

# schengen.insure



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# 1



## About Schengen zone



## What is the Schengen zone?

Schengen zone refers to the EU passport-free zone that covers most of the European countries. It's the largest free travel area in the world, it describes an area including 26 European countries where everyone can freely travel, crossing borders of the member countries in any place without having to pass through border checks.

Although most of the Schengen zone members are also members of the European Union (EU), a few EU countries are not members of the Schengen zone. Moreover, there are a few Schengen zone members who are not members of the EU. Apart from the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, no other country outside of the European continent is part of the Schengen Area or has signed the Schengen Agreement.

For differences between EU, Schengen and the rest of Europe see the [map](#).

For details on the selected country, see [Chapter 2](#) of our brochure.

## What is a Schengen Visa and do I need it?

The basic rules regarding the Schengen visa are described in the Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) where it is said that citizens of certain countries, which have yet not reached a visa-liberalization agreement with the Schengen member states, need a valid visa to visit any country that is member of the Schengen zone. This is necessary also if one is only traveling through a country in the zone. A Schengen visa is a short-stay visa that allows a person to travel to any members of the Schengen Area, per stays up to 90 days for tourism or business purposes. The Schengen visa enables its holder to enter, freely travel within, and leave the Schengen zone from any of the Schengen member countries, there are no border controls within the Schengen Zone.

However, if you are planning to study, work, or live in one of the Schengen countries for more than 90 days, then you must apply for a national visa of that European country and not a Schengen Visa.

## Schengen Visa types

### UNIFORM SCHENGEN VISAS (USV)

The Uniform Schengen Visa stands for a permit of one of the Schengen Area Member Countries to transit or reside in the desired territory for a certain period of time up to the maximum of 90 days every six month period starting from the date of entry. According to the purpose of traveling the Uniform Schengen Visa applies to all of the two categories, "A" and "C".

"A" (Airport Transit Visa) allows its holder to enter the Schengen zone only when changing flights at any Schengen airport on the way from one non-Schengen country to another.

"C" category stands for a Short-term visa which allows its holder to reside in a Schengen Area for a certain period of time depending on the visa validity. The most common type of visa is divided into several categories.



### Single-entry visa

Allows you to enter the Schengen area only once. Don't be confused by the word "single", it doesn't confine you to a single country. The holder can travel all around the Schengen zone without restrictions, crossing borders as he or she wishes.



### Double-entry visa

is basically the same type of visa, except that you can enter the Schengen area twice.



### Multiple-entry visa

Allows its holder to go in and out of the Schengen Area as many times as he or she wants, as soon as they do not violate the 90/180 rule (you are not allowed to spend more than 90 days in the Schengen area for a period of 180 days).

## National Visas

This type is designated for people who want to study, work or live permanently in one Schengen country. Similar to the Uniform Schengen Visa, it is divided to single and multiple entry variants, with the latter allowing its holder to travel freely throughout the Schengen zone without additional visa requirements.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals



The documents you need to provide when entering the Schengen Area are as follows:

**VALID PASSPORT** – issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU.

**SCHENGEN VISA** – if you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#).

Other information and documents such as **travel insurance** (you can buy it online [here](#)), sufficient funds, proof of accommodation, etc.





## Other services you will need in Schengen

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

you will definitely need it to obtain a visa. Rules and conditions regarding Schengen visa are clearly stated in the Visa code. According to it, valid insurance must have a minimum coverage limit of 30 000 EUR and has to cover all the necessary healthcare costs related to illnesses, accidents or death. It also must be valid for the whole duration of the stay and cover repatriation costs of the insured person or his / her body.

You can easily buy the online insurance from Schengen Insure – try our smart order form. Save time and money and get your coverage in just a few minutes. You will receive all the necessary documents via e-mail and after obtaining visa, you are free to depart on your journey to Europe.

[NEED INSURANCE? click here](#)

### ACCOMMODATION

If you plan to spend your holiday in one place or if you plan to travel within different Schengen countries, you can book your hotel on our website – just [click here](#).

### GET AROUND

There are many ways to move around the Schengen countries, for the best offers [click here](#)

**Flights** – Low-cost airlines operate throughout Europe and flying is often the cheapest way to hop between cities.

**Train** – There are high-speed trains linking cities all across Europe. The most cost-effective option is a Eurail or Interrail Pass, which offers unlimited train travel. Passes are available for individual countries or you can get a Global Pass valid in 33 countries. There's also the Eurostar train between England and France.

**Bus** – Most countries operate their own nationwide bus companies. **Eurolines** and **Flixbus** operate low-cost long-distance bus services to 29 European countries.

**Ridesharing** – **Uber**, **BlaBlaCar**, **Liftago** and **Bolt** are available in many European cities on your smartphone and they offer all-in-one transport solution for everybody.

## TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAVELLERS:

# Best time to visit the TOP places in Europe

## JANUARY

Time to visit Swiss, Austrian, Italian or French and other European mountains with their great places for skiing, snowboarding and hiking.



**KITZBÜHEL, TIROL GERMANY** – The small medieval town and its ski resort (where every year professional skiers reach speeds of 140 kmph in front of about 60,000 spectators every January) offers 185 km of ski slopes. In addition to great off-piste action, you can follow the 35-kilometre circuit to take in some of the equally delightful surrounding villages and areas.

**ABISKO, SWEDEN** – This is the season to look for the Northern Lights and Abisko is one of the best winter destinations in Europe to find them. Due to its location, the Abisko National Park offers the most reliably clear skies and, therefore, one of the highest success rates of spotting the aurora borealis.

## FEBRUARY

**VENICE, ITALY** – The Carnival of Venice starts annually around two weeks before Ash Wednesday and finishes on Shrove Tuesday (Martedì Grasso or Fat Tuesday). There are fantastic costumes displayed in St Mark's Square and Venice Carnival on boats, incredible shows, music and lots of fun.

**ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND** – This ski resort in the centre of the Swiss Alps offers lot of natural beauty. Nevertheless, it's also decorated with boutique shops, museums, galleries, spas, grand hotels and nightclubs. Festivals in February include White Surf and Turf, as well as Ice Cricket featuring world champions.

## MARCH

**ATHENS, GREECE** – With mild temperatures, fresh and sunny days for exploring ancient monuments, Athens offers some of the best weather in Europe in March. Greek Independence Day on the 25th collides with the religious holiday of The Annunciation. Festivities start already the day before and it's an exceptional opportunity to see traditional dress, military marching bands and the country's dignitaries and even the

president. Visiting Athens in March give you chance to see the real town without crowds of tourists.

**LES 3 VALLÉES, FRANCE** – To prolong the skiing season visit Les 3 Vallées. The largest ski resorts offer up to 600 kilometres of slopes (Les 3 Vallées – Val Thorens/Les Menuires/Méribel/Courchevel). The highest ski resorts for skiing in Europe extend up to an altitude of 3,899 metres.

## APRIL

**ROME, ITALY** – Agreeable temperatures are perfect for visiting the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain and beautiful piazzas or the famous Spanish Steps decorated with hundreds of azaleas.

**VATICAN** – The right place to spend Holy Week. Among numerous events is the Easter Sunday Holy Mass, held by Pope Francis in Saint Peter's Square. To have a chance to visit a Papal Mass, you have to reserve free tickets several months beforehand.

**KEUKENHOF, THE NETHERLANDS** – Keukenhof Tulip Gardens are a very popular place to admire thousands of blooming tulips in full bloom and even learn how to arrange flowers.



## MAY

**BRUSSEL, BELGIUM** – The yearly Iris Festival in Brussels brings the party. There are free outdoor concerts, workshops, events and organised activities across the city. But that's not all, there is also Brussels Jazz Weekend – free festival, three days of concerts on many unique locations. There is also the music in open air outdoors, for instance at Saint Catherine's Square or Grand Place. Apart from that, there are dozens of bars and clubs that offer fantastic jazz in all size and shapes

**PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC** – Spring International Music Festival takes place in May with more than 50 performances ranging from orchestral to chamber to contemporary music. Concerts held throughout the city require advance ticket purchases, so plan ahead. Sales typically begin in December. Do not miss majestic Prague Castle, the Gothic marvel of Charles Bridge, cobbled streets or the Old Town Square famous for the Prague Astronomical Clock.

## JUNE

**BASEL, SWITZERLAND** – ART Basel is the largest international art fair and presents works from about 300 galleries. It is possible to see everything from sculptures, photographs and installations to artistic live performances there.

**PARIS, FRANCE** – There are many outdoor attractions including the gardens of Versailles and of course the Eiffel Tower so June is an ideal month to visit for the best conditions and longest daylight hours to enjoy all of that.

## JULY

**SALZBURG, AUSTRIA** – In July begins the annual Salzburg festival and brings more than 200 events featuring operas, concerts and theatre into the town.

**NORWAY** – July is the best time for experiencing Norway's fjords by land or sea. The pleasant weather is ideal for outdoor activities, fjord cruises, and loads of food and music-themed festivals taking advantage of the Midnight Sun.

## AUGUST

**VALENCIA SPAIN** – Valencia is home to some of the best beaches to visit to enjoy sun, surf and sand in Spain. As a premium, the nearby town of Buñol hosts one of Spain's most famous festivals – La Tomatina.

**AKUREYRI, ICELAND** – Escape the crowds and explore more remote areas like Akureyri Iceland's scenic second city. Visit the Lystigarðurinn (arctic botanical gardens), the Museum of Industry or the unforgettable Davíðshús (the museum and home of the late poet Davíð Stefánsson).

## SEPTEMBER

**LISBON, PORTUGAL** – This city is charismatic and vibrant and the food is amazing, it offers from culture to architecture, and nightlife. Visit the Basílica da Estrela. It is one of the most ornate churches in Lisbon and a great opportunity to enjoy the view from the rooftop. City surroundings are stunning as well. Only a short train or bus ride away, there are nice sandy beaches or nice cities like Peniche, Evora and Cascais.

**THE LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE** – Rich vineyards, the gorgeous, opulent aristocratic chateaux, beautiful and lively towns. These are the reasons why the entire region is an enormous UNESCO World Heritage Site. Travel through the countryside for tastings of outstanding wines (red, white, rosé and sparkling) and you can cycle around Orléans on the 800-kilometre Loire à Vélo Cycle Path.

## OCTOBER

**MUNICH, GERMANY** – Of all the European cities to visit in October, Munich is at the top of the list for the famous Oktoberfest. The Oktoberfest is the world's largest Volksfest (beer festival and travelling funfair). Held annually in Munich, it is a folk festival running from mid- or late September to the first Sunday in October.

Just a couple of hours from the big city is easy to see fairy tale castles, medieval villages and glow with autumnal golds, in the Bavarian Alps. This is a great opportunity to enjoy one of the world's most beloved festivals, while also discovering beautiful landscapes.

**KEFALONIA, GREECE** – The touristic season of August is already off and the hot weather becomes more pleasant. The largest of the Ionian islands offers the Feast of Our Lady, the Festival of Choral Singing, the Feast of Theotokos and more, so it's among the best islands to visit in Greece in September.

## NOVEMBER

**MADRID SPAIN** – The mild weather makes chance to appreciate great art in the city's best museums and galleries and to spend some time strolling around outdoors and relaxing in parks. Do not miss the world-class museum as The Prado Museum has a collection of more than 8,000 paintings

and 700 sculptures, Plaza Mayor – the heart of the city's historic district or Palacio Real (Royal Palace), the residence of the Spanish monarchy

**COPENHAGEN, DENMARK** – The principle of hygge includes creating a warm, nice, atmosphere and enjoying the nice things in life with people around you. Copenhagen is one of the best places to visit in Europe during November. Hygge is all about warming up in picturesque cafes with hot mulled wine, mini pancakes and good conversation.

Or you can travel back in time at the Hubertus Hunt. One of the best places to watch the seasons change is the Deer Park. In November you can spice up your visit by experiencing the annual Hubertus Hunt – an 11 km historic horseback race with 32 obstacles.

## DECEMBER

**Time to visit Christmas markets in Europe.**



**VIENNA, AUSTRIA** – From November to Christmas, Vienna's prettiest squares change into magical Christmas markets. The aroma of hot punch and Christmas bakery items creates a pre-Christmas atmosphere. „Vienna Magic of Advent“ is one of the most well-known Christmas Markets which turns the City Hall Square into a shining fairy tale land.

**BUDAPEST, HUNGARY** – Advent Feast at the Basilica in Budapest, starting on November. Besides the 200 different programs and handcrafted products in around 100 stalls, a selection of international foods and drinks are on offer along Zrínyi Street

**STRASBOURG, FRANCE** – Strasbourg's Christmas Market belongs among the oldest ones in Europe. It is now set up in the heart of the Grandelle, a UNESCO world heritage site. There are around 300 charming wooden stalls set up in the historic centre.

**POZNAN, POLAND** – Poznan Christmas market chalets line the cobbled streets of the Old Market Square and Plac Wolności where are offered freshly grilled Polish specialties from open fires, potato stuffed pierogis with classic smoked Polish cheese, vegetarian soups and warming vodka.

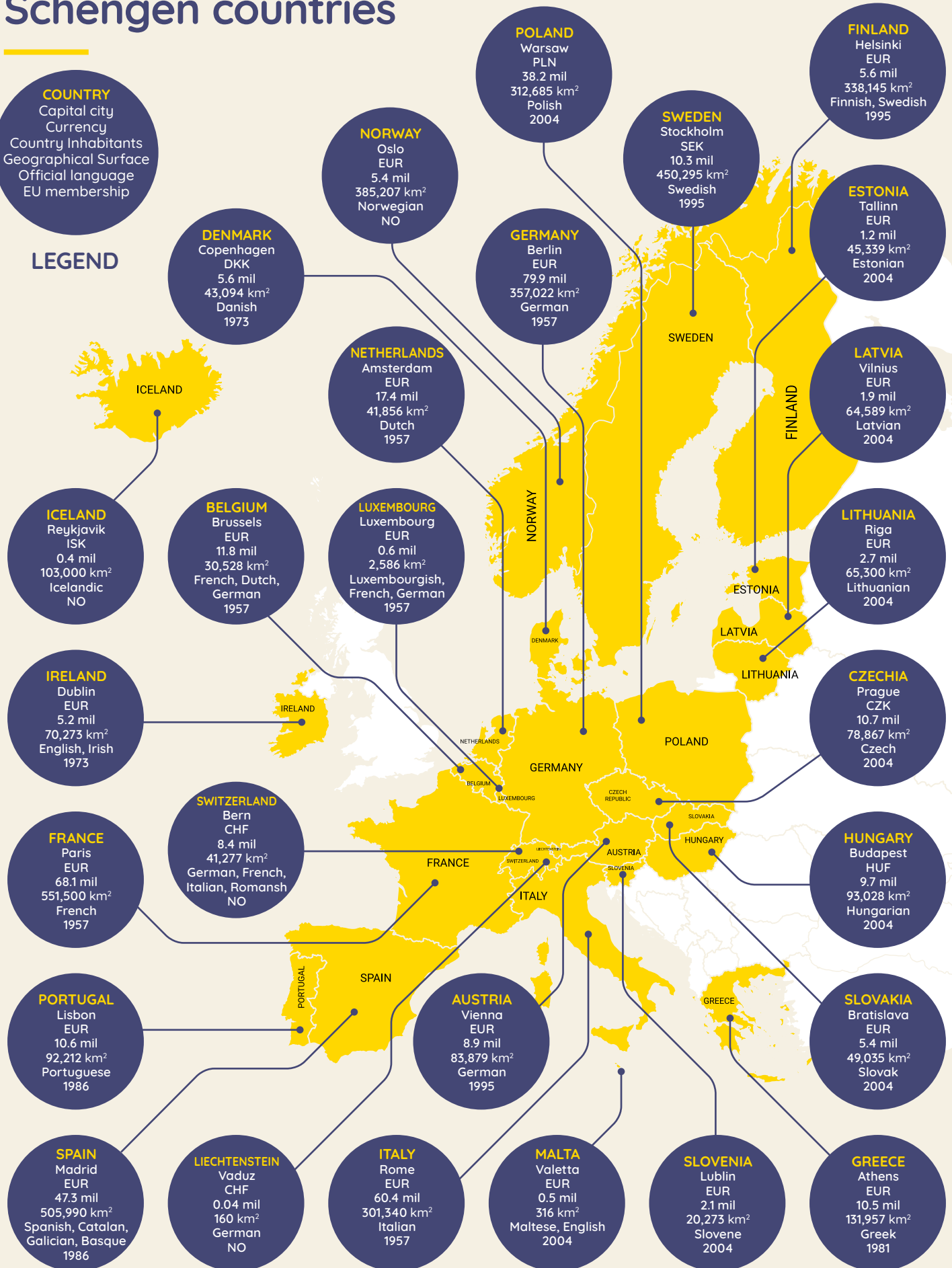
**ERFURT, GERMANY** – Erfurt's Christmas Market is located in the medieval town of Erfurt and is one of the loveliest in Germany. The Cathedral Square area creates a magical Advent atmosphere.



## Schengen countries

**COUNTRY**  
Capital city  
Currency  
Country Inhabitants  
Geographical Surface  
Official language  
EU membership

### LEGEND





# 2



## Schengen countries



## Austria

Austria, officially the Republic of Austria, is a landlocked East Alpine country in the southern part of Central Europe. It is composed of nine federated states, one of which is Vienna, Austria's capital and its largest city. It is bordered by Germany to the northwest, the Czech Republic to the north, Slovakia to the northeast, Hungary to the east, Slovenia and Italy to the south, and Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the west. Austria occupies an area of 83,879 km<sup>2</sup> (32,386 sq mi) and has a population of nearly 9 million people. Austria is a largely mountainous country because of its location in the Alps. Foreign travellers have been able to apply for the Austrian Schengen Visa since 1997 when Austria as an EU Member State also became a member state of the Schengen Area. More than 70 % of Austria's population were registered as Roman Catholic.



## About Austria

### AUSTRIA'S CUISINE

Austria's cuisine is derived from that of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Austrian cuisine is mainly the tradition of Royal-Cuisine delivered over centuries. It is famous for its well-balanced variations of beef and pork and countless variations of vegetables. In addition to native regional traditions, the cuisine has been influenced by Hungarian, Czech, Polish, Jewish, Italian, Balkan and French cuisines, from which both dishes and methods of food preparation have often been borrowed. The Austrian cuisine is therefore one of the most multicultural and transcultural in Europe.

### WELL-KNOWN AUSTRIANS

Niki Lauda is a former Formula One driver who was three times F1 World Champion, winning in 1975, 1977 and 1984. Arnold Schwarzenegger is a well-known Austrian and American actor and former politician who served as the Governor of California from 2003 to 2011.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Austria under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Austria. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Austrian border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Austrian Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Austria and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Austria that fulfil Austrian Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Austrian Embassies and Consulates worldwide.

### Other documents:

**Two photos** of passport format

Proof of **accommodation** – Hotel reservation for the whole duration of the intended stay in Austria. Find and Book Cheap Hotels in Austria!

Proof of **sufficient financial** means for the period of stay in Austria (e.g. a personal bank statement)

A cover letter in which you state the purpose of visit to Austria and you present a detailed **trip itinerary**.

### Helpful links

[Austrian Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Austria](#)





## Belgium

The official name of Belgium is the Kingdom of Belgium, it is a federal constitutional monarchy.

Belgium lies in Western Europe and borders the Netherlands in the north, Germany and Luxembourg in the east, France in the south, and the Northwest border on the Northwest coast. The capital Brussels is also the capital of the European Union. Belgium is the land of the famous geographer Mercator, the painter Brueghel, and they also invented the first saxophone here. The population is divided into two large groups – Walloons and Flemish.

The most numerous population group is the Flemish (58%), then the Walloons (31%). The remaining 11% are French, Germans and Italians, followed by immigrants from Turkey, Morocco, Algeria and other countries. Approximately 60% of the population speak Dutch, French 40%, German less than 1%. Belgium is a predominantly Christian country, with Roman Catholics about 88%, Muslims 2.5%, other Christians 2.4%, the rest are atheists.



## About Belgium

### BELGIAN CUISINE

was influenced by German, French and Dutch cuisine. Belgium is known for its chocolate, beer, french fries and waffles. The ingredients used include potatoes, leeks, asparagus, butter, dairy products, meat, fish or shrimp.

**French fries** are often considered the national dish of Belgium. French fries have spread all over the world from Belgium, but in English, for example, they are known as French fries. The name probably comes from American soldiers who passed through Belgium during World War II, and the locals (French-speaking) served them fries.

**Belgian chocolate** is known all over the world. For example, pralines or chocolate bars were invented in Belgium, and so-called seafood (chocolate candies in the shape of seafood) are also popular. Well-known Belgian chocolate manufacturers include Côte d'Or, Leonidas, Guylian or Neuhaus.

**Waffles** are another popular dish in Belgium. It is a dessert made of sourdough or unleavened dough, baked between two irons with typical lattice.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Belgium under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Belgium. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Belgian border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



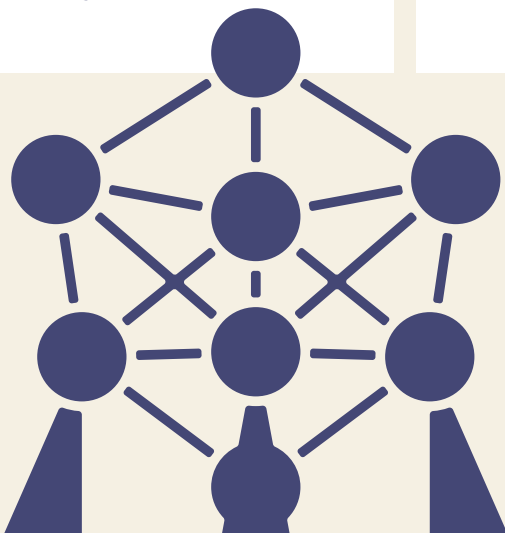
### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Belgian Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Belgium and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Belgium that fulfil Belgian Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Belgian Embassies and Consulates worldwide.



### Helpful links

[Belgian Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)  
[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

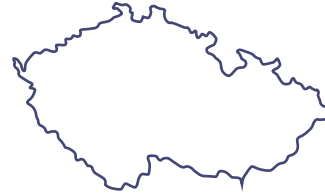
[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Belgium](#)



## Czechia

Czechia is a landlocked country located in the middle of the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere in the central part of Europe and occupies the territory of the historical lands of Bohemia, Moravia and parts of Silesia. The state border forms a neighbourhood with Poland (761.8 km), Germany (810.3 km), Austria (466.3 km) and Slovakia (251.8 km). A region of rolling hills and mountains, Bohemia is dominated by the national capital, Prague. Set on the Vltava River, this picturesque city of bridges and spires is the unique work of generations of artists brought in by the rulers of Bohemia. Perhaps only the French are as focused on their capital, Paris, as the Czechs are on theirs; of the two, Prague has a more magical quality for many. Called "the handsomest city of Europe" since the 18th century, it has intoxicated writers, poets, and musicians alike. While Prague was the birthplace of the writer Franz Kafka and the poet Rainer Maria Rilke, Brno, Moravia's largest city, was the site of Gregor Mendel's groundbreaking genetic experiments in the 19th century and the birthplace of contemporary novelist Milan Kundera. Moravians are as proud of their vineyards and wine as Bohemians are of their breweries and the Pilsner beer that originated in the town of Plzeň (Pilsen), which is also noted as the site of the Škoda Works—a heavy industrial complex that originated with the Habsburg monarchy. Moravia was equally endowed with skilled labour, which helped make Brno into one of the leading industrial towns in textiles and engineering during the 19th century and Ostrava, in the north, into a major coal-mining region, thanks to the vast fossil fuel deposits stretching over from Silesia.



## About Czechia

### CZECH CUISINE

has both influenced and been influenced by the cuisines of surrounding countries and nations. Many of the cakes and pastries that are popular in Central Europe originated within the Czech lands. Contemporary Czech cuisine is more meat-based than in previous periods; the current abundance of farmable meat has enriched its presence in regional cuisine. Traditionally, meat has been reserved for once-weekly consumption, typically on weekends. The body of Czech meals typically consists of two or more courses; the first course is traditionally soup, the second course is the main dish, and the third course can include supplementary courses, such as dessert or compote. In the Czech cuisine, thick soups and many kinds of sauces, both based on stewed or cooked vegetables and meats, often with cream, as well as baked meats with natural sauces (gravies), are popular dishes usually accompanied with beer, especially Pilsner, that Czechs consume the most in the world. Czech cuisine is also very strong in sweet main courses and desserts, a unique feature in European cuisines.



## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Czechia under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Czechia. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Czech border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Czech Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Czechia and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Czechia that fulfil Czech Visa requirements can be purchased online from <https://www.pvzp.cz/en/> and it's accepted by Czech Embassies and Consulates worldwide.

## Third-country nationals (outside the EU) with visa requirements

### SHORT-STAY VISAS (for stays of up to 90 days)



They are visas that are valid for one or more entries and give the right to stay in the territory of the Schengen area for the period indicated in them. The length of the uninterrupted residence or the total length of successive stays in the territory of the Schengen area must not exceed 90 days within every 180 day period. It is necessary to distinguish between various purposes of stay (e.g. employment, family reunification, etc.). Short-stay visas are decided upon by the competent **embassies**. The application must be filed with a **Czech embassy** in the country of origin, or in another country where the applicant has either long-term or permanent residence. Some foreign nationals (e.g. US citizens) may apply for this type of visa at any Czech embassy.

<90 days

#### THE APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- **completed application** form for a Schengen visa
- **valid travel document**
- **photos**
- **supporting documents:**
  - documents supporting the purpose of residency (e.g. in the case of employment it is possible to provide an employment permit or reference number of the application for the issuance of employment permit)
  - documents relating to accommodation or evidence of sufficient resources for accommodation
  - documents demonstrating that the applicant has sufficient means of subsistence both for the duration of the intended stay as well as for the return
  - information allowing the embassy to assess the applicant's intention to leave the territories of the Member States before the termination of the applied-for visa (e.g. a booked return ticket)
- **proof of travel health insurance** (it does not need to be a comprehensive health insurance) from any insurance company on the market (PVZP exclusivity is not required for stays no longer than 90 days)

When filing the application, the applicant may be asked to have biometrics taken (fingerprints): this may be the case at those embassies which have the so-called **Visa Information System (VIS) running**.

### LONG-STAY VISAS (for stays exceeding 90 days)



Given the purpose of your stay in the Czech Republic, we distinguish long-stay visas for the purposes of business, family reunification, studies, exceptional leave to remain and other. The application can be filed with a **Czech embassy** in the country of origin, or in another country where the applicant has either long-term or permanent residence. Some foreign nationals (e.g. US citizens) may apply for this visa at any Czech embassy.

+90 days

In case of a visa application for an exceptional leave to remain, you apply **within Czech territory**.

#### THE APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- completed application form (black in color)
- valid travel document
- photos (if your picture is not to be taken as part of the biometrics)
- proof of accommodation during your stay in the territory
- travel health insurance in the extent of comprehensive product coverage for the duration of your stay exclusively from state insurance company PVZP, a.s. (it is required only from the PVZP insurance, as the Czech state monopoly arrangement)
- **upon request** – document comparable to proof of having no record in the Criminal records system (not for foreigners younger than 15 years of age), medical report that you do not suffer from a serious illness
- document confirming the purpose of the stay, i. e.
  - **for long-stay business visas** also the proof of entry to the trade register or trade list, and the means to stay in the territory
  - **for long-stay visas for the purpose of studies** a confirmation of admission to a program of study and the means to stay .

The decision will be issued within 90 days from the date of the submission of the application (in complex cases within 120 days). The validity period of long-stay visas is 6 months (during this time, the foreigner may apply for long-term residence permit in the Czech Republic).

### Helpful links

- [Czech Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)
- [Schengen insurance](#)
- [Schengen Visa Application Form](#)
- [Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Czechia](#)



# Denmark

The Kingdom of Denmark is a country located in northern Europe, which includes, in addition to Denmark itself, Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Denmark is the smallest Nordic country, located on a peninsula and several islands north of Poland and Germany, south of Norway and southwest of Sweden.

Denmark has a population of approximately 5.6 million and less than 600,000 live in the capital Copenhagen. About 90% of the population is Danish, the rest are immigrants, especially from Germany and other European countries. The Danes are gradually dying out, but thanks to immigrants, the population is still growing slightly. More than two thirds of them are from Turkey, Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, South and West Asia. Approximately 80% of the population professes to the Danish Church, which is one of the offshoots of Lutheran teaching.

Denmark has beautiful nature as well as a rich culture and history. Undoubtedly one of the most popular destinations is Copenhagen, which has a number of interesting monuments, museums and galleries. Copenhagen's two main sights include Tivoli Gardens and the Little Mermaid Statue. The Nyhavn area and the Christiania social colony are also popular with tourists. Next in line for Copenhagen is the Legoland theme park, which is located on the Jutland peninsula near the town of Billund. On the island of Zealand near Helsingor lies the famous Kronborg Castle, where William Shakespeare placed the plot of Hamlet. In the town of Odense on the island of Funen is the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen, but also other monuments, including the Cathedral of St. Knut from the 13th century. In the southern part of the island of Funen lies the famous Egeskov Slot water castle from the 16th century, which is one of the most beautiful in Europe.



## About Denmark

### DANISH CUISINE

Over the past 30 years, traditional Danish food has been re-invented as New Nordic Cuisine. It emphasises the use of local and seasonal ingredients and is a hit with both local and international foodies.

### WHAT IS TRADITIONAL DANISH FOOD?

Traditional Danish food is based on what was historically available nearby or could be farmed during Denmark's short summers. Cabbage and root vegetables like beets were an important part of the diet, along with rye bread, fish, and pork.

Open-faced sandwiches, known as smørrebrød, are among the best-known examples of traditional Danish cuisine. These small half-pieces of rye bread are topped with fried fish, pickled fish, eggs, potatoes, or cold meat, and sometimes horseradish and onion.

They are eaten at lunchtime, either as part of a packed lunch or in a company canteine.

Larger traditional meals are often based on fish or pork, sometimes ground and fried as meatballs. The „national dish of Denmark“ is stegt flæsk – pieces of pork, fried until crisp, and then served with boiled potatoes and parsley sauce.

Ironically, the tasty frosted pastries known to much of the world as „Danish“ are not Danish at all. They originated in Austria, and are known to the Danes themselves as „Viennese bread.“



## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Denmark under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Denmark. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Danish border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Danish Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Denmark and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Denmark that fulfil Danish Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Danish Embassies and Consulates worldwide.



## Required documents for a Denmark Visa Application



### The following list of documents are required in order to obtain a Denmark visa:

- **Download the application form**, fill it completely and with sincerity. You can also fill the Denmark Schengen Visa application form electronically and then print a hard-copy.
- **2 photos** must be attached; the photo should be of passport format – a recent whole-face capture with a light background.
- **Your passport and copies of your previous visas** – valid for at least 3 months beyond return date – are required. Your passport must have at least two blank pages.
- **Travel health insurance** confirmation of minimum 30,000 € coverage within Denmark and the entire Schengen area
- **A cover letter stating the purpose of visit to Denmark** and itinerary
- **Flight Itinerary** with dates and flight numbers specifying entry and exit from Denmark
- **Hotel Reservation** for the whole duration of the intended stay in Denmark.
- **Proof of civil status** (marriage certificate, birth certificate of children, death certificate of spouse, ration card if applicable)
- **Means of subsistence** – Proof of sufficient financial means for the period of stay in Denmark

#### PASSPORT VALIDITY

**Check your passport is valid for travel** before you book your trip, and renew your passport if you do not have enough time left on it.

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe (not including Ireland).

If you renewed your current passport before the previous one expired, extra months may have been added to its expiry date. Any extra months on your passport over 10 years may not count towards the 6 months needed.

#### WARNING!

Greenland and the Faroe Islands aren't members of the European Union.

### Helpful links

[Danish Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Denmark](#)



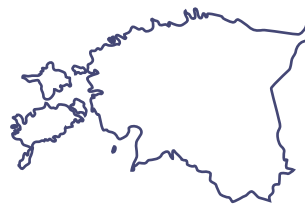


## Estonia

Estonia is a state in northern Europe with an area of 45,339 km<sup>2</sup>, the northernmost of the Baltic countries. It is a coastal state whose border is largely formed by the Baltic Sea; The 80 km wide Gulf of Finland in the north separates them from Finland, approximately 300 km in the west separates them from Sweden. Estonia has a land border in the east with Russia, but most of this border passes through the vast Lake Peipsi. The longest land border is in the south with Latvia. The capital is Tallinn, located on the north coast.

Estonians make up about 70% of the population. Minorities come from various parts of the former Soviet Union, mainly from Russia. The Finnish minority also lives here. The official language is Estonian, most people speak Russian. Most of the population is without religion.

Estonia joined the EU and NATO in the spring of 2004, and the OECD at the end of 2010. From 1.1. 2011 is paid in euros in Estonia.



## About Estonia

### ESTONIAN CUISINE

Estonian cuisine is historically based on simple and rich peasant food. It is therefore based on pork, sausages, potatoes, sauerkraut and rye bread, and in coastal areas also on fish. From fish, trout, perch, zander, plaice or pike are available, but the most typical are herring and sprats.

Just as Scandinavians, Estonians like wild berries, they also pick mushrooms. For the winter, cucumbers and other vegetables are picked and jams are cooked. Common ingredients in dishes are sour cream, dill and horseradish. The most popular drinks are beer and vodka.

Over time, the local gastronomy has also absorbed the influences of Russian, Scandinavian or German cuisine and the menu has expanded significantly, with various ethnic restaurants gradually opening in large cities.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Estonia under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Estonia. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Estonian border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Estonian Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Estonia and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Estonia that fulfil Estonian Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Estonian Embassies and Consulates worldwide.







## Entry conditions and residence permits for Estonia



Different rules about residence and work in Estonia apply to **citizens of the EU** and to **citizens of third countries**. The length of their stay also influences which rules they must follow.

**A CITIZEN OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**, of a member state of the European Union Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss Confederation – **herein EU citizen**.

**A CITIZEN OF A THIRD COUNTRY** – **herein non-EU citizen** or **citizen of a third country**.

### EU CITIZENS

have the right to enter Estonia without a visa, but if they stay for more than 3 months, they must register their place of residence and apply for an ID card. By registering their place of residence, they obtain the right for temporary residence.

Citizens of third countries need legal grounds to stay in Estonia. For short-stay visits (up to 12 months) they may need a visa. For longer stays (more than 12 months) they need a temporary residence permit (for study, employment or employment for research purposes) (valid up to 5 years) or a long-term residence permit (termless).

### FOR CITIZENS OF THIRD COUNTRIES

- **Short stay <12 months** – you will need a **visa**: a Schengen visa (type C) (valid for 90 days during 180 days period) or a long-stay visa (type D) (valid up to 12 months!)
- **Longer stay >12 months** – you will need a temporary **residence permit** for study (PhD students), employment or employment for research purposes (valid up to 5 years)

<12  
month

>12  
month

### APPLICATIONS FOR:

- **Short-stay visas** (Schengen visa (type C) must be submitted **personally** to a **diplomatic representation of the Republic of Estonia** or to a **diplomatic representation of another country** (see link for list) that represents Estonia.

### APPLICATION FOR:

- **Temporary residence permits** (for study, employment, employment for research purposes) and
- **Long-stay visas** (type D) must be submitted to a diplomatic **representation of the Republic of Estonia**. Or, if the third country citizen is already in Estonia on legal grounds (e.g. short-stay visa (type C)), he/she can apply for a long-stay visa (type D) at a **Service Office** of the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB).

## Helpful links

[Estonian Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

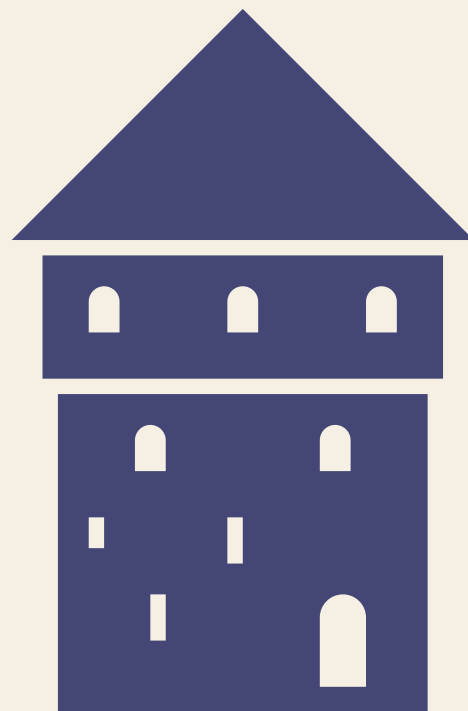
[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Estonia](#)



## Finland

The official name of the country is the Republic of Finland. Finland is the seventh largest country in the world, it is called the Land of Thousand Lakes, a quarter of the country lies beyond the Arctic Circle. On the southwest coast is the largest European archipelago, which includes the municipality of Åland.

Finland is a land of thousands of lakes and islands and beautiful nature. In the south of the country there are beautiful national parks, endless forests, several pleasant cities that are worth a visit (Helsinki, Lahti, Kerimäki, Kuopio). In the capital Helsinki, even from the very center of the metropolis, you can take the ubiquitous cycle paths in a few minutes to city parks, forests and countless bays of the sea and quickly forget that you are in a city with a million inhabitants. The amount of greenery probably has no competition in this city in Europe.

- There are 187,888 lakes and 179,584 islands in Finland.
- At the northern end of Finland, in summer the sun does not set for 73 days and does not rise in 51 days in winter.
- Finnish design and architecture are among the world-famous arts. Finnish design has become a concept created by its strong traditions, originality, style, high-quality materials and erudite craftsmanship.
- The education system is one of the best in the world.



## About Finland

### FINNISH CUISINE

Finnish cuisine has many elements in common with the cuisines of the countries to which Finland belonged for some time, ie the cuisines of Sweden and Russia, but it also has a number of its own specifics. Basic foods include meat and fish, potatoes, vegetables (eg cabbage or turnips), mushrooms and a variety of fruits such as cranberries, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, blackberries, wild strawberries or sea buckthorn. Homemade juices and jams from these fruits are common. Wholegrain products (rye, barley, oats) are often used, and milk and buttermilk are popular. At breakfast, a good portion of porridge (puuro) is usually served on the tables, served with milk, sugar and butter or kiissel (see below), and muesli and cereals are also consumed a lot. Even after Finland's accession to the European Union (1995), food in the country is relatively expensive compared to the rest of Europe.

Pork, beef, chicken and lamb are the most consumed of meat. About a third of the meat is eaten in the form of sausages (makkara), which are mostly based on pork. Roasting macaques on a fire in nature is one of the national passions, and Finnish mustard (sinappi) is also excellent. Finns also have a long tradition in hunting and fishing, so reindeer meat (even in restaurants), moose (more in households), hares, ducks and grouse also get on their plate. Of course, fish soups are also common.

Access to the Baltic Sea and thousands of lakes allow for the widespread use of fish. Prim plays salmon, for example in the form of a cold smoked slice (lox), which is usually placed on a bagel with cream cheese, tomato, onion and capers. Or it is served in the form of raw salmon meat with dill and lemon juice (graavilohi, Swedish gravlax). A common appetizer is smoked or pickled herring. Other fish are also popular in Finland (zander, pike, perch). It is also worth mentioning whitefish and caviar prepared from its eggs, cod, marenas, eels and also crayfish.

Finnish bread is the basis of Finnish cuisine, served with almost every meal. It is made from various types of grain such as barley, oats, rye or wheat. But the most popular is clearly ruislepä, a dark sour rye bread with a high fiber content. Finnish rye bread is not as moist as German and is not as sweet as in Sweden. There are also a number of types of flat breads (rieska). Common is näkkileipä, better known in our country under the German name knäckebröt, a thin crispy cracker made of rye flour.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Finland under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Finland. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Finnish border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Finnish Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you **have travel and health insurance** for Finland and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Finland that fulfil Finnish Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Finnish Embassies and Consulates worldwide.



## To apply for a visa you need the following



1. The **visa application form** completed and signed
2. **One photograph**  
Include a colour photograph from which you are recognizable.
3. **A passport**  
Make sure your passport is valid for at least three (3) months after the end of your intended travel and that it has been issued no later than ten (10) years ago.
4. **Travel insurance**  
Your travel insurance must be in force for the period of the validity of the applied visa and cover the entire Schengen area. The minimum coverage of the policy must be EUR 30,000 and the insurance must cover expenses arising from a sudden illness and accident (also the patient's repatriation) and repatriation expenses in case of death.
5. **Supporting documents**  
As the required appendices vary by country, contact the mission to make sure which ones you need. The mission may request that you append certain documents to the application to show the purpose, conditions and duration of the visit. Examples of such documents are tickets, a confirmation of hotel reservation, a private invitation letter and an official invitation. In addition to the above, you may be asked to provide information concerning the itinerary, means of transport, return trip, financial means of support and assets and employment. The applicant must have proof of sufficient financial means to cover the duration and purpose of the stay and the cost of living in the country. In Finland a minimum of EUR 30 a day is required.
6. **Parental consent is required for minors**  
Unaccompanied minor children need a parental consent for their travel.
7. **Interview**  
The mission may also ask you for a personal interview to find out about the purpose of your visit.

Even if you did not need a visa to visit Finland, you need a valid passport or some other travel document accepted by Finland. It must be valid for at least ninety days after your intended date of departure from the Schengen area.

In addition, the passport or other travel document must have been issued no later than ten years ago.

In case you do not need a visa, you can stay in Finland or in the territory of other Schengen state for ninety days in any 180-day period.

Upon arrival in Finland, you must meet the general entry requirements according to which a person must not constitute a danger to public order and security, national health, or Finland's international relations.

### Helpful links

[Finnish Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Finland](#)





## France

France with its area of about 550 thousand km<sup>2</sup> (mainland only) is one of the largest countries in Europe and at the same time, thanks to its rich history and culture, with many monuments it is one of the most visited destinations in Europe. In addition, its coast is washed by the Atlantic Sea in the west, the English Channel and the North Sea in the north, as well as the Mediterranean Sea in the south. Popular coastal regions with high attendance include Brittany, Normandy, Aquitaine or Provence and the Côte d'Azur. In the south of the territory lies the French Alps with the highest point in Western Europe Mont Blanc 4,810 m.n.m. Other mountainous regions include the Pyrenees, the Central Massif, the Jura or the Ardennes and others. The largest French rivers are the Loire, Rhone, Seine and part of the Rhine. The longest French river is the Loire.

The capital Paris is one of the largest metropolises on the entire European continent and has a population of 12 million, incl. agglomerations. Other large and well-known French cities are Marseille, Lyon, Nice, Strasbourg, Bordeaux and others.



## About France

### FRENCH CUISINE

France is also a culinary power, where their cuisine is considered one of the most cultured and elegant styles of cooking in the world. The way food is prepared has significantly affected many cuisines of Western countries. The French are famous gourmets and are very passionate about good and quality food and wine. The most popular ingredients in cooking are fresh dishes in the form of processed meat, fish, vegetables, rice and pasta, as well as seafood and other specialties such as frog legs, truffles, sausages, dried ham and delicious cheeses.

From the dishes typical of the whole of France, we can mention the popular snails, which are a national delicacy, as well as pâtés, which are served warm, and of course, no meal should be missing from any dish. It is customary to cut it into pieces that are offered to guests on a tray. Famous is the roquefort cheese or roquefort, named after the town of Foquefort – sur – Soulzon, in whose huge cellars the mold *Penicillium roqueforti* used to make cheese thrives.

### Famous wines, calvados and cognac

After we had a nice meal, it would be good to have a drink. French wines are world famous, such as red Beaujolais villages, Bordeaux, Saint-Emilion or white Pinot-blanc, Sancerre or pink Côtes de Provence and Sancerre rosé. The French are great connoisseurs and consumers of wine, it is customary to give it to every meal, often diluted with water, supplied for this purpose on the table separately in glass carafes. The French calvados brandy is also famous. It is made from apple cider in Normandy. French cognac is famous. His birthplace is the city of Cognac, after which he received the name, today a strictly guarded brand.

### Names of celebrities

The French musical tradition contains many famous names. From the classical music of C. Debussy, M. Ravel's operetta represents J. Offenbach and the French chansons E. Piaf and G. Bécaduc.

France is the cradle of film art. On December 28, 1895, the Lumière brothers screened the first films in Paris. The gallery of important actors is rich: J. Gabin, G. Philipe, J. Marais, A. Delon, G. Depardieu or B. Bardot.

In literary work, the French have been the bearers of progress for many generations: F. Voltaire, Molière, H. de Balzac, V. Hugo or JP Sartre (won the Nobel Prize in 1964), S. Beckett (1969), C. Simon (1985). The most famous literary figures are the three musketeers A. Dumas (st).

French painting has been at the forefront of European affairs since the end of the 19th century (C. Monet, P. Gauguin). Paris was the Mecca of artists from all over the world (M. Chagall, A. Modigliani, P. Picasso). A. Rodin became the father of modern sculpture.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to France under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in France. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

**The documents you need to present to the French border officer are as follows:**



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

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### Schengen Insurance

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## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals



Except for EU nationals, all citizens require a passport with three months' validity to enter France. EU nationals may present a valid national ID card instead.

Visa procedures for France are complicated and, as with all countries, changes do occur. The French [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) is your best source of current, detailed information. Holders of American, Canadian, British and other EU passports do not need visas for stays in France of up to three months. EU nationals do not need visas to live or work in France. Other passport holders may need to apply for appropriate visas. Visas and working papers must be obtained before you leave your home country. Residence cards are obtained after your arrival in France. Together, these papers represent the terms under which you may reside and work in France. Be aware that documents needed for official purposes often have to be translated into French.

A work visa is required if you are being sent to France by an overseas employer, and your anticipated stay is longer than your passport alone would allow. The employer usually must initiate the application process through the French Ministry of Labour. If the application is approved, the French Consulate in the country of origin will notify the assignee to continue the application process.

The full process takes two to three months. Materials required for application are extensive and subject to change: for current requirements, contact your nearest French consulate.

### Helpful links

[French Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

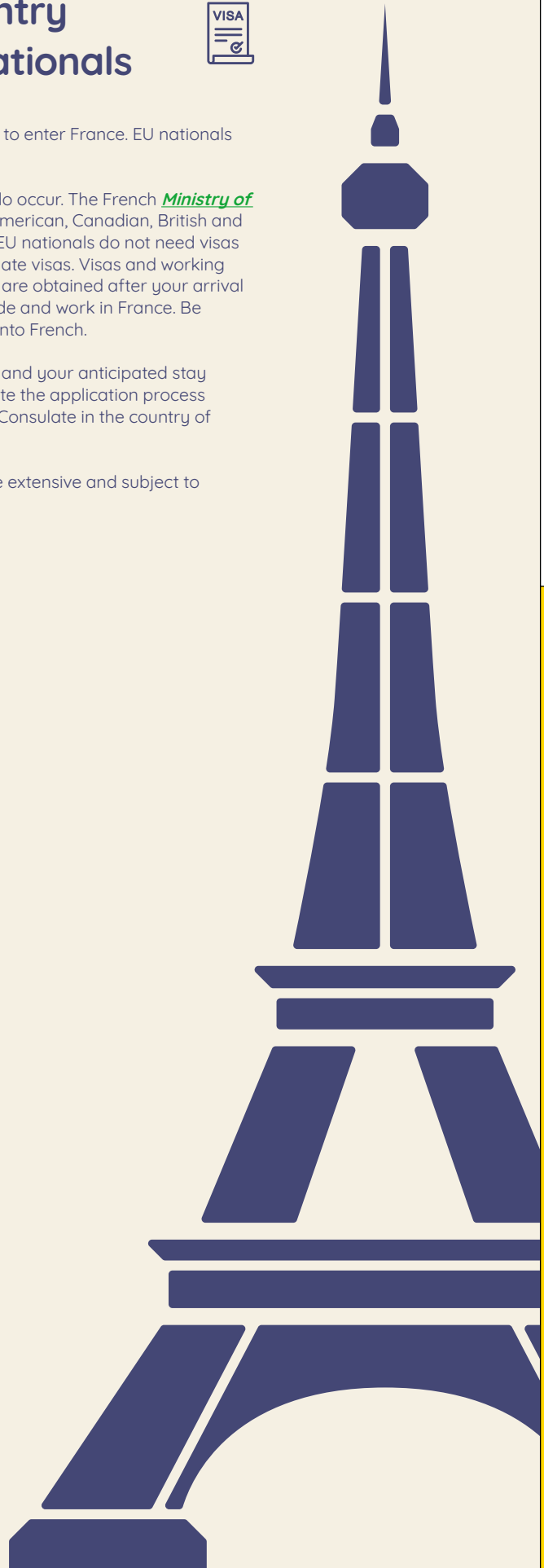
[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about France](#)





## Germany

The official name of Germany is the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesrepublik Deutschland).

Germany is a country at the intersection of Western and Central Europe. Its inland is divided into 16 constituent states that overall border several countries: Denmark to the north, the Czech Republic and Poland to the east, Austria and Switzerland to the south and the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France to the west. Germany is to be found between Baltic and North seas to the north and the Alps to the south with their highest point: Zugspitze (2,963 meters). Germany is Europe's largest economy and second most populous country and as such is the key member of European economic, political and defence organizations.

Germany's population is predominantly made of Germans (around 87%), followed by Turkish, Polish and Syrian and other nations that make up about 9% of the population. Christianity is the most represented religion in Germany, with about 28% being Roman Catholics and 26% Protestants. The rest then being Muslims (ca. 5%), Orthodox and others, around 38% then not being members of any religious organizations.



## About Germany

### GERMAN CUISINE

Differs from region to region thanks to being historically divided into many separate countries and nations, yet there are foods significant for the whole country.

**Meat** Around 99% of Germany's produced meat is chicken, beef or pork. Germans are known for their production of sausages that are produced in around 1,500 varieties, best known then being Weisswursts and Bratwursts.

**Pastry** Coming with meat is the overall love for bread and pastry. German bakeries produce about 600 different types of bread and 1200 types of other pastries and rolls known as Brötchen.

**Drinks** Germany is well known for its beer consumption including many festivals coming with it such as the worldwide known Oktoberfest. Other than beer is also wine becoming more and more popular especially in places close to German wine regions, mostly spread in southern-western areas.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Germany under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Germany. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the German border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the German Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Germany and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Germany that fulfil German Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by German Embassies and Consulates worldwide.





## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

Except for EU nationals, all citizens require a passport issued within the last 10 years and valid for at least three more months beyond their planned date of exit from Germany. Make sure your passport has at least two blank pages in order to affix the visa

EU nationals may present a valid national ID card instead. EU nationals do not require a visa to enter the Federal Republic of Germany.

### NON-EU NATIONALS



In principle, all other foreigners need a visa for stays in Germany. A visa is not required for visits of up to 90 days in a 180 day period for citizens of those countries for which the European Community has abolished the visa requirement. List of countries where visa are/are not required you can find [here](#)



According to new regulations following Brexit such as the pandemic situation the information for the Britons you can find on [Homepage of the German Missions in the United Kingdom](#).

Visas are issued by German embassies and consulates general.

Time required to process a visa application for a short stay visa it takes between two and ten working days. Applications for longer stay visas or to take up gainful employment may take several months to process.

Visa application forms can be obtained from the embassies and consulates-general free of charge (in the local language). Applicants may also download the forms on the official page of [Federal Foreign office](#).

Requirements for the issue of visas for longer stays and/or stays entitling the holder to take up gainful employment.

All foreigners require visas for stays of more than three months or stays leading to gainful employment. Exemptions apply to EU and EEA (European Economic Area) citizens and Swiss nationals. Citizens of all other countries which plan a longer stay in Germany must apply for visas before arriving in the country.

Do not forget to check the actual conditions for visiting Germany on official pages of [Federal Foreign Office](#).

### Helpful links

- [German Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)
- [Schengen insurance](#)
- [Schengen Visa Application Form](#)
- [Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Germany](#)





# Greece

The official name of Greece is Hellenic Republic. The country is located in the southern part of Europe, more specifically in the southern part of the Balkan Peninsula. Greece includes a large number of islands in the Mediterranean, Crete, Thrace, the Aegean and the Ionian. Neighboring countries are Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria and Turkey. Greece is washed by the Aegean, Ionian and Libyan Seas. The capital is Athens.

The country consists mainly of mountains and the state is one of the most mountainous in Europe. Among the most important is the Mount Olympus. The climate in Greece extends into three zones – temperate, mountainous and coastal. Depending on the climate, the weather and climate also depend.

Tourists visit mainly historical destinations, with the most popular being Athens, Olympia, Delphi, Athos and Thessaloniki. In Athens, they will visit the Dionysus Theater, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the Olympic Stadium. The Chalkidika peninsula attracts visitors not only with its clean beaches, but especially with the holy mountain Athos. A large number of foreigners will visit Mount Olympus, with which is associated the myth, according to which the Gods reside at its summit.

Crete and Corfu are among the popular Greek islands that have beautiful beaches and great nature.



## About Greece

### GREECE CUISINE

Greeks love to enjoy life, and food and drink is one of the manifestations of this use. Local people meet with friends and eat in restaurants quite regularly, regardless of social status. Greek cuisine is one of the best in the world and a number of local dishes have become well known abroad.

The Mediterranean climate allows for the cultivation of many agricultural crops, so the Greeks tolerate fresh ingredients, as is the case in other Mediterranean cuisines. The most characteristic and oldest ingredient is olive oil, which is contained in almost every meal. Olives (the most famous are black olives from the town of Kalamata), tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, zucchini, onions, potatoes, green beans and okra (edible hibiscus) are also widely used. Spices with a variety of herbs, probably the most typical are oregano, mint and nutmeg. There are a number of different types of bread, such as bread with olives – eliopsomo.

In terms of meat, sheep and goat meat are far more common than cattle, for which farming conditions are unfavorable in Greece. World-famous is feta cheese, cheese in brine from sheep's or goat's milk („Balkan“ cheese is our equivalent of feta). Of the other types of cheese, it is worth mentioning the graviér, which is very close to the Swiss gruyère and is made in Crete from sheep's milk, on other islands then from cow's milk. Kasseri is a semi-hard cheese mostly made from sheep's milk. Of course, fish dishes are quite common, especially on the coast. Yogurt is also popular, to which the famous Greek honey (eg thyme) is often added. Yogurt is made from sheep's milk, it is fatty and sweeter than the slightly more acidic yogurt from cow's milk.

Many types of fruit are grown in Greece – oranges, lemons, watermelons, peaches, grapes, but also species such as figs, prickly pear, locust and kiwi. However, fruit is still more expensive than salad vegetables.

Although the Greeks are not very much in love with the Turks, the influence of Turkish and Balkan cuisine, which is a remnant of the Ottoman Empire, is clearly evident in Greek cuisine. Interestingly, food was served lukewarm in Greece until recently, because the Greeks prefer it that way. An old joke says that the wife called her husband for lunch and said, „Come eat before the food warms you!“

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Greece under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Greece. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Greek border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



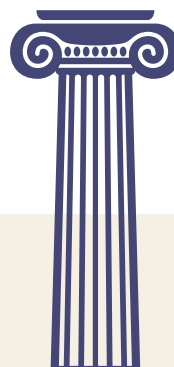
### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Hellenic Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you **have travel and health insurance** for Greece and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Greece that fulfil Greek Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Greek Embassies and Consulates worldwide.





## Passports and Visas



Greece is a Member-State of the European Union and has signed the **Schengen Agreement**. While traveling within the E.U., you only need your Identity card. However, a passport is necessary for a number of other transactions, such as currency exchange, purchases, etc.

Visas are not required by European citizens from countries that are part of the Schengen Area. Greece as a member of the Schengen Agreement, has abolished controls on common internal lands, at air and sea borders and allows Member-State citizens to travel around without a visa for a short stay period of up to three months. However, keep in mind that airlines and other carriers require a valid passport and/or identity card.

Citizens coming from countries that have not yet joined Schengen Area may require a visa to enter Greece. The E.U. visitors from these countries can acquire further information from the Hellenic Embassies or Consulates in their countries, or from their travel agencies. Before visiting Greece, please consult the detailed information on the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website](#) and find out whether you require a Visa.

**Note:** During your stay in Greece, if you require a Visa, you are advised to have suitable insurance coverage for emergency medical or other needs.

### Helpful links

[Greek Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Greece](#)





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## Hungary

Hungary is a popular tourist destination and is one of the most visited countries in the world. Numerous thermal baths invite you to relax. Magnificent Baroque towns alternate with old castles, nature is admired especially at Lake Balaton and in the bend of the river Danube. The capital Budapest is enjoying the greatest interest. Historical monuments (the magnificent parliament building, the Buda Castle, the Fisherman's Bastion) alternate with thermal baths at every turn, parks invite you to relax, cozy cafes and patisseries invite you to sit.



## About Hungary

Hungarians can hardly rely on their resemblance to their mother tongue when studying foreign languages. The Hungarian language area is rare and linguistically isolated; Within Central Europe, Hungarian is the only language that does not belong to the Indo-European language family. Hungarian is a Finno-Ugric language, as are Estonian and Finnish, but anyone who would expect a kinship and intelligibility between Hungarian and Finnish will be disappointed.

Hungarian music is as special as the Hungarian language. World-famous composers are Béla Bartók and Ferenc Liszt.

Hungarian cuisine is famous for using peppers in various dishes: goulash, halászlé, Czubay sausage. Sweet dishes, various cakes, pancakes, Dobos slices are also popular.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Hungary under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Hungary. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Hungarian border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Hungarian Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Hungary and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Hungary that fulfil Hungarian Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Hungarian Embassies and Consulates worldwide.





## Hungary Schengen Visa Application Requirements



Depending on the purpose of your travel to Hungary, there are different types of visas that will apply to the occasion. Whether you are planning to go on a visit, study or work and reside there permanently, you will have to apply for a different Hungarian Schengen Visa, accordingly.

You can apply for the Hungarian Schengen Visa since 2007 when Hungary as a **Member State of the European Union**, also became a member state of the Schengen Area.

General required documents for a Hungarian Visa Application:

- **Download the application form**, fill it completely and with sincerity. You can also fill the Hungary Schengen Visa application form electronically and then print a hard-copy.
- 2 photos must be attached; the photo should be of passport format – a recent whole-face capture with a light background.
- Your passport and copies of your previous visas – valid for at least 3 months beyond return date – are required. Your passport must have at least two blank pages.
- A copy of your return-ticket reservation. It is not recommended to purchase the ticket before obtaining the visa – if not otherwise required.
- **Travel visa insurance** confirmation of minimum 30,000 € coverage within Hungary and the entire Schengen area.
- A cover letter stating the purpose of visit to Hungary and itinerary.
- **Flight air ticket reservation** with dates and flight numbers specifying entry and exit from Hungary.
- **Hotel Booking Reservation** for the whole duration of the intended stay in Hungary.
- Proof of civil status (marriage certificate, birth certificate of children, death certificate of spouse, ration card if applicable).
- **Means of subsistence** – Proof of sufficient financial means for the period of stay in Hungary.

### Helpful links

[Hungarian Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Hungary](#)



## Ireland

Ireland is an island that is divided into Northern Ireland (14,120 km<sup>2</sup>) as part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the independent state of Ireland, which occupies the bulk of the island. Ireland is a land of forests and mountain ridges and a mixture of three ancient cultures – Celtic, Norman and Anglo-Saxon. Ancient culture is remembered at every turn – the ruins of castles, fortresses, abbeys, but also still living legends. Despite growing tourism, which breaks down Irish isolation, green hills and white beaches remain intact. Some cities host festivals of traditional Irish music and jazz, and sometimes folk dance, during the summer. And as for the locals, it is perhaps enough to quote the old saying: There are no strangers in Ireland, only friends you have never met.



## About Ireland

### IRISH CUISINE

The cornerstone of Irish cuisine is quality and fresh ingredients, which are a gift from the local countryside. Green pastures and a long seafront ensure a supply of quality lamb, beef and pork, fish and seafood. Excellent salmon and trout come from unpolluted rivers. Oysters even have their own festival in the Gulf of Galway, and the term Dublin Bay Prawn means small lobsters (also called langoustines, scampi). Irish beef is exported and is world famous for its quality.

Irish cuisine is based on meat, but the basic food is also the ubiquitous potatoes. Their cultivation was introduced in the country in the 16th century, and potatoes then significantly influenced Irish history (see Irish famines after the 19th century potato crop failure). Fast food dishes are also popular in Ireland, such as fish and chips – fried fish with chips, which was first sold here by an Italian immigrant in the 1980s.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Ireland under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Ireland. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Irish border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Irish Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Ireland and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Ireland that fulfil Irish Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Irish Embassies and Consulates worldwide.

## Visa policy of Ireland

The **visa policy of Ireland** is set by the Government of Ireland and determines visa requirements for foreign citizens. If someone other than a European Union, European Economic Area, Common Travel Area or Swiss citizen seeks entry to Ireland, they must be a national of a visa-exempt country or have a valid Irish visa issued by one of the Irish diplomatic missions around the world.

Although Ireland is a member of the European Union, it has an opt-out from the Schengen Area and therefore sets its own visa policy. Ireland also operates the Common Travel Area with the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man which specifies open borders between the countries and territories. Established in 1923, it permits British and Irish citizens freedom of movement around the Common Travel Area and to cross its borders with minimal or no identity documents.

Visa policy of Ireland is similar to the [visa policy of the Schengen Area](#). It grants visa-free entry to all Schengen nationalities.

### Helpful links

- [Irish Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)
- [Schengen insurance](#)
- [Schengen Visa Application Form](#)
- [Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Ireland](#)



## Italy

The official name of Italy is the Italian Republic (Repubblica Italiana). Italy with its total area of 301,340 km<sup>2</sup> is located in Southern Europe and is also a part of Western Europe. The country consists of a beautiful continental part, delimited by the Alps – the highest mountain range that lies in Europe, a colourful peninsula extending into the central Mediterranean Sea and lovely islands surrounding it. Italy has borders with Austria, France, Slovenia, Switzerland and the enclaved states of Holy See (Vatican City) and San Marino. With the population of 60.4 million Italy is the third most populous country of the European Union. The capital city is Rome and has a population of 4.4 million. Other large and well-known Italian cities are Milan, Naples, Turin, Palermo, Bari, Catania, Florence, Bologna, Genoa, and Venice.

The largest ethnic group in Italy are the Native Italians (96% of the population), close to 1 million Romanian citizens registered, followed by 0.5 mil. Moroccans and 0.5 mil. Albanians. The official language is Italian but there are some areas that use primarily German, French or Slovene. The dominant religion is Roman Catholicism (80% of the population).

Italy is one of the birthplaces of western civilization and has 55 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the most in the world. Thanks to its rich history and cultural heritage it is one of the most visited destination in Europe.



## About Italy

### ITALIAN CUISINE

Italian cuisine is known for its regional diversity and different tastes, offering culinary experience and fantastic and unbelievable dishes differing from region to region from North to South. Italian relies on the quality of the ingredients and lots of recipes are ideally suited for home cooking. That is why Italian cuisine became one of the most popular across the whole world. Cheese, cold cuts, pasta, pizza are a major part of Italian cuisine. Wine, coffee (espresso), traditional famous desserts (Gelato, Tiramisu, Cassata) make up a very important part of the Italian gastronomic culture.

**Pizza** is one of the most popular savoury dishes not only in Italy. Pizza is prepared as a round, flattened base of leavened wheat-based dough. Traditionally topped with fresh tomatoes or sugo – tomato sauce, cheese. On top of that there are normally various other ingredients (such as a ham, sausages, anchovies, olives, mushrooms, eggs, onions, meat), Pizza is then baked at a high temperature, traditionally in a wood-fired oven. Pizzeta is a name for a small type of pizza. Modern pizza was invented in Napoli (Naples) – Campania region. Pizza and its variants have since then become popular all over the world. Neapolitan pizza was registered with the European Union as a Traditional Speciality Guaranteed dish. In 2017 the art of its making was included on UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage.

**Gelato** is one of the most popular frozen desserts. Very, very Italian. It is generally made with a base of milk and sugar. Gelato typically contains less air and more flavouring than other kinds of frozen desserts. Gelato's density and richness distinguish it from other ice creams. Gelato in its modern form is credited to the Italian chef Francesco Procopio dei Coltelli. Francesco opened his „Café Procope“ in Paris in the late 1600s and introduced gelato at his café. Gelato became famous and popular first in Paris and then in the rest of Europe. The traditional flavours of Gelato consist of chocolate, vanilla, hazelnut, pistachio, cream (also known as custard) and stracciatella (with chocolate chunks).

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Italy under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Italy. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Italian border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Italian Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Italy and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Italy that fulfil Italian Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Italian Embassies and Consulates worldwide.





### EU NATIONALS

EU nationals do not require a visa to enter the Italy.

### NON-EU NATIONALS

Italy's visa policy determines who needs a visa to enter the country. A visa is not required for visits of up to 90 days in a 180 day period for citizens of those countries for which the European Community has abolished the visa requirement. Easy way how to find out whether/what kind of visa is necessary for citizens of different countries is to fill in few questions on [Farnesina](#).

- The visa requirements depend on the purpose of the visit, the nationality and the period of planned stay.
- Time required to process a short-stay visa may take up to 15 days. Based on your specific situation this period could be extended up to 30, exceptional cases even up to 60 days as the Italian embassies may have to consult with other Schengen consulates.
- Applications for longer stay visas or to take up gainful employment may take several months to process.
- All citizens from foreign countries who wish to travel to Italy for longer-term stays or other purposes are required to apply for an embassy visa from an Italian government diplomatic office.
- Italian visa policy states that a Schengen tourist visa application for Italy can be submitted up to 6 months before entering the country.
- **Schengen Travel Insurance.** Confirmation that you have travel insurance for Italy and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Italy that fulfil Italian Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and are accepted by Italian Embassies and Consulates worldwide.

Do not forget to check the actual conditions for visiting Italy on official pages of [Farnesina -Ministerio degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazion Internazionale](#)



## Helpful links

[Italian Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Italy](#)







## Latvia

Latvia is located on the southeast coast of the Baltic Sea and its Gulf of Riga. It borders Lithuania to the south, Belarus to the southeast, Russia to the east and Estonia to the north. The capital is Riga.

Latvia is a beautiful country and has a lot to offer. The coast of the calm Gulf of Riga and the stormy Baltic is lined with sandy beaches, and the undulating lowlands inland are characterized by alternating wooded areas with meadows, lakes and rivers. The bustling port metropolis of Riga, whose center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the third largest city in the Baltic region after St. Petersburg and Stockholm, and therefore plays an important role in the region. The largest national park in the whole of the Baltics is Gaujas.



## About Latvia

### LATVIAN CUISINE

Latvian cuisine is influenced by the cuisines of the surrounding countries, but especially German, Swedish and Russian. The harsh climate and poor soil quality have forced Latvians to work hard to make a living. In Latvian cuisine you will find mainly agricultural products, meat, but due to its location by the Baltic Sea, of course also fish. Latvians rely on local ingredients: wheat, barley, potatoes, onions, cabbage and eggs. Spices are used minimally. The first place on the Latvian table belongs to the bread.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Latvia under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Latvia. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Latvian border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Latvian Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Latvia and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Latvia that fulfil Latvian Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Latvian Embassies and Consulates worldwide.





## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for Latvia



Latvia is a member of the European Union, therefore travelling to Latvia and crossing borders is as simple as travel to any other European Union country. Latvia is part of the Schengen Area, which is why those travelling to Latvia from the Schengen Area do not have to go through border controls. There are border controls on Latvia's borders with Russia and Belarus.



### VISA-FREE TRAVEL

Citizens of the United States, Canada, Australia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Brazil and other countries do not need a visa to visit Latvia. Visa-free travellers may stay in Latvia for up to 90 days within a period of 180 days.



### NO BORDER CONTROLS FOR TRAVELLING IN SCHENGEN AREA

Citizens of the European Union member states, as well as Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland do not require a visa to travel to Latvia.

Latvia is part of the Schengen Area. There are no border controls on the internal borders between Schengen countries, therefore citizens of the European Union and third-country nationals are free to travel within the Schengen Area. If you arrive in Latvia by car or bus from Lithuania or Estonia, or if you travel by ferry or plane from the Schengen countries, you will not have to go through border controls.

We highly recommend you to have your passport or other ID on you while travelling in the Schengen Area. If necessary, the document will be the proof of your identity. A driving licence or bankcard is not considered a valid travel or ID document.

### LATVIAN VISAS

Citizens of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, China and other countries require a visa to travel to Latvia. In Moldova, only holders of biometric passports are free to travel to Latvia visa-free, other citizens need to have a valid visa.

Tourists travel to Latvia on a Schengen visa, which is valid for staying in Latvia as well as in the other Schengen Area member states. Passport control on the border is only done once the person crosses into the Schengen Area. If the person has been issued a visa for a short-stay visit to a Schengen country, the maximum duration of the intended stay is 90 days within a 180-day period. If the person needs to stay in Latvia for longer than 90 days, he or she has to apply for a long-stay visa or a residence permit.

## Helpful links

[Latvian Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Latvia](#)



## Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein is a landlocked country in Europe. The country is one of the smallest countries in the world and the fourth smallest country in Europe. However, despite its small size, the country has one of the highest GDP per capita in the world. Tourism is a major contributor to the economy. The country of Liechtenstein is filled with spectacular sights of nature. It is for these sights and other tourist attractions that people flock over from all over the world to visit the nation. The education system of Liechtenstein is excellent. The country boasts a 100% literacy rate. Therefore, influx of foreign students has also increased over the past decade in the nation. The high quality educational institutions of the nation are enough to entice students from India to pursue higher studies in Liechtenstein.



### About Liechtenstein

#### LIECHTENSTEIN GASTRONOMY

The local cuisine is strongly influenced by Swiss; German sometimes also French food names: Bündnerfleisch (thin slices of dried beef), various types of fish (egli, felchen, forelle), Geschnetzltes Kalbfleisch (veal slices in cream sauce), Röstli (mashed potatoes).

Various types of local and imported wines, popular aperitifs include kir or blanc-cassisi (white wine with blackberry liqueur), campari (bitter tonic), pastis (anise).



## Liechtenstein Visa

The nature and the reason of your visit define the type of visa that you should apply for. There are primarily three types of visa for Liechtenstein. They are specified below:

**SCHENGEN VISA:** A Schengen visa allows you to stay of 90 days within duration of six months. The Schengen visa allows you to visit any of the member states in the Schengen area. Furthermore, you will not have to face any restrictions on the times you are allowed to enter or visit a member Schengen states. Therefore, the Schengen Visa is issued for single entry and multiple entries.

**NATIONAL VISA:** The national visa allows a stay of 91 days to 180 days during the course of a year. The reasons of applying for a national visa includes being a seasonal worker, researcher, student, short-term worker, guest researcher, and volunteer among others.

**Transit Visa:** The transit visa is a special type of visa. It is issued primarily to travellers. A transit visa is issued for a short duration, for a few days at maximum. Transit visas are issued to facilitate your travel. You will need a transit visa if you intend to stay in Liechtenstein while waiting for your connecting flight,

**TRANSIT VISA:** The transit visa is a special type of visa. It is issued primarily to travellers. A transit visa is issued for a short duration, for a few days at maximum. Transit visas are issued to facilitate your travel. You will need a transit visa if you intend to stay in Liechtenstein while waiting for your connecting flight,

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Liechtenstein under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Liechtenstein. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Liechtenstein border officer are as follows:



#### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



#### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Liechtenstein Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



#### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Liechtenstein and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Liechtenstein that fulfil Liechtenstein Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Liechtenstein Embassies and Consulates worldwide.



## Documents Required for Liechtenstein Visa application



The requirement of documents for a Liechtenstein Visa application is the same in every case apart from tourist visa. The following documents are common for all type of visas:

1. **A visa application form** completed in English or German language along with the applicant's signature.
2. **Passport:**
  - a. The validity of the passport should not end at least three months from the applicant's intended date of departure. Departure may not necessarily be from Liechtenstein as it could be from a Member Schengen States. It is dependent on the individual case.
  - b. The applicant's passport should not be completely filled, there should be at least two blank pages.
  - c. The data page of the applicant's passport should be devoid of any handwritten amendment or alteration.
3. International standards for **photographs** as established in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) should be abided by for the two photographs.
4. **Valid permit of return** (depending on individuals cases).
5. **A mandatory travel medical insurance** cover of minimum 30,000 Euros is required according to the rules of the Schengen member states. If the applicant has a multiple entry visa then the cover must be sufficient to cover the entirety of first intended visit.
6. **Your reason along** with justification for visiting Liechtenstein should be explained in the cover letter.
7. **Your travel itinerary** or tentative itinerary in case of round-trip flight bookings.
8. In cases where the **applicant is a minor:**
  - a. At least one parent or guardian should accompany the applicant, and he or she should present a Original notarized NOC by the other parent in addition to the copies of passports or IDs of parents.
  - b. if the applicant is travelling alone then Original notarized NOC signed by both parents / legal guardians, plus copies of passports or IDs of parents should be presented.
9. **Copy** of the **present passport** in its entirety.
10. **Original(s) of previous passport(s)** or proof of loss.

### Helpful links

[Liechtenstein Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Liechtenstein](#)





# Lithuania

Lithuania borders Poland, the Russian Kaliningrad enclave, Latvia the Belarus. It lies on the Baltic Sea and its coastline is 90 km. The whole coast is one continuous sandy beach, which is disturbed by a 390 meter wide strait into the Gulf of Kurur. The capital is Vilnius.

Lithuania is not one of the top tourist destinations, yet it has a lot to offer visitors. For example, an interesting coast where you can practice water sports and ice fishing in winter. Lithuania is also a paradise for cyclists. Several national parks with many lakes directly encourage rides through beautiful nature with the possibility of bathing. There are also many interesting historical monuments, whether it is the Mountain of Crosses, the island castle of Trakai or the so-called Baltic Sahara on the Curonian Spit.



## About Lithuania

### ATTRACTIONS

The Curonian Spit is a narrow strip of land 98 km long and 0.5 km to 3.8 km wide, which is divided between Lithuania (which covers 52 km) and Russia. The Curonian Spit is made up mainly of sandy soil, which is why it is also called the „Baltic Sahara“. It is still full of mysteries and ancient atmosphere. The world-famous extensive amber treasure from the Neolithic period (434 objects) found in the second half of the 19th century unfortunately disappeared during the Second World War, as did the legendary Baltic amber room.

In 1989, staff from the French Geographical Institute calculated that the center of Europe was located 26 km north of Vilnius near the village of Purnuškės.

### LITHUANIAN CUISINE

In Lithuanian cuisine, potatoes play prim, as in the case of the Baltic neighbors (but rather even more) and also other calorically rich food – meat (especially pork), dairy products (ubiquitous cream, cottage cheese, cheese, various kefirs, butter and others) and rye bread. In the densely forested southern and eastern areas there are common mushrooms (Lithuanians are passionate mushroom pickers), berries (blueberries, cranberries, cranberries) and game. Fish are less common here, but you can enjoy them on the coast or in lake areas. The most common are trout, cod, salmon, herring, sprats, smoked eels are a specialty for the Curonian Spit. Bigos is a traditional Polish and Lithuanian dish made of cabbage and meat. Fresh and sauerkraut, red meat, sausage, smoked bacon, mushrooms and spices (pepper, salt, bay leaf) traditionally appear in the regulations.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Lithuania under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Lithuania. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Lithuanian border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Lithuanian Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Lithuania and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Lithuania that fulfil Lithuanian Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Lithuanian Embassies and Consulates worldwide.



## Visa for Lithuania



The Lithuanian visa requirements vary depending on nationality, as well as the purpose of the travel and the expected period of stay. **Lithuania has signed the Schengen Agreement for passport-free travel** alongside 25 other European countries, and so shares the common Schengen visa policy.

More than 80 nationalities are currently allowed for entrance **to Lithuania and other Schengen Area countries without a visa** for varying periods of stay depending on their nationality.

Citizens of any Schengen country are able to **enjoy freedom of movement to Lithuania** and don't need to obtain a visa. They are only required to present a National ID card at border control.

<90  
days

All other visa-exempt travelers are able to present a valid passport upon arrival to **gain entry to Lithuania for a stay up to 90 days** and for one of the permitted purposes for visa-free travel.

Foreigners who want to come to Lithuania for short-term purposes must have a Schengen visa, except those cases when a visa-free regime is applied. You can find out if a foreigner needs a visa to enter Lithuania on the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs website](#).

Schengen visa can be single-entry, double-entry and multiple entries. A foreigner can be issued Schengen limited territorial validity visa.

In order to get Schengen visa a foreigner must pay consular fee for admission and review of the visa documents and submit:

1. **A valid travel document.** Its validity shall extend at least 3 months after the intended date of departure from the territory of the Schengen Member States. A travel document shall contain at least two blank pages and it shall have been issued within the previous ten years;
2. A completed and **signed application form**;
3. A colour **photo** corresponding to the age of an applicant;
4. A **valid medical insurance** with a minimum coverage of EUR 30,000 and a document proving the possession of valid medical insurance;
5. Documents indicating the **purpose of the journey**;
6. Documents in **relation to accommodation**, or proof of sufficient means to cover his accommodation;
7. Documents indicating that the **applicant possesses sufficient means of subsistence** (EUR 40 per day/20 Euros if a foreigner is arriving on the basis of an invitation letter), both for the duration of the intended stay and for the return to his country of origin or residence, or for the transit to a third country into which he is certain to be admitted. This requirement does not apply to a minor foreigner who is going together with an adult family member;
8. Information **enabling an assessment of the applicant's intention to leave the territory** of the Member States before the expiry of the visa applied for.

### Helpful links

[Lithuanian Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Lithuania](#)





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## Luxembourg

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is the smallest of the three Benelux countries. The country is a founding member of NATO, the European Union, the OECD.

Luxembourg is a landlocked country bordering Belgium to the west, France to the south and Germany to the east. It is one of the smallest countries in the European Union, and also the richest. The capital Luxembourg is home to many institutions.

Luxembourg is a small country, but rich in historical and natural attractions. The capital Luxembourg is an amazing historic city that is definitely worth a visit. It is built above the Alzette and Petrusse valleys. Luxembourgers value their natural wealth, which is why there are many national parks. One of the natural gems is Little Switzerland, which hides pure virgin nature. Holidays on bikes can be spent in the Ardennes. The wine-growing area of the Moselle basin with wine trails is also charming. The Lux, as Luxembourg sometimes shortens, also has many rivers. Three of them even form the country's border on the east side - they are Moselle, Our and Sûre. Luxembourg is a paradise for lovers of castles, chateaux and ruins, of which there are many, more so than in any other European country.

## About Luxembourg

### LUXEMBOURGISH CUISINE

Luxembourgish cuisine is very influenced by French cuisine, but it also includes German influences (eg dumplings with cabbage). Unlike neighboring Belgium, Luxembourg cuisine is more calorically rich, which corresponds to the location and climate of the country.

### Typical Luxembourgish dishes

As in Belgium, minute meat preparations and french fries are popular in Luxembourg.

- Träipen is a fried tripe that is often served with apple sauce.
- Judd mat gaardebounen is smoked pork served with cabbage or beans, potatoes and cream sauce. This is the national Luxembourg food.
- Bouneschlupp is a hearty soup based on green beans with potatoes and added sour cream and toasted pieces of sausages.
- Kuddelfleck are beef tripe wrapped in batter and served with spicy tomato sauce.
- Hong am Rèisleck is a chicken dish cooked in white wine with vegetables, spices and mushrooms.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Luxembourg under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Luxembourg. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Luxembourgish border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Luxembourgish Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Luxembourg and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Luxembourg that fulfil Luxembourgish Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Luxembourgish Embassies and Consulates worldwide.







## Applying for a Visa



Third country nationals subject to a visa obligation who wish to stay in Luxembourg **for less than 90 days over a period of 180 days** for the purpose of business, family or tourist visits, etc. must apply for a visa.



Visa **applications** should in principle be lodged **at least 15 calendar days** before the intended visit and **cannot be lodged earlier than 6 months before the start of the intended visit**. Holders of a multiple-entry visa may lodge the application before the expiry of the visa valid for a period of at least 6 months.

The applicant must submit a completed and signed [Schengen visa application](#) in person at:

- the Luxembourg diplomatic mission or consulate in their country of residence;
- or, failing that, the embassy or consulate of the country in the Schengen area which represents Luxembourg for the issuance of visas.

The application must be accompanied by **the following documents**:

- 2 recent and identical identity **photos**;
- a valid **passport** or a travel document accepted in the Schengen area, which is valid for at least another 3 months after the expiry date of the requested visa;
- **supporting documents** associated with the purpose of the journey, such as:
  - legalised formal obligation from the reference person in Luxembourg;  
It should be noted that the formal obligation (affidavit of support) is not mandatory. But it is **strongly recommended** to submit this document in order to prove that the applicant is financially supported by a Luxembourg resident.
  - official letter of invitation for a business visit;
  - a hotel reservation;
  - a return airline ticket;
- **proof of sufficient means of subsistence** (bank account statements, cash, credit cards, etc.);  
In certain cases, this document **can be replaced by a formal obligation** from the reference person in Luxembourg.
- **proof of legal residence** in the usual country of residence;
- **schengen health insurance** covering the travel period;

Nationals from certain **non-EU countries** who wish to visit, transit through or work in Luxembourg must, before their departure, have a valid travel document with a visa issued by a consular authority from one of the countries in the Schengen area.

The visa enables free movement in the **Schengen area**: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland.

The nationality of the non-EU national determines whether or not he is obliged to have a visa. Different types of visa exist depending on the duration and nature of the visit.

The Schengen visa must be requested at the **consulate of the country the applicant intends to visit**, or, if he intends to visit **more than one Schengen State**, at the **consulate** of the country of his **primary destination** (i.e. main purpose of stay or longest stay). If the applicant intends to visit **several Schengen states for a stay of equal duration**, the visa application must be sent to the **consulate of the country** whose **external borders the applicant will cross first when entering the Schengen area**.

As a general rule, the visa application must be submitted in the **country in which the applicant legally resides**, at a Luxembourg consulate or a diplomatic mission representing Luxembourg. Should there be no Luxembourg consulate in that country and should Luxembourg not be represented there, the application must be submitted at the consulate with territorial competence for visa applications.

### Helpful links

- [Luxembourgish Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)
- [Schengen insurance](#)
- [Schengen Visa Application Form](#)
- [Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Luxembourg](#)

## Malta

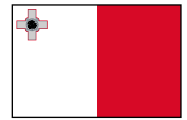
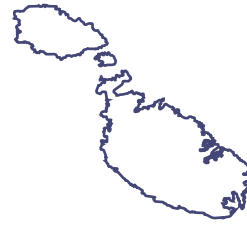
The official name of the Republic of Malta is located on an archipelago in the Mediterranean. The Maltese archipelago includes three inhabited islands. The largest is Malta, on which lies the capital Valletta. The other two inhabited islands are called Gozo and Comino.

The archipelago has always formed a bridge between Europe and Africa. Thanks to its strategic location, it has always been a strategic shopping center. Battles and wars have often fought over him, and he has recently struggled with an influx of immigrants from Africa.

Malta is a popular tourist destination due to its pleasant climate with low rainfall. The Maltese coast is mostly rocky, with many bays and sandy beaches. The beaches are clean and well-kept, swimming is very pleasant, as there are almost no waves. Malta has very good conditions for diving, which is complemented by relative affordability.

Malta is very rich in historical monuments. Three of them are on the UNESCO World Heritage List: the entire capital city of Valletta, the megalithic buildings in Malta and Gozo. The island of Gozo is sometimes called the lesser sister of Malta. Gozo is significantly smaller than the main island, has an area of 67 square kilometers and has a population of 25,000. The island is very quiet and ideal for anyone who likes a more rural atmosphere.

Also worth seeing are the capital of the adjacent island of Victoria (formerly Rabat), the fishing town of Marsaxlokk, the medieval town of Mdina and the town of Sliema, Malta's largest tourist center. Comino is an island of the Maltese archipelago located between Malta and Gozo. It has less than 3 square kilometers and only one family lives here. Its name comes from the word cumin, which means cumin, which grew abundantly on the island. Today, a bird sanctuary has been established in Comino for hundreds of seabirds that nest here. Of the natural phenomena, the Blue Lagoon is probably the most visited, from which you can see the tiny island of Cominotto with fantastic surroundings.



## About Malta

### MALTESE CUISINE

Malta was largely affected long ago by Italy's geographical proximity. Its Mediterranean cuisine thus partially resembles the neighboring Italian with many improvements.

In Malta, we can indulge in both pasta and pizza in a number of different variations and flavors. The pizza is really delicious here and the pasta is prepared, for example, in the form of ravioli. On the menus we find many dishes prepared from sea fish or seafood. Most often we can order modified perch, swordfish, tuna, and even a dolphin in various ways. In addition to fish, you can enjoy octopuses and squid. The meal is served garnished and flavored with fresh herbs or topped with cream sauce.

However, it is not only the Italian influence that is noticeable on traditional Maltese dishes. In the past, food in Malta was influenced by British, Arabic or even Indian cuisine.

### Typical Maltese specialties

The national Maltese dish is rabbit in many ways. The most traditional is the stewed rabbit in wine with potatoes and vegetables, but it is often served with pasta. In restaurants you can often find this dish under the local name „Stuffat tal-fenek“. The rabbit is also commonly eaten in Maltese households, both on festive occasions and in everyday life.

Another very common dish in Malta is fresh seafood, which you will find in absolutely all restaurants. Common fish in the surrounding waters are tuna, swordfish and perch (tuna, swordfish, bass).

The most popular local fish is lampuki (elsewhere also called mahi-mahi or dorado). Very tasty smaller fish migrate around the Maltese Islands in autumn, especially between September and December, so it is during this period that you can have it freshly prepared in local restaurants.



## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Malta under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Malta. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Maltese border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Maltese Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Malta and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Malta that fulfil Maltese Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Maltese Embassies and Consulates worldwide.



## Visa requirements for Non-EU Nationals



**THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS** are not restricted from visiting the European Union. They, however, have to meet all the entry conditions like valid travel documents and visa requirements, for a duration of up to three months.

There are special rules that apply to non-EU nationals of European Union citizens, with different travel rights based on whether they are visiting alone or in the company of a European Union citizen. Non-EU members who have received a residence permit by a European Union Member State that follows the Schengen provisions have the right to travel to the other EU Member States without a visa as long as it is in the Schengen area.

Non-EU members can continue to travel to the EU Member States for up to three months while applying the Schengen provisions. They, however, need to meet all the entries of the visa requirements as stated in the Schengen acquis, which is now incorporated into the EU framework.

Entry to Malta by third-country nationals who want to enter through Schengen area's external borders need to fulfil the following requirements:

- Possess **a passport or valid travel documents** that give them the right to cross the border.
- Must possess documents which **indicate their purpose of visit and the kind of their Malta visit**.
- They should show **adequate resources** to facilitate their travel rights in Malta and for their return back to their country of residence, or if planning to travel to other non-EU countries.
- There is no Schengen Information System restriction of entry.
- **Schengen health insurance** for the required period of stay.
- They **do not have a criminal record** and are not a threat to the national security, public policy or Schengen State's international relations which are under the Schengen States or Maltese Law.

Failure to comply with any of the visa requirements mentioned above is enough to restrict a non-EU citizen from entry, regardless of whether he or she is in possession of valid transit or entry visa. Non-EU nationals can check their right to travel or residence in a Member State territory which is available in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. In addition, citizens of the Member States' rights are also declared in the charter. The rights accorded to the Member states citizens can also be granted to non-EU nationals as indicated in the charter, if they fulfil requirements indicated above for entry. To be allowed entry, they still need to produce a valid visa or travel documents as required by the law.

For EU Nationals applying for the Schengen Convention and to have travel rights in Malta, they will be issued with a short-stay visa which will enable them to travel in the whole Schengen area.

Check out the types of [visa options](#) for the Maltese Islands.

### Helpful links

[Maltese Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Malta](#)



# Netherlands

The official name of Netherlands is Kingdom of the Netherlands (Koninkrijk der Nederlanden).

Netherlands is a sovereign state and a constitutional monarchy. With its 41,865 km<sup>2</sup> is primarily located in Western Europe and has several small West Indian island territories in the Caribbean (in the Leeward Island and Leeward Antilles groups). The country consists of twelve provinces and has borders with Germany, Belgium and the North Sea. Netherlands has maritime borders with those countries and the United Kingdom in the North Sea. Netherlands literally means "lower countries" because of its flat topography and low elevation (26% of its land is below the sea level and 50% of its land exceeding 1 metre above the sea level).

With the population of 17.4 million people Netherlands is the 2nd most densely populated country in the European union and 12th most densely populated country in the world (density 521 per square kilometre). The capital city is Amsterdam and has almost 2,5 million inhabitants. Other large cities are Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht.

The largest ethnic group are Dutch (76.4% of the population). The Dutch are the tallest people in the world, by nationality with an average height of 1.81 m for adult males and 1.67 m for adult females.

The official language is Dutch and several secondary official languages: West Frisian in the province of Friesland, English and Papiamentu in the Caribbean Netherlands. The dominant religion is Catholicism (23.7%), Protestantism (18.1%), Islam (4.9%). No religion: 50.1% of the population.

Netherlands is the world's second-largest exporter of food and agricultural products thanks to its mild climate, fertile soil, intensive agriculture and inventiveness. A significant portion of Dutch agricultural exports consists of fresh-cut plants, flowers, and flower bulbs. Netherlands is the country of flowers. It is the country of well-known painters - Dutch masters such as Rembrandt van Rijn, Johannes Vermeer, Jan Steen, Jacob van Ruisdael, Gerard van Honthorst, Theodoor van Thulden and philosophers Erasmus, Rudolf Agricola and Spinoza. Dutch art, culture, architecture, cuisine and nature are the reasons for visiting this country.



## About Netherlands

### DUTCH CUISINE

Dutch Cuisine was originally shaped by the practices of fishing and farming, containing a lot of dairy products and is simple and straightforward. Breakfast and lunch are bread with toppings or cereals as an alternative. Dinner consists of potatoes, seasonal vegetables and a portion of meat. During the 20th century, Dutch cuisine changed and became more cosmopolitan.

There are three general regional forms of Dutch cuisine in the Netherlands.

Northeastern cuisine includes for instance Metworst - it is a type of traditional Dutch sausage made from minced pork and then dried, Rookworst - traditionally smoked over wood chips, and served after they have been boiled in water. This part of Netherlands is the home of Rye bread.

Western cuisine - this area is known for its many dairy products, which includes prominent cheeses such as Gouda, Leyden (spiced cheese with cumin), Edam (traditionally in small spheres) as well as Leerdammer, and Beemster. Zaanstreek in North Holland is known for its chocolate industry, mayonnaise and typical whole-grain mustard. Seafood is also typical for this region.

Southern cuisine - it is the only Dutch culinary region which developed an "Haute cuisine". That is why we can find a lot of traditional Dutch restaurants serving typical main courses such as Biefstuk, Varkenshaas, Ossenhaas there. The traditional alcoholic beverage of the region is beer.



## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Netherlands under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Netherlands. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Dutch border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Dutch Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Netherlands and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Netherlands that fulfil Dutch Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Dutch Embassies and Consulates worldwide.

<90  
days

Foreign nationals from the EU, EEA or Switzerland do not need visa for the Netherlands for the stay up to 90 days. For some nationalities outside the EU there is no visa requirement either. Non-EU nationals may need to apply for a permit before the visit. The relevant conditions are [here](#). Which permit depends on how long the stay in The Netherlands will be.

**Time** of the processing of visa applications usually is up to 15 days. It can sometimes take up to 60 days, for instance if additional inquiries are necessary.

Do not forget to check the actual conditions for visiting The Netherlands on [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

## Helpful links

[Dutch Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Netherlands](#)



# Norway

The official name of Norway is Kingdom of Norway. Norway with its total area of 385,207 km<sup>2</sup> is a Nordic country located in Northern Europe. The country consists of mainland territory comprising northernmost and the western portion of the Scandinavian peninsula, the archipelago of Svalbard and the remote Arctic island of Jan Mayen. Bouvet Island is a dependency of Norway and is located in Subantarctic. Norway lays claim to the Antarctic territories of Peter I Island and Queen Maud Land. Norway has borders with Russia, Finland and Denmark and is bordered by the Skagerrak strait to the south. Norway's extensive coastline is facing the North Atlantic Ocean and the Barents Sea.

Norway has population of 5.4 million. The capital is Oslo and has 580,000 inhabitants. Other large cities are Bergen, Trondheim and Stavanger. The largest ethnic group are Norwegian (83.2% of the population). The official language is Bokmal Norwegian and Nynorsk Norwegian. Some residents use Sam and Finnish language as well. The dominant religion is Christianity (75.6% of the population). The main attractions of Norway are amazing, unspoiled wild nature lakes, fjords (National Geographic has listed the Norwegian fjords as the world's top tourist attraction), waterfalls, deep forests, mountains, ski resorts and the beautiful landscapes that extend across the Arctic Circle. All of these attract thousands of tourists each year same as do cultural landmarks such a Bergen's Bryggen and Oslo's Vigeland Sculpture Park.



## About Norway

### NORWEGIAN CUISINE

Norwegian cuisine was based on raw materials readily available in wilderness, mountains, lakes and coasts and is very different from the continental cuisine through the focus on fish and game. Majority of the traditional dishes are the results of using conserved materials.

Norway's culinary traditions are connected with salmon (fresh and cured), herring (pickled or marinated), trout, codfish, and other seafood. All of these complemented by dark breads, dairy products and cheeses such as Brunost „brown cheese“, which is usually sliced very thinly.

Norwegian potato flatbread is called Lefse and is usually topped with large amounts of sugar and butter. It's very popular around Christmas. Another speciality is rakefisk, which is a fermented trout, consumed with sour cream and thin flatbread. And the most popular pastry among all Norway is waffle. Norwegian waffle is different from the Belgian waffles in consistency and also in taste. Usually they are served with brown cheese, sour cream, strawberry or raspberry jam, butter and sugar.



## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Norway under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Norway. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Norwegian border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#) Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Norwegian Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Norway and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Norway that fulfil Norwegian Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Norwegian Embassies and Consulates worldwide.

### Helpful links

- [Norwegian Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)
- [Schengen insurance](#)
- [Schengen Visa Application Form](#)
- [Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Norway](#)

Norway is not a member of the European Union but is a member of the Nordic Passport Union and of the Schengen Agreement. There are no restrictions for Nordic nationals but the travel providers will require valid identification. EU nationals are not required to show passports on the borders but transport companies will demand ID card or passport to prove their identity. Non-EU Nationals have to have a valid passport.

EU Nationals do not need visa for Norway for the stay up to 90 days. For longer stay is a residence permit necessary. Non-EU nationals may need to apply for a permit before the visit. The relevant conditions are [here](#). Which permit depends on how long the stay in Norway will be.

Do not forget to check the actual conditions for visiting Norway official pages of The [Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(UD\)](#) and [The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration](#)



## Poland

Poland is located in Central Europe, bordering Russia, Lithuania and the Baltic Sea in the north, Belarus and Ukraine in the east, Germany in the west and the Czech and Slovak Republics in the south. There is a significant northern European lowland on the relief of Poland, whose average height is 173 m. The large rivers Odra, Wisła and Varta flow through the lowland. The Carpathians and the Tatras are the second geographical fact of Poland, where the highest Polish mountain Rysy (2,499 m) is located.

A land of striking beauty, Poland is punctuated by great forests and rivers, broad plains, and tall mountains. Warsaw (Warszawa), the country's capital, combines modern buildings with historic architecture, most of which was heavily damaged during World War II but has since been faithfully restored in one of the most thoroughgoing reconstruction efforts in European history. Other cities of historic and cultural interest include Poznań, the seat of Poland's first bishopric; Gdańsk, one of the most active ports on the busy Baltic Sea; and Kraków, a historic centre of arts and education and the home of Pope John Paul II, who personified for the Polish their country's struggle for independence and peace in modern times.



## About Poland

### POLISH CUISINE

Polish cuisine reflects the closeness of the cultures of neighboring countries. There is a noticeable influence in Russian, German, Austrian, Czech, but also Italian and French cuisine. The rich national cuisine is influenced by the nations with which it has been in direct contact, and is very diverse regionally. Typical foods of Polish cuisine are sauerkraut, beets, cucumbers, kohlrabi, cream, mushrooms, smoked and other types of sausages. The meat is especially aromatic in Poland thanks to the use of spices such as dill, cumin, marjoram, pepper and parsley. The most popular desserts are cakes and pies, and a glass of vodka after a good lunch is also suitable because it facilitates digestion.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Poland under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Poland. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Polish border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Polish Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Poland and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Poland that fulfil Polish Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Polish Embassies and Consulates worldwide.





## Entry requirements for non-EU citizens



The two main documents you will need to enter Poland if you are not an EU citizen are a valid travel document (passport) and a visa.

### VISA

As a general rule you need a visa to enter Poland. Poland is a part of the Schengen zone, so you can apply for a Polish visa and travel all around Europe.

<90  
days

#### There are several types of visas to choose from:

“A” type – valid only for airport transit; does not entitle the holder to leave the airport transit zone

“C” type – a short-term Schengen visa allowing the holder to stay in the Schengen territory for up to 90 days in 180 days period

“D” type – a long-term national visa issued for up to one year allowing travel around the Schengen area for up to 90 days in a 180 days period. A visa can only be extended in exceptional situations. Should you need to stay in Poland longer than specified in your visa please do apply for the temporary residence permit.

<180  
day  
period

### FIVE EASY STEPS TO GET A VISA

1. **Find a Polish consulate** that can process your application. You can use the MFA's search engine <http://mfa.gov.pl>
2. Read carefully ALL the information concerning visa application on the **consulate's website** and follow ALL the instructions.
3. **Set a visa appointment** with the consulate. In most cases you will have to register through the website: <http://www.e-konsulat.gov.pl>
4. **Prepare the necessary documents**, including: application form, travel document (passport), biometric photo, health insurance, sufficient means to support yourself, documents confirming the purpose of your stay. The specifics of the required documentation may vary among consulates, so confirm them with the consulate's website!
5. **Submit all the documents including a printed and signed application form** and the visa fee. Your visa application is complete. It will take up to 15 days for it to be reviewed. Processing of visa applications filed in other countries may take more time.

**Note!** Parents or legal guardians should apply on behalf of applicants younger than 18 years old.

### Visa fee

The fee varies between 0 and 70 euro, depending on the type of visa and the citizenship of the applicant. The fee is non-returnable, even in the case of an unsuccessful application.

## Helpful links

[Polish Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog – a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia – about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia – about Poland](#)



## Portugal

The official name of Portugal is Portuguese Republic (República Portuguesa).

Portugal with its total area of 92,212 km<sup>2</sup> is located in the Southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula. The country consists of an area located on the Iberian Peninsula and two archipelagos of Azores and Madeira, both autonomous region in the Atlantic Ocean. Main river, Tagus, flows from Spain and divides Portugal Mainland into two parts. Country is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and Spain. The highest peak is ancient volcano named Mount Pico (2,351 m) and is located on the island of Pico in the Azores. Serra da Estrela (1,991 m) on the mainland is an attraction for ski and winter sports lovers. With its 1,727,408 km<sup>2</sup> of exclusive economic zone (sea zone with special rights over the use and exploration of marine resources) Portugal has the third-largest exclusive economic zone in the European Union.

Portugal is one of the oldest nation states in Europe and the oldest on the Iberian Peninsula. Its population is 10.6 million. The capital city is Lisbon and has 2,818,000 inhabitants. Other large and well-known cities are Porto, Coimbra, Braga, Funchal, Guimarães, Aveiro, Ponta Delgada and Faro.

Native Portuguese are an Iberian ethnic group and they form 95% of the whole population. The official language is Portuguese. It is a Romance language. 81.0% of the Portuguese population are Roman Catholic Christian.

Portugal has developed a very specific culture. This culture was influenced by various civilizations that have crossed the European continent. Portugal hosts 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, ranking it the 9th in Europe. Portuguese architecture, style, art, cuisine and nature are the reason for millions of tourists visiting this beautiful country every year.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Portugal under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Portugal. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Portuguese border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Portuguese Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Portugal and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Portugal that fulfil Portuguese Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Portuguese Embassies and Consulates worldwide.



## About Portugal

### PORTUGUESE CUISINE

Portuguese have a culture of good food and their cuisine is full a various dish and very diverse. Different regions have their own traditional recipes.

#### Caldeirada, grilled sardines, Bacalhau

Very popular fish recipe is Caldeirada. It is a fish tomato-based stew consisting of a wide variety of fish with a mix of parsley, coriander, onion, garlic, peppers and potatoes. Caldeirada is very similar to other types of fish stew (such an Italian Cacciucco or French Bouillabaisse). Simply „a fisherman’s stew that depends on what the fishermen have managed to catch and that varies from village to village “. Another popular recipe are grilled sardines. One of the most well-known and favourite food is dry cod (Bacalhau), for which hundreds of recipes exist and you can simply choose more than one for each day of the year.

#### Meat, sandwiches, pastry, wine

Fantastic Portuguese foods made out of chicken, lamb, pork, beef, goat are Cozido à portuguesa, Feijoada, Frango de churrasco, Leitão (roast suckling pig), Chanfana and Carne de porco à alentejana. A very popular northern dish is Dobrada, a tripe with white beans and carrots stew, often served with steamed white rice. Peri-peri chicken is a spicy chicken dish. It is served with rice and vegetables, most common in the Algarve region but favourite throughout the whole Portugal. Well known around the country are Bifanas (grilled pork) or Prego (grilled beef) sandwiches.

The Portuguese tasty pastries like Ovos moles from Aveiro and Pastéis de Belém originally from Lisbon have their origins in many medieval Catholic monasteries. Main ingredients are almonds, vanilla, cinnamon, flour, eggs and some liquor.

Portuguese wines have enjoyed worldwide recognition since the times of the Romans. Port and Madeira are appreciated in wide range of places around the world. Portuguese wines are known by wine lovers in the whole world. Some of the best Portuguese wines are Vinho Verde, Vinho Alvarinho, Vinho do Douro, Vinho do Alentejo, Vinho do Dão, Vinho da Bairrada and the sweet Port Wine, Madeira Wine, and the Moscatel from Setúbal and Faveiros.



There are **different types** of visas for Portugal depending on reason for visiting and on your nationality.



- **Schengen Visa** - is required citizens of third countries included on **the list** of countries whose nationals must be in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders, unless in possession of a valid residence permit or a valid long-term visa issued by another Member State. Visa form **here**.
- Temporary stay visas allow entry and stay in Portugal for less than a year. Temporary stay visas are valid during the entire stay and allow multiple entries.
- Residency visas allow two entries and are valid for a period of 4 months. During that time, the holder of a residency visa is required to request a residency permit with the Immigration and Border Services (SEF).
- Portuguese visas are typically processed by the **Portuguese embassy** in your country of residence, while the Portuguese Immigration Office (Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras, SEF) is responsible for issuing Portuguese resident permits (Autorização de Residência).
- Time - a Portugal Visa (Schengen Visa) takes usually from 10 to 15 days. This period may be extended up to 30 days or 60 days.

Do not forget to check the actual conditions for visiting Portugal on official pages of **Ministry for Foreign Affairs**.

## Helpful links

[Portuguese Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

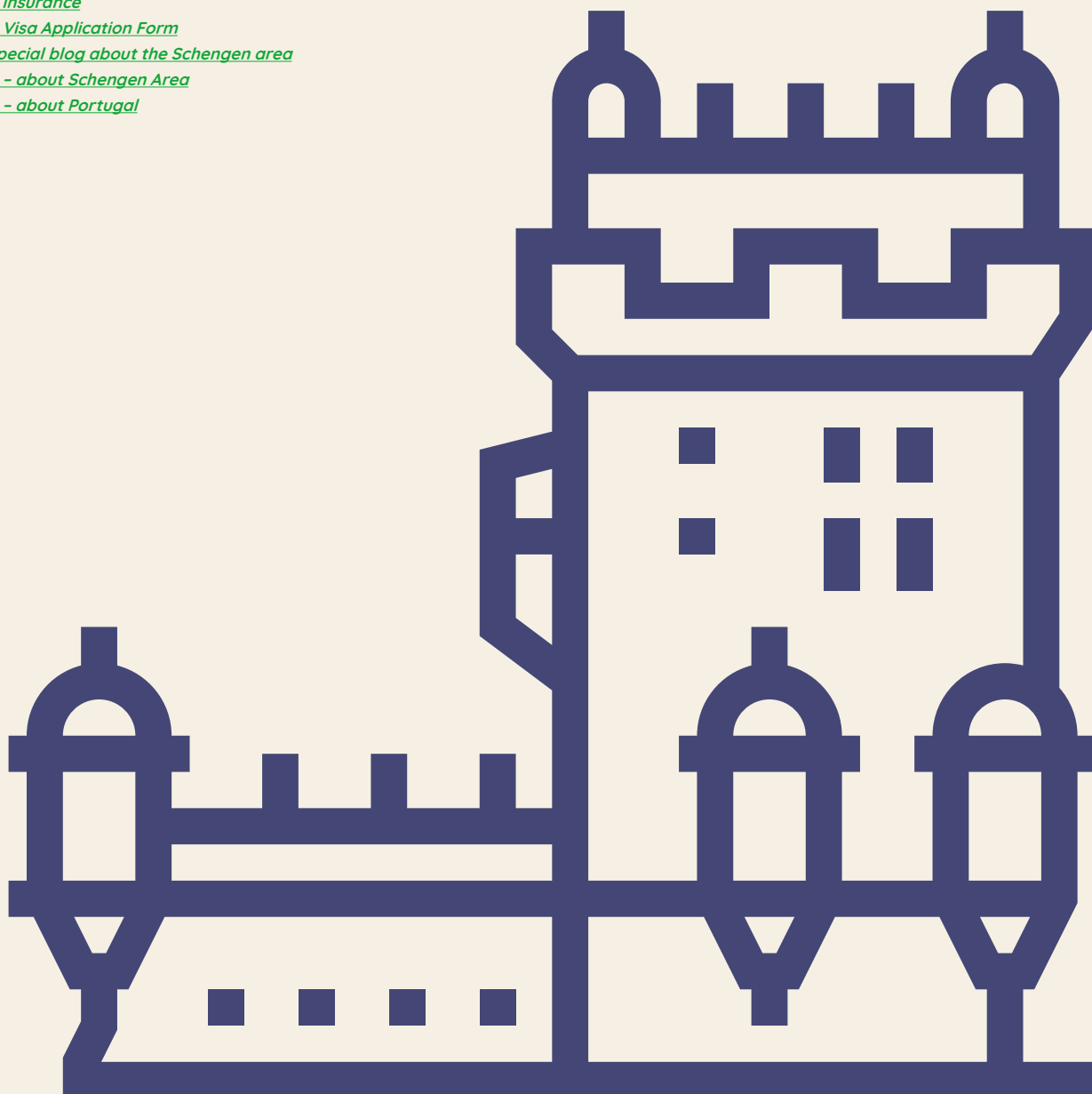
[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Portugal](#)

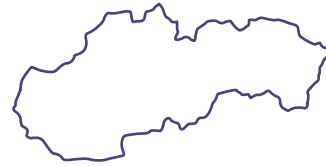


# Slovakia

Inland state of Slovakia is located in Central Europe. Its neighboring countries are Ukraine, Hungary, Austria, Czechia and Poland. The official language is Slovak.

The mountainous state is dominated by the Western Carpathians, which include the Little Carpathians, Javorníky, High and Low Tatras and the Slovak Ore Mountains. The two large lowlands include the Danube and East Slovak lowlands and the highest mountain is Gerlachovský štít (2,655 m above sea level). Important rivers are the Danube and the Váh.

In Slovakia you can admire beautiful nature, picturesque mountain villages and of course nice cities full of interesting historical monuments. You can indulge in a well-deserved rest in one of the thermal swimming pools, of which there are several in Slovakia. There are also beautiful and very popular mountains in Slovakia. Perhaps the most famous of these are the High Tatras, which together with the Alps are the only Central European mountains. Other popular mountains include the Low Tatras and the Great Fatra. The Slovak mountains are an ideal place to spend summer and winter holidays, because where you can spend pleasant alpine tourism in summer, you will find ideal skiing conditions in winter. During your stay in the mountains, you will be surrounded by beautiful nature, home to many animals, including tourists and locals, the dreaded Brown Bear. After a relaxing stay in the mountains, you can return to civilization and visit some of the Slovak towns or beautiful castles and chateaux. Come with us to get to know at least some of the beauties of our nearest neighbor, fascinating Slovakia.



## About Slovakia

### SLOVAK CUISINE

Slovak cuisine is a specific type of Central European cuisine. It was influenced by Hungarian, Austrian or German cuisine. It mainly uses pork and beef, flour, potatoes, cabbage and dairy products. The most famous dishes include bryndza dumplings, živánska or cheese like parenica, korbáčik, oštiepok or bryndza. Popular drinks include žinčica, beer, pine, slivovice, but also wine, etc.

Slovak cuisine in the northern part of the territory is very different from the southern part. This is due to different climatic conditions.

North Slovak cuisine is influenced by the harsh climatic conditions of the mountainous parts of the country that prevail here. Intense winter for at least three months is one of the reasons why smoked meat, potatoes, sauerkraut, dairy products, flour and legumes predominate in this area. Potatoes and fresh and sour milk served as staple foods in the winter. The indispensable sauerkraut, shredded and pickled for fermentation during the autumn, became a very valuable source of vitamin C during the winter. Freshwater fish, lamb, sausages, wilderness or mushrooms and forest fruits were eaten throughout the year. Beekeeping and honey production are also traditional.

In the south and the lowlands, the raw material base is more diverse. Compared to the north, the meat supply is richer in beef, goose, duck and cruelty. Various flour products or fresh and dried pasta are common. Compared to the north, there is far greater availability of fruit and fruit products, such as jams or sterilized and dried fruit.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Slovakia under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Slovakia. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Slovak border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Slovak Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Slovakia and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Slovakia that fulfil Slovak Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Slovak Embassies and Consulates worldwide.





## How to apply for Slovak Visa?



The visa application is submitted on an official application form at the Diplomatic Mission (Embassy or Consulate) of the Slovakia accredited for the country where the applicant resides or the country of his citizenship. The visa application must be submitted in person, not earlier than six months prior to the planned trip to Slovakia.

You will need the following documents:

1. filled in and signed [application form](#);
2. **one passport size color photo** (3 x 3.5 cm);
3. **passport**, valid for at least 3 months after the expiration date of the visa;
4. **documents proving the purpose and the conditions of the planned trip**, such as
  - organized/individual tourism: a travel voucher, or an invitation letter from the person who is inviting you to stay or an [invitation verified by the Foreign Police Department](#);
  - business trips: an invitation letter issued by the business partner or institution, or invitation verified by the Foreign Police Department; for repeated business trips submit a contract of cooperation with the Slovak company;
  - international conferences, seminars, symposiums, cultural and sports events: an invitation letter issued by the event organizer, or an official letter from the sending organization requesting a visa for its employee, or entry tickets to trade fairs, congresses or other events;
  - other purposes: other documents confirming the purpose of the trip and residence in Slovakia.
5. **travel ticket or other documents**: a round trip ticket (flight ticket, bus/train ticket, must not be an open ticket!), if travelling by car, submitting a driver's license and vehicle registration certificate, a green card (third party liability insurance);
6. **proof of accommodation** (if accommodated with the inviting person, it should be explicitly stated in the invitation letter);
7. **proof of financial** means in the amount of at least EUR 56 for each day of residence:
  - cash in convertible currency;
  - traveller's cheques;
  - bank account statement confirming regular income (salary, retirement pension) for the period of the past 6-12 months;
  - other documents guaranteeing financial means in convertible currency.

Applicants are advised to carry the document proving sufficient financial means for the period of their residence stated in the visa, as it might be requested at the border in the Slovak Republic.

8. **international travel health insurance policy** - must cover any expenses which might arise in connection with repatriation for medical reasons, urgent medical attention or emergency hospital treatment. The insurance must be valid in all Schengen Member States. Minimum coverage must be EUR 30 000;
9. **other documents** - for the purpose of granting a visa, the embassy is entitled to require any other document with the aim to verify the declared purpose of the journey and the intention to return back to the country of residence;
10. **the visa fee - EUR 80.**

The visa application processing time is **15 calendar days**. This period can be extended to a maximum of 45 calendar days, particularly if further assessment of the application is needed.

**The simplified visa issuing process** applies to the nationals of the Russian Federation. In this case, the visa application proceeding time is 10 calendar days and the fee is 35 EUR. Citizens of Serbia, Ukraine, Montenegro, Albania, Moldova, and Georgia need a biometric passport for visa-free entry into the Schengen area.

Visa is granted into the passport in the form of a sticker. After receiving the visa, a foreign national is allowed to stay in the Schengen area for the duration of the visa. The visa is not legally enforceable. The Embassy is entitled to define a border crossing in order to enter the country, which shall be recorded in the Schengen visa.

### Helpful links

[Slovak Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Slovakia](#)







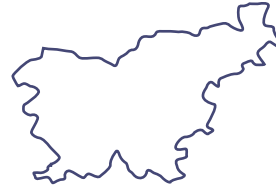
# Slovenia

Slovenia is an economically developed country in southern Europe, bordering Austria to the north, Hungary to the northeast, Croatia to the south and east, Italy to the west and a small part of the country to the southwest by the Adriatic Sea.

Slovenia is a relatively fragmented country. The average altitude is stated to be approximately 556 m above sea level (290 m above sea level in Europe). The mountain slopes are steep and so more than half of Slovenia is forested (3rd most forested country after Finland and Sweden). The most important orographic unit – the Alps – rises in the northwest of the country. The alpine region of the Alps includes three units – the Julian Alps, the Karavanke Mountains and the Kamnik-Savinja Alps. The Julian Alps are the highest mountains in Slovenia and the highest Slovenian mountain Triglav (2,864 m above sea level) lies here.

Slovenia's cultural heritage is filled mainly with old towns, picturesque villages in the mountains and wine-growing areas, but a large number of castles will also leave you with their charm. One characteristic of the country is also the typical haylofts called kozolce, which are also located in the border areas of Italy and Austria inhabited by Slovenes.

The advantage of the Republic of Slovenia is undoubtedly the many national parks and nature reserves. The Triglav National Park is one of the largest NPs in the Alps, covering an area of almost 84,000 hectares. The information center is located in Trento, the administrative center of the park in the town of Bled.



## About Slovenia

### SLOVENIAN CUISINE

Slovenian gastronomy is influenced by the cuisines of the surrounding countries, so you will usually find dishes of Italian origin (pizza, pasta, risotto, prosciutto, ravioli-like licorice), dishes of Austrian origin (fried steak – „Dunajski zrezek“, sausages, strudel) and dishes Hungarian provenance (goulash, paprika, Szeged goulash, pancakes). However, there are also a number of national dishes. Slovenians make very good bread („circle“). As a substitute, they often use polenta, a porridge made from boiled corn. They like soups, the most common being chicken or beef broth. As in other Yugoslavian cuisine, with which Slovenian cuisine is, of course, also strongly influenced by its long-term affiliation with Yugoslavia, the basis of main dishes is in the vast majority of cases meat. Mainly pork („svinjina“), veal („veal“) and beef („govedina“).

Game is very popular in the season, but Slovenes do not avoid horse steaks, and previously even legally sold bear meat. Surprisingly, chicken is not very common on the menus, but rather a turkey or a goose appears there. Although Slovenia has only a short stretch of coastline, fish and seafood are commonly prepared here. The trout from the Sochi River are excellent.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Slovenia under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Slovenia. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Slovenian border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Slovenian Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Slovenia and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Slovenia that fulfil Slovenian Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Slovenian Embassies and Consulates worldwide.





## Visa, Schengen Visa



**EU citizens** do not need a Slovenian visa to enter Slovenia. The only document needed is a valid travel document. With it, individuals can stay in Slovenia for no longer than 90 days in the period of 180 days, starting on the date of the first entry.

**Non-EU citizens** must hold a Schengen visa in order to enter the country (acquired with a valid travel document).

<90  
days

Individuals with a valid residence permit issued from the state that is part of the Schengen Agreement can stay in Slovenia for 90 days in the period of 180 days (which includes combined duration of stay in all Schengen states).

<180  
day  
period

### DOCUMENTATION NEEDED

For obtaining a visa, application form and supporting documents need to be presented.

Supporting documents for **Short-stay visa (Visa-C)** application should contain evidence of:

- the purpose of intended journey (for business visit invitation of the company, ticket, etc.),
- proof of accommodation,
- proof of sufficient funds for the duration of the stay and for return to the domestic country,
- proof of intent to leave the territory of the EU member states before the expiry of the visa you applied for (return ticket, proof of employment, etc.).

Supporting documents for **Long-stay visa (Visa-D)** application should contain:

- a valid travel document,
- travel health insurance covering at least urgent health services in the Republic of Slovenia,
- proof of sufficient monthly means, at least equal to the basic minimal income in Slovenia.
- individual need to justify one of the purposes necessary for issuing Visa-D.

### Helpful links

[Slovenian Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia - about Slovenia](#)



# Spain

The official name of Spain is Kingdom of Spain (Reino de España).

Spain with its total area of 505,990 km<sup>2</sup> is located in the Southwestern Europe. The country is consisting of a continental European territory situated on the Iberian Peninsula, two archipelagos: the Balearic Islands located in the Mediterranean Sea and the Canary Islands near the coast of North Africa. There are several small islands in the Alboran Sea. Spain is in fact the only European country having a physical border with an African country (Morocco) thanks to its exclaves of Melilla, Ceuta and Peñón de Vélez de la Gomera. Continental part of Spain has borders with France, Andorra and Portugal and is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean and Bay of Biscay. Spain is the largest country in the Southern Europe and the second-largest country in Western Europe.

With the population of 47.3 million Spain is the fourth-most populous country of the European Union. The capital city is Madrid and has almost 3.4 million inhabitants and a metropolitan area population of approximately 6.7 million. Other large and well-known Spanish cities are Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, Zaragoza, Málaga, Murcia, Palma, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and Bilbao.

The largest part of its population are Spanish / Spaniards (84.8% of the population). The official language is Spanish (natively spoken by 74% of the general population of all Spain). The other official languages are Catalan, Galician, Basque, Occitan. The dominant religion is Roman Catholicism (61% of the population).

Spain is one of the major Latin countries of Europe. Majority of the aspects of Spanish life is permeated and impacted by its Roman heritage. Spain hosts 47 UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the world’s third-largest number. Spanish art, music, architecture, cuisine and culture have been shaped by the country’s Mediterranean geography and climate as well as foreign invaders, and are the reason to visit Spain.



## About Spain

### SPANISH CUISINE

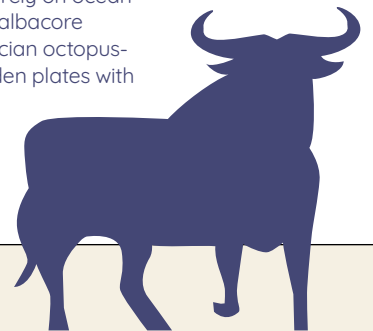
Spanish cuisine is a mixture of dishes. We can see that strong and significant influence of culture, climate, geography and Mediterranean roots is reflected there. Seafoods available from the seas surrounding the country heavily influence the Spanish cuisine. Varied history and cultures have led to unbelievable, tasty and unique dishes.

We can easily identify three main streams:

**Mediterranean Spain** (coastal regions, from Andalusia to Catalonia) various of seafood, such as fried fish (Pescaito frito), cold soups like gazpacho, many rice-based dishes like Paella, a traditional Valencian dish, and black rice (Arròs negre) from Catalonia.

**Inner Spain** (Castile) Food is traditionally conserved by salting like tasty Spanish ham (Jamón), regularly a component of tapas (typical appetizer or snack) or immersed in tasty olive oil, such as Manchego cheese. Typical soup is the hot, thick soups such as the bread and garlic-based Castilian soup.

**Atlantic Spain** (Northern coast) including Asturian, Basque, Cantabrian and Galician cuisine – vegetable and fish-based stews like Caldo gallego and Marmitako. Also the lightly cured Lacón ham. Lacón is a Spanish dried ham obtained from front legs or the shoulders of the pig. The most popular and well noted cuisine rely on ocean seafood as in the Basque-style cod, albacore (longfin tuna) or anchovy or the Galician octopus-based Polbo á feira (served on wooden plates with bread. Traditionally water should not be drunk whilst eating octopus. Dish is usually served accompanied by young Galician red wine) and shellfish dishes.



## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Spain under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Spain. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Spanish border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Spanish Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Spain and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Spain that fulfil Spanish Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Spanish Embassies and Consulates worldwide.



- **Passport validity** – the document must be valid for at least three months following the planned exit from the territory of the Member States, and has to be issued within the last ten years. Citizens from any State of the European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein only need a valid national identity document or passport. Citizens from the United Kingdom and Ireland will require a passport since their countries are not members of the Schengen Area.
- All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Spain under the visa-free regime. There are different types of visas for Spain depending on reason for visiting and on your nationality.
- **Schengen Visa** – is required by citizens of third countries included on the [list of countries](#) whose nationals must be in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders, unless in possession of a valid residence permit or a valid long-term visa issued by another Member State. Visa form [here](#).
- **Long term visa** – entitle their holders to reside, to reside and work, to study, or to research in Spain. Visa of this kind are necessary for all foreigners unless they are citizens of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland.
- Applications for **long-term visas** must be submitted through a duly completed application form (original and copy) or may also be obtained for free at Spain's Diplomatic Missions or Consular Posts abroad.
- **Schengen Travel Insurance.** Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Spain that fulfil Spanish Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and are accepted by Spain Embassies and Consulates worldwide.



Do not forget to check the actual conditions for visiting Spain official pages of [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#).

## Helpful links

[Spanish Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)

[Schengen insurance](#)

[Schengen Visa Application Form](#)

[Blog – a special blog about the Schengen area](#)

[Wikipedia – about Schengen Area](#)

[Wikipedia – about Spain](#)



## Sweden

The official name of Sweden is the Kingdom of Sweden (Konungariket Sverige).

The Kingdom of Sweden is a Nordic country located on the Scandinavian Peninsula in Northern Europe. It borders Finland to the east, Norway to the north and west and is connected by a bridge-tunnel across so called Øresund Strait to Denmark in the southwest. Its coasts are washed by the Baltic Sea. The terrain in Sweden is mostly flat or made up of gently rolling lowlands, mountains mainly to be found in the west, and it all being covered with forests on about 69% of its land. Sweden's highest mountain Kebnekaise with its 2,096 meters tops the Swedish part of Scandinavian Mountains in the northwest.

Sweden's population mostly represented by the Swedish (about 81%) tend to live in the south because of the milder climate and better connectivity to European mainland. Not to be forgotten are also the indigenous Sami people estimated to be between 20,000 and 40,000. Swedish most common religion is the Church of Sweden (Lutheran) with about 60% of the whole population.



## About Sweden

### SWEDISH CUISINE

Just like the other Nordic countries is Swedish cuisine mostly centred around dairy products, seafood, beef, chicken, lamb, pork and eggs but also crisp and soft breads and berries and stone fruits. The whole cuisine tends to be rather simple and full of contrasting flavours.

**Breads and pastry** Swedish have a variety of breads not only of different shapes and sizes but also differing in ingredients. Some are made of wheat, others of rye, oat, white, dark, sourdough or whole grain. Many bread types are sweetened and some other use spices. Swedish cuisine also offers many types of yeast buns, biscuits, cookies and cakes that can have a very sugary style.

**Seafood** Fish and other seafood is an important part of the Swedish cuisine. The most traditional Swedish appetizer is a pickled, sweetened herring. Other than that, farmed salmons from Norway are also extremely popular.

**Swedish meatballs** locally called köttbullar are known all over the world. They're usually made of ground beef or a mix of ground beef, pork, veal or venison. Additionally, breadcrumbs soaked in milk, chopped onions, broth or cream can be also put into the meatballs. Even though there are different types, they are traditionally small (around 2-3 cm). The meatballs are being eaten with boiled potatoes, that are the most common side dish in Sweden, to that lingonberry jam and sometimes pickles.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Sweden under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Sweden. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Swedish border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Swedish Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Sweden and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Sweden that fulfil Swedish Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Swedish Embassies and Consulates worldwide.

### Helpful links

- [Swedish Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)
- [Schengen insurance](#)
- [Schengen Visa Application Form](#)
- [Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Sweden](#)

Sweden is a member of the EU, the Schengen Agreement and the Nordic Passport Union. Third-country nationals may need to apply for a permit before the visit. Which permit depends on how long the stay in Sweden will be. If less than 90 days, it may be necessary to apply for a visa. If it will be more than 90 days it is required to apply for a visitor's residence permit.

Do not forget to check the actual conditions for visiting Sweden official pages of [Embassy of Sweden](#) and [Swedish Migration Agency](#)

# Switzerland

The official name is the Swiss Confederation due to being divided into 26 cantons, with federal authorities based in Bern. Switzerland's capital city is de facto Bern. De jure Swiss don't have a capital city, since every canton has its own capital, the most populous of them being Zürich, Geneva, Basel, Lausanne and Bern.

Switzerland is located at the confluence of Central, Western and Southern Europe and being bordered by Germany to the north, Austria and Liechtenstein to the east, Italy to the south and France to the west which all make it a landlocked country. Instead of sea Switzerland offers numerous large lakes and mountains (Alps in the south, Jura in the northwest). Between mountains lies the Swiss Plateau one of the three major landscapes in Switzerland, that makes up ca. 30% of the surface area. Switzerland's highest mountain (Dufourspitze - 4,634 metres) is the fifth highest in Europe.

Switzerland's population are mostly Swiss (around 70%), followed by Germans, Italians, Portuguese, French and others. It has multiple official languages: German (or Swiss German) with about 62.6% people speaking, French (23% speakers), Italian and Romansh.



## About Switzerland

### SWISS CUISINE

Is very multifaced because of the many regions that developed their cuisine based on different climate and languages. Even so there are still dishes popular in many regions such as rösti (potato dish, similar to fritter).

**Cheese** Many famous Swiss dishes have to do something with cheese. As other European countries also Switzerland produces unique dairy products and cheeses such as well-known Emmentaler or Gruyère. Cheese dishes omnipresent throughout the whole country are for example fondue or raclette.

**Chocolate** Has become extremely popular since 19th century in Switzerland thanks to the inventions of conching (process whereby surface scraping mixer and agitator, known as a conche, evenly distributes cocoa butter within chocolate) and tempering (uncontrolled crystallization of cocoa butter typically resulting in crystals of varying size). Another breakthrough was Daniel Peter's invention of solid milk chocolate. Switzerland is the world's largest consumer of chocolate.

**Wine** Is the most popular alcoholic drink in Switzerland. Its vineyards have been cultivated since the Roman era. It's notable for the differences in grapes thanks to many terroirs (term describing environmental factors that affect the vines), with specific mixes of soil, air light and altitude. The most famous Swiss wines are Chasselas, Pinot noir and Merlot.

## Travel Documents and Entry Requirements for non-EU Nationals

All EEA citizens and Swiss citizens can travel to Switzerland under the visa-free regime. Third-country nationals are required to apply for a visa to travel or live in Switzerland. The visa depends on nationality and purpose.

The documents you need to present to the Swiss border officer are as follows:



### Passport validity

You must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe. The document has to be issued within the previous 10 years and valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU. Beware that EU members such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania are not part of the Schengen Area.



### Schengen Visa

If you do not know if you need a visa to enter Schengen, click [here](#). Download the [Schengen Visa Application Form](#) or visit the Swiss Ministry of European and International Affairs to check the current status regarding the visa and the conditions for issuing it [here](#).



### Schengen Insurance

Confirmation that you have **travel and health insurance** for Switzerland and the whole territory of Schengen, which meets Visa Code (Regulation EC No. 810/2009) conditions for a Schengen visa. Travel health insurance policies for foreigners travelling to Switzerland that fulfil Swiss Visa requirements can be purchased online from [schengen.insure](#) and it's accepted by Swiss Embassies and Consulates worldwide.





EU or EFTA citizens may present valid personal identification, an ID card or a passport. Depending on the country, Switzerland can recognise other travel documents.  
[Overview of ID and visa provisions according to nationality](#) (EU, EFTA and others)



## RESIDENCE PERMITS

Anyone who works during their stay in Switzerland or who remains in Switzerland for longer than three months requires a permit. Residence permits are issued by the Cantonal Migration Offices. A distinction is made between short-term residence permits (less than one year), annual residence permits (limited) and permanent residence permits (unlimited).

The authorisations required for a stay of over three months in Switzerland are dependent on the applicant's [nationality](#).

Depending on the place of residence, it is possible to submit visa application either directly at a Swiss representation abroad, by filling out the visa application online, at an external visa service provider or at the representation of another Schengen State.

## NON-EU NATIONALS

Only short-term visa applications (up to 90 days, Schengen visa) such as tourist, visit or business can be submitted online. A visa application can be submitted at the earliest six months before entering the Schengen area.

Applications for long-term visas (over 90 days, National visa) must be filed directly with the responsible Swiss representation. Depending on the Swiss representation, appointments can be made for both, Schengen and National visas.

Before starting the application process, please consult the website of the responsible Swiss representation to determine whether there is a waiting period to obtain an appointment.

Swiss representations abroad are able to issue certain categories of visa, depending on the length of stay and purpose of the journey in Switzerland.



- [Schengen visa for a stay of up to 90 days](#)

For people wishing to enter Switzerland for a short stay of up to 90 days within a 180-day period: for example, in a context of tourism, a visit to relatives or friends, short-term language studies, participating in a conference or in sporting/cultural events, etc. Time required to process a visa application for a short stay visa is 10 to 15 days.



- [National visa for a stay of more than 90 days](#)

For people wishing to enter Switzerland for a stay of more than 90 days within a 180-day period. It is a subject to the authorisation of the cantonal migration authority competent for the intended place of residence. For example: long-term student, family reunification, marriage in Switzerland, etc.

- [Labour / Work permits](#)

Admission of foreign workers to an employer in Switzerland is a subject to the authorisation of the competent cantonal authority. The entry visa is granted only when the requested authorisations have been delivered.

Do not forget to check the actual conditions for visiting Switzerland on official pages of [The Federal Council](#).

## Helpful links

- [Swiss Ministry of European and International Affairs](#)
- [Schengen insurance](#)
- [Schengen Visa Application Form](#)
- [Blog - a special blog about the Schengen area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Schengen Area](#)
- [Wikipedia - about Switzerland](#)





# 3



## About us

## Schengen Portal

Schengen Portal is one of the largest and most complex information provider on travelling in Schengen countries. We display a full and independent Schengen Visa information and news, as well as practical links to many Schengen countries visa authorities.

Schengen Portal is the expert in Schengen visa requirements across all Schengen countries. We help to guide students, workers or visitors travelling to Schengen area to a bright future with information, practical advice and Schengen health insurance options.

Working at the heart of the Schengen countries visa requirements for many years, we provide a market-leading portfolio of Schengen visa informations and government requirements to deliver unique services that benefit all the incoming travellers.



## Schengen Insure

Schengen.insure is an international web broker based in Prague, Czechia and providing offers of international medical insurance products, notably Schengen health insurance schemes.

Schengen.insure is serving people travelling to Schengen area to make the right purchase of Schengen health insurance.

Setting insurance with Schengen.insure is transparent, quick and customer friendly, our customers have the advantage of comparing quotes and doing an analysis of insurance policies offered by different european insurance companies. The insurance policies can be compared based on their price, medical benefits and other key features. The user-friendly access to policy information about Schengen insurance coverages support our customers to make an informed choice while buying travel or health insurance.

Schengen.insure is supported by Kentico technology and provides superior customer service. All customers are granted by „premium back guarantee“ for cases they would not obtain their Schengen visa from consulate in their destination Schengen country.

# schengen.insure

## AXA Partners

AXA Partners is an AXA transversal business unit offering a wide range of solutions in assistance services, travel and specialized insurance and credit protection. AXA Partners' role is also to implement innovative solutions emerging from the AXA Innovation unit.

AXA Partners strategy focuses on the needs of its end customers. Indeed, its commitment to them is visible at all levels: proactive responses to changing social and individual needs, tailored products and services, and long-term support in all lifecare situations. Current customer priorities focus primarily on two key domains: well-being at home, and mobility.

AXA Partners is a leading European Schengen insurance provider, ensuring travel medical services and various insurance coverages for all categories of travellers incoming to Schengen area.

