

## Entry into Canada

All international travelers must carry acceptable identification and a valid visa (if necessary) when entering Canada. A passport is recommended because it is the only reliable and universally accepted travel and identification document for the purpose of international travel.

International transport companies, such as airlines, must make sure that travelers have proper, valid travel documents. **If you do not have the proper documents, you may be delayed or refused entry into Canada.** What you need will depend on where you are from, how you are travelling, and what documents you are travelling with. Consult [entry requirements by country](#).

American citizens, including American Canadian citizens, must carry proper identification and meet the basic requirements to enter Canada. You do not need a Canadian passport, a Canadian visa or an eTA to enter Canada if you are travelling with a valid U.S. passport. Citizens of the U.S. who are members of the NEXUS program may present their membership card as proof of identification and as a document that denotes citizenship, when arriving by air (when coming from the U.S.), land, or marine modes.

Citizens of the U.S. who are members of the FAST program may use their cards as proof of identity when arriving by land and marine modes only.

For Permanent residents of the U.S. who are members of the NEXUS or FAST programs must travel with a passport and [proof of permanent residence](#), and may be asked to present these documents to the officer upon arrival at the border. All visitors arriving from or transiting through the U.S. are encouraged to visit the [U.S. Customs and Border Protection website](#) for information concerning the U.S. Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, and the requirements to enter or return to the U.S.

### Visa Required Countries and Biometrics

As a reminder all travelers wishing to travel to Canada will either need a visa or an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA). The only exception are US Citizens, who require only their passport. There is also a **biometric requirement** for persons coming from a [country that requires a visa](#). Persons who require only an eTA do not need to provide a biometric.

- Starting July 31, 2018 – applicants from Europe, Middle East and Africa **who would normally require a visa will need to give their biometric as part of their visa application.**
- Starting December 31, 2018 – applicants from Asia, Asia Pacific and the Americas **who would normally require a visa will need to give their biometric as part of their visa application.**

Travelers that normally require a visa will also need to provide a biometric as of the end of 2018. The biometric must be collected at a Visa Application Centre (VAC) overseas, and as it forms part of the visa application, it must be provided before a visa application can be decided upon. The biometric must be given in person at any of the [139 VACs](#) in 53 countries around the globe. The biometric **cannot** be collected at the airport overseas, OR upon arrival OR in Canada.

### Visa – exempt countries and Electronic Travel Authorizations(eTA):

**All other countries** will require an eTA. An eTA can be applied for on your smartphone or computer. Most applications are approved within minutes, but we recommend applying a few months before scheduled travel in case you need to provide additional documents. Apply here: [eTA](#)