Traveling In Europe

If you are planning to visit or travel through European countries, you should be familiar with the requirements of the Schengen Agreement. The Schengen Agreement is a treaty creating Europe's Schengen Area, which encompasses [26 European countries](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/schengen.html#ExternalPopup), where internal border checks have largely been abolished for short-term tourism, a business trip, or transit to a non-Schengen destination. Because many Schengen countries assume that all travelers will stay for the full three months allowed for visa-free visitors, we recommend the following:

**PASSPORT**

* Have at least six-month’s validity remaining on your passport whenever you travel abroad.
* Check the expiration date on your passport carefully before traveling to Europe – especially children’s passports, which are valid five years, not 10 years like those issued to U.S. citizens aged 16 and older.
* Carry your passport when traveling to another country in the Schengen area. Even if there is no border check at that time, officials may reinstate border controls without notice.

You can find passport validity requirements for your destination country, along with other important information, on our [country pages](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html). If your passport does not meet the Schengen requirements, you may be:

* Refused boarding by the airline at your point of origin or while transferring planes.
* Denied entry when you arrive in the Schengen area, regardless of how long you will stay.

An immigration official will determine if you qualify for entry when you first cross any external border of the Schengen area and present your passport. The officer may bar your entry if you do not qualify.

\*\***Make sure you receive a stamp in your passport when you enter and exit the Schengen area.\*\***

**VISA**

If you:

* Spend three months in the Schengen area during any six-month period, you must wait another three months from the last date of departure from the Schengen area before you can apply to enter the Schengen area again without a visa.
* Do not meet these conditions, or if you plan to stay in the Schengen area longer than three months, contact the embassy of the country where you plan to spend the majority of your time to apply for a visa.

Schengen area countries may reinstate temporary internal and external border control without advanced notice. U.S. citizens should carry their U.S. passport at all times when traveling to/from and within the Schengen area. For additional information on traveling to and within the Schengen area, see our FAQ below.

ALL /

What is the Schengen Borders Agreement?

The [Schengen Borders Agreement](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/schengen.html" \l "ExternalPopup) permits citizens from certain countries - including the United States - to travel freely to 26 European countries within the Schengen area (see list below) for up to three months for tourism or business.

As a U.S. citizen, how long can I stay in the Schengen area without a visa?

With a valid U.S. passport, you can stay *up to 90 days* for tourism or business during any 180-day period. **Do not overstay!** You must wait an additional 90 days before applying to re-enter the Schengen area.

To stay longer than 90 days, you must have a visa. Apply for a visa through the [embassy](https://www.state.gov/s/cpr/32122.htm) of the country where you will spend most of your time.

What do I need to enter the Schengen area?

* A U.S. passport (with applicable visas, if needed), valid for at least 90 days beyond your intended date of departure from the Schengen area. Note: Border officials often assume you will stay the maximum 90 days, even if this is not your intention.
* Sufficient passport validity for each [country](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html) you will visit.
* Justifiable purpose of travel.
* Proof of sufficient financial resources for the visit.
* Compliance with other [entry requirements](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html) for each country you will visit or transit.

What do I need to do when traveling to Schengen countries?

* Make sure your passport will have sufficient validity or [renew it](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/apply-renew-passport.html) before traveling.
* Be sure immigration officials stamp your passport upon entering the Schengen area and again when you exit.
* Carry your passport with you when traveling to other countries in the Schengen area in case officials reinstate internal borders without notice.

Does the Schengen Borders Agreement apply to students, interns, or workers?

* Check with the [embassy](https://www.state.gov/s/cpr/32122.htm)of the country before you travel to determine if it requires a visa for the type of activity you wish to pursue.
* If you DO need a visa, wait until you receive it before traveling to any country in the Schengen area.

How can the U.S. government help me if I am denied entry?

* We can give you the contact information of [foreign embassies](https://www.state.gov/s/cpr/32122.htm) of the countries you wish to visit.
* We can provide information about hiring an [English-speaking foreign attorney](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/travel-legal-considerations/internl-judicial-asst/Retaining-Foreign-Attorney.html) overseas if you choose to do so.
* **Note:** We cannot influence a foreign government’s decision about allowing you to enter, and we cannot intervene in another country’s criminal or administrative procedures.

What countries are members of the Schengen Borders Agreement?

*Click on the country name for more information.*

* [Austria](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Austria.html)
* [Belgium](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Belgium.html)
* [Czech Republic](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/CzechRepublic.html)
* [Denmark](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Denmark.html)
* [Estonia](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Estonia.html)
* [Finland](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Finland.html)
* [France](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/France.html)
* [Germany](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Germany.html)
* [Greece](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Greece.html)
* [Hungary](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Hungary.html)
* [Iceland](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Iceland.html)
* [Italy](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Italy.html)
* [Latvia](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Latvia.html)
* [Liechtenstein](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Switzerland.html.html?wcmmode=disabled)
* [Lithuania](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Lithuania.html)
* [Luxembourg](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Luxembourg.html)
* [Malta](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Malta.html)
* [Netherlands](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Netherlands.html)
* [Norway](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Norway.html)
* [Poland](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Poland.html)
* [Portugal](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Portugal.html)
* [Slovakia](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Slovakia.html)
* [Slovenia](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Slovenia.html)
* [Spain](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Spain.html)
* [Sweden](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Sweden.html)
* [Switzerland](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Switzerland.html)

Additional Resources

**Additional Resources:**

* The European Union’s [Schengen Fact Sheet](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/schengen.html" \l "ExternalPopup)
* The European Parliament’s [Regulation 562/2006](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/schengen.html#ExternalPopup)
* The European Union [website](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/schengen.html#ExternalPopup)

## Do I Need Vaccines For Europe?

Travel to Europe is different from trips to places like Africa or South America. European countries are often more developed and have few infectious diseases. Most travelers will only need routine vaccinations, and these include:

* [**MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/measles-mumps-rubella-mmr/)– Over the last decade, measles outbreaks have become more common in Europe. Protect yourself with this simple immunization.
* [**TDaP (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis/)– Due in part to immigration patterns, some diseases like diphtheria have resurfaced in Europe.
* [**Flu Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/influenza-the-flu/)– Europe was hit especially hard by the flu this year. If you plan on traveling during a high flu time (September to April) be sure to have the vaccine before you go.

But, some regions will require some extra preparation. The CDC and WHO recommend the following for specific nations:

**France**

* [**Hepatitis A Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/hepatitis-a/)– This common foodborne disease is a low risk in France, but the vaccine is recommended for adventurous eaters.
* [**Hepatitis B Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/hepatitis-b/)– Transmitted through sexual contact and contaminated needles, consider this vaccine based on your itinerary.
* [**Rabies Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/rabies/)– Rabies is present in France but mostly confined to the bat population. If you plan on being in an area where bats are present, you may consider this vaccine.

**Germany**

* [**MMR Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/measles-mumps-rubella-mmr/)– Making sure you are up-to-date on this vaccine as it is very important for travel to Germany. The country has been a hotbed of measles activity over the last five years, meaning it could pose a threat to unvaccinated travelers.

**Russia**

* [**Hepatitis A Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/hepatitis-a/)– Hepatitis A is more prevalent in Russia than it is in some other European countries. Because of this, the CDC highly recommends the vaccine for travelers to the country.
* [**Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/japanese-encephalitis/)– Depending on when, where and how long you will be traveling to rural areas of Russia, you may need this vaccine.

**Turkey**

While not technically a European country, Turkey is a prime destination for many travelers who are also visiting Europe, especially those who may be part of cruises or other tour groups that visit multiple countries.

* [**Typhoid Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/typhoid/)– You can contract typhoid through contaminated food or water in Turkey and many other nations. Consider this vaccine before you travel.
* [**Rabies Vaccine**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/vaccinations/rabies/)– Unlike France, rabies can be a serious issue in Turkey. Anyone planning to be outdoors for a long period of time and may come in contact with stray or wild animals should consider this vaccine.
* [**Antimalarial Medication**](https://www.passporthealthusa.com/travel-medicine/malaria-prevention/)– While malaria risk is low in Turkey, some cases have been detected. Speak with a travel health specialist before you go to learn if antimalarials are right for your trip.

Planning a trip to any of these countries, or Europe in general? Visit with a travel health specialist before you go. Passport Health clinicians are available across North America to serve you. Book online now or call us at 1-888-499-7277.

## What Other Health Concerns May Be Present In Europe?

The European continent is generally a safe place, but some additional considerations include:

* Bringing a diarrhea remedy like DiaResQ- Despite having fewer infectious diseases than some other regions, traveler’s diarrhea is still a threat in Europe. Be prepared before you go with treatments like DiaResQ.
* Watch for security alerts- In the last year, various security concerns have changed the European travel landscape. Be aware of what is going on, and consider registering your trip with the State Department.

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/schengen.html

https://www.passporthealthusa.com/2016/04/which-vaccines-do-i-need-for-europe/