ETIAS
European Travel Information and Authorisation System

FRONTEX
EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

ETIAS INFO PACK

PUBLIC VERSION

APRIL 2025

ETIAS MISINFORMATION

Common mistakes in the media coverage about ETIAS debunked.

"ETIAS will start in the first half of 2025"	ETIAS will start in the last quarter of 2026
"There are 26 European countries that require ETIAS."	There are 30 European countries that require ETIAS. See the full list here.
"Medical information is required to apply for ETIAS."	Medical information is NOT needed to apply for ETIAS. Click here for more information.
"Applications are checked against both EU and international databases."	Applications are checked against EU databases, including VIS, SIS, EES and ECRIS/TCN.
"Etias.com is the official ETIAS website." or "There is no official ETIAS website."	Europa.eu/etias is the only official ETIAS website.
"ETIAS is valid for 5 years."	ETIAS is valid for 3 years or until passport expires, whichever comes first.
"ETIAS is a visa."	ETIAS is not a visa, similar travel authorisations are implemented by the US, Canada, Australia and the UK.
"The application fee has not been announced yet."	The application fee is EUR 7.
"Only people between the ages of 18 and 70 should apply."	All visa-free travellers must apply regardless of age
"In case the travel authorisation is refused, you can apply for a Schengen visa."	It is not possible to apply for a visa if the travel authorisation is refused. Click here to see what should be done instead.

ABOUT ETIAS

WHAT IS ETIAS?

ETIAS travel authorisation is a new entry requirement for nationals of 59 visa-free countries and territories travelling to most European countries (see the list on the next page).

ETIAS is for short-term stays; it allows visa-free travellers to remain in the 30 European countries requiring ETIAS for up to 90 days within any 180-day period. It is valid for three years or until the passport used in the application expires, whichever comes first.

WHY ETIAS?

- Strengthens Europe's internal security by conducting pre-travel screening of visa-free travellers from third countries for security, irregular immigration, and public health risks.
- Facilitates smooth border crossings of travellers by reducing the administrative burden at border crossing points.

ETIAS IS NOT A VISA

Having an ETIAS travel authorisation only allows visa-free travellers to enter and remain on the territory of the European countries requiring ETIAS for a short-term stay.

ETIAS does not give the right to study long-term or to work in these countries. Nationals of visa-free countries who plan to stay in a European country requiring ETIAS for a longer period will most likely need a long-term visa. Travellers who already have a valid visa do not need an ETIAS travel authorisation.

Similar travel authorisations for visa-free nationals are currently implemented by the US, Canada, Australia, and the UK.

ABOUT ETIAS

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES REQUIRING ETIAS

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland

WHO WILL NEED AN ETIAS?

Nationals of the below-listed countries and territories will be required to have an ETIAS travel authorisation in order to travel to Europe:

ALBANIA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ARGENTINA
AUSTRALIA
BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BRAZIL
BRUNEI
CANADA
CHILE
COLOMBIA
COSTA RICA
DOMINICA
EL SALVADOR
GEORGIA
GRENADA
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
HONG KONG
ISRAEL
JAPAN
KIRIBATI
KOSOVO*
MACAO
MALAYSIA
MARSHALL ISLANDS
MAURITIUS
MEXICO
MICRONESIA
MOLDOVA
MONTENEGRO
NEW ZEALAND
NICARAGUA
NORTH MACEDONIA
PALAU
PANAMA
PARAGUAY
PERU
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
SAINT LUCIA
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
SAMOA
SERBIA
SEYCHELLES
SINGAPORE
SOLOMON ISLANDS
SOUTH KOREA
TAIWAN
TIMOR-LESTE
TONGA
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TUVALU
UKRAINE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
URUGUAY
VENEZUELA

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

TIMELINE

ETIAS IS COMING IN 2026

ETIAS will start in the last quarter of 2026.

ETIAS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED GRADUALLY

Transitional period

A transitional period of at least six months will follow the launch of ETIAS. During this period, if a traveller does not have a valid ETIAS travel authorisation, border authorities will nevertheless allow her/him to cross the external borders, as long as she/he holds a valid travel document and fulfils all remaining entry conditions.

Grace period

Once the transitional period is over, a grace period of at least six months will follow. As of this period, there is an obligation to have an ETIAS. However, if a traveller does not have an ETIAS travel authorisation and it is the first time they are travelling to any of the European countries requiring ETIAS since the end date of the transitional period, border authorities will exceptionally allow them to cross the external borders as long as they hold a valid travel document and fulfil all remaining entry conditions.

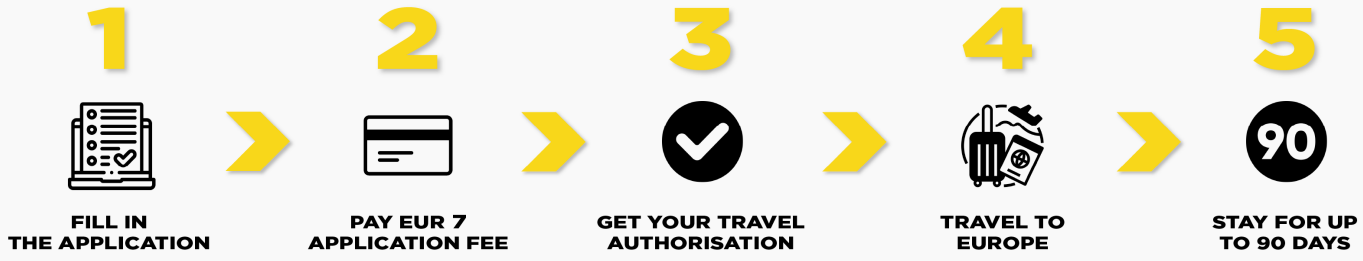
Important! If the traveller does not have an ETIAS travel authorisation and it is not the first time that they are entering any of the European countries requiring ETIAS since the end of transitional period, they will be refused entry.

ETIAS ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH - Having a valid ETIAS does not guarantee entry. Travellers will also need a valid travel document and meet entry conditions.

APPLYING FOR ETIAS

HOW TO APPLY

Once ETIAS enters into operation, travellers can only apply for an ETIAS travel authorisation online at europa.eu/etias, and through the official ETIAS mobile app [not yet available]. The applicant will need a valid travel document, a payment card, and an email address.



APPLICATION FORM

When filling in the application form, travellers will be asked to provide their personal information, including their address, passport details, current occupation, and information about past travel to conflict zones or criminal convictions.

Contrary to misinformation spreading online, the application form does **not** contain any questions related to the applicant's health.

APPLICATION FEE

The cost of the ETIAS travel authorisation is EUR 7. However, applicants who are under 18 or above 70 years of age, or family members of EU citizens or of nationals of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland are exempt from this payment. More information regarding the status of family members can be found here.

HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE

Most applicants will receive a decision within minutes of submitting their application. In exceptional cases, the application process may take up to 30 days if the applicant is requested to provide additional information or invited to an interview.

VALIDITY

An ETIAS travel authorisation will be valid for three years for the entire territory of the European countries requiring ETIAS, or until the validity of the travel document the applicant has used expires - whichever comes first. It can be used for multiple entries.

APPLYING FOR ETIAS

How are ETIAS applications processed?

Most ETIAS applications will be processed in an automated procedure within minutes.

In some cases, the application will be processed manually and the applicant will be asked to provide additional information or documentation. The applicant will have 10 days to provide it.

96 HRS

If the information/documentation is sufficient, the applicant will be notified of the outcome of ETIAS application within 96 hours.

10

If the information/documentation provided is not sufficient, the applicant will be invited to an interview. The interview will take place within 10 days

48 HRS

The decision on the application will be made within 48 hours after the interview has taken place.

CROSSING THE BORDER

Visa-free travellers will need to have a valid ETIAS regardless of whether they will be entering Europe via land, sea or at an airport.

Important! Having a valid ETIAS travel authorisation does not guarantee entry. When a traveller arrives at the border, border guards will verify that they meet the entry conditions. Those travellers who do not meet the entry conditions will be refused entry.

APPLYING ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The ETIAS regulation makes it possible for another person (e.g. a friend, a family member) or a commercial intermediary (e.g. a travel agency) to apply on behalf of the traveller. Do note though that the intermediary is likely to charge additional fee for its services.

As the information required in the application is very sensitive and includes personal data, passport details and payment card number, it is therefore very important to choose a trusted company to apply on behalf of others.

UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

In case the applicant receives a negative decision on their ETIAS application, they have the right to appeal. The applicant also has the possibility to request an ETIAS travel authorisation with limited validity (LV) if they meet the relevant conditions. More information about the LV can be found the official ETIAS website.

Unlike the American ESTA, it is **not possible for visa-free travellers to apply for a visa if their ETIAS is refused**. A visa and an ETIAS are different types of authorisations, intended for different categories of travellers. If a visa-free traveller does not have a valid ETIAS travel authorisation, they will not be allowed to cross the external borders of the European countries requiring ETIAS.

WHO IS WHO

THE AUTHORITIES BEHIND ETIAS

Setting up ETIAS is a very complicated task. The challenges are huge as the system has to be extra-secure not only due to the fact that it will have to process personal data of the millions of applicants, but also be connected to a variety of databases such as SIS, VIS, EES, Eurodac and ECRIS-TCN.

Currently, many of these systems do not 'talk' to each other, so making them work seamlessly together is essential. Considering the scale and complexity of this project, the following 34 institutional actors are closely cooperating to make it happen.

European Commission

- Proposed the ETIAS Regulation, ensures its proper implementation and provides the relevant funding
- Development of Delegated and Implementing Acts
- Overall responsibility for the ETIAS policy and the information campaign

Frontex

- Creation and operation of the ETIAS Central Unit
- Processing applications from travellers
- Support to carriers and travellers

eu-LISA

- Development and operation of the ETIAS Information System
- Development of the ETIAS watchlist containing information on persons involved in terrorism or other serious crime

Europol

- Provision of data to the ETIAS watchlist
- Being consulted following a hit against their data

30 European countries requiring ETIAS

- Creation and operation of the ETIAS National Units
- Handling applications from travellers
- Checking ETIAS travel authorisations at border crossing points
- Processing appeals from ETIAS applicants

ETIAS AND CARRIERS

NEW OBLIGATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, SEA AND COACH OPERATORS

Air and sea carriers will be required to verify, within 48 hours before departure, that visa-free third country travellers have a valid ETIAS travel authorisation. International coach operators will have three years to comply with this requirement.

The verification will take place electronically through a new tool – the carrier interface – that the EU will provide for this purpose. In order to use the interface, carriers need to register with eu-LISA, the EU agency responsible for the system.

The new verification process means that ultimately, travellers will not be allowed to board their plane, bus, or sea vessel if they do not have a valid ETIAS. Train operators will not check whether their passengers are in possession of an ETIAS travel authorisation.

Carriers may be held liable and subject to penalties if they transport passengers without valid travel documents. The penalties are determined by the relevant Member States.

Important! Carriers will also have new obligations stemming from the introduction of the EES, which will come before ETIAS. More information is available in the carrier FAQs prepared by Frontex.

ETIAS WEBSITE

THERE IS ONLY ONE OFFICIAL ETIAS WEBSITE

There is only one official ETIAS website: europa.eu/etias. Currently, the website provides information to travellers about the application process, appeals, and other relevant topics. Once ETIAS is launched, applications for the travel authorisation will be submitted through the website.

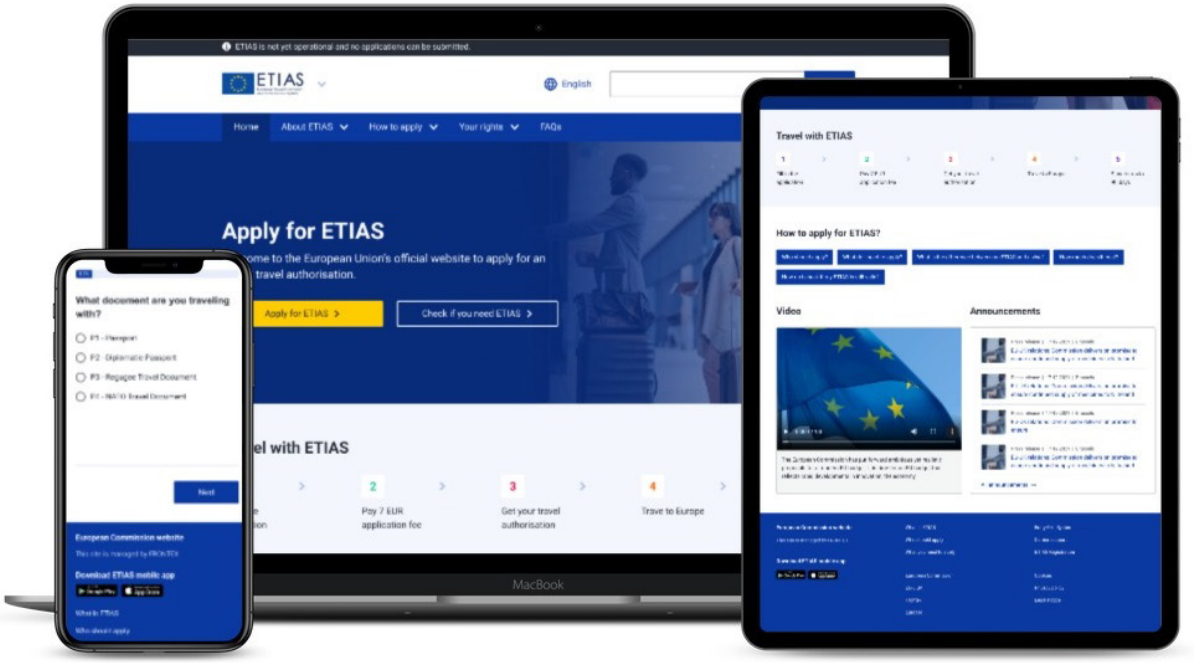
The website will be available in all official EU languages.

The News Corner section of the website provides regular articles with updates and information about ETIAS, prepared by Frontex. Read the latest article on the revised timeline for the EES and ETIAS.

POSSIBILITY OF ABUSE

Currently there are **over 100** unofficial or even fake ETIAS websites online that provide information about the rules and requirements related to ETIAS.

While some of these websites are run by genuine commercial intermediaries, others may be hosted by people with dubious intentions. The unofficial websites can be scammers who seek to financially profit from ETIAS applicants and may misuse the applicants' personal data and credit card details. Travellers will have the possibility of reporting abuse using the official ETIAS website once applications are open.



INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

The European Commission will run a global information campaign to inform visa-free travellers of the new ETIAS requirement. The campaign will be launched six months before the system enters into operation and will continue for some months afterwards. Conducted in 19 languages, including 13 non-EU languages, the campaign will take place online and in third countries, at key travel hubs, and border crossing points in the 30 European countries requiring ETIAS.

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ETIAS Central Unit - Frontex

www.europa.eu/etias