

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO GETTING A SCHENGEN VISA



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Overview

The Schengen Area is made up of 26 European states that do not impose border checks at their mutual borders and have a common visa policy. A Schengen Visa allows eligible individuals to enter and leave the Schengen Area freely from any of the participating Schengen Area countries. However, border checks still apply when travelling between Schengen and non-Schengen states.

With a Schengen Visa, you can visit multiple countries in Europe as many times as you would like. And if you were wondering where the name came from, Schengen is a town in Luxembourg where the treaty ('Schengen Agreement') leading to the creation of the Schengen Area and abolishment of internal border checks, was signed.

Schengen Visa Countries

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



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SCHENGEN VISA TYPES

Uniform Schengen Visa

Airport Transit Visa (A Category)

You need this visa if you're traveling from one non-Schengen country to another via a connecting flight in a Schengen country. When you make the stopover, you cannot leave the airport and enter Schengen territory, such as to make a purchase or rest a few hours at a hotel prior to your flight.

Want more information on the airport transit visa? Click here for all the details.



Transit Visa (B Category)

You need this visa if you're traveling via car or coach from one non-Schengen country to another and passing through one or more Schengen states along the way. The Transit Visa is also required if you're making the journey via flight and you need to leave the airport and enter Schengen territory. For instance, you may have planned to continue your trip via train or to stay overnight at a hotel prior to catching your flight the next day.

Short-stay Visa (C Category)

When people talk of applying for a Schengen Visa, they are most likely referring to a short-term stay in Schengen countries. This visa allows you to visit one or more Schengen countries for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. The reasons for travel are usually tourism, business, visiting relatives, official visit, short-term study (less than three months), attending a sporting or cultural event, or medical reasons. Depending on the purpose of travel, three types of short-stay visas may be granted:

- **Single-entry visa:** You can enter the Schengen Area only once within the 180-day period for which your visa is valid (mentioned in the visa sticker affixed to your passport). Once you have left Schengen territory, you cannot re-enter on a single-entry visa.
- **Double-entry visa:** You can re-enter Schengen territory once after exiting it. So, you can visit the Schengen Area from an external border up to two times within the 180-day period over which your visa is valid.
- **Multiple-entry visa:** You can enter Schengen territory any number of times in the period for which your visa is valid. Typically, those with the need to travel frequently to the Schengen Area apply for 1-year, 3-year or 5-year multiple-entry visas

Limited Territorial Validity Visa (LTV)

This visa allows you to travel to and within only the Schengen country or countries that you plan to visit. You are not permitted to travel to any other Schengen country other than those mentioned at the time of applying for the visa. This type of visa is helpful for individuals who need to enter the Schengen Area for humanitarian reasons or for anyone who does not as yet possess valid travel documents but needs to travel to one or more Schengen countries for any kind of emergency situation.

National Visa (D Category)

If you will be studying, working or taking up permanent residence in the Schengen Area, then this is the visa to apply for. Depending on purpose, the national visa can be a single entry or multiple-entry visa.

Who Needs a Schengen Visa?

Citizens of certain countries need a Schengen Visa to travel to and stay in any Schengen Area member country:

Afghanistan	Cuba Democratic Republic Of Congo	Kyrgyzstan	Russia
Algeria	Djibouti	Laos	Rwanda
Angola	Dominican Republic	Lebanon	Sao Tome And Principe
Armenia	Ecuador	Lesotho	Saudi Arabia
Azerbaijan	Egypt	Liberia	Senegal
Bahrain	Equatorial Guinea	Libya	Sierra Leone
Bangladesh	Eritrea	Madagascar	Somalia
Belarus	Ethiopia	Malawi	South Africa
Belize	Fiji	Maldives	South Sudan
Benin	Gabon	Mali	Sri Lanka
Bhutan	Gambia	Mauritania	Sudan
Bolivia	Ghana	Mongolia	Suriname
Botswana	Guinea	Morocco	Swaziland
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Mozambique	Syria
Burma/Myanmar	Guyana	Namibia	Tajikistan
Burundi	Haiti	Nauru	Tanzania
Cambodia	India	Nepal	Thailand
Cameroon	Indonesia	Niger	Togo
Cape Verde	Iran	Nigeria	Tunisia
Central African Republic	Iraq	North Korea	Turkey
Chad	Jamaica	Oman	Turkmenistan
China	Jordan	Pakistan	Uganda
Comoros	Kazakhstan	Papua New Guinea	Uzbekistan
Congo	Kenya	Philippines	Vietnam
Cote D'ivoire	Kuwait	Qatar	Yemen
			Zambia
			Zimbabwe





Exempt Countries:

Albania	Georgia	New Zealand	Tonga
Andorra	Grenada	Nicaragua	Trinidad and Tobago
Antigua and Barbuda	Guatemala	Palau	Tuvalu
Argentina	Holy See (Vatican City State)	Panama	Ukraine
Australia	Honduras	Paraguay	United Arab Emirates
Bahamas	Israel	Peru	United States of America
Barbados	Japan	Samoa	Uruguay
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kiribati	San Marino	Vanuatu
Brazil	Macedonia (FYROM)	Seychelles	Venezuela
Brunei	Malaysia	Serbia	British Overseas Nationals
Darussalam	Marshall Islands	Singapore	Macao: Holders of Região Administrativa Especial de Macau passport
Canada	Mauritius	Solomon islands	Hong Kong: Holders of a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport.
Chile	Mexico	South Korea	
Colombia	Micronesia	St. Kitts and Nevis	
Costa Rica	Moldova	St. Lucia	
Dominica	Monaco	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	
El Salvador	Montenegro	Timor-Leste	