

U.S. Passports Will Soon Get More Expensive

On December 20, the State Department announced that the cost of passport books will increase by \$20. The price hike applies to all customers, and it will take effect starting December 27.

The \$20 bump specifically applies to the security surcharge fees associated with passports. According to the State Department's [Twitter account](#), "The increased fee is necessary to ensure we continue to produce one of the most secure travel and identity documents in the world."

So how exactly will that extra money be used? Back in 2006, a slew of new features were added to passports, including polycarbonate coating over pages, raised lettering and watermarks, and RFID chips. The surcharges help pay for all those features, therein better protecting travelers from identity theft and fraud

You can find the current passport book prices on the State Department's website, but this is what you can expect to pay in fees beginning next week:

- If you're an adult (16 and older) and applying for the first time: \$165
- If you're an adult (16 and older) and renewing your passport: \$130
- If your child is under 16 and you're applying for their passport: \$135

There are also special fees for rush orders, including \$60 for expedited service and \$17.56 for one-to-two-day delivery. Those fees will not be affected by the upcoming price increases.

This news comes just one week after President Biden signed an executive order to switch mail-in passport renewals to an online system, though we don't know exactly when that change will take place. Right now, the process involves filling out forms, printing them out, and mailing them (along with your expired passport) to a designated center.

In the meantime, the State Department recommends that travelers apply for new or renewed passports several months before they're scheduled to go abroad. The current wait time of 8 to 11 weeks is certainly an improvement from the 18-week period we saw over the summer and fall, but you don't want to wait until the last minute—adding expedited service fees on top of these increased security fees isn't a great way to start a new year of travel.



GOOD BYE 2021

Our upcoming groups for 2022 and 2023

May 4-13, 2022 round trip Cape Liberty- Nine night cruise on Celebrity's Summit with ports of Newport, Charleston, and two night in Bermuda. Includes full beverage package, pre-paid gratuities, and WIFI.

August 7-19, 2022-12 night cruise On Celebrity's Summit sailing from Cape Liberty to Canada, Greenland and Iceland (limited availability). Fly home from Iceland or stay for an optional three night post package. Post package can be done separately from the cruise.

September 5-16, 2022- 11 night Alaska Wildlife Encounter cruise tour on Celebrity's Millennium (4 night land 7 night cruise) Anchorage to Vancouver. Visit Anchorage, Denali, Talkeetna and Alyeska on land and cruise through Hubbard Glacier and visit ports of Seward, Juneau and Skagway. Cruise only option available and will include a full beverage package, pre-paid gratuities and WIFI.

Two Passion Play departures

September 19-29, 2022- Imperial Cities with Oberammergau, featuring Budapest, Vienna and Prague

September 20-28, 2022-Switzerland and Germany with Oberammergau

May 14-25, 2023 Transatlantic NYC to Reykjavik on Norwegian Cruise Line brand new ship, Prima. The special rate of \$2422 includes a balcony cabin, full beverage package, specialty dining and shore excursion credit. You will visit two ports in Canada and in Iceland with overnights.



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PLEASE CALL TARA AT 609-597-5100 TO REGISTER**

NEW HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO SPAIN



Four Seasons is taking over Venice's Hotel Danieli

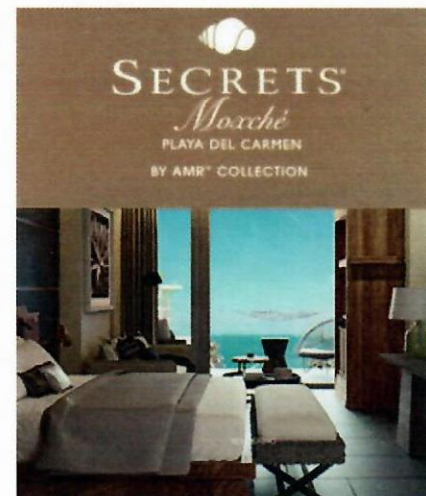
Opened in 1822, the Danieli is the city's oldest hotel and is currently part of Marriott's Luxury Collection brand.



Update: Spain Will Require Booster Shots for Vaccinations Older than 270 Days

Starting **February 1st**, U.S. travelers visiting Spain must be fully vaccinated and must have received the last required dose of their COVID vaccine **no less than 14 days and no more than 270 days prior to arrival** in Spain. If more than 270 days have passed since the last required dose, travelers must show proof of having received a booster shot at least 14 days prior to arrival.

Spain accepts those vaccines approved by the World Health Organization, namely: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Astra-Zeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Sinovac, and Sinopharm.



SECRETS

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Playa del Carmen

Escape into luxury in the heart of the Riviera Maya, just a 10 minute drive from Playa del Carman's famed Quinta Avenida and indulge in an expansive and unique array of international cuisine. Set on a pristine strip of white, sandy beach, all of the 485 suites offer a contemporary experience with an earthy feel including luxurious amenities and stunning views.



- 5-Night Hotel Accommodations at either Universal's Cabana Bay Beach Resort or Universal's Aventura Hotel
- 2-Park 5-Day Park-to-Park Promotional Ticket** to Universal Studios Florida and Universal's Islands of Adventure
- Early Park Admission† to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™ and Universal's Volcano Bay up to one hour before the park opens (valid theme park admission required, select attractions)
- Access to select live entertainment venues** at Universal CityWalk

^Package pricing does not include airfare.

*Based on a family of 4. Sunday – Thursday travel only (must check in on Sunday). Limited availability. Blockout dates and restrictions apply.



5 Great Reasons to Book Mexico for This Winter Travel Season

Every day, we in the travel industry hear news about another destination that's opening up (and we cheer!) or about changing entry requirements. And aren't we all constantly being asked, "Where's the best place to travel to now?" Well here's one destination that has managed to hold onto its appeal with travelers during the pandemic and now even more as COVID concerns are beginning to ease: the ever-popular, hot-hot-hot Mexico.

"Mexico has always had an allegiance of travel clients and it's being proven post-pandemic as well," said Denise L. Wiggins, global travel & health and wellness advisor, at Denise Wiggins Travel Services & Curran Travel, in Pennsylvania. "It has always been an open, welcoming, and inclusive destination. As a country, it has worked hard during and post-pandemic to honor protocols; staff up accordingly and be transparent of their offerings. Mexico continues to be a desired country and is requested often."

Here are five great reasons to book your U.S.-based clients on a trip to Mexico this winter travel season and beyond:



1. Nonstop flights, lots of lift

First off, Mexico is just easy to get to for American travelers. Flights are short, with an abundance of nonstop options, and relatively speaking, lots of lift available.

2. Back-to-normal feeling

Travel advisors who have recently visited Mexico report back that it has an upbeat atmosphere with higher resort occupancies and excellent customer service.

3. Easier COVID protocols

Bottom line, travelers appreciate not having to test prior to travel. The U.S. still requires return testing (and most resorts in Mexico offer complimentary onsite testing to make this easy for travelers), but it is appealing not to have to test prior to arrival.

4. Quality properties with value-added offerings

The luxury resorts, all-inclusives, spectacular beaches, rejuvenating spas, mouth-watering cuisine, well-honed customer service...As an experienced travel advisor, you already know why Mexico is a supreme destination from the perspective of its hospitality-related offerings.

5. Affordable for most travelers

Finally, Mexico is an affordable destination for most travelers. Hotels, attractions, restaurants, airlines, and visiting cruise lines all understand the necessity of offering travelers an excellent value for their vacation dollars. Nothing gets people up and out of their houses like a good travel deal.



Make
2022
the year of travel

Go-With-Anything Baked Chicken Meatballs



Directions:

1 Position the rack in the top third of the oven and preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment.

2 Stir together the ground chicken, breadcrumbs, milk, Parmesan, parsley, ricotta, Italian seasoning, 1 1/4 teaspoons of salt and several grinds of pepper in a large bowl until evenly combined.

3 Roll the mixture into 16 meatballs (about 3 tablespoons each). Transfer to the prepared baking sheet and lightly spray with cooking spray. Bake until the meatballs are golden brown and cooked through (the internal temperature should be 165 degrees F on an instant-read thermometer), 22 to 25 minutes.

1 pound ground chicken

2/3 cup plain breadcrumbs

1/4 cup whole milk

1/4 cup finely grated Parmesan (about 2 ounces)

1/4 cup lightly packed fresh parsley, finely chopped (about 2 tablespoons)

1/4 cup whole milk ricotta

2 teaspoons dried Italian seasoning

1 large egg, lightly beaten

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Olive oil cooking spray

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