

Olá Brazil: New Entry Rules for US, Canadian and Australian Citizens

Chris Shieff
15 April, 2025



Key Points

- Effective April 10, all US, Canadian and Australian citizens entering Brazil now need a **valid visa**.
- The visa waiver which has been in place since 2019 is no more.
- April's news may come as a surprise to passengers who might not be aware of the new requirement – and **there is no option to obtain one on arrival**.
- **Operating crew** are exempt (with some gotchas).

Why the change?

Back in 2019, visa requirements were dropped for the US, Canada and Australia. The previous President did so to boost tourism and trade.

However, it was a one-way move as Brazilian citizens still needed a visa to enter those countries.

Brazil has long since had a diplomatic policy of **reciprocity**. The new visa rules signify a return to this principle.

For operators, it's simply a new rule we need to navigate.



New visa requirements may catch passengers off guard – especially for tourist attractions like Carnival.

How to get a visa.

Citizens of the US, Canada and Australia now need to apply for an electronic visa to enter Brazil.

It's strongly recommended to do this at least **15 days' prior** as it can take some time to process.

Once issued, it will be valid for **multiple entries** for the next ten years.

Make sure your pax carry at least two printed copies for authorities.

Be careful, because **they can't get one on arrival.**



Welcome to Brazil eVisa



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Welcome to the VFS eVisa (Electronic Visa) website. VFS is the exclusive company authorized by the Brazilian government to provide a platform and call center service for tourist and business visa applicants - VIVIS - for ordinary passport holders from Australia, Canada and the United States. Click [here](#) to discover other activities eVisa applies to.

You can access the e-visa system via the link above.

What about crew?

Great question. We reached out to several local agents for a clarification on the rules for crew.

While some advice was conflicting, the general consensus was that operating **crew are exempt** from the visa requirement and usually granted entry for up to ten days (regardless of nationality).

Universal Aviation Brazil has confirmed that to qualify, they must meet the following conditions:

- **Are on active duty;**
- **Are listed as operating crew on the GENDEC;**
- **Are in uniform on arrival;**
- **Present a pilots' license;**
- **And (obviously) have a valid passport.**

Some trouble has been reported for **flight engineers and flight attendants** who are not explicitly covered by this exemption policy (even if they are listed on the GENDEC).

In some cases, they have been allowed entry but this is **not** guaranteed.

To avoid trouble, we recommend that a visa is obtained for these staff beforehand to avoid the problem entirely – cost is approx. \$80USD per person.

Another chestnut to look out for is crew who are **positioning** to Brazil either with you, or on an airline service. They will need a visa to enter.



Engineers are one example of crew who may not be covered by the crew exemption – we advise a visa in advance.

Have you just been to Brazil?

If things were different than we've described, **we'd love to hear from you**. You can reach us around the clock on news@ops.group.

Special thanks to the team at Universal Brazil for their help clarifying the new rules!

Crew Visa Requirements for India

Declan Selleck

15 April, 2025



India has new crew visa requirements.

- Visa upon arrival is no longer available.
- It is mandatory for all crew to have visas arranged before arrival to India.

When flying as operating crew you will need an e-Business Visa. Carry a copy with you when disembarking.

Processing time is around 4 to 5 days.

Use the following link to apply.

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/Registration>

Keep in mind e-tourist visa is for pax only.

Turkey suspends US Visas

Declan Selleck
15 April, 2025



Effective immediately Turkey has suspended all Visa services to US citizens. This includes both physical Visa and E-Visa.

- Any visa granted before 08OCT will stand until expiry of validity date.
- Any visa granted after 08OCT will be revoked.
- No new visa will be granted from now.

However, most operating crew will not be impacted. When listed on Gendec as Operating crew and you have a valid crew ID, you may stay up to 72hrs without visa.

We will update any changes here as and when known.

US Entry requirements updated

Declan Selleck
15 April, 2025



The US has updated entry processing through ESTA (the **online visa system** for countries using the Visa Waiver Program).

The system now reflects the designation of Somalia, Libya and Yemen as countries of concern, a change made under the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015.

In addition to the country-specific travel restrictions, a request for ESTA applicants' Global Entry Program Numbers was also added.

The Visa Waiver Program allows foreign nationals from designated countries to enter the United States for business or tourism for up to 90 days without the need to obtain a B-1/B-2 visitor visa from a U.S. consulate. VWP travellers must register and obtain approval to travel from the ESTA and carry an e-passport.

US and Canada may lose EU visa right

Mark Zee
15 April, 2025

| expect. time | destination | compagnia airline | volò n° flight n° | imbarco gate | osservazioni remarks |
|--------------|-------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| 13.25 | RHODES |  OA | 2471 | D05 | |
| 13.35 | MUNICH |  EN | 124 | B10 | NOTIZIE APPENA POSSIBILI INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW |
| 13.40 | GENEVE |  AA | 122 | B11 | |
| 13.45 | PARIS |  SK | 44119 | B66 | |
| 13.55 | ROME |  AZ | 13278 | A50 | VOLO SPECIALE / CHARTER SPECIAL FLIGHT / CHARTER |
| 14.00 | NAPLES |  AZ | 46711 | A14 | |
| 14.05 | MADRID |  IB | 2561 | C33 | ATTESA PASSEGGERI WAITING PASSENGERS |
| 14.15 | TUNIS |  TU | 4442 | D26 | |
| 14.25 | ZURICH |  LX | 8910 | B47 | |

The European Commission published warning on 12APR that visa-free travel by US and Canadian citizens to Europe is at risk, due to the lack of a full reciprocal arrangement for EU citizens.

The core of the issue is this: Although US and Canadian passport holders can travel to Europe for stays of up to 90 days without requiring a visa, citizens of some EU countries are not eligible for the same privilege in return. Specifically, citizens of Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland and Romania require a visa for the US, and citizens of Bulgaria and Romania require one for Canada.

The deadline for US and Canada to include those citizens in their own visa-waiver programs expired yesterday, on 12APR2016. Consequently, the EU is obliged, under their own policy document, to take steps to remove the visa-free travel privilege for US and Canadian Citizens.

The United Kingdom and Ireland do not take part in the development of the common visa policy and would not be bound by a visa waiver suspension.

No change has yet occurred, and any decision to limit travel would have a lead time (most likely 90 days). For further background see the full EU press release.