

US-VISIT, Biometrics and You

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program provides U.S. visa-issuing posts and ports of entry with the biometric technology that enables the U.S. government to establish and verify your identity when you visit the United States. Immigration officials use this information to help them make visa-issuance and admission decisions.

Additionally, your biometrics—digital fingerprints and photographs—are collected to help protect your identity in the event your travel documents are lost or stolen. Unlike names and dates of birth, which can be changed, your biometrics are unique and are virtually impossible to forge. Collecting biometrics also helps the U.S. government prevent people from using fraudulent documents to enter the country illegally.

The use of biometrics helps US-VISIT achieve these equally important goals:

- Enhance the security of our citizens and visitors
- Facilitate legitimate travel and trade
- Ensure the integrity of the immigration system
- Protect the privacy of our visitors

Protecting Your Privacy

US-VISIT upholds the privacy of individuals while helping protect our national borders and immigration system. Personal information collected by US-VISIT will be used only for the purposes for which it was collected, unless specifically authorized or mandated by law.

Questions relating to personal information and the US-VISIT program may be directed to the Department of Homeland Security's Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (DHS TRIP) at www.dhs.gov/trip.

You may also direct similar inquiries to the US-VISIT Privacy Officer, US-VISIT Program, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528 or at usvisitprivacy@dhs.gov.

US-VISIT

Keeping America's Doors Open and Our Nation Secure



Homeland Security



www.dhs.gov/us-visit

Form DHS-M-1-English (08/07)

What to Expect When Visiting the United States

The United States is a nation where diversity is celebrated and people from all over the world are welcome. The information below will help guide you through the biometric collection process as it is used at U.S. visa-issuing posts and U.S. airports and seaports.

Biometric procedures—the collection of digital fingerprints and photographs—apply to international travelers holding a non-U.S. passport or visa.

Upon Applying for a Visa

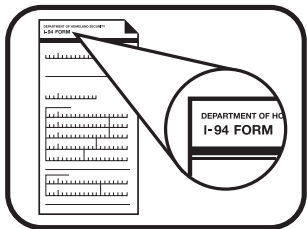


If you need a visa, you must go to your closest U.S. visa-issuing post for an interview as part of the application process. During this interview, you can expect a Department of State consular officer to:

- Review your visa application and supporting documents
- Collect your biometrics (up to 10 digital fingerprints and a digital photograph)

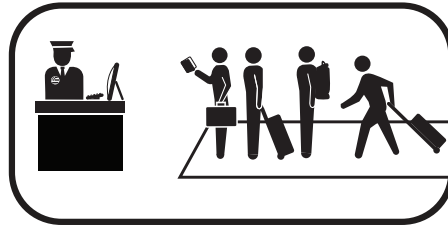
For the complete visa application process, visit www.UnitedStatesVisas.gov.

En Route to the United States by Air and Sea



Airline or ship representatives will give you a white Form I-94 (if you are a visa holder) or green Form I-94W (if you are a Visa Waiver Program traveler) to fill out before you arrive in the United States.

Upon Arrival



A Customs and Border Protection officer will guide you through the inspection process. Have your travel documents ready, such as your passport and Form I-94 or Form I-94W.



The officer will review your travel documents and ask you questions, such as why you are visiting and how long you will stay.



The officer will scan up to 10 of your fingerprints and take your photograph with a digital camera.



The officer will tell you when you have completed the process.

Upon Departure



When you leave the country, you should return your Form I-94 or Form I-94W to an airline or ship representative. By returning your form, you have completed the U.S. entry-exit process.



You do not currently have to check out at a biometric exit kiosk as DHS has completed the pilot test of biometric exit procedures. However, at a date to be announced in the future, you will be required to provide biometrics when departing the United States.

To Learn More...

- Visit www.dhs.gov/us-visit for more about US-VISIT
- Send an e-mail to subscribeusvisit@dhs.gov to receive electronic updates about US-VISIT
- Visit www.cbp.gov for more about U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Visit www.travel.state.gov for more about the U.S. Department of State