

Published based on [Passports And Visas: A Straight-Forward And Brief Overview](#)

# **Passports And Visas: A Straight-Forward And Brief Overview**

Those who are traveling internationally may have a bit of a conflict. What makes a visa different than a passport? This should not be taken lightly, as you cannot use one in place of the other. For example, you can get a [expedited passport renewal](#) much easier than you can your visa. You need to know the difference between the two and what kind of paperwork is required for each of them when traveling overseas.

## Visas

Visas are stamps and stickers are put into your passport either by a border control officer at your point of entry into a country or prior to traveling by a member of staff from the consulate of the country you are visiting. A visa will need to be shown to the border guard at the point of entry to a country.

On the down side, the rules dealing with visas are not set. Visas are required by some countries, while other countries do not require them. And to top it all off, the rules keep changing. You may need a visa one day and a week goes by and you wont need a visa. The cost of a visa can differ significantly from country to country and since the countrys have no competition in issuing visas, end up charging ridiculous fees.

Visas come in many different types, depending on what type of visit youre making. These usually fall into three categories: business trips, tourist trips, or transitory trips. While there are many other visas pertaining to international travel, these are the ones most people commonly deal with.

## Passports

A passport is an official document that states and verifies ones identity and country of origin. These are needed in order to both enter and leave a country and are a necessary part of international travel plans. A passport is obtained in your native country from passport agencies with a [U.S. passport application](#).

Passports dont 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 wont ever have to deal with these details, but theyre 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 visas 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 abroad can be an adventure. I have had some of the greatest times of my life overseas. To make things easy you can get your [U.S. online passport renewal](#) right on the internet. Find a travel agent to help you with your passport application. These steps require very little work so you can get your show on the road!

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