

FAQ: Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

1. What is an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)?

eTA is a new entry requirement for visa-exempt foreign nationals traveling to Canada by air. It will become mandatory on March 15, 2016, and allows Canada to screen travelers before they arrive. The authorization is electronically linked to the passport of the applicant and is valid for five years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first.

2. I am an American citizen. Do I need an eTA to enter Canada?

No. American citizens do not need an eTA to enter Canada. However, they must carry proper identification such as a current U.S. passport.

3. I am a permanent resident of the U.S. (Green Card holder). Do I need an eTA?

Yes. Starting March 15, 2016, U.S. permanent residents will need an eTA to fly to Canada. However, U.S. permanent residents who enter Canada by land or sea will not need an eTA.

4. I am a permanent resident of the U.S. (Green Card holder). What documents do I need to apply for an eTA?

To apply, you will need a passport from your country of nationality and your U.S. permanent resident card (Green Card). The eTA will be electronically linked to your passport and you must also carry a valid Green Card.

5. How do I apply for an eTA for travel to Canada?

To apply, you must have a valid passport, a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express), and an email address. It costs \$7 CAD to get an eTA. It will be valid for up to five years. It is important to apply early! Apply here - [application form](#).

6. What type of information do I need to complete an eTA application?

The biographic information from your passport such as your name, date, and place of birth, gender, marital status, address, nationality, and passport number. You will also need to answer a few simple background questions such as your current job and how much money you have available for your visit to Canada and if you have any medical issues.

7. Do I have to apply for an eTA each time I travel to Canada?

No. Once approved, your eTA is valid for five years or until your passport expires – whichever comes first. It is a multiple entry authorization as long as your eTA remains valid.

***This material is not intended to substitute as legal advice.**

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8. Can more than one person, including dependents, be included in an eTA application

No. Each person must submit a separate eTA application. If your child or children appear on your passport, a separate eTA application must be submitted for each child.

9. Will CIC (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) email me when my eTA is approved?

Yes. You will receive an email indicating the status of your eTA. Please make sure to check the junk mail folder of the email address you provided on your eTA application form. Some spam filters may block automated emails from CIC.

10. Why am I not receiving any emails from CIC about my eTA application?

In most cases, applicants will receive a confirmation from CIC within minutes. However, some applications may need more time to process. If this is the case for your application, you can expect an email from CIC within 72 hours that tells you what your next steps are.

If you received an email confirmation, you can use the [check your eTA status](#) tool to follow the progress of your application. To do so, you will need the application number which begins with the letter V that can be found at the top of the email and details from the passport you used to apply for your eTA.

If you have not received an email confirmation with an application number within 72 hours of applying, you will need to fill out this [case-specific inquiry form](#). To do so, you will need to: provide some basic personal details and under “Enquiry” select from the drop menu “Electronic Travel Authorization – Case specific inquiries”.

11. How long will it take to process my eTA application?

In most cases, applicants will receive a confirmation within minutes.

12. What do I do if my application for an eTA is not approved right away?

In a small number of cases, more information may be needed. CIC will contact you via email and advise you of the next steps. This may include a request for additional information or documents or an in-person interview at the nearest Canadian visa office.

13. Do I have to print anything to prove that I have an eTA?

No. An eTA is electronically linked to your passport. You will need to travel with the passport you used to apply for your eTA.

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14. Could my eTA be canceled after I have received one? When can an eTA be canceled?

Yes. An eTA can be canceled in cases where information comes to light that you have become [inadmissible](#) to Canada. At that point, an immigration officer would cancel your eTA and let you know by email.

15. What happens if I get a new passport after I have received an eTA?

If you get a new passport, you will need to get a new eTA. Your eTA is electronically linked to your passport.

16. Does having an eTA automatically mean that I am allowed to enter Canada?

No. An eTA will facilitate your entry into Canada. When you arrive at the border, a border services officer will ask to see your passport or travel documents and ask you a few questions about your visit. The officer will then decide if you can enter the country.

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