

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO THE USA

TRAVEL AUTHORISATION – VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Passports must have a minimum of 6 months validity from the date of scheduled return to Australia.

As of the 12th January 2009 the United States now requires you to obtain a “Travel Authorisation” **AT LEAST 72 HOURS** before you travel to the USA. Please see <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/> and apply for this. **(ONLY USE THIS WEBSITE, IF YOU ARE ASKED TO PAY MORE THAN \$14USD YOU ARE ON THE WRONG SITE!!!! PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE IS EXACTLY THE SAME)**, THIS will be valid for 2 years unless your passport expires. YOU WILL BE DENIED BOARDING IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE THIS.

All payments for electronic travel authorization applications must be made by credit card or debit card when applying for or renewing an **ESTA**. The ESTA system currently accepts only the following credit/debit cards: MasterCard, VISA, American Express, and Discover. The application will not be submitted for processing until all payment information is received. If you have answered ‘Yes’ to any of the formal questions on the ESTA form (ie: criminal conviction) you will need to seek advice from the U.S Consulate. Your Travel Agent **cannot** do this for you.

Travelers in the following categories are no longer eligible to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP):

- Nationals of VWP countries who have travelled to or been present in Iran, Iraq, Sudan, or Syria on or after March 1, 2011 (with limited exceptions for travel for diplomatic or military purposes in the service of a VWP country).
- Nationals of VWP countries who are also nationals of Iran, Iraq, Sudan, or Syria.

DESTINATION ADDRESS

The United States Government requires all visitors to provide a US destination address prior to their departure **AT THE AIRLINE CHECK IN COUNTER IN AUSTRALIA**. (Please have your details ready when checking in)

You will need the following:

- The address you provide must include a zip code.
- If you are providing a hotel address, it must include the hotel name, street name, city and state; a zip code
- If you are joining a cruise ship, provide the vessel and cruise names, and the US city of embarkation.
- If you are in transit, provide your final country of destination, the carrier or vessel name, and number.
- If you are hiring a car, provide the intended address of your first night in the US.

TRAVEL WITHIN THE U.S.A

When taking domestic flights within the states please note that the **“liquids, gels and aerosol” rules apply to domestic flights**. As this is not the case within Australia please be extremely careful when purchasing liquid duty free items when you have a connecting flight (security **will** confiscate any items over 100ml)

Most domestic flights in the U.S also only offer “food for purchase” most airlines take credit card, if you have specific dietary requirements ensure you take your own supply of food on board.

Security as anywhere in the world is taken very seriously in the U.S.A. Please allow plenty of time to get through security screening before your flight. Remember the population of the U.S.A is over 300 Million so be prepared for longer lines than we experience here in Australia. Travel light remembering they will ask you to remove your belt, shoes etc.

Most airlines for domestic flights in the **U.S.A now charge for checked luggage**. Depending on how your ticket is booked this will most likely apply to you. Fees for the bags are not expensive. Please check with your consultant.

***NEW, July 2014. Due to increased security measures on all flight to the UK & USA next time you pass through airport security you may be asked to turn on any electronic or battery-powered device to prove its functionality. If your device doesn't turn on, you risk having the item confiscated or you may not be allowed onto your flight. All electronic devices are to be carried in your carry-on luggage. Please make sure your electronic devices are fully charged and don't run your battery flat while in transit or on board the aircraft. Carry a charger (and adaptor if needed) with you at all times, most airports have power points to use free of charge and some aircraft seats also supply power.**

If you are unsure about anything mentioned above please ask your consultant.