

# Entry Guidance for European Countries

**IMPORTANT:** We at GEEO strive to provide accurate and up-to-date information. However, governments change visa rules. It is *your responsibility* to double-check information with the [US Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs](#).

## Entry Requirements for U.S. Citizens

For most countries in Europe (including [Schengen Area countries](#) and many non-Schengen countries), U.S. citizens can enter visa-free for tourism or short stays. The primary exception is the United Kingdom, which requires an electronic travel authorization or ETA (see below).

Each country also has its own regulations regarding length of stay and passport requirements. Here's an overview of entry policies for U.S. citizens. Non-American participants should check with their government and local embassy to find out if they need a visa.

Countries	Visa Requirements	Passport Validity
Entire <a href="#">Schengen Area</a>	Visa-free for up to 90 days	Must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your date of entry and have at least one blank page.
<b>United Kingdom</b> <i>England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland</i>	<a href="#">ETA</a> required (£16)	Must be valid for the entire stay and have at least one blank page.
<b>Ireland</b>	Visa-free for up to 90 days	Must be valid for your entire stay and have at least one blank page.
<b>Romania</b>	Visa-free for up to 90 days	Must be valid for at least 3 months beyond your departure and have at least one blank page.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Visa-free for up to 90 days	Valid for at least 3 months beyond departure
<b>Serbia</b>	Visa-free for up to 90 days	Must be valid for your entire stay and have at least one blank page.
<b>Montenegro</b>	Visa-free for up to 90 days	Must be valid for at least 90 days beyond your departure and have at least one blank page.
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	Visa-free for up to 90 days	Must be valid for at least 90 days beyond your departure and have at least one blank page.
<b>Turkey</b>	Visa-free for up to 90 days	Must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your date of entry and have at least one blank page.

## United Kingdom ETA

As of January 8, 2025, a new Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) is required for many visa-free travelers, including U.S. citizens, before entering the UK (which includes Scotland and Northern Ireland). The fastest way to apply for an ETA is using their app: [App Store](#) | [Google Play](#). If you cannot use the app, you can [apply online](#). Please note, if you are applying for someone else who is not with you, you should apply online.

To apply for an ETA for the United Kingdom, you will need to have the physical passport you will travel with (not a photocopy or digital passport) in your possession so that you can take photos of it. You will also need to take a photo of yourself while in the process of applying for the ETA. You do not need to enter your travel details to apply for an ETA.

It usually takes less than three business days to receive your ETA approval, often much quicker. If you are traveling to the UK very soon, you still must apply for the ETA before you depart. You can still travel to the UK while waiting for a decision on your application.

After you apply, you will receive an email about your ETA approval. The ETA is linked to your passport, so you do not need a separate document. The ETA is valid for two years from the date or until your passport expires, whichever is sooner, and can be used for multiple trips.

## ETIAS (not yet implemented)

The [European Travel Information and Authorization System \(ETIAS\)](#), which approves entry for short-term stays into the European Union for visa-exempt visitors, was expected to go into effect in 2022 but has been continually delayed and is not scheduled to be implemented until **late 2026**. No action is required from travelers at this point, and the EU will announce a start date for ETIAS several months prior to its launch.

Once ETIAS goes into effect, [citizens of 60 countries](#), **including the United States**, will be required to receive authorization to travel to the Schengen Area and certain neighboring territories.

### Countries Requiring ETIAS

 Austria	 Denmark	 Hungary	 Luxembourg	 Romania
 Belgium	 Estonia	 Iceland	 Malta	 Slovakia
 Bulgaria	 Finland	 Italy	 Netherlands	 Slovenia
 Croatia	 France	 Latvia	 Norway	 Spain
 Cyprus	 Germany	 Liechtenstein	 Poland	 Sweden
 Czech Republic	 Greece	 Lithuania	 Portugal	 Switzerland

The fee for ETIAS is expected to be €7 for adults aged 18-70, and it is free for travelers under 18 or over 70. ETIAS is electronically linked to your passport and remains valid for up to three years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. If you renew your passport, you'll need to apply for a new ETIAS.

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While most applications should be approved within minutes, processing may take up to 14 days if further checks are needed. You will receive an email with your approved ETIAS. If an application is rejected, the applicant will be informed of the reason and can appeal or correct mistakes in their application.

When you arrive at your destination, have both a printed and digital copy of your ETIAS authorization ready for travel. You will need to present it along with your passport when boarding your flight and upon arrival at your destination.

For more information and updates about the ETIAS system and travel rules, consult the [official ETIAS website](#) once it launches in early 2025 or the [U.S. Department of State's travel advisory](#).