

Information about Schengen visas

The common 'Schengen' visa is for a short stay (tourism, a family or friend visit, or for business) of up to 90 days in an 180-day period within the following countries:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

- As of 26 March 1995, Foreigners travelling to one of the aforementioned countries may receive a visa for a short stay of 1 to 90 days (maximum), which is valid for all these countries.
- There is no legal right to a visa.
- The visa application has to be presented to the Embassy /Consulate of the country of main destination (determined by the purpose of the journey and the length of stay). If you wish to visit several countries and therefore cannot ascertain a main destination, please apply with the Schengen country of first entry.
- Depending on the purpose of travel, different documents are required. Additional documents or information may be requested at any time.
- Furthermore, you must hold a valid Residence Permit for the USA.
- Processing time for a Schengen visa is generally 24 to 48 hours, in certain cases 14 days.
- For further information on Schengen visa, please click here: http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/03_Visabestimmungen/StaatenlisteVisumpflicht_nod_e.html

YOU DO NOT NEED A VISA FOR SHORT STAYS IN GERMANY IF YOU ARE A :

- citizen of the EU/EEA/EFTA;
- holder of a Service, Official or Special Passport from Bolivia, Chad, Colombia, Ghana, Philippines, Thailand or Turkey;
- holder of a Service Passport from the United Arab Emirates;
- holder of a Service Passport from Ecuador, Moldova (biometric passport), Ukraine (biometric passport)
- holder of a Diplomatic Passport from Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Gabon (biometric passport), Georgia, Ecuador, India, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Macedonia, Malawi, Moldova, Mongolia (biometric Passport), Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Pakistan, Peru, Russian Federation, Serbia, South Africa, Tunisia, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates, Vietnam,

- further visa exemptions for entry into Germany (provided you are not going to stay longer than three months and you are not going to do any paid or self-employed work) are listed here: http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/03_Visabestimmungen/StaatenlisteVisumpflicht_node.html

Please note:

Processing times for visa applications is up to 14 days for nationals of the following countries. In addition to regular requirements these nationals have to provide a full address of reference in Germany with zip code.

Afghanistan	Morocco
Algeria	Nigeria
Bahrain	North Korea
Bangladesh	Oman
Burundi	Pakistan
Belarus	Palestine (travel document)
Congo (DR)	Philippines
Egypt	Qatar
Indonesia	Rwanda
Iran	Saudi Arabia
Iraq	Somalia
Jordan	Sri Lanka
Kazakhstan (diplomatic passports only)	Sudan
Kuwait	Syria
Lebanon	Tunisia
Libya	Uzbekistan
Mali	Vietnam
Mauritania	Yemen