



Common Questions

What is ESTA?

- Internet-based travel authorization system maintained by Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Method of pre-screening, used to determine the eligibility of visitors to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP).
- Security measure that takes place before the traveller departs for the United States.

Who may use ESTA?

- Travellers may apply for ESTA approval themselves.
- Family members may apply on behalf of other relatives, e.g. parent/child.
- Travel service providers may apply on behalf of their clients (however, at this point Eurocamp will not perform this service)
- Travellers with valid U.S. visas do not need an approved ESTA.

How does ESTA work?

- Each traveller provides biographic and passport info, and answers personal background questions -- the same information already collected on the I-94W form used by VWP travellers.
- In most cases, travellers will receive one of the following responses within seconds: "Authorization Approved" (travel authorized), "Travel Not Authorized" (traveller must obtain a non-immigrant visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate before travelling to the United States), or "Authorization Pending" (Traveller should check back within 72 hours for a final response)
- ESTA will also respond with a tracking number that permits updates to the traveller's info.
- An ESTA approval is not a guarantee of admissibility -- a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer makes the final admissibility determination at the U.S. port of entry.

When is ESTA required?

- The ESTA website will be available beginning August 1, 2008, and VWP travellers are encouraged to begin applying for voluntary ESTA approval to travel to the U.S. under the VWP at that time.
- Beginning January 12, 2009, all VWP travellers, including children, must have an individual ESTA Authorization prior to travel.
- Applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel, however, DHS recommends that applications be submitted no less than 72 hours prior to travel. (ESTA will, however, accommodate emergency travellers).

Why should a VWP traveller use ESTA?

- After the 12th January 2009 it is a mandatory process and travellers who have not received ESTA approval may be denied boarding, experience delayed processing, or be denied admission at a U.S. port of entry.
- ESTA authorizations are valid for up to two years.
- No specific travel plans are required in order to apply for an ESTA authorization.
- Avoid problems upon arrival in the United States.
- DHS will not initially collect a fee for ESTA applications, so there is no cost involved.

What does a traveller do when authorization is denied?

- Schedule appointment to apply for U.S. visa at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate (In Austria: the U.S. Embassy's Consular Section).



Application Process

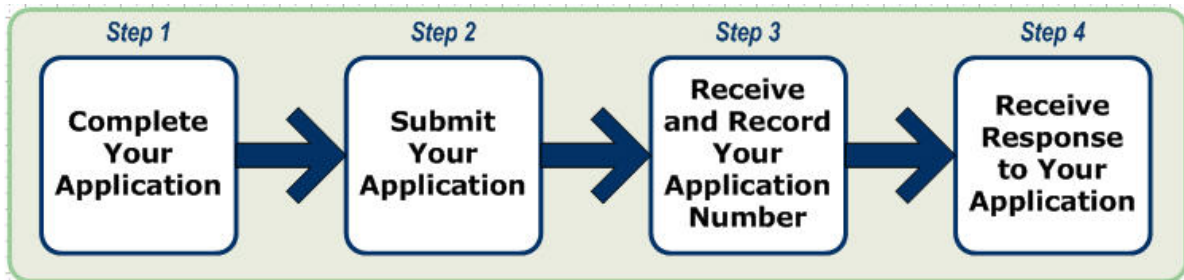
URL = <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>

International travellers who are seeking to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program are now subject to enhanced security requirements which become mandatory for all departures after January 16th 2009.

The ESTA participating countries are:

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

All eligible travellers who wish to travel under the Visa Waiver Program must apply for authorization using the following process:



Step 1: Complete Your Application

Enter all required information. You will be asked to provide information from your passport and your travel arrangements (these can be amended closer to travel dates if needed), and to answer seven security questions. Each member of your party must have an approved travel authorization or a visa, regardless of age.

Step 2: Submit Your Application

Review your answers for accuracy and press submit. It is advised to print out your application prior to submission.

Step 3: Receive and Record Your Application Number

After you submit your application, the system will provide you with an application number. Record this application number for your records. To check the status of or to update your application, you will be asked to provide your application number, passport number, and date of birth.

Step 4: Receive Response to Your Application

In most cases the Electronic System for Travel Authorization will return an Application Status immediately. In cases where more time is needed to determine the status of the application, an answer will be returned within 72 hours. Steps will be provided to check the status of the pending application. The three possible responses are:

Authorization Approved. Your travel authorization has been approved and you are authorized to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program. This response does not guarantee admission to the United States; a Customs and Border Protection officer at a port of entry will have the final determination.

Travel Not Authorized. You are not authorized to travel under the Visa Waiver Program. You may be able to obtain a visa from the Department of State for your travel. Please visit the United States Department of State Web site at www.travel.state.gov for additional information about applying for a visa. This response does not deny entry into the United States. This response only prohibits travelling under the Visa Waiver Program.

Authorization Pending. Your travel authorization is under review because an immediate determination could not be made for your application. This response does not indicate negative findings. A determination will be available within 72 hours. Please return to this Web site and choose Update or Check the Status of a Previously Submitted Authorization to Travel to the United States. Your application number, passport number, and birth date will be required to check the status of your application.

The application process will take approximately 15 minutes per applicant.



ESTA Supplementary Information

Travel Procedure

Once your details are entered into ESTA, you will then be given an application number, even if you have not provided address and flight information, although basic outline address information must be entered even if you have to update it later. Once approved and, if preferred, this can then be printed out but you must make note of the approval number for future reference (to update information for further visits, for instance). However it is not mandatory to print the approval to show to the Customs Border Protection (CBP) officer upon entry into the USA. Each family member travelling is required to complete an ESTA application.

Who can complete ESTA?

Third party entry of data into ESTA is permitted but the third party must be completely certain as to the accuracy of such entries. Any inaccuracies will be taken up with you - NOT the third party. Therefore to ensure data accuracy, you must have complete confidence in the person you have asked to complete your application. The system does not track whether the ESTA has been submitted by you or a third party and you remain totally responsible for your own records. Eurocamp will not act as a third party and complete applications on your behalf.

Multiple Visits

Updating ESTA data for repeat visits within the 2 year ESTA duration is recommended but may not be mandatory. I.e. upon entry into the USA, the CBP officer will also have your APIS data on screen at the same time as the ESTA data and therefore the CBP may query why the two sets of data do not match and seek an explanation. Updating ESTA with new arrival and 1st night's stay data will save time at the point of entry as it will mean fewer questions.

Risk Assessment

When ESTA processes an application, it is checking its databases for security risk names and any individuals on these databases will be refused an authority to travel. If an authorisation is held pending, this is primarily because some information in the application appears to be incorrect, e.g. passport number etc. Usually, a response will be posted within 12 hours but it may take up to 72 hours.

APIS and ESTA

If you have travelled to the USA before you will know that additional information is already required relating to your stay – this is called APIS (Advance Passenger Information System). As ESTA & APIS data cover two different requirements and are run by two different government departments, both systems have to run separately. At some point the two may be merged so that duplicate information does not have to be provided but currently there is no planned date for such a change.

ESTA Refusals

These are expected to be minimal and it is not expected that ESTA will create additional refusals over current levels.

Emergency Travel

As advised above, ESTA applications can be made at any time ahead of travel but should be made at least 72 hours before departure. However the 72 hour limit is an advisory point by which time your application should have been registered but this is not necessarily the cut off point. For example, it will still be possible for you to submit an ESTA application right up to departure at the airport before check-in and on the majority of occasions you should still receive your authorisation in seconds. Nevertheless if ESTA approval is not given, then travel to the USA will not be permitted and therefore it is highly advisable, wherever possible, you submit applications and get ESTA approval outside the 72 hour deadline, to avoid such refusals.