US-VISIT

Keeping America's Doors Open and Our Nation Secure

www.dhs.gov/us-visit

Homeland Security

US-VISIT is a continuum of security measures that begin overseas, at the Department of State's visa-issuing posts, and continue through arrival and departure from the United States. Using biometrics such as digital, inkless fingerscans and digital photographs, the identity of visitors requiring a visa to travel to the U.S. is now verified at each step to ensure that the person crossing our border is the same person who received the visa, and to ensure that they do not overstay the terms of their admission. For travelers, the process is fast and simple and the biometrics help secure their identity in the event their travel documents are lost or stolen.

The goals of US-VISIT are to:
★ Enhance the security of our citizens and visitors
★ Facilitate legitimate travel and trade
★ Ensure the integrity of the immigration system
★ Safeguard the personal privacy of our visitors

The initiative involves collecting travel information and "biometric identifiers" (such as digital fingerscans, using a simple, inkless device) from visitors to assist the U. S. Customs and Border Protection Officer in making admissibility decisions.

The identity of visitors who need a visa to travel to the U.S. will be verified upon their arrival and departure. These entry and exit procedures address our critical need for tighter security and our ongoing commitment to facilitate travel for the millions of legitimate visitors we welcome each year to conduct business, learn, see family, or tour the country.
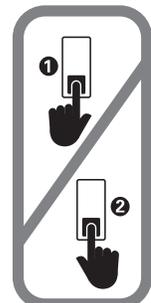
By capturing visitors'"biometrics" using an inkless digital fingerscanner, we are able to conduct this verification process more quickly and with more certainty than by searching databases by name alone.

Upon Arrival

The arrival processes for the most part remain unchanged and will be familiar to international visitors. At an airport or seaport, travel documents such as a passport and a visa will be reviewed and a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer will ask specific questions regarding the visitor's stay in the U.S.
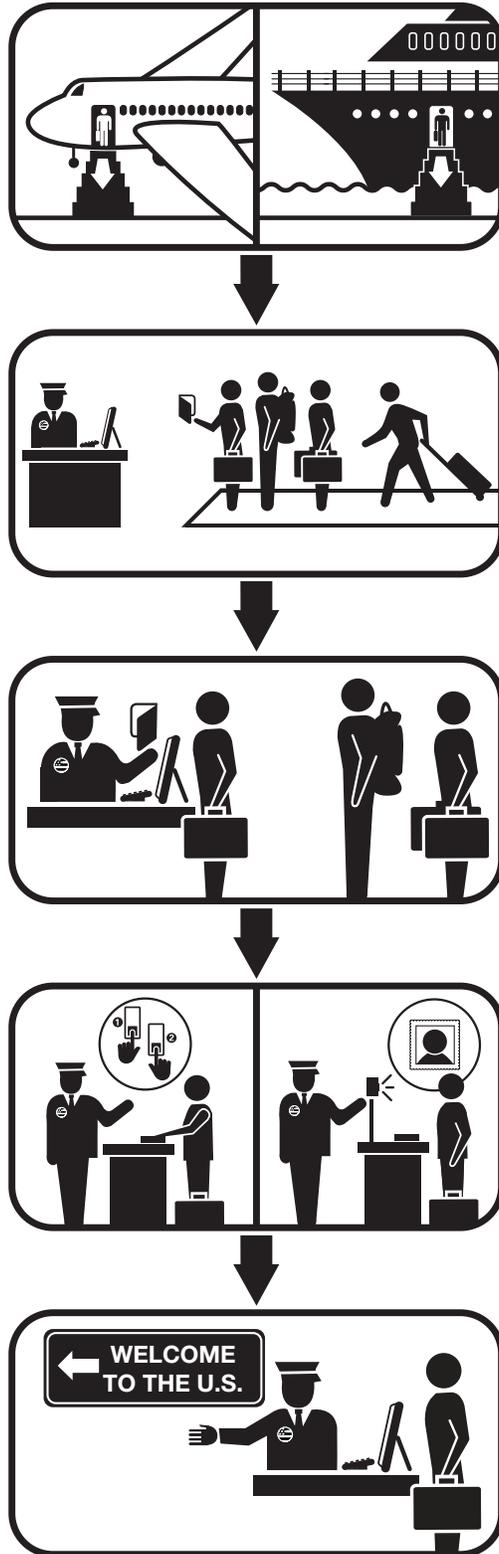
As part of the enhanced procedures, **most visitors traveling on visas have their two index fingers scanned by an inkless device and a digital photograph taken.** All of this data and information is used to assist the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer in determining whether or not to admit the visitor. **These enhanced procedures add only seconds to the visitor's overall processing time.**

Data obtained from all visitors is securely stored. This information is made available only to authorized officials and selected law enforcement agencies on a need-to-know basis in their efforts to help protect the nation against those who intend to harm American citizens or visitors to our country. US-VISIT conforms to all appropriate privacy laws. A US-VISIT privacy officer is available to answer questions or resolve concerns and may be contacted through www.dhs.gov/us-visit or by writing to the Privacy Coordinator, US-VISIT, Department of Homeland Security,Washington DC 20528.

US-VISIT Arrival Process for Visitors Traveling with a Visa

Upon Departure

The most notable change for international visitors will be new exit procedures.

As part of US-VISIT, most **visitors who require a visa will eventually need to verify their departure.** The US-VISIT system is designed to make this check-out process easy, and involves a test of automated self-service workstations and other alternatives in the international departure areas of airports and seaports. By scanning travel documents and capturing fingerscans on the same inkless device, the system validates the visitor's identity, verifies departure, and confirms compliance with U.S. immigration policy.

Compliance with these new security procedures is critical because the exit information will also be added to the individual's travel record to record their status for future visits to the United States.

The Goal of US-VISIT is to enhance the security of the United States **while facilitating legitimate travel and trade.** The United States of America is still a nation where diversity is celebrated and people from all over the world are welcome. Today we – like most other countries – are working to keep our borders secure while we maintain the freedom to exchange ideas, keep businesses thriving, and enrich lives all over the world.

US-VISIT helps to secure our borders, facilitate the entry and exit process, and ensure the integrity of our immigration system while respecting the environment and the privacy of our visitors.

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