

How to Expedite Your U.S. Passport Application

There are several situations that might require a quick passport turnaround, from emergency travel to visiting countries with specific visa requirements.

Whether it's last-minute travel plans or a big international trip that's here before you know it, it's not uncommon for travelers to have to expedite their U.S. passport applications. Rush services always cost a bit more, but are sometimes very necessary. The process (for both renewing and getting a new passport) is fairly similar to the regular application, which can take anywhere from a few weeks to two months. That lack of certainty is why many travelers are willing to pay for an expedited book.

There are several other situations that might require a new or renewed passport in a hurry. For example, several countries don't permit entry if your passport has less than six months of validity. Others, like South Africa, require that you have two consecutive blank pages. It is best to check the State Department's website for each country or contact your airline (or travel agency) before you hit the road to see what passport requirements there might be.

If you pay extra for faster service, you'll be able to keep an eye on the status of your application online. You can also expedite the application of a second U.S. passport if you qualify for one. Here's what you need to know to get a passport in your hands quickly, depending on how much time you have.

How long does it take to get an expedited passport?

If you apply for an expedited passport directly through the U.S. State Department, it can take up to 12 weeks at the moment. For a faster turnaround, an expeditor like RushMyPassport.com can take six to seven business days, and going to an agency in person can take 24 and 72 hours.

If you need it within 12 weeks, you can still do it yourself

It used to be that you could request expedited passport service within six weeks of travel, as recently as May 2021. But mail delays coupled with a rush of people looking to renew passports that expired during COVID have led to several changes in the passport process.

To start: The six-week window for expediting has grown to 12 weeks. To apply for a rushed passport, begin at the State Department's website, where a handy checklist will keep you from making a mistake that could slow down the process. The \$60 expedited fee (plus overnight shipping) is not refundable, so it helps to have someone double-check the application. This fee is in addition to the standard \$110 application fee and \$35 execution fee. No proof of travel is needed for the basic rush process.

You can expedite your passport by applying in person at a passport agency or by sending it via overnight mail. If you choose to apply in person, you must use form DS-11, while applications by mail require form DS-82. Submitted forms must be single-sided and printed clearly. Complete the application online before printing it out or by hand in black or blue ink; remember to write "Expedited" on the envelope and include two recently taken photos that meet the passport photo specifications. If applying by mail, you must include a check; if applying in person, ask to learn what methods of payment are allowed at your specific acceptance facility.

Remember that if you have lost your passport or have special family circumstances, such as a child who needs to apply for a passport without a guardian present, different forms must be completed.

If you need it quicker, it's best to seek help from an expeditor

To avoid any delays, it's often smarter to use an expediting agency, which rushes passport applications on a daily basis. It charges an additional fee (on top of the standard passport application fee and expedited passport service fee), but it knows the ins and outs of the expedited passport process to help you submit documentation correctly the first time around.

Services like RushMyPassport.com double-check your application before it gets submitted. A 24-hour business day turnaround costs \$449 plus the standard passport application fee, but if you're in a hurry, it can be worth it. Rush service, which takes six to seven business days, costs \$179.

BOOKING WINDOW: July 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021

SAILING RANGE: June 26, 2021 to October 30, 2021

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APPLIES TO

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- All air class including economy, business, or First-Class Air

What an amazing month we've had. After a hiatus of nearly 15 months, we returned to doing what we do best—turning vacation dreams into dream vacations. We couldn't be more excited to have welcomed our crew and loyal guests back from around the world aboard three of our incredible ships this month. The reimagined Celebrity Millennium® made history sailing to Caribbean shores from St. Maarten on June 6. The new Celebrity ApexSM made its long-awaited debut on June 19, sailing from Athens, Greece. And, our stunning Celebrity Edge® made its way to the Caribbean from Fort Lauderdale on June 26. To add to the excitement, the modernized Celebrity Silhouette® arrived in Southampton in preparation to welcome guests onboard on July 3.



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Spain Drops Vaccine Requirement for American Travelers

Travelers from the U.S. will be able to visit Spain regardless of their vaccination status with no test and no quarantine.

Effective immediately, the new rule applies to residents in the U.S who don't visit any other country prior to arrival in Spain, other than to connect flights without leaving the airport.

Now, the only requirement is that travelers fill out a health questionnaire prior to departure.

The questionnaire can be filled out online. Once completed, travelers will receive a QR code that must be shown as control points at the airport upon arrival. Each person must have a QR associated with their trip that will allow them to validate the information on their form by health authorities.



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SWEET 'N STICKY PORK CHOPS WITH 'DIRTY RICE'

Brine: ½ cup dark brown sugar, 2 bay leaves, 1/2 cup kosher salt, 8 cups ice, 6 thick-cut (1 inch) bone-in pork chops.

“Dirty” Rice: 1 cup Jasmine rice, ½ lb. ground beef, ½ lb. ground pork, 1 tsp ground cumin, 1 tsp cayenne pepper, 1 tsp paprika, ¾ cup chicken stock, 3 cloves garlic crushed, 2 tbsp dark Roux (recipe below), 1 tbsp butter.

Glaze: 1/4 cup Steen’s cane syrup, ¾ cup cider vinegar. Green onions for garnish and green beans for serving.

DIRECTIONS:

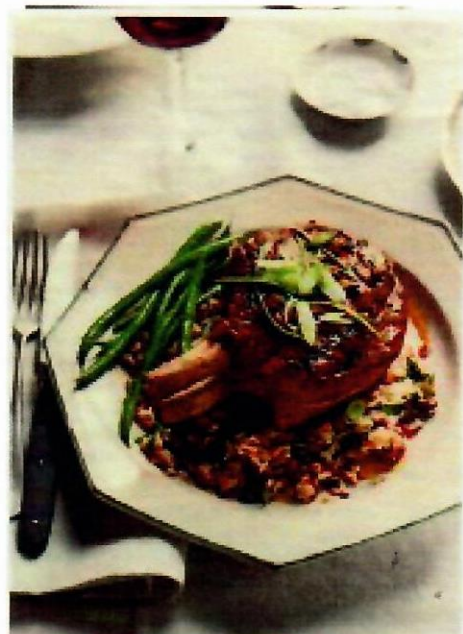
Make brine: in 8-qt. saucepot, whisk together 4 cups cold water, sugar, bay leaves and kosher salt. Heat to boiling on high; remove from heat. Add ice and pork chops. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 12 hrs.

Meanwhile, in med. saucepot, combine rice and 1 ½ cup water. Heat to boiling on high. Reduce heat to low. Cover and gently simmer 20 min. Remove from heat and let stand covered for 5 min. Fluff with fork.

Make Glaze: in small saucepan, whisk together cane syrup and vinegar. Heat to boiling on high. Reduce heat to med. Simmer 30 min. or by half, whisking occasionally. Set aside. Preheat oven to 375. Heat outdoor grill on med. Pat pork chops dry, sprinkle with ½ tsp. salt and ¼ tsp. black pepper. Grill 5 min. per side. Transfer to foil-lined rimmed baking sheet; roast pork chops 15 to 25 min. Let stand 5 min.

In medium bowl combine ground beef, pork, cumin, cayenne, paprika and 1 tsp. each salt and pepper. In heavy-bottomed saucepot or Dutch oven, cook meat on med. 8 to 10 mins. Or until well-browned, stirring occasionally. Stir in chicken stock, scrapping up browned bits from bottom. Add garlic, and roux. Cook 5 min., stirring frequently. Add reserved rice and butter, stir to mix. To serve, garnish rice with green onions, place chops over rice and tip with glaze.

Dark roux: In a medium to heavy bottomed saucepot, wish together 1/2 cup flour and 1/2 cup vegetable oil. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 1 1/2 hours or until dark, golden brown, stirring every 30 minutes. Roux can be cooled and refrigerated in an airtight container up to 1 month. Makes about 3/4 cup. Stir before using.



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Arrival



Enhanced Health Screenings

Every guest and teammate will undergo enhanced pre-embarkation health screenings, including pre-travel COVID-19 testing, touchless temperature checks and health questionnaires, in accordance with the latest guidelines from public health officials.

On Board



Enhanced Environmental Sanitization

Public areas and staterooms will be thoroughly and more frequently cleaned using a safe disinfectant proven to quickly kill coronaviruses.



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Physical distancing will be managed by adjusting the flow, timing and size of groups throughout the ships. When physical distancing can't be maintained, masks will be required.

Medical Care

Our highly-trained medical staff includes doctors and nurses with expertise caring for a broad range of medical conditions, including dealing with COVID-19 patients. Medical centers will be equipped with testing capabilities as well as with medications known to improve outcomes.



Ventilation

Ships will feature enhanced air filtration with upgraded HVAC systems. Air within public spaces and staterooms will be replaced every five to six minutes. HEPA filters will be used in key areas, such as medical centers and dedicated isolation rooms, as a further safeguard.



Ashore

Safe Shoreside Experiences

We're working with local authorities, destinations and tour operators to ensure the enhanced health and safety measures on board are maintained ashore. There may be a reduction in the capacity of excursions and tour vehicles.

