

Published based on [Foreign Entry Requirements: What You Must Understand About Passports And Visas](#)

Foreign Entry Requirements: What You Must Understand About Passports And Visas

People who are thinking about traveling abroad are frequently confronted with a problem. What's the difference between a visa and a passport? This is a serious issue, as passports and visas cannot be used interchangeably. For instance, visa renewals are much more difficult to acquire than a [passports renewal](#). It's important to understand so you'll know precisely what to do and what type of paperwork to obtain when going abroad.

Visas

This is an actual stamp/sticker that is put on your passport by a representative official when you arrive at a country. All a visa means is that you are allowed to visit the country. Many countries actually require that you get a visa before you enter.

Regrettably, no standard list of laws or rules exist to govern visas internationally, leaving these laws varying around the world. Certain countries need a visa while others don't, and these laws are always changing, even within their own countries. One trip might require a visa, while the next won't. The cost of visas also varies with the country, and since there are no laws to govern visas, this cost can often be very high.

There are various types of visa. They differ according to the type of visit you are doing. There are three main categories. First the business trip. Next are tourist trips and the final is transitory trips. There are some other types of visas that relate to international travel, but the three mentioned cover most travel.

Passports

A passport is a legal document verifying an individual's identity and nationality. Passports are necessary to enter and exit a country. They can be acquired in your native country from passport agencies by submitting a [US passport application](#).

Passports don't specifically allow you to enter the country, but it promises protection while abroad and allows you to return to the country that issued the passport. You probably won't ever have to deal with these details, but they're good to know. A passport is the only universally recognized form of identification, making them your lifeline when you travel to different countries.

Passports are valid for ten years if you are over sixteen and only five years if you are under sixteen, while a visa's period of validity varies greatly. A visa can be valid for as long as ten years or as short as just the duration of your trip. Once the visa expires, you will require a new one in order to be able to get into the country again. The same goes for passports. Once your passport is expired, a new one is needed before you can go abroad again.

Traveling overseas can be so exciting. Some of my best memories come from trips to foreign countries, so don't let the preparation scare you away. Easy passport applications are online, so you can get a [United States online passport renewal](#) right from home. Often, a travel agent can arrange all of this for you, requiring little to no effort on your part, so you can focus on packing and getting ready for an awesome vacation.

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