



## **Electronic System of Travel Authorization**



### **For Travelers from Visa Waiver Countries Department of Homeland Security Registration Requirements**

Through the Department of Homeland Security, the Electronic System of Travel Authorization (ESTA) became effective on January 12, 2009. This is an online application process that registers travelers coming to the US, much like the paper I-94 form that is given to travelers on the plane before they arrive in the US.

Receiving travel authorization through ESTA is not a visa and cannot be used in place of a visa. Instead, this process is only necessary for visitors from countries who are part of the **Visa Waiver Program**. If the visitor is coming from a country that is not part of VWP, they do not have to register for ESTA as their visa already authorizes them to enter the country. Citizens from Canada do not need to register on the ESTA website.

An ESTA authorization is valid for two years. This means that after applying to ESTA, repeated travel to the US is possible without having to renew for a span of two years. DHS does ask that travel information is updated on ESTA for every trip to the US, but it is not required.

It is recommended that visitors register through the ESTA at least 72 hours before their departure to the US. There is no additional charge to registering on ESTA and instructions are available in twenty-one languages.

**To register on ESTA, simply visit the website at  
<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta> and follow the instructions.**