





About this electronic book electronic

This book was born out of the need to address the recurring questions our British customers have when travelling to the United States. After years of providing guidance and handling procedures for travellers journeying across the Atlantic to visit the Land of Opportunity, the team at usa-esta-visa.com is proud to have the experience and expertise to compile this concise guide.

In the United Kingdom, the Visa Waiver Programme is in effect, **allowing you to travel without needing to apply for a visa at the Embassy**. This is a significant advantage, but it's essential to [complete the process correctly](#) to avoid having your ESTA application denied.

We offer 24/7 online support and error correction before processing, so you can relax and receive your approved visa directly by email. [Simply complete our simplified form in English](#) to apply for your ESTA visa..

We hope this e-book helps you plan your trip smoothly, providing all the information you need for a hassle-free experience.

**Apply with us for a hassle-free ESTA
approval—avoid mistakes, delays, and
rejections!**



INDEX OF THE GUIDE

[A\) INFORMATION ABOUT US](#)

[1. PASSPORT, VISAS AND CUSTOMS](#)

[2. COMMUNICATIONS AND BANKS](#)

[Common Coin Denominations:](#)

[Less Common Coins:](#)

[Tips for Visitors:](#)

[Common Denominations:](#)

[Design and Security Features:](#)

[Older Bills:](#)

[Tips for Visitors:](#)

[1. ATMs – The Best Option](#)

[2. Currency Exchange Stations](#)

[3. Exchanging Money Before Travel](#)

[Major Commercial Banks in the United States:](#)

[Dialling Rules Within the U.S.:](#)

[Calling the U.S. from the UK:](#)

[Calling the UK from the U.S.:](#)

[Avoiding High Roaming Costs](#)

[Free or Low-Cost Alternatives](#)

[Other Tools](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Clothing](#)

[Food and Drink](#)

[Housing and Accommodation](#)

[Education](#)

[Expressions and Idioms](#)

[Phrases and Ways of Speaking](#)

[Everyday Objects](#)

[Sports](#)

[Others](#)

[1. Spanish](#)

[2. Chinese \(Mandarin and Cantonese\)](#)

[3. Tagalog and Filipino Languages](#)

[4. French](#)

[5. German](#)

[6. Vietnamese](#)



[7. Arabic](#)

[8. Korean](#)

[9. Russian](#)

[General Observations](#)

[3. HEALTHCARE AND SAFETY IN US](#)

[Personal Safety](#)

[National Parks Safety](#)

[Other Security Measures](#)

[Insurance and Medical Treatment](#)

[Emergencies](#)

[4. OTHER DATA OF INTEREST](#)

[1. Plugs and Sockets](#)

[2. Voltage and Frequency](#)

[3. Device Compatibility](#)

[4. Precautions for Mobile Devices and Small Electronics](#)

[5. Power Strips and Adapters](#)

[6. Safety Tips](#)

[Time Zones in the United States](#)

[Checking Current Time Differences](#)

[Tips for Adjusting to Time Differences](#)

[Tipping in the U.S.: A Quick Guide](#)

[Basic Tipping Guide in the U.S.:](#)

[Helpful Tips:](#)

[B\) THE ESTA APPLICATION](#)

[1. APPLYING FOR AN ESTA](#)

[2. REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR AN ESTA APPLICATION](#)

[1. Traveller Information](#)

[2. Family Information](#)

[3. Address](#)

[4. Passport Details](#)

[5. Questions About Other Nationalities](#)

[6. Emergency Contact](#)

[7. Travel Itinerary](#)

[8. U.S. Point of Contact](#)

[9. Place of Stay](#)

[10. Transit Travel](#)

[11. Eligibility Questions](#)

[FAQs from Our Travellers](#)

[Processing Time and Additional Recommendations](#)

[Travel Document Recommendations](#)

[3. ELEGIBILITY QUESTIONS](#)



[Avoiding Mistakes in Your Answers](#)

[Important Travel Restriction: Certain Countries](#)

[Travelling to Cuba and ESTA Eligibility](#)

[Current Regulations \(2023\)](#)

[Exceptions](#)

[What to Do If You Have an ESTA and Have Travelled to Cuba](#)

[Additional Tips](#)

[4. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING FOR AN ESTA](#)

[Requirements for Travelling to the U.S. with an ESTA](#)

[5. TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR THE ESTA VISA WAIVER](#)

[c\) 20 COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ESTA VISA](#)

A) INFORMATION ABOUT US

Each year, thousands of British travellers visit the United States. Its rich history, culture, art, and stunning landscapes, combined with its renowned hospitality, make exploring this country an enjoyable and relaxed experience.

The amenities and tourism infrastructure are generally of excellent quality.

When to visit

The best time to travel to the United States depends on your personal interests and the region you plan to visit. Weather conditions vary significantly from one area to another, even during the same season. You can check the current weather in major U.S. cities here: <https://weather.us/>

- **Summer:** This is the warmest season and the most popular time to travel, especially to northern states. However, in the southern states, particularly in desert regions, summer can be uncomfortably hot. Summer also coincides with school holidays, so expect tourist hotspots, national parks, and museums to be crowded. On the plus side, it's the season with the most cultural events, fairs, and festivals.



- **Spring:** Spring is ideal for visiting the Rocky Mountains and the southern states, offering a chance to enjoy blooming wildflowers and lush gardens.
- **Autumn:** This is an excellent time to visit, as the foliage in mountainous forests displays a stunning variety of colours, and the high humidity of summer drops to more comfortable levels.
- **Winter:** Winter brings extreme weather variations, from heavy snowfall in the Rockies and New England to tropical temperatures in Florida and Hawaii.

1. PASSPORT, VISAS AND CUSTOMS

There are **3 Documents You Must Not Forget** When Travelling to the United States

1. The passport

Your passport must be valid for the entire duration of your stay in the United States. It must be a British passport (or from another country participating in the Visa Waiver Programme). Some countries require passports to be valid for at least six months beyond your departure date, but the United Kingdom is exempt from this rule under the "**Six-Month Club**" agreement.

For example, if your nationality is Venezuelan and you hold a Venezuelan passport, even if you have permanent residence in the United Kingdom, you will not be eligible to travel under the ESTA programme. Instead, you would need to visit the U.S. Embassy in your country to apply for a B-2 tourist visa.

These are the **42 countries** whose citizens can travel with an ESTA visa: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and United Kingdom.



Always [double-check your application](#) to ensure smooth and trouble-free travel to the United States.

3. Confirmation of Hotel Reservation and Return Flight

While it was once essential to have confirmation of your hotel reservation and return flight to travel to the United States, this is no longer strictly required. However, we recommend **carrying printed copies of these documents** for added convenience. It's also a good idea to scan them and email them to yourself to ensure you can access them anytime. Additionally, it's wise to carry a printed copy of your ESTA visa, as it may be requested by authorities or the airline.

Before applying for an ESTA visa, it's helpful to have details about your accommodation, even if you haven't booked it yet, as you'll need to provide a "point of contact" and "place of stay" on the application. If you don't have this information at the time of application, you can select "UNKNOWN," or alternatively, use the details of a hotel in the city where you'll arrive.

Regarding your flight reservation, **it is not necessary to have it when completing the ESTA application**, as no flight information is required during the process.

Customs

Filling out the ESTA application does not guarantee entry into the United States. It simply confirms that you are eligible to enter, meaning you meet the required conditions. By applying for this visa, you also waive the right to request a review or appeal the decision of the immigration officer should they deny entry. However, **don't worry**—this is rare.

This is why it is essential to complete the visa application carefully, ensuring that all the information provided is accurate and matches your passport and personal details. [To assist with this](#), one of our additional services (not offered by the U.S. Government) **is error correction before processing**. If the ESTA application is denied, you won't be able to reapply, so it's better to ensure accuracy from the start.



When you arrive in the United States, **customs and immigration** will be your first stop in the city where your flight lands. Major airports, like those in New York, often have long queues at customs. Immigration officers typically ask questions about your visit, such as its purpose, the length of your stay, and whether you have a return ticket.

It's crucial that the information you provide at customs matches what you submitted in your ESTA application to avoid any issues.

2. COMMUNICATIONS AND BANKS

The local currency

The official currency of the United States is the **dollar (USD)**. In some areas near the Canadian border, Canadian money may be accepted, but generally, only U.S. dollars are used. Paying with foreign currency often results in unfavourable exchange rates, so **it's best to use USD exclusively**. Other foreign currencies are not accepted.

Characteristics of the US dollar (USD)

Names and popular terms	US dollar, US dollar, dollar and cents, "buck"
Symbols and abbreviations	USD, US \$, \$
1 USD	One dollar is divided into 100 cents.



Coins

Common Coin Denominations:

- **1 Cent (Penny):**
 - Colour: Copper.
 - Features: Abraham Lincoln on the front and the Lincoln Memorial or a shield on the back (depending on the year).
 - Usage: Used for small transactions and sales tax rounding.
- **5 Cents (Nickel):**
 - Colour: Silver.
 - Features: Thomas Jefferson on the front and Monticello (Jefferson's estate) on the back.
 - Usage: Often used for vending machines and small purchases.
- **10 Cents (Dime):**
 - Colour: Silver.
 - Features: Franklin D. Roosevelt on the front and a torch with an olive branch and oak branch on the back.
 - Usage: Lightweight and commonly used for small change.
- **25 Cents (Quarter):**
 - Colour: Silver.
 - Features: George Washington on the front and various designs on the back, including state-specific designs as part of the 50 State Quarters programme.
 - Usage: Widely used, especially in vending machines and parking meters.

Less Common Coins:

- **50 Cents (Half Dollar):**
 - Colour: Silver.
 - Features: John F. Kennedy on the front and the Presidential Seal on the back.
 - Usage: Rare in everyday transactions and often considered a collector's item.
- **\$1 Coin:**
 - Colour: Gold.
 - Features: Designs vary, including Sacagawea, U.S. Presidents, and Native American themes.



- Usage: Not widely circulated, but occasionally seen in specific locations like public transportation systems.

Tips for Visitors:

- **Familiarity:** Coins can add up quickly, so it's useful to familiarise yourself with their sizes, weights, and values.
- **Carrying Coins:** Have a small coin pouch or section in your wallet to avoid confusion at checkout.
- **Uses:** Coins are especially handy for small purchases, tips, or machines that require exact change.

U.S. coins are an integral part of the currency system, offering both functional value and a glimpse into American history and culture.

Bills

Common Denominations:

- **\$1 Bill:** Widely used in daily transactions.
- **\$2 Bill:** Rarely seen in circulation but still valid. Many consider it a novelty or collector's item.
- **\$5 Bill:** Commonly used for small purchases.
- **\$10 Bill:** Frequently used in everyday transactions.
- **\$20 Bill:** One of the most widely used denominations, popular for ATM withdrawals and general use.
- **\$50 Bill:** Less common but still in circulation, often used for larger purchases.
- **\$100 Bill:** The largest denomination in regular use, often associated with larger transactions.

Design and Security Features:

Recent issues of U.S. bills include advanced security measures to prevent counterfeiting:

- **Microprinting:** Tiny text visible under magnification.
- **Colour Shifts:** Ink that changes colour when tilted.



- **Watermarks:** Visible when held against light.
- **Security Threads:** Embedded strips visible under ultraviolet light.

Older Bills:

Older U.S. bills are still legal tender, but some banks or businesses, especially outside the U.S., may be reluctant to accept or exchange them due to anti-counterfeiting measures.

Tips for Visitors:

- Ensure your bills are in good condition, as torn or heavily damaged bills might not be accepted.
- Familiarise yourself with the designs and security features of U.S. bills to avoid counterfeit issues.
- Carry smaller denominations (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20) for convenience, as some places might not accept larger bills.

The U.S. dollar is trusted and widely used internationally, making it a stable and reliable currency for both residents and visitors.

Changing Money in the United States

When exchanging your money for U.S. dollars, you have several options to consider:

1. ATMs – The Best Option

Using an ATM is often the most cost-effective choice. ATMs typically apply the interbank exchange rate, which is the midpoint between the buying and selling rates in the global forex market. This rate is the most accurate and fair, allowing you to get more value for your money.



2. Currency Exchange Stations

If you prefer not to use ATMs, currency exchange stations are available in airports and hotels. While convenient, they often come with higher costs:

- **Modified Exchange Rates:** These providers typically offer less favourable rates than the interbank rate.
- **Hidden Fees:** Additional fees may be added to your transaction.
- **Condition of Bills:** They may reject torn or damaged banknotes.

3. Exchanging Money Before Travel

Since the U.S. dollar is a widely accepted currency, your bank in the UK may allow you to exchange pounds for dollars before you travel. Arriving in the U.S. with some cash on hand can save time and hassle.

If you plan to withdraw money while in the U.S., check if your bank has a partnership with a U.S. bank. These agreements can help you:

- Avoid foreign transaction fees.
- Avoid additional withdrawal fees when using partner ATMs in the U.S.

Planning ahead can save you money and ensure a smooth financial experience during your trip.

Traveler's Checks in the USA

Traveler's checks were once a secure and popular way to carry money abroad. However, the rise of ATMs has made them largely obsolete. Compared to ATMs, traveler's checks are less efficient and often inconvenient to use.

Using Credit and Debit Cards in the USA

Most credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout the United States, including those from smaller issuers. Many global card providers, like Visa, MasterCard, and American Express, are of U.S. origin, so using them is generally seamless.

- **Notify Your Bank:** Before travelling, inform your bank or card provider of your plans to avoid your card being flagged for suspicious activity and potentially canceled.



- **Fees for Foreign Transactions:** Check the fees your bank charges for foreign transactions and plan accordingly. Some card providers may be more cost-effective than others.
- **Cash-Only Situations:** While cards are widely accepted, some small businesses may have a minimum transaction amount for card payments or may only accept cash. It's a good idea to carry small bills for tips, minor purchases, tolls, and transportation.

Pro Tip: When using ATMs, always choose the option to withdraw in U.S. dollars instead of your home currency. Opting for your home currency activates "Dynamic Currency Conversion" (DCC), which often results in unfavourable exchange rates and unnecessary fees.

ATMs in the USA

There are over 425,000 ATMs across the U.S.:

- **Bank-Owned ATMs (48%):** Found at bank branches and post offices, these typically offer lower and more transparent fees.
- **Independent ATMs (52%):** Located near supermarkets, small shops, and busy streets. These often charge higher fees for withdrawals.

Tips for Using ATMs:

- Use an **ATM locator** to find ATMs associated with major banks, which may have lower fees.
- Links to ATM locators for common card providers:
 - [MasterCard ATM Locator](#)
 - [Visa ATM Locator](#)
 - [American Express ATM Locator](#)

By planning ahead, you can minimize fees and ensure access to cash during your trip to the United States.

Banks in the USA

Many of the world's leading banks are American, making it easy to find bank branches nearly anywhere in the United States. Whether you're in a large city, a



smaller town, or even a rural area, the U.S. has a highly developed financial infrastructure.

- **Bank Hours:** Most banks are open until **5 PM on weekdays** and **12 PM on Saturdays**. Some locations may have extended hours or offer 24/7 access to ATMs.
- **Global Banking Partnerships:**
If your bank is part of a global network, there's a good chance you'll find a partner bank in the U.S., potentially reducing transaction fees.

Major Commercial Banks in the United States:

- [JP Morgan Chase Bank](#)
- [Bank of America](#)
- [Citi \(or Citigroup\)](#)
- [Wells Fargo](#)
- [PNC](#)
- [Capital One](#)

Additionally, most major foreign banks have branches in the U.S., making it convenient for international travellers to access financial services.

Communications in the United States

The United States boasts excellent telephone and postal services. Mobile phones and public cyber cafes make staying connected easier than ever. Most hotels, restaurants, and shopping centres provide internet access, with free Wi-Fi commonly available.

The U.S. media landscape is one of the largest and most influential in the world. Advertising and propaganda play a central role in its consumer-driven culture. Through newspapers, radio, television, and the internet, the U.S. remains one of the most informed societies globally—though not necessarily the most culturally inclined. The country also has a robust film industry, which continues to mythologise and promote the American way of life.



How to Call in the United States

American phone numbers consist of a **three-digit area code** (e.g., 212), indicating a specific city, metropolitan area, or even an entire state.

Examples of Formats for U.S. Phone Numbers:

- (212) 324-4152 (standard format)
- 212 / 324-4152
- 212-324-4152

Dialling Rules Within the U.S.:

1. **Local Calls:** If you're calling within the same area code, skip the area code and dial only the last 7 digits.
2. **Long-Distance Calls:** Dial **1**, followed by the area code and the 7-digit number (e.g., 1-212-324-4152).

Calling the U.S. from the UK:

Dial the international call access code (usually **00**), followed by the U.S. country code (**1**), and the full phone number including the area code. Example:
00-1-212-324-4152.

Calling the UK from the U.S.:

Dial **011** (international call access code), followed by the UK country code (**44**), and the phone number. Omit the leading **0** from the UK area code. Example:
011-44-20-1234-5678.

International Call Costs and Alternatives

Modern communication technology has made it easier and more cost-effective to stay connected internationally. Here's a look at the best options for managing calls and messages while travelling:

Avoiding High Roaming Costs

- **International Plans:** Most mobile providers now offer competitive international roaming packages or add-ons. For instance, UK providers like



Vodafone, EE, and O2 offer day passes or monthly bundles for use in the U.S. Check with your provider before travelling.

- **eSIMs:** If your phone is compatible, consider downloading an **eSIM**, which allows you to use a U.S.-based data plan without needing a physical SIM card. Providers like Airalo or Holafly offer affordable international eSIM options.

Free or Low-Cost Alternatives

- **Wi-Fi Calling:** Use Wi-Fi calling features offered by most smartphones to make calls over the internet instead of using mobile networks. This is often free when connected to Wi-Fi.
- **Voice and Video Apps:**
 - **WhatsApp, FaceTime, and iMessage:** Ideal for calls and messages when connected to Wi-Fi or mobile data.
 - **Zoom and Microsoft Teams:** Great for business calls or video meetings.
 - **Signal or Telegram:** Secure options for both messaging and voice calls.
- **Google Voice or Skype:** Affordable options for making international calls to mobile or landline numbers.

Other Tools

- **Portable Hotspots:** Rent or buy a portable hotspot to ensure you have internet access wherever you go.
- **Local SIM Cards:** Purchase a prepaid U.S. SIM card on arrival for affordable local calls, texts, and data. Popular options include T-Mobile, AT&T, and Mint Mobile.

Emergency telephone number

For any emergency requiring police, fire services, or medical assistance, you can dial **911** from any phone, including mobile phones.

- **Free Call:** Calls to 911 are free, even from public phones—you won't need to insert coins.



- **Location Tracking:** In most areas of the U.S., the emergency response centre can automatically detect your location, so you won't need to provide your address or current position.

Always stay on the line until the operator confirms they have all the necessary information and assistance is on the way.

Bridging the Language Gap: Vocabulary Differences Between UK and US English

Transportation

British English	American English	Description
Underground	Subway	<i>Metro system</i>
Tube	Subway	<i>Metro (colloquial term in London)</i>
Lift	Elevator	<i>Device used to transport people or goods between floors</i>
Lorry	Truck	<i>Motor vehicle designed to transport cargo</i>
Petrol	Gas/Gasoline	<i>Fuel for vehicles</i>
Boot	Trunk	<i>Storage compartment at the rear of a vehicle</i>
Bonnet	Hood	<i>Hinged cover over the engine of a vehicle</i>
Car park	Parking lot	<i>Area designated for parking vehicles</i>
Zebra crossing	Crosswalk	<i>Pedestrian crossing marked with white stripes</i>
Motorway	Freeway/Highway	<i>Major road designed for fast traffic</i>
Coach	Bus	<i>Large motor vehicle for carrying passengers</i>
Railway	Railroad	<i>Tracks on which trains run</i>
Tram	Streetcar	<i>Rail vehicle running on city streets</i>



Clothing

British English	American English	Description
Jumper	Sweater	<i>Knitted garment worn on the upper body</i>
Trainers	Sneakers	<i>Athletic shoes</i>
Trousers	Pants	<i>Outer garment covering the lower half of the body</i>
Pants	Underwear	<i>Garments worn beneath outer clothes</i>
Waistcoat	Vest	<i>Sleeveless garment worn over a shirt</i>
Braces	Suspenders	<i>Straps used to hold up trousers</i>
Vest	Undershirt	<i>Lightweight garment worn under a shirt</i>
Dressing gown	Robe	<i>Loose garment worn at home</i>
Nappy	Diaper	<i>Absorbent garment for babies</i>
Wellington boots	Rubber boots	<i>Waterproof boots</i>

Food and Drink

British English	American English	Description
Biscuit	Cookie	<i>Small baked treat</i>
Chips	French fries	<i>Deep-fried strips of potato</i>
Crisps	Chips	<i>Thin slices of potato fried until crisp</i>
Aubergine	Eggplant	<i>Purple-skinned vegetable</i>
Courgette	Zucchini	<i>Green summer squash</i>
Scone	Biscuit	<i>Small quick bread or cake</i>
Porridge	Oatmeal	<i>Cooked cereal made from oats</i>



Candy floss	Cotton candy	<i>Spun sugar confection</i>
Fizzy drink	Soda	<i>Carbonated soft drink</i>
Takeaway	Takeout	<i>Food purchased to be eaten off premises</i>
Starter	Appetizer	<i>Small dish before the main course</i>
Pudding/Dessert	Dessert	<i>Sweet course after the main meal</i>

Housing and Accommodation

British English	American English	Description
Flat	Apartment	<i>Set of rooms for living in</i>
Garden	Yard	<i>Ground adjoining a building</i>
Cooker	Stove	<i>Appliance for cooking food</i>
Tap	Faucet	<i>Device to control the flow of water</i>
Torch	Flashlight	<i>Portable electric light</i>
Holiday	Vacation	<i>Extended period of leisure</i>
Bin	Trash can	<i>Container for waste</i>
Rubbish	Garbage/Trash	<i>Waste material</i>
Wardrobe	Closet	<i>Tall cupboard or recess</i>
Dustbin	Garbage can	<i>Outdoor container for waste</i>

Education

British English	American English	Description
Primary school	Elementary school	<i>School for young children</i>



Secondary school	High school	<i>School for teenagers</i>
University	College/University	<i>Institution of higher education</i>
Marks	Grades	<i>Evaluation scores</i>
Headmaster/ Headteacher	Principal	<i>Head of a school</i>
Term	Semester	<i>Division of the academic year</i>

Expressions and Idioms

British English	American English	Description
To ring someone	To call someone	<i>Make a telephone call</i>
Fancy dress party	Costume party	<i>Party where guests wear costumes</i>
Bob's your uncle	There you go	<i>Expression meaning "and that's it"</i>
I'm knackered	I'm exhausted	<i>Feeling very tired</i>
Bloke	Guy	<i>Man or fellow</i>
Mate	Buddy/Pal	<i>Friend</i>
Cheeky	Sassy	<i>Impudent or irreverent</i>
Fortnight	Two weeks	<i>Period of fourteen days</i>
Queue	Line	<i>Sequence of people awaiting their turn</i>
Postcode	Zip code	<i>Postal code for mail delivery</i>

Phrases and Ways of Speaking



British English	American English	Description
"Are you all right?"	"How are you?"	<i>Greeting asking about well-being</i>
"I can't be bothered"	"I don't feel like it"	<i>Lack of motivation to do something</i>
"I'll give you a ring"	"I'll call you"	<i>Promise to make a phone call</i>
"I'm chuffed"	"I'm thrilled"	<i>Feeling pleased or delighted</i>
"Not my cup of tea"	"Not my thing"	<i>Something one does not prefer</i>
"Fancy a drink?"	"Do you want a drink?"	<i>Offering a beverage</i>
"Pop over"	"Stop by"	<i>Visit briefly or casually</i>
"Taking the piss"	"Making fun of"	<i>Teasing or mocking someone</i>
"Throw a spanner in the works"	"Throw a wrench in the works"	<i>Create a problem or obstacle</i>

Everyday Objects

British English	American English	Description
Rubber	Eraser	<i>Tool for erasing pencil marks</i>
Plaster	Band-Aid	<i>Adhesive bandage</i>
Dummy	Pacifier	<i>Soothing device for babies</i>
Postbox	Mailbox	<i>Box for outgoing mail</i>
Petrol station	Gas station	<i>Place to refuel vehicles</i>
Chemist	Drugstore	<i>Pharmacy</i>
Trolley	Shopping cart	<i>Wheeled cart for carrying items in a store</i>



Telly	TV	<i>Television</i>
Mobile phone	Cell phone	<i>Portable telephone device</i>

Sports

British English	American English	Description
Football	Soccer	<i>Team sport played with a spherical ball</i>
Pitch	Field	<i>Area where sports are played</i>
Match	Game	<i>Competitive sporting event</i>
Nil	Zero	<i>No score in a game</i>

Others

British English	American English	Description
Autumn	Fall	<i>Season between summer and winter</i>
Ladybird	Ladybug	<i>Small beetle with red wings and black spots</i>
Cinema	Movie theater	<i>Place to watch films</i>
Film	Movie	<i>Motion picture</i>
Pavement	Sidewalk	<i>Path alongside a road for pedestrians</i>
Bum bag	Fanny pack	<i>Small pouch worn around the waist</i>
Bill	Check	<i>Statement of charges in a restaurant</i>
Luggage	Baggage	<i>Suitcases and bags for traveling</i>
Chemist's	Drugstore	<i>Shop selling medicines and toiletries</i>
Shop	Store	<i>Place where goods are sold</i>

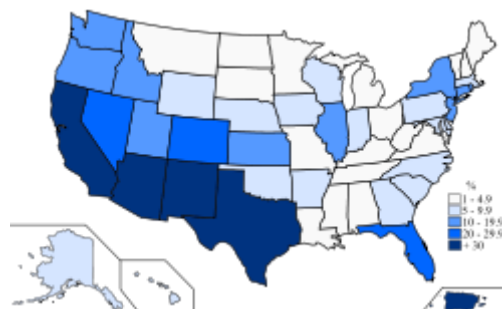


Using Languages Other Than English in the United States

The United States is a diverse country with a rich linguistic landscape, shaped by immigration and multiculturalism. While English is the dominant language and the most widely used for communication, many other languages are spoken across the country. Travelers who speak languages other than English can often find resources and communities where their language is understood or even widely spoken. Here's an overview of the main languages and their presence in the U.S.:

1. Spanish

- **Prevalence:** Spanish is the second most spoken language in the U.S., with over 41 million native speakers and an additional 12 million bilingual individuals. It is widely used in everyday communication, especially in states like California, Texas, Florida, Arizona, Puerto Rico and New York.
- **Where to Expect Spanish Usage:**
 - Urban areas with large Hispanic populations, such as Los Angeles, Miami, San Antonio, and New York City.
 - Government services, healthcare, and educational institutions often provide Spanish-language materials and interpreters.
 - Many businesses, including restaurants, retail stores, and transportation services, employ Spanish-speaking staff.
- **Tips for Travelers:** Spanish speakers will find it relatively easy to navigate the U.S. in major metropolitan areas and border states.





Presence of Spanish Speakers in Various U.S. States

2. Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)

- **Prevalence:** Chinese is the third most spoken language in the U.S., with around 3.5 million speakers. Mandarin is more commonly spoken, though Cantonese remains prevalent in older immigrant communities.
 - **Where to Expect Chinese Usage:**
 - Major Chinatowns in cities like San Francisco, New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago.
 - Chinese-owned businesses, restaurants, and cultural centers often have Chinese-speaking staff.
 - Some government and healthcare services in areas with significant Chinese populations offer interpretation or documentation in Chinese.
 - **Tips for Travelers:** Chinese speakers will find strong cultural and linguistic support in larger cities with Chinese-American communities.
-

3. Tagalog and Filipino Languages

- **Prevalence:** Over 1.7 million people in the U.S. speak Tagalog, making it one of the most spoken non-English languages. It is most common among Filipino communities.
 - **Where to Expect Tagalog Usage:**
 - Areas with large Filipino populations, particularly in California (San Diego, Los Angeles, and the Bay Area), Nevada, and Hawaii.
 - Filipino-American cultural and community centers.
 - Healthcare settings, as many Filipino Americans work in the medical field.
 - **Tips for Travelers:** While less prevalent in public services, Tagalog speakers will find welcoming communities in states with significant Filipino populations.
-



4. French

- **Prevalence:** French is spoken by about 1.3 million people in the U.S. It is most prominent in Louisiana due to its historical French influence and among Haitian-American communities.
 - **Where to Expect French Usage:**
 - Louisiana (particularly in New Orleans and the Cajun regions).
 - Cities with Haitian populations, such as Miami, New York City, and Boston.
 - Cultural institutions, French restaurants, and private schools may have French-speaking staff.
 - **Tips for Travelers:** French-speaking travelers will find helpful resources in historically or culturally Francophone regions.
-

5. German

- **Prevalence:** Approximately 1 million German speakers live in the U.S., often in areas with historical German immigration.
 - **Where to Expect German Usage:**
 - Pennsylvania (Amish communities speaking Pennsylvania Dutch, a dialect of German).
 - Midwest states such as Wisconsin and Minnesota with strong German heritage.
 - German cultural events and Oktoberfest celebrations.
 - **Tips for Travelers:** While less commonly spoken in daily interactions, German speakers can connect with communities during cultural events.
-

6. Vietnamese

- **Prevalence:** With over 1.5 million speakers, Vietnamese is most commonly found in areas with large Vietnamese-American populations.
 - **Where to Expect Vietnamese Usage:**
 - Cities such as Houston, San Jose, Los Angeles, and New Orleans.
 - Vietnamese businesses, especially restaurants and markets.
 - Community centers in Vietnamese-American neighborhoods.
-



- **Tips for Travelers:** Vietnamese speakers can access community services and businesses catering to their language needs in major urban centers.
-

7. Arabic

- **Prevalence:** Arabic is spoken by over 1.2 million people in the U.S., with growing numbers due to recent immigration.
 - **Where to Expect Arabic Usage:**
 - Cities with significant Middle Eastern populations, such as Detroit (Dearborn), Los Angeles, and New York City.
 - Mosques and Islamic cultural centers often offer Arabic language support.
 - Arabic-speaking businesses and restaurants in areas with Middle Eastern communities.
 - **Tips for Travelers:** Arabic speakers can find resources in regions with strong Arab-American presence, especially in Michigan and California.
-

8. Korean

- **Prevalence:** Korean is spoken by over 1 million people, primarily in Korean-American communities.
 - **Where to Expect Korean Usage:**
 - Koreatowns in cities like Los Angeles, New York City, and Atlanta.
 - Korean-owned businesses, churches, and community centers.
 - Services tailored to Korean-speaking populations in healthcare and immigration assistance.
 - **Tips for Travelers:** Korean speakers will find extensive linguistic support in Koreatowns and Korean-American businesses.
-

9. Russian

- **Prevalence:** Over 900,000 people speak Russian in the U.S., particularly in areas with Eastern European immigrant populations.
 - **Where to Expect Russian Usage:**
-



- Neighborhoods with Russian-speaking communities, such as Brighton Beach in New York City.
- Russian-owned businesses, cultural organizations, and churches.
- **Tips for Travelers:** Russian speakers may find helpful resources and businesses in specific immigrant communities.

General Observations

- **Public Services:** Many government agencies, hospitals, and schools provide translation and interpretation services in multiple languages, including Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic.
- **Tourism and Hospitality:** Large cities and tourist areas often have multilingual staff or materials available in common languages.
- **Language Apps and Tools:** For less widely spoken languages, translation apps can be a valuable resource for travelers.

3. HEALTHCARE AND SAFETY IN US

The United States does not have a public healthcare system, and while medical assistance is excellent, it is primarily managed by private providers, making it very expensive. It is strongly recommended to purchase **travel medical insurance** to avoid significant expenses in the event of an accident or unexpected illness.

Regarding safety, some large urban centres have higher crime rates compared to rural areas, so it's important to take basic precautions to ensure a trouble-free visit. It's also a good idea to ask locals or consult resources to identify areas of cities that are better avoided.

Personal Safety

When travelling, it's natural to wonder about the safety of your destination. While most tourist areas in the United States are relatively safe, certain precautions can help you avoid becoming a victim of crime.

- **Key Precautions:**



- Avoid wandering into unfamiliar neighbourhoods far from tourist routes.
- Avoid wearing flashy jewellery.
- Carry only small amounts of cash.
- Keep a close eye on your mobile phone and camera.

Although the U.S. is not inherently unsafe, some situations call for extra vigilance:

1. **Downtown Areas at Night:**

City centres ("downtown") are typically bustling business districts with large buildings and iconic skylines. However, they often become deserted at night, except for occasional homeless individuals. It's best to be cautious when walking alone in these areas after dark.

2. **Suburbs or Ghettos at Night:**

Avoid venturing into suburban or economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods after dark. If you have a reason to visit these areas, exercise common sense and avoid standing out as a tourist. Blend in with normal behaviour, leave your camera in your bag, and enjoy your surroundings without drawing unnecessary attention. Remember, the residents of these areas are not a tourist attraction.

National Parks Safety

When visiting U.S. national parks, remember that the wildlife is truly wild and roams freely. You are in their natural habitat, not a zoo.

- Follow all safety guidelines provided by park rangers upon entry.
- Do not leave your vehicle if you encounter wild animals.
- Treat animals with respect and maintain a safe distance.

Other Security Measures

● **Carrying Cash and Cards:**

- Carry only small amounts of cash.
- Store credit cards in a secure money belt rather than a backpack or pocket.
- Use ATMs during the day and in well-lit, populated areas.

● **Hotel Safety:**



- While hotel thefts are uncommon, avoid leaving valuables in plain sight. Use the room or hotel safe to store money and valuable items.
- When in your room, use the latch on the door and familiarise yourself with emergency exits.
- Never let strangers into your room or disclose details about your accommodation.
- **Rental Car Safety:**
 - Rental cars can attract thieves, especially in popular tourist areas or hiking trail parking lots.
 - Always lock the car and store luggage and valuables in the boot.
 - At night, park in the hotel's parking area whenever possible.
- **Important Document Copies:**
 - Make two photocopies of essential documents, such as your passport and visa.
 - Carry one copy with you and leave the other in a secure place or with a trusted person.
 - Having a copy will expedite procedures if you lose the originals.
- **Reporting Lost or Stolen Items:**
 - Always report lost or stolen items to the police, as a police report is required to submit an insurance claim.
 - Notify your bank immediately if credit cards are lost or stolen.
 - Many public transport services, such as taxis, buses, and airlines, have lost property departments.

Insurance and Medical Treatment

- **Insurance is Essential:**
 - When travelling to the U.S., having **travel insurance is non-negotiable**. Even minor medical incidents can result in exorbitant bills.
 - For example, a basic hospital visit can cost upwards of €2,000 without insurance.
- **Medical and Dental Costs:**
 - Medical and dental care in the U.S. is among the most expensive in the world. A good insurance policy will help cover unexpected costs.



- Bring any prescription medications along with their original prescriptions.
- **Additional Insurance Benefits:**
 - Many policies cover lost or damaged items.
 - Some policies reimburse costs for trip cancellations or modifications.

Emergencies

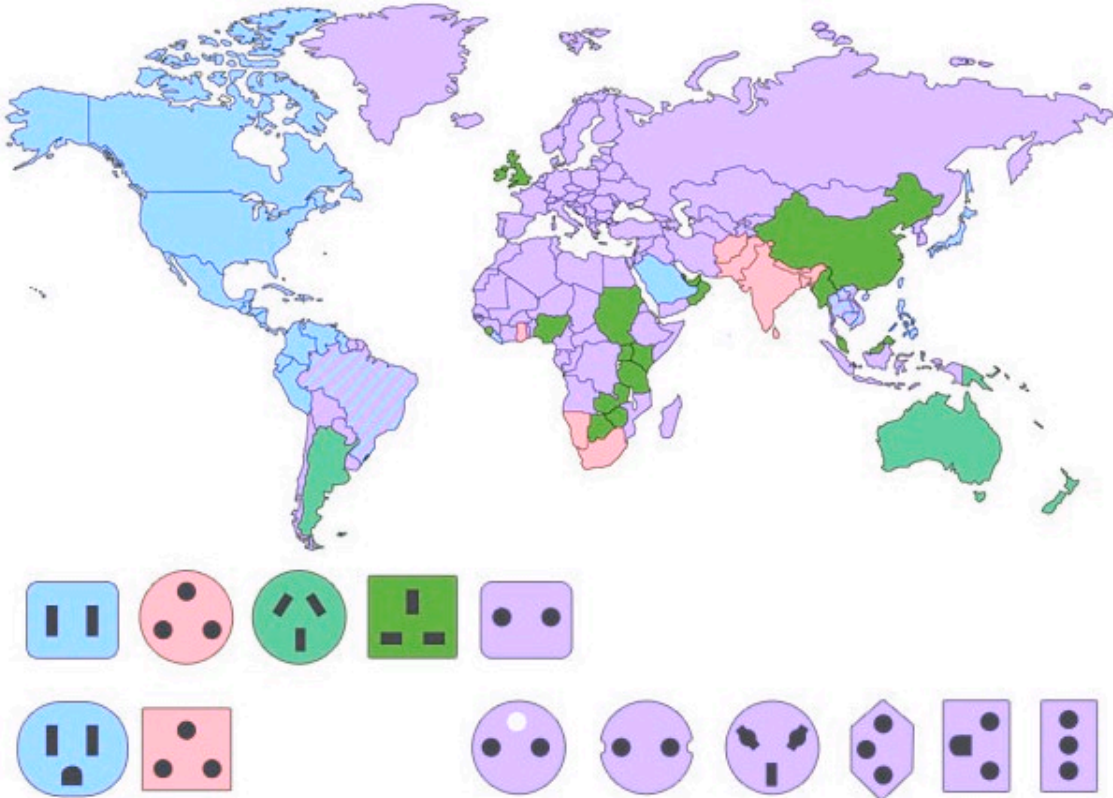
- **Emergency Services:**
 - Dial **911** for fire, police, or medical assistance. The call is free from any phone, including payphones.
- **Emergency Phones:**
 - Major highways and interstate roads have emergency telephones available.
- **Medical Assistance:**
 - Emergency medical services treat injured individuals regardless of their ability to pay.

By taking these precautions and securing proper insurance, you can enjoy your trip to the United States with peace of mind.

4. OTHER DATA OF INTEREST

Plugs

When travelling from the UK to the United States, it's essential to understand the differences in plugs, voltage, and device compatibility. Here's a comprehensive guide:



1. Plugs and Sockets

- **Plug Type:**

- The U.S. uses **Type A** (two flat pins) and **Type B** (two flat pins and a round grounding pin) plugs.
- These are different from the UK's **Type G** plugs, so you will need a **plug adapter** to use your devices.

2. Voltage and Frequency

- **Voltage:**

- The U.S. operates on **120 volts**, while the UK standard is **230 volts**.
- Devices designed for 230 volts may not function properly or could be damaged if plugged directly into a U.S. socket.

- **Frequency:**

- The frequency in the U.S. is **60 Hz**, compared to **50 Hz** in the UK.



- While this doesn't usually affect most modern devices, certain appliances with motors or timers may behave differently.

3. Device Compatibility

- **Dual Voltage Devices:**
 - Check your device's label or manual. If it says something like **"Input: 100-240V, 50/60Hz,"** it is dual voltage and can be used in the U.S. with only a plug adapter.
 - Examples include most modern laptops, smartphones, and cameras.
- **Single Voltage Devices:**
 - If your device is **single voltage** (e.g., "230V"), you will need a **voltage converter** to use it safely in the U.S. Common single-voltage items include some hairdryers, curling irons, and older appliances.

4. Precautions for Mobile Devices and Small Electronics

- **Charging Phones and Laptops:**
 - Most phones, tablets, and laptops are dual voltage, but you will still need a plug adapter.
 - Consider carrying a **multi-port USB charger** compatible with U.S. plugs to charge multiple devices simultaneously.
- **Battery Life:**
 - Ensure your devices are fully charged before going out, as public charging points may not always be available or reliable.
- **Power Banks:**
 - Bring a portable power bank for convenience, especially when visiting rural areas or national parks where charging facilities may be limited.

5. Power Strips and Adapters

- **UK Power Strips:**



- If you plan to use multiple devices, consider bringing a **UK power strip** with a single plug adapter for the U.S. socket.
 - This allows you to charge multiple UK devices without needing multiple adapters.
 - **Universal Travel Adapters:**
 - A universal travel adapter with surge protection is highly recommended. It can accommodate U.S. plugs and work in other countries you may visit in the future.
-

6. Safety Tips

- **Surge Protectors:**
 - The U.S. electrical grid may experience surges, so it's wise to use adapters or strips with built-in surge protection for sensitive electronics.
- **Avoid Overloading Outlets:**
 - Be cautious when plugging in multiple high-power devices to a single outlet, as this can overload the circuit.
- **Check Before You Plug:**
 - Always double-check the voltage compatibility of your devices before plugging them into a U.S. socket.

Time

The time difference between the United Kingdom and the United States depends on the region you are travelling to, as the U.S. spans six time zones, including Alaska and Hawaii. The vast size of the country means you'll experience different time differences depending on the coast or state you visit.

When travelling to the U.S., you will typically **gain hours** on your outbound flight and **lose them** on your return, making it easier to make the most of your first day in the U.S.



Time Zones in the United States

1. **Pacific Time (PT):**
 - **8 hours behind the UK** (GMT-8, or GMT-7 during daylight saving time).
 - Includes states like California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada.
2. **Mountain Time (MT):**
 - **7 hours behind the UK** (GMT-7, or GMT-6 during daylight saving time).
 - Covers areas like Colorado, Utah, Montana, and parts of Arizona.
3. **Central Time (CT):**
 - **6 hours behind the UK** (GMT-6, or GMT-5 during daylight saving time).
 - Includes Texas, Illinois, Louisiana, and many Midwestern states.
4. **Eastern Time (ET):**
 - **5 hours behind the UK** (GMT-5, or GMT-4 during daylight saving time).
 - Covers New York, Florida, Washington D.C., and the East Coast.
5. **Alaska Time (AKT):**
 - **9 hours behind the UK** (GMT-9, or GMT-8 during daylight saving time).
6. **Hawaii-Aleutian Time (HAT):**
 - **10 hours behind the UK** (GMT-10). Hawaii does not observe daylight saving time.

Checking Current Time Differences

To determine the exact time difference between the UK and your destination in the U.S., visit websites like [Time and Date](#) or World Clock.

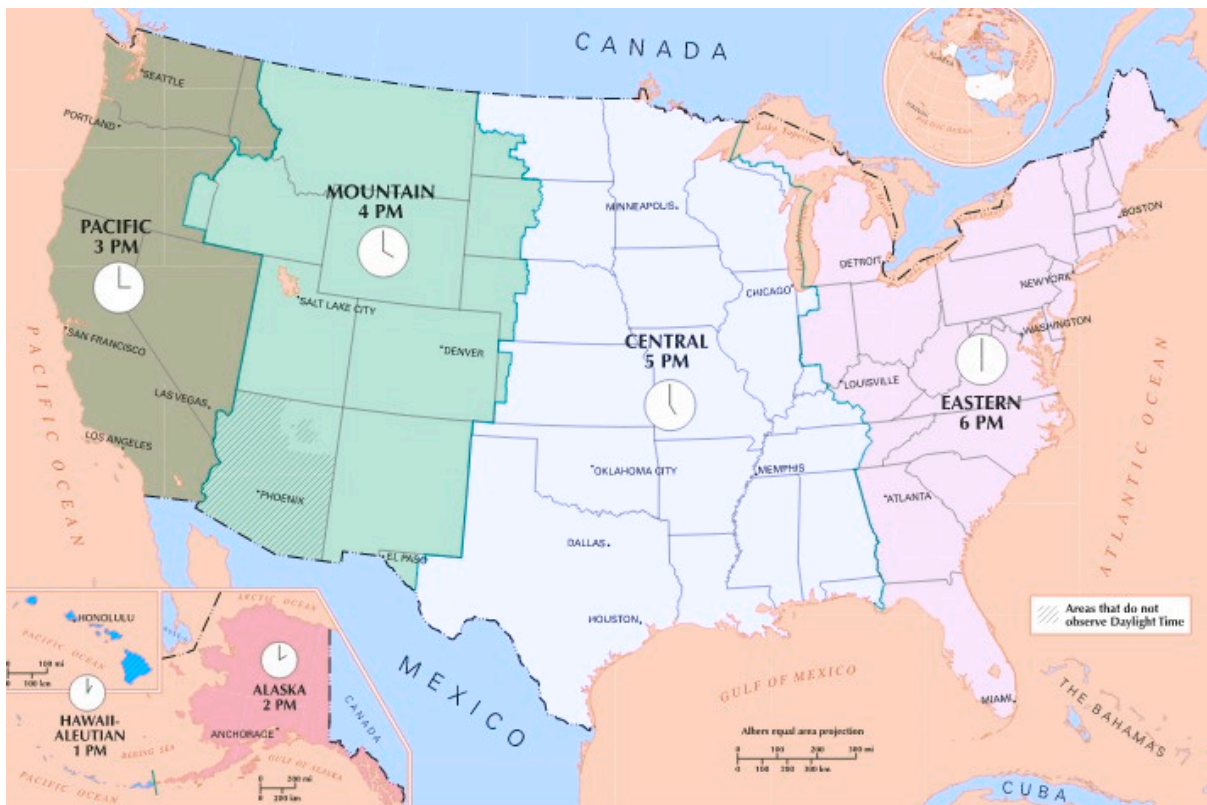
Tips for Adjusting to Time Differences

- **Plan Ahead:**
 - Adjust your sleep schedule a few days before travelling to minimise jet lag.
- **Stay Hydrated:**



- Drink plenty of water and avoid excessive caffeine or alcohol during your flight.
- **First-Day Strategy:**
 - Use the gained hours upon arrival to explore or adjust to the new time zone but avoid taking long naps.
- **Daylight Saving Time:**
 - Keep in mind that U.S. daylight saving time typically begins in March and ends in November, which may affect the time difference.

Understanding these differences will help you make the most of your time while travelling across the United States.



Tipping in the U.S.: A Quick Guide

In the United States, tipping is an essential practice across many industries, especially in hospitality and service sectors. Unlike in some countries where



service charges are included in the bill, in the U.S., workers often rely heavily on tips because their base salaries tend to be quite low.

Basic Tipping Guide in the U.S.:

✓ **Restaurants:** 15-20% of the total bill. If the service was exceptional, tipping up to 25% is appreciated. Some places, especially for large groups, may automatically include a service charge.

✓ **Bars:** \$1-2 per drink or 15-20% of the total bill if paying for a larger tab.

✓ **Taxis and Uber/Lyft:** 10-20% of the fare, depending on the service quality.

✓ **Hotels:**

- **Bellhop/Porter:** \$2-5 per bag.
- **Housekeeping:** \$3-5 per day.
- **Concierge:** \$5-20 if they provide special assistance (securing hard-to-get reservations, personalised recommendations, etc.).

✓ **Hairdressers & Beauty Salons:** 15-20% of the total service cost.

✓ **Delivery Services (food, groceries, packages):** 10-20%, depending on the effort and company policy.

Helpful Tips:

- In the U.S., not tipping can be considered rude unless the service was truly poor.
- In some states, servers' wages are significantly lower because it's assumed they will earn tips.
- Always check your bill, especially in tourist areas, as some restaurants may include gratuity automatically.

If you're travelling to the U.S., understanding this tipping culture will help you avoid awkward situations and navigate service expectations more smoothly. 😊



B) THE ESTA APPLICATION

The **U.S. government** has established the **Visa Waiver Program (VWP)**, which is currently administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This program allows citizens of 40 participating countries to enter the United States multiple times for tourism or business purposes, with a **maximum stay of 90 days per visit**, within a two-year period. Once this period expires, travellers must apply for a new ESTA authorization to visit the U.S. again.

The primary purpose of the ESTA Visa Waiver Program is to enable eligible travellers to visit the U.S. freely **without the need to obtain a conventional visa**.

1. APPLYING FOR AN ESTA

The U.S. government charges a fee of \$21 each time an ESTA application is submitted and approved. Travellers can apply for the ESTA online via U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website: <https://www.cbp.gov/>.

For many applicants, filling out this form can be challenging, increasing the likelihood of errors that may lead to visa denial. The form contains numerous non-essential fields, such as requests for social media accounts, which may be confusing.

Furthermore, applicants receive no assistance from the U.S. government while completing the form, leaving them without guidance or support. The following are essential services that the U.S. government does not provide but are crucial for applicants.

We strongly encourage you to [complete our simplified form](#), which only requires the essential information to help prevent errors. This is also the only way



we can assist you by verifying that all details are correctly entered, minimising the risk of your ESTA application being denied.

In recent years, due to legislative and government changes in the U.S., the ESTA form has undergone multiple modifications. **We stay up to date with these changes**, ensuring a success rate of **over 99% for ESTA approvals**.

APPLYING VIA CBP.GOV	APPLYING VIA USA-ESTA-VISA.COM
	Let us handle your ESTA application so you can focus on planning your trip to the U.S.
The form is very lengthy and requests a lot of unnecessary information, making it difficult to complete and increasing the risk of errors.	✔ Fast and simple. Our streamlined form only requires the essential information, ensuring accuracy before submission to the U.S. government.
No assistance is provided while completing the form. Although questions can be sent via email, responses may take several days to over a week. The form cannot be saved. If you have doubts about any field, you must start over another day.	✔ 24/7 online support. Get immediate assistance via live chat or email while completing the form. If chat is unavailable (e.g., during late hours or holidays), your questions will be answered via email within six hours. You can also save your application and resume later once your doubts are resolved.
Even if errors are present, the ESTA application is still processed. If the mistakes are minor, you may reapply with corrected details—but you will need to pay the fee again . However, if the errors are significant, your ESTA may be denied, forcing you to apply for a B-2 visa , which is far more time-consuming and expensive..	✔ Expert review for error-free applications. Our visa specialists carefully check and adjust your details to ensure approval. So far, we have achieved a 100% approval rate for ESTA applications.
After payment, the ESTA status remains pending . The U.S. government does not send any notification once the application is approved. Checking ESTA status can be difficult or impossible for users who did not save their application number, made mistakes in their details, or are unsure how they entered their name (e.g., both surnames, one first name or both, etc.).	✔ Real-time tracking. After payment (which includes U.S. government fees), our team monitors the status of your application every few minutes until approval. As soon as it's granted, we notify you immediately and send a copy. ✔ Urgent applications available. Many visas are approved within minutes, allowing us to process last-minute applications—even for travellers about to board a flight.
In addition to not notifying applicants of their ESTA status, the U.S. government does not provide a copy of the approved visa as proof of approval.	✔ PDF copy of your ESTA. Once approved, we email you a printable PDF copy of your visa, which you should keep as backup in case airline staff or border



	<p>authorities request it.</p> <p>Visa recovery service. If you did not apply with us but need a copy of your ESTA or want to check its status, we can retrieve it for you.</p>
If the ESTA is denied, the application fee is non-refundable.	Guaranteed refund. We are so confident in our service that we offer a full refund if your ESTA is denied.
The application form requests more information than strictly necessary for approval, including social media accounts. If reviewed, this information could lead to an ESTA denial or even refusal of entry by a customs officer.	Data protection compliance. We only process the minimum necessary information for approval, adhering to strict European data protection laws—far more secure than U.S. regulations.
While a previous ESTA application copy can be requested through the official website, the process is often complicated, as mentioned earlier.	Free storage and retrieval. We keep your ESTA on file for its entire validity period. Just email us, and we will send you a free copy whenever needed.
	Apply with us today and focus on planning your trip—leave the ESTA process to us!

Therefore, unless you are accustomed to handling applications with government agencies, we recommend that you [apply for your ESTA visa through usa-esta-visa.com](#).

2. REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR AN ESTA APPLICATION

Applying for an ESTA to travel to the United States involves completing a single online form, divided into the following sections:

1. Traveller Information

This section requires personal details, which must match exactly with the passport used for the application. Ensure the following are correct:

- **Surnames:** Both surnames must be entered as they appear on the passport.
- **First names:** If you have two first names, include both.
- **Date of birth:** This is a **crucial detail**—double-check for accuracy.



2. Family Information

Basic details about family connections.

3. Address

Your nationality and country of residence.

- **Nationality:** This is a key field—ensure it is the UK or one of the 40 countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program.

4. Passport Details

This includes passport number, issue and expiry dates.

- **Passport number:** Ensure accuracy, as mistakes can result in ESTA denial.
- You must also **upload a photo of your passport.** On our website, we provide clear instructions on how to take and submit a valid passport photo that meets U.S. government requirements.

5. Questions About Other Nationalities

For applicants who hold dual citizenship.

6. Emergency Contact

Details of your designated emergency contact, who can be based in **either the UK or the United States.**

7. Travel Itinerary

Information about your stay in the U.S.

8. U.S. Point of Contact

You must provide a contact point where you can be reached upon arrival (name, address, phone number, etc.).

- This can be a **friend or relative's address, a hotel, or another accommodation.**



- If you are unsure about some details, you can enter **"UNKNOWN"** for the address or **"0000"** for a phone number.
- Some travellers enter the details of a hotel in their arrival city, even if they are unsure whether they will stay there.

9. Place of Stay

The primary location where you will be staying during your trip—often the same as the **Point of Contact**.

10. Transit Travel

If you are **only transiting through the U.S.** and will not leave the airport, you must indicate that your trip is for transit purposes.

11. Eligibility Questions

Mandatory questions that must be answered truthfully. These will be covered in more detail in **Section 3**.

FAQs from Our Travellers

? Do I need to have a flight ticket before applying for ESTA?

No, you **do not** need to have a flight booked, as this information is not required in the application.

Processing Time and Additional Recommendations

- The **official U.S. government form** takes approximately **25 minutes** to complete, whereas the **usa-esta-visa.com form** can be done in under **10 minutes**.
- We **highly recommend** reading all questions carefully. However, with our service, we review and **correct any errors** before submission.
- **Do not lie** in your responses. All answers must be in **English**.
- Once submitted, your ESTA application will be under review by U.S. authorities for up to **72 hours**. The U.S. government **does not notify you of the status** nor sends a copy of the approved ESTA.



- Our **advisors continuously monitor your application** and, once approved, immediately download a **PDF copy**, which we send to your email.

Travel Document Recommendations

We advise **printing two copies** of your ESTA approval (though this is not mandatory), as well as keeping **two copies** of all important documents, including:

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Driver's licence
- ✓ Hotel reservations
- ✓ Flight tickets

Carry **one copy with you** and store the other in a **safe place**, such as a hotel safe.

3. ELEGIBILITY QUESTIONS

At the end of the ESTA application process, you must answer a series of **mandatory eligibility questions**. These can only be answered **YES or NO**—and it is crucial that you answer **NO**, unless you have a valid reason to do otherwise.

These questions include:

- ✓ Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime that caused serious damage to property, another person, or a government authority?
- ✓ Have you ever violated any law related to the possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs?
- ✓ Do you seek to engage in, or have you ever participated in, terrorist activities, espionage, sabotage, or genocide?
- ✓ Have you ever committed fraud or misrepresented yourself to obtain, or help others obtain, a U.S. visa or entry into the United States?
- ✓ Are you seeking employment in the U.S. or have you previously worked there without prior government authorisation?

It goes without saying that if you answer **YES** to any of these questions, your ESTA application **will be denied**. In such cases, it is better **not to apply for ESTA** and



instead go directly to the **U.S. Embassy** to apply for a **B-2 Tourist Visa**. During this process, you will have an interview where you can explain your situation and provide context for your **YES** answer in hopes of obtaining visa approval.

Avoiding Mistakes in Your Answers

These questions are answered in the form using a **YES/NO dropdown menu**. If you are in a hurry or not paying close attention, you might accidentally select **YES** instead of **NO**. If this happens and your ESTA is denied, you will need to go to the **U.S. Embassy** to explain the mistake and apply for a **B-2 Visa**.

Important Travel Restriction: Certain Countries

One key eligibility question asks if you have visited **any of the following seven countries**:

 Iran |  Iraq |  Syria |  Libya |  Somalia |  Sudan |  Yemen

If you have travelled to any of these countries—even for tourism—since **1 March 2011**, you will likely be **ineligible for ESTA**. This restriction was introduced during the **Obama administration** and reinforced by **Donald Trump** as a counterterrorism measure.

If you have visited **any of these countries**, it is highly likely that your **ESTA will be denied**, and you will need to apply for a **B-2 Visa** instead.

Travelling to Cuba and ESTA Eligibility

Current Regulations (2023)

If you have travelled to **Cuba after 12 January 2021**, you are **likely no longer eligible for ESTA**. This is because the U.S. government has classified **Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism**, and visiting the country may result in an ESTA denial.

Exceptions

- If you travelled to Cuba **before 12 January 2021**, you may still be eligible for ESTA, **as long as your current ESTA remains valid** and you haven't made any additional trips that could affect your eligibility.



What to Do If You Have an ESTA and Have Travelled to Cuba

✔ Check Your ESTA Status:

If you already have an approved ESTA but travelled to **Cuba after 12 January 2021**, your authorisation may have been **automatically revoked**. You can check your ESTA status on the **official ESTA website**.

✔ Apply for a Visa:

If your ESTA has been **revoked or denied** due to recent travel to Cuba, you will need to apply for a **B1/B2 tourist visa** at the **U.S. Embassy or Consulate** in your country.

Additional Tips

◆ Be Honest on Your Application:

If you are applying for an ESTA or visa, **always be truthful** about your previous travels, including any trips to Cuba. **Failing to disclose this information** can lead to being denied entry to the U.S.

◆ Stay Updated on Regulations:

U.S. immigration policies can change, so it's advisable to check directly with the **U.S. Embassy** or consult an **immigration expert** before making travel plans.

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING FOR AN ESTA

The **ESTA authorisation** is **not** a visa that is physically attached to your passport or issued as a card. Instead, it is an **automated electronic system** that links the traveller's details directly to their **passport and ESTA approval**. Upon arrival in the United States, immigration systems automatically identify whether the traveller has a **valid ESTA**.

Requirements for Travelling to the U.S. with an ESTA



✔ **Citizenship of an eligible country**

You must be a citizen of **the United Kingdom** or one of the 40 countries participating in the **Visa Waiver Program (VWP)**, including:

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

✔ **Electronic Passport**

You must have an **electronic passport** (ePassport) issued **on or after 28 August 2006**, as the **ESTA system reads information via the embedded chip**.

- Your passport **must be valid for the entire duration of your stay** in the U.S.
- If your ESTA is still valid but **you have renewed your passport**, you must **apply for a new ESTA** with the updated passport details.
- The passport must be issued by **the UK** or another **Visa Waiver Program** country.

✔ **ESTA is mandatory for short visits**

Applying for an ESTA is **required** for citizens of **Visa Waiver Program** countries who wish to **travel to the U.S. for up to 90 days** for **tourism, business, or transit**.

✔ **Easy online application**

You can apply for ESTA [from home or your office](#), as the process is entirely online. You will need:

- A **stable internet connection**
- Your **passport**
- A **valid email address**
- A **debit or credit card** for payment



With these simple requirements, you can obtain your **ESTA authorisation quickly and securely** before travelling to the United States.

5. TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR THE ESTA VISA WAIVER

✔ Apply in advance

The ESTA is valid for **two years**, so we recommend applying **as soon as you know you'll be travelling**. Unexpected delays can occur, and if your ESTA is denied, you will need **plenty of time** before your trip to apply for a **B-2 tourist visa**, which is a **longer and more expensive process** compared to the ESTA.

✔ Include your employment details

Listing your job can help avoid suspicion from U.S. authorities that you might be travelling to seek work—one of the most common concerns for immigration officers.

✔ Carry a printed copy of your ESTA authorisation

Although it is **not mandatory**, having a printed copy can be useful in case of **unexpected issues** and provides extra peace of mind. Some **airlines may also request it** before boarding.

✔ Be polite

Having an **approved ESTA** does **not** guarantee entry into the U.S. You still need to **pass border control**, so be **courteous**, answer questions **consistently** with the information on your application, and avoid any unnecessary conflicts at the airport.

✔ Enter all information accurately

Ensure that the details on your **passport match exactly** with those on your **ESTA application**.

✔ Answer all questions honestly

Double-check all the information before submitting your **ESTA application**. Providing false or misleading information could lead to problems at **immigration control**.



✔ **Provide a valid email address**

Make sure to use an email address you can access easily, as this is where you will receive important notifications about your ESTA.

✔ **Have a valid payment method**

To pay the ESTA fee, you will need a **credit or debit card** with sufficient funds.

c) 20 COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ESTA VISA

1. [Do I Need to Apply for an ESTA if I Already Have a Valid B-2 Tourist Visa?](#)

If you already have a **valid U.S. visa** (such as a **B-2 tourist visa** or any other type of visa), you can travel to the **United States** using that visa for its intended purpose. **Travellers with valid visas do not need to apply for an ESTA.**

However, you must **enter the U.S. with a valid passport**. If your **valid visa is in an expired passport**, you must **bring both your old passport (with the visa) and your new valid passport** when travelling.

2. [Does an Approved ESTA Guarantee Entry to the U.S.?](#)

No. Just as a **valid visa does not guarantee entry**, an **approved ESTA** does **not** automatically grant access to the United States. **Final entry permission is decided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers upon arrival.**

3. [Why Does My Newly Approved ESTA Only Have a 5-Month Validity Instead of 2 Years?](#)

An **approved ESTA is valid for two years** or **until your passport expires**,



whichever comes first.

If your ESTA approval is valid for only **five months**, this likely means that your **passport expires in five months**. In this case, once you renew your **passport**, you will need to **apply for a new ESTA**.

4. **How Long Can I Stay in the U.S. with an ESTA?**

An ESTA allows **multiple trips** to the **United States** during its **validity period**, without the need to reapply each time.

However, each stay in the U.S. **must not exceed 90 days**. If you need to stay longer, you must apply for a **B-2 tourist visa**.

5. **How many times can I travel to the U.S. with an ESTA during its validity period?**

There's no set limit on the number of trips you can make with a valid ESTA. However, there should be a reasonable amount of time and a valid reason between visits, so that customs officers don't suspect you're trying to live in the U.S. If they suspect misuse, your ESTA could be revoked and your entry denied.

6. **When do I need to apply for a new ESTA even if my current one is still valid?**

- If you get a new passport (e.g., due to loss or theft of the old one).
- If you change your name or surname.
- If you change your gender.
- If your country of citizenship changes.
- If any of your circumstances change, such as contracting a contagious disease or being convicted of a moral turpitude offence.

7. **Do I need to print a copy of my approved ESTA?**



The U.S. government recommends printing a copy for your records. It's not required upon arrival, as officials have your details electronically, but some airlines might ask for it, and it can sometimes speed up procedures with authorities.

8. What are the requirements to apply for ESTA?

- Your visit to the U.S. is for **90 days or less** for tourism, business, or transit.
- You hold a valid passport issued by a Visa Waiver Program country.
- You're travelling with a participating VWP airline.
- You have a return or onward ticket.
- Your trip doesn't end in a contiguous territory or adjacent islands unless you reside there.
- You're a citizen of one of the 40 VWP countries.
- You pose no threat to U.S. public health, safety, or security.
- You've complied with VWP conditions on previous visits.

9. I'm Indian with permanent residency in the UK. Can I apply for ESTA?

You need to be a citizen of the UK (or another VWP country) with a valid passport from that country to apply for ESTA. If you hold dual nationality (e.g., UK-Indian) and travel with your UK passport, you're eligible. Indian citizens alone are not eligible for ESTA and need to apply for a B-2 tourist visa.

10. Do I need ESTA if visiting the U.S. from Canada or Mexico?

If you're a VWP citizen entering by land, ESTA isn't required, but you'll need to fill out a paper I-94W form at the border. **If entering by air or sea, ESTA is required.**

11. How will I know if my ESTA was approved?



According to the U.S. government, the **Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)** will determine the status of your application **within 72 hours**. You will **not receive a confirmation** that your ESTA has been submitted, nor will you be **notified of approval or denial**.

However, if you [apply for your ESTA through our service](#), we **continuously monitor** the status of your application and will **immediately email you a copy once it is approved**.

According to the **U.S. government**, to **retrieve an application and check its status**, you must select "**Check ESTA Status**" from the general navigation menu on the **official U.S. Customs and Border Protection website**.

We offer a [status check and ESTA retrieval service](#), providing a **PDF copy** of a valid ESTA for **\$12**. Simply fill out the form, and we will send a copy directly to your email.

12. **What does it mean if my ESTA application is pending?**

It means your travel authorization is being reviewed because an immediate decision couldn't be made. This is not a negative response. Typically, a decision will be available within **72 hours**, and your ESTA will likely be approved.

13. **What does 'Travel Not Authorized' mean on my ESTA application?**

It means you are not authorised to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program. Your ESTA application has been denied. However, you may still be eligible to obtain a visa for your trip through the **U.S. Department of State**.



This decision does **not** deny you entry to the United States; it only prevents you from travelling under the ESTA visa.

14. **Do we need to apply as a group if the whole family is travelling together?**

No, it's not necessary. Even if you're travelling as a group, each traveller must have their own individually approved ESTA. There is no difference between applying individually or as a group, except that in a group application, all ESTAs can be paid for in a single transaction.

However, group applications can be slightly more complex, as they require a designated contact person to manage all submissions. To avoid confusion, we recommend applying individually.

15. **Do I need to apply for ESTA if I'm only transiting through the US?**

Yes, even if you're only transiting through the United States, you must apply for an ESTA. (Keep in mind that in many airports, you may even be able to visit the city if you have a long layover.) When completing your ESTA application, select "**Yes**" for the question: "**Is your trip to the United States in transit to another country?**"

16. **I previously applied for a transit ESTA for a layover in the US on my way to Spain. My ESTA is still valid, but now I want to visit Miami for a holiday. Do I need to apply for a new ESTA?**

Yes, you need to apply for a new ESTA. When filling out the ESTA form, you must provide details of your stay in the US. These details can be updated if you travel to a different city. However, transit ESTAs do not include stay information, so you must submit a new application for your holiday in Miami.



17. **I travelled to Miami with an ESTA visa. Now I want to go to San Francisco. Do I need to apply for a new ESTA?**

No, it's not necessary. You can update your email address or place of stay on a valid ESTA. To do this, you need to locate your ESTA and edit it.

We offer this service for a fee of **\$12**. If you need to update your stay details, simply email us at **info@usa-esta-visa.com** with your request and the new stay information. Additionally, please [complete the following form](#) so we can locate a copy of your ESTA.

18. **Can I apply for an ESTA without knowing where I will be staying?**

Yes. You don't need a specific travel plan when applying, but you must provide a **point of contact in the United States**. While it's not mandatory, it's recommended to include the address of your first stay.

If you plan to stay in multiple locations, simply enter the first address. If you don't yet have a confirmed address, you can enter the name of a hotel in the city you'll visit. If you're unsure of all the details, you can write **"UNKNOWN."**

19. **I made a mistake in my surname after submitting my ESTA application. Can I correct it?**

The only details that can be edited after submitting an ESTA application are **the email address and place of stay**. If you made a mistake in your surname, you will need to **submit a new ESTA application** with the correct information and pay the fees again.

If you applied for your ESTA through our service, we offer **one free reapplication** in case of an error in your details.



20. **I made a mistake on an eligibility question or another important detail, and my ESTA was denied. Can I reapply with the correct information?**

Once an ESTA application has been denied due to an error in the information or an eligibility question, **reapplying with the corrected details will not result in approval.**

In these cases, you should **contact the U.S. Embassy immediately** to explain the mistake. It may be possible to resolve the issue, but in most cases, you will likely need to apply for a **B-2 tourist visa** instead of an ESTA.

Some websites suggest tricks, such as obtaining a **new passport** and reapplying with different details. **We strongly advise against this.** Turning a simple human error—something that can be explained at the Embassy—into an attempt to bypass the system could result in a **permanent mark** that may prevent you from travelling to the U.S. in the future.