

The Rules for Traveling to Europe Are About to Change

Starting in 2025, you will need advance approval and to pay a fee before entering Europe, as part of a new travel authorization requirement.

Here's a complete guide to how to apply, processing times, and the cost.

Europe is the most visited region in the world—but it will soon require a few extra steps to get there. U.S. citizens already dreaming about and plotting out their 2025 adventures across the pond should be aware that the rules for entry into the European Schengen Zone are about to change.

Initially meant to go into effect January 1, 2021, but delayed several times, the new European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) is now slated to launch during the first half of 2025, though no exact date has been provided yet. Once it goes into effect, all U.S. citizens who want to travel to the 29 member countries of Europe's Schengen Zone will need to register with ETIAS or risk being turned away at the border.

Here's everything you need to know about the new ETIAS process.

Why are the requirements for entering Europe changing?

The European Union decided to implement this new travel authorization program to protect and strengthen its borders amid mounting terror threats in Europe. By requiring visitors to register, the European Union hopes to be able to identify any possible threats or risks associated with travelers coming into the participating countries before they arrive.

Which European nations will require ETIAS authorization to visit?

The new travel authorization applies to those entering any member country of Europe's Schengen Zone. Currently, that includes 23 countries that are also members of the European Union, six non-EU countries, plus three European micro-states—32 countries and territories in total. That means that you'll need to register to enter:

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

However, many European nations still aren't part of the Schengen Zone, mostly in Eastern Europe. That means you'll be able to travel to Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine without an ETIAS registration.

Who will need to obtain ETIAS authorization?

American citizens, as well as travelers from 60 other countries, will require an ETIAS visa waiver to travel to any of the Schengen Zone countries for short stays once the ETIAS program goes into effect. The list of ETIAS-eligible countries includes Canada, Mexico, Australia, and many more. All travelers, regardless of their age, will need their ETIAS approval to travel to Europe's Schengen Zone countries.

How do you apply for ETIAS?

Once the ETIAS application is available online, it should only take about 10 minutes to fill out the form, according to ETIAS.com, a site that provides news and information regarding the new travel authorization process. To apply, you'll need a valid U.S. passport, an email address, and a debit or credit card to pay the nonrefundable seven-euro application fee, which applies to individuals between the ages of 18 and 70. Those under the age of 18 or over 70 still need to have an ETIAS but will not be charged.

How much will it cost to enter Europe?

Obtaining an ETIAS registration requires a nonrefundable application fee of seven euros (US\$7.75, based on conversion rates at time of publication). Only travelers younger than 18 years old or older than 70 years old will be exempt from the fee (though they will still need to have ETIAS approval). There are no other fees associated with the program.

How long will the ETIAS process take?

After you fill out your application online with the personal information on your passport and answer a series of security and health-related questions, your ETIAS application will be processed immediately, and you will receive an email confirming that your ETIAS has been approved within 96 hours.

We strongly advise you to obtain the ETIAS travel authorization before you buy your tickets and book your hotels. Most applications will be processed within minutes and at the latest within 96 hours. However, some applicants may be asked to provide additional information or documentation or to participate in an interview with national authorities, which may take up to [an] additional 30 days, the European Union states in the FAQ section of its ETIAS page.

Will you have to reapply for each trip to Europe?

No, you will not need to reapply after each trip to Europe. After you apply for the first time, your ETIAS authorization will be valid for three years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. Because the ETIAS is valid for short-term stays of up to 90 days for both leisure and business travelers, you'll be able to reenter Europe multiple times within that three-year period without renewing it, as long as your stay doesn't exceed 90 days within a 180-day period. Those who want to study or work in Europe will need to apply for a proper work or study visa.

Does this mean I will need a visa to travel to Europe?

ETIAS is not a visa; it's a travel authorization requirement for visa-free visitors, similar to the U.S. [Electronic System for Travel Authorization \(ESTA\)](#).

The new entry requirement "is more accurately referred to as a visa-waiver. The ETIAS, like the ESTA, is a travel authorization for travelers not requiring a visa to visit Europe. Under the ETIAS, these visitors will undergo additional security checks prior to being permitted to enter the EU. The ETIAS will be mandatory for citizens of such countries as the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada," states ETIAS.com.

In other words, ETIAS will only prescreen travelers who do not need a Schengen visa.

An ETIAS travel authorization does not reintroduce visa-like obligations, according to a fact sheet provided by the European Commission. There is no need to go to a consulate to make an application, no biometric data is collected and significantly less information is gathered than during a visa application procedure.

When exactly will ETIAS go into effect?

The ETIAS travel entry requirement is now scheduled to launch during the first half of 2025, following the establishment of Europe's new tech-driven EES that is slated to go into effect in the fall of 2024.

Once ETIAS goes into effect, a transitional period of six months will follow. During that time frame, the countries requiring the travel authorization will have to inform travelers of the new regulations. Travelers will still be allowed to cross borders during that six-month period without the ETIAS. The six-month transitional period will be followed by a grace period, the length of which has not yet been determined. During the grace period, the ETIAS requirement will apply unless it's a traveler's first time entering Europe since the end of the transitional period.

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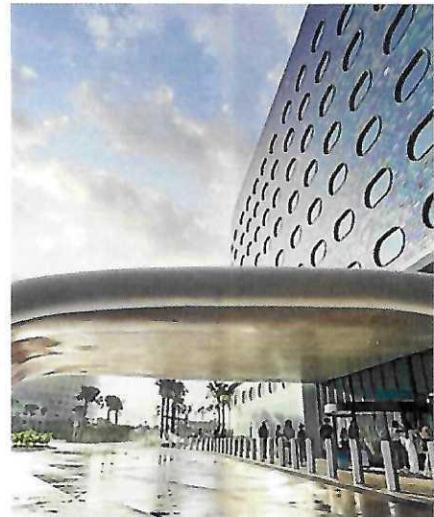
DINNER WITH FRIENDS





Chart a New Course at Universal Terra Luna Resort.

This new hotel is another world in Universal Orlando accommodations. Inspired by the thrill of exploring the unknown, its ultra-modern and surreal design evokes visions of an entire solar system of colorful worlds, shifting and changing as they orbit their sun. A new way to stay, it also offers Universal's great service and exclusive theme park benefits.



Grilled Peaches

This elegant dessert couldn't be easier to prepare! Simply toss halved peaches with vanilla and almond extracts and brown sugar, then grill until soft and caramelized. Serve with vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt to take the dish over the top!

Level: Easy
Total: 30 min
Prep: 10 min
Inactive: 15 min
Cook: 5 min
Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:

4 ripe medium peaches
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon almond extract
1/4 cup dark brown sugar
1 to 2 pints frozen vanilla yogurt
Suggested toppings: toasted sliced almonds

Directions:

- 1 Cut the peaches in half and remove the pit. Slice each half in half and toss them in a bowl with the vanilla extract, almond extract, and brown sugar. Set aside for 15 minutes while you preheat a grill with a medium-high heat. Grill skin side down until skin is slightly charred, about 3 minutes. Turn and grill on the other 2 sides until you get nice grill marks, about 1 minute on each side.
- 2 Divide the peaches among 4 bowls and serve with the frozen yogurt and toasted almonds, if desired.



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GROUPS FOR 2025-2026

OLD WORLD SICILY AND MALTA, NOVEMBER 5-16, 2025, with Collette Vacations. This is a small group departure for Home Town Travel with a maximum of 24 passengers on this adventure. These legendary isles are nestled amongst the deep blue water of the Mediterranean. Discover how ancient traditions blend into modern society as you travel along timeless Italian Maltese and Sicilian towns. This eleven-night tour begins with a four-night stay in Malta with a ferry to Sicily where you will stay three nights in Ragusa and three nights in Taormina. This package includes round trip transportation to Newark airport from our office, round trip air from Newark airport with an overnight flight to Malta, 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners, professional escort throughout the trip and all accommodations and entrance fees. The rate per person based on double occupancy is \$5,399.00. Cancel for any reason insurance is optional and at a rate of \$549.00. Please call for more information.

MARCH 8, 2026 to APRIL 8, 2026—31 DAY PANAMA CANAL, INCA & SOUTH AMERICAN DISCOVERY ABOARD HOLLAND AMERICA'S OOSTERDAM. Holland America's first Vista-class ship, the Oosterdam recently emerged from dry dock with exciting updates including completely refurbished suites and new lounge, dining and entertainment venues, such as Music Walk with Lincoln Center Stage, B.B. King's Blues Club and Billboard on board. Guests can choose from delectable specialty restaurants, hone culinary Skillswith America's Test Kitchen and thrill to BBC Earth experiences. Embark in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires where pre-cruise packages will be available soon. Visit the penguins in Patagonia as you get ready to sailpast Cape Horn and the Straits of Magellan. We then sail from Ushuaia and cruise the dramatic coast of Chilewith stops in Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas. Sail through Glacier Alley enroute to a full transit of the Panama Canal. Inside cabins start at \$4,999.00 per person double. Available additions include Holland America's "Have It All" package which includes beverage package, three specialty dining venues, \$300 per person shore excursion credit, wi-fi and \$250 per person on board credit. This package is available for \$55 per person/per day. Prepaid gratuities are available at \$17/day. Other categories are available. Call for other rates and more information.

MARCH 13-26, 2026—TWELVE NIGHT VIETNAM & THAILAND CRUISE ABOARD THE CELEBRITY SOLSTICE
This bucket list trip starts in Hong Kong and visits Hanoi (Halong Bay), Hue/Danang, Ho Chi Minh (Phu My), Bangkok/Laemchabang and Ko Samui Thailand, and disembarking in Singapore. Pre and post land packages will be available. Cruise includes balcony accommodations (V1), all current port and government taxes, beverage package, gratuities, and Wi-Fi. **SAVE OVER \$1,500 PER CABIN.** Rate per person based on double \$3,350.00. A deposit of \$900/cabin is required to reserve your cabin. Final payment is not due until December 1, 2025.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN ICELAND—MARCH 13-18, 2026

Fly round trip to the "Land of Fire and Ice" from Newark to Reykjavik on Icelandair. End this exciting holiday at an Irish pub after visiting the Viking World Museum, the Blue Lagoon, the Golden Circle, the Sky Lagoon, Fridheimar (greenhouse and stable visit with lunch), Kerid, Skalholt and the opportunity to possibly see the Northern Lights. Our tour includes: round trip air on Icelandair (including all current taxes, fees and fuel surcharges), four nights hotel accommodations at the FossHotel Reykjavik (including all current taxes and fees), full buffet breakfast daily, heavy continental breakfast on the morning of arrival, all admission fees for mentioned features. \$2,295.00 per person double

THE CULTURAL TREASURES OF JAPAN WITH COLLETTE VACATIONS—MAY 10-23, 2026

Welcome to Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun". Explore ancient and modern Japanese cultures firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty. This amazing 14-day tour will include airfare from Newark, transfers to/from Newark Airport from Home Town Travel, 18 meals, all accommodations, sightseeing with entrance fees, transportation within Japan and a professional tour guide throughout the trip. Some highlights of this tour will include Tokyo, Asakusa, Sensoji Shrine, Tea Ceremony, Ginza, Lake Ashi cruise, Matsumoto Castle, Sake tasting and Hida beef dinner, Kyoto, Bullet Train and Hiroshima. Stop by the office or call for some more information

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