



ETIAS – The European Travel Information and Authorisation System

2022 – 2023



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WHAT is the ETIAS (the European Travel Information and Authorisation System)?

- An electronic pre-entry travel authorisation system for visa-exempt travellers
- Verification of entry requirements before travel to the Schengen zone

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Who must use the ETIAS?

- Non-EU nationals who do not need a visa to enter the Schengen zone

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WHY the ETIAS?

- Analyse and manage potential migration and security risks
- Reduce the number of refusals of entry at border crossings points
- Safeguard and complement the EU's visa liberation policy
- Avoid delays for travellers at border checks

What is it?

The European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) was created by the EU to strengthen security checks for individuals benefiting from visa-free travel to the EU.

The ETIAS is an electronic application platform that will enable advance verification of potential security, irregular migration or public health risks within the visa-exempt visitor population travelling to the Schengen area, with the additional benefit of streamlining border crossing for travellers who do not pose a security risk.

Upon receipt of an application, the system will conduct checks against EU information systems for borders and security and, in principle, issue a travel authorisation within minutes. The ETIAS travel authorisation document (the ETIAS visa waiver) will be checked together with travel documents when the visitor crosses the EU border.

The application procedure is expected to take 10 minutes or less, requiring only a valid travel document such as a passport or equivalent. An electronic payment of a EUR 7 fee for each application will be required for all applicants between the ages of 18 and 70 year.

The automated process will start after payment is confirmed. Most applicants will receive an automated approval. In some cases, however, the process could take up to 96 hours. In extreme cases, where additional review is required, a final decision will be taken within 4 weeks.

The validity of the ETIAS travel authorisation will last three years, an expiry date will be indicated on the document.



Process



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Security and data protection

The ETIAS will be interoperable with existing security systems and databases, such as the Schengen Information System (SIS), systems in development, such as the Entry/Exit System (EES), and Europol/Interpol.

The ETIAS fully complies with the Charter of Fundamental Rights, with strict data security standards. Personal data recorded in ETIAS will be kept for the period of validity of the travel authorisation or for five years from the last decision to refuse or cancel the document. The data can be stored for an additional period of no more than three years after the end of the period of validity of the travel authorisation, provided the applicant consents. After expiry of the data retention period, the application file and personal data will be removed from the ETIAS.

Schengen country law enforcement authorities and Europol will have access to the ETIAS data for the prevention, detection or investigation of terrorism or other serious criminal offences. Designated authorities and Europol have the right to re-request access to the ETIAS when they have reasonable grounds to believe that such access will help them in carrying out their duties.



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