of authorization for you to enter and stay in a country and is often a requirement for travelers to enter many countries around the world. There are many different kinds of visas and the process to get one is not always easy or successful. A country *does not* have to allow you in, so make sure you do your research and be diligent throughout the application process to best insure that you will obtain the correct visa. We put together the following guides and tips for you because we want you to Go Abroad, too!

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Frequently Asked Questions About Visas



How do I get a passport and make sure I'm ready to get a visa?

You can't get a visa or travel outside of your home country without a passport! If you don't already have a passport, it could take four to six weeks after you apply to receive it, or you will have to pay additional to get your passport expedited (for U.S. passport holders, it can cost \$100-350 USD to [get a new passport expedited](#)). Even if you expedite it, it could still take up to three weeks to receive your passport, so playing it safe and applying for your passport today will come in handy. It is never too early to [secure the key to your future!](#)

Most likely, you will need to **apply in person** at your local passport agency. Be prepared to provide proof of citizenship, an extra form of identity, and recent document photocopies. Check your local office for specific requirements before you head in to fill out that application.

As soon as you receive your passport, **make a couple of copies** of the front page. Take one copy with you when you travel, and leave another copy with someone you trust back home. Worst case scenario, if your passport gets stolen, this will help you out a lot!

If you do already have a passport, **double-check the expiration date!** Even with a valid passport, most countries deny entry if it is due to expire within three to six months of travel. Travel plans have a tendency to change, and who wants to get stuck in Uzbekistan, Belarus, or even a more touristy country like France because they cannot board an airplane with an expired passport? [Get your passport renewed](#) as far ahead as possible.

What are the different types of visas?

Tourist Visas

Some travelers won't need visas to travel as a tourist in many countries, and some countries don't require tourists to apply for visas ahead of time, instead tourists can just apply for and receive a visa at the border or airport. Tourist visas are usually good for anywhere from 30 days



to 3 months, but tourists are *not* allowed to work on a tourist visa no matter what. Specific requirements for obtaining a tourist visa vary by country, but the requirements tend to be more lax than for other visas with anticipated longer stays.

Student Visas

The travel visa requirements for a student are much more stringent. To start, you will need some sort of documentation from the study abroad program or university you'll be enrolling in. In addition to proof of your academic acceptance, you'll usually need proof of financial means, maybe a background check, and a few other documents to obtain a student visa. Your study abroad program provider or university should have visa tips for international students, so be sure to ask!

Work/Working Holiday Visas

For working visas, you often have to be sponsored by a company in-country. On the other hand, for working holiday visas, there is usually an age restriction (under 30 is common). Again, the application process for work visas is more extensive, and usually includes background checks and proof of insurance at minimum.

Without a working visa, you probably won't be allowed to do anything that can earn you money in a foreign country. Although, in some cases a student visa will allow you to work for a certain amount of hours per week, depending on the country. Some countries offer an exception for students or tourists if they are earning a "living stipend," not a "salary", and not require a working visa. But this is NOT all countries, so be sure to do your research. If you're planning on working abroad through a pre-arranged program, the program organizer will be able to direct you to the right visa and assist you in gathering all your requirements.

Important Reminders for All Types of Visas

Some visas may be available upon arrival, but do not assume this is true for all countries or visas. When researching, make sure you are looking at the correct type of visa, as well as checking on duration limitations for your travels. Some visas are free for a set period of time, but need to be renewed for a fee after certain periods of time.

All visas will vary country by country -- there is no one size fits all when it comes to travel visas!

Is the type of travel I'm interested in possible for me in the destination where I want to go?

Not all countries have "easy" workers visas, tourist visas, students visas, etc. If you are looking to work or study abroad, you may be limited by visa restrictions, so make sure you are doing



your research. Look up visa requirements based on what you want to do abroad, *before* you get your hopes up.

If you are interested in a specific study or work abroad program, contact the program directly and they may be able to give you some guidance. Other times, it is best to contact the [an embassy or consulate of the country you want to visit](#) directly to get the most up-to-date information.

Here are some basic visa tips to help you determine if it will be possible for your travel dreams to come true:

Tip #1: Start your search with countries that have lenient visa policies for your nationality.

- Think of strong allies, because they will likely be more accepting of visitors from your home country.
- Keep an eye out for visa reciprocity agreements, which allow citizens of two different countries to freely travel between each one respectively.

Tip# 2: Set reasonable expectations.

- You will NOT be able to get a visa for EVERY country, so research, research, research before you get your hopes up!
- Know that there likely will be paperwork you have to fill out, and it will take some time to process. **Be patient, thorough, and plan ahead.**
- Also, be prepared to pay some fees. You will need money for travel expenses, and this includes visas.

Tip #3: Don't make any assumptions throughout the entire process.

- Consider every requirement as non-negotiable and whenever possible. No country *has* to allow you to enter for any reason, so don't assume you can sweet talk your way in.
- Prepare even more documents, funds, etc. than you are asked; it is always better to be over prepared than underprepared (and make extra copies of your paperwork, so you can hold onto a copy, too!)
- Take the paperwork, the interviews, and the acceptance process seriously. Visa regulations are in place to keep citizens safe, so don't expect immigration officials to be informal, relaxed, and carefree about following protocol.

Tip #4: Look into Visa and Passport Expediter companies for extra help

- If you need a visa in a hurry or can't make it to the embassy in person, look into using a third party [visa expeditor](#) to help with the process (Note: there will be a fee for these services!).
- Having a third party look over your documents to make sure you have everything in order can never hurt!



How to Find Visa Information for Your Country of Interest



The best way to find visa information is by visiting an Embassy or Consulate for the country you're interested in traveling to that is located in your home country, or check out their website! Get started by searching for Embassies and Consulates in your home country, or abroad, in [GoAbroad's Embassy Directory](#).

You can also research visa options through government websites. Nearly every national government has visa information for foreign visitors somewhere on their website, so start searching!

If you want an expert to help you through the visa process and ensure you have everything done correctly, try processing your visa through a [travel visa service](#).

If all else fails or you don't feel comfortable going it alone, call a travel agent so they can help you plan your trip from start to finish, which will include informing you about visa policies in your destination of choice.

Additional Resources About Visas

GoAbroad has loads of resources for travelers, and that includes articles written specifically for travelers looking for visa information. Here are some of the best ones to check out:

- For working abroad:
 - [How to Work Your Way Around the World Without the Visa Hassle](#)
 - [Working Holiday Visas: Are you Qualified?](#)
 - Country Specific:
 - [Australian Work Visas](#)
 - [New Zealand Working Holiday Visa](#)
- For studying abroad:
 - [First Timers Guide to Studying Abroad](#)



We've also compiled this list of go-to resources for specific nationalities:

- For residents of the United States:
 - [International Visas: What You Need to Know](#)
- For British citizens:
 - [Government Site for Going Abroad](#)
- For Australians:
 - [Visa Information- Visalink](#)
- For Canadians
 - [Government Travel Site](#)
- For Irish passport holders
 - [Irish Embassy](#)

Since every country's visa policies vary, try searching for travel bloggers who have been there, done that too. Here are some of the best ones we recommend:

- [Travel Visa Pro Blog](#)
- [Worldwide Visa Journey Experiences](#)
- [Visas in Southeast Asia](#)
- [How an Indian Couple Navigated Visa Processes to Travel the World](#)
- [How to Travel the World on a Third World Passport](#)

There are loads of other resources out there to help travelers find the visa information they need to travel abroad to any country in the world. Here are a few other resources we recommend checking out:

- [Visas HQ](#)
- [TripSavvy](#)
- [SmarterTravel](#)
- [A Beginner's Guide to Travel Documents - Huffington Post](#)
- [Visa Guide](#)

