

VISITOR VISA (TEMPORARY VISIT PERMIT)

Universal Guide — All Countries | 2026

A **Visitor Visa** — also known as a Tourist Visa or Temporary Visit Permit — is an official authorization granted by a destination country allowing a foreign national to enter and stay for a limited period for purposes such as tourism, family visits, business meetings, or medical treatment. Requirements, fees, and processing times vary by destination country and the applicant's nationality. This guide outlines the **universal principles and best practices** applicable to visitor visa applications worldwide. Always verify the specific requirements of your destination country before applying.

Varies	2–12 Wks	15–180 Days	~85%
Application Fee (by Country)	Avg. Processing Time	Typical Stay Allowed	Our Success Rate

COUNTRY-WISE QUICK REFERENCE

DESTINATION	VISA TYPE	APPROX. FEE (USD)	MAX. STAY
Canada	Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)	~USD 75	Up to 6 months
USA	B-1/B-2 Visitor Visa	~USD 185	Up to 6 months
United Kingdom	Standard Visitor Visa	~USD 135	Up to 6 months
Schengen Zone	Schengen Short-Stay Visa (C)	~USD 90	Up to 90 days / 180 days
Australia	Visitor Visa (Subclass 600)	~USD 95	Up to 3–12 months
New Zealand	Visitor Visa	~USD 130	Up to 9 months
UAE / Dubai	Tourist Visa (on arrival / e-Visa)	~USD 90	30–90 days
Japan	Short-Stay Visa (15/30/90 days)	~USD 25	15 / 30 / 90 days

UNIVERSAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Valid Passport	Passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your intended date of departure from the destination country
Clear Travel Purpose	Must demonstrate a genuine and temporary reason for visit: tourism, family, business meetings, or medical treatment
Ties to Home Country	Strong evidence of intent to return — employment, property ownership, family dependents, or financial commitments
Financial Sufficiency	Proof that you can financially support yourself for the entire duration of your stay without working illegally
No Criminal Record	Most countries require a clean criminal background; serious convictions may result in automatic visa refusal
Immigration Compliance	No prior visa overstays, deportations, or violations in the destination country or allied nations
Health Requirements	Some countries require proof of travel health insurance or medical examination depending on nationality and duration

Accommodation Proof	Hotel bookings, invitation letter from host, or other confirmation of where you will stay during your visit
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APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Method	Online (e-Visa), embassy/consulate in person, Visa Application Centre (VAC), or on-arrival depending on country
When to Apply	Apply at least 4–12 weeks before intended travel date; peak seasons (summer, holidays) may require earlier submission
Appointment Booking	Many embassies require a prior appointment — book as early as possible as slots can be weeks or months out
Biometrics	Fingerprints and photograph required by many countries (USA, UK, Canada, Schengen) — attend in person at VAC
Interview	Some countries (notably USA) require an in-person consular interview as part of the application process
Processing Time	Ranges from 3 business days (e-Visa) to 12+ weeks (complex cases); always apply well ahead of travel
Entry Type	Single-entry, double-entry, or multiple-entry visas available — request based on your travel plans
Decision Communication	Via email, online portal, or passport return with visa sticker — keep application reference number safe

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (UNIVERSAL)

Passport	Original passport valid 6+ months beyond travel dates, with at least 2 blank visa pages
Photographs	Recent passport-size photographs — size, background colour, and quantity vary by country (check specific requirements)
Visa Application Form	Completed and signed official application form — accuracy is critical; errors may cause delays or refusal
Travel Itinerary	Round-trip flight bookings or confirmed travel dates showing intended entry and exit from the destination country
Accommodation Proof	Hotel reservations, Airbnb bookings, or host's invitation letter with their address and contact details
Financial Proof	Bank statements (last 3–6 months), pay slips, or sponsorship letter showing adequate funds for the trip
Employment Evidence	Letter from employer confirming leave approval, job title, salary, and your intention to return to work
Travel Insurance	Mandatory for Schengen and many other destinations — must cover minimum EUR 30,000 medical/repatriation costs
Previous Visas	Copies of prior visas to same or allied countries to demonstrate travel history and immigration compliance

Purpose-Specific Docs	Business: invitation letter. Medical: hospital appointment. Family: relationship proof and sponsor's documents
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COMMON REFUSAL REASONS & HOW TO AVOID THEM

Insufficient Funds	Inability to demonstrate adequate financial resources to cover stay expenses is one of the top refusal grounds
Weak Home Country Ties	Failure to show strong ties (family, employment, property) that compel return — raises overstay concerns
Incomplete Application	Missing documents, unsigned forms, or incorrect photographs frequently lead to rejection without review
Inconsistent Information	Contradictions between application form, supporting documents, and previous visa history raise credibility concerns
Prior Visa Violations	Past overstays, deportations, or illegal work history in any country can result in automatic refusal
Vague Travel Purpose	Inability to clearly articulate the reason for visit, itinerary, or who/what you plan to visit
Poor Travel History	First-time travellers with no international travel history may face additional scrutiny — address proactively
Criminal Record	Undisclosed criminal history discovered during background checks leads to refusal and possible future bans

VISITOR VISA APPLICATION CHECKLIST

› Confirm visa requirements for your nationality and destination country before starting the application	
› Check passport validity — must be valid 6+ months beyond your return date, with blank pages available	
› Book your appointment (VAC / embassy) well in advance — slots can be weeks or months away	
› Gather financial documents: 3–6 months of bank statements showing consistent, sufficient funds	
› Obtain a letter from your employer confirming approved leave and your intent to return	
› Book refundable or flexible flights and accommodation to provide proof of itinerary	
› Purchase travel insurance with required minimum coverage for your destination	
› Prepare a clear, honest, and detailed cover letter explaining your travel purpose and plans	
› Provide strong evidence of ties to your home country (family, property, employment)	

› Double-check all forms for accuracy — errors or inconsistencies are a leading cause of refusal	
› Submit biometrics at an authorised VAC or embassy as early as your application allows	
› Track your application status via the official portal and respond promptly to any requests	

2026 TIP: A visitor visa application is ultimately a **trust exercise** — the visa officer must be convinced that you will leave the country before your authorized stay expires. Every document you submit should reinforce this intention. Never overstay a visa under any circumstances, as it creates a permanent negative record that affects all future visa applications globally. If your application is refused, consult a **licensed immigration consultant or advisor** before reapplying — understanding the refusal reason is essential to a successful second application.

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