



**US-VISIT** is a continuum of security measures that begins overseas, at the Department of State's visa-issuing posts, and continues through arrival and departure from the United States of America. Using biometrics such as digital, inkless fingerscans and digital photographs, the identity of visitors requiring a visa to travel to the United States is now matched at each step to ensure that the person crossing our border is the same person who received the visa. It also helps us know when visitors overstay the terms of their admission. Finally, the biometrics help secure the visitors' identity in the event their travel documents are lost or stolen.

**US-VISIT procedures apply to visitors holding a foreign passport or visa.**

**For all travelers, the process is fast and simple.**

**The goals of US-VISIT are to:**

- ★ Enhance the security of our citizens and visitors
- ★ Facilitate legitimate travel and trade
- ★ Ensure the integrity of our immigration system
- ★ Protect the privacy of our visitors

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

The identity of visitors who travel to the United States will be matched 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 matching process more quickly and with more certainty than by searching databases by name alone.

## Upon Applying for a Visa

Visitors who are required to obtain a visa to travel to the United States must go through a personal interview at a visa-issuing post. This process includes enrolling in US-VISIT – having two index fingers scanned by an inkless device and a digital photograph taken. This information assists the Department of State Consular Officer in making decisions about issuing a visa.

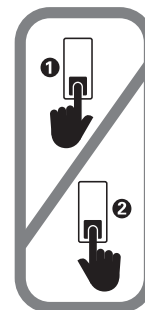
## Upon Arrival

The arrival process for the most part remains unchanged and will be familiar to international visitors. At an air or sea port, 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 visitors' stay in the U.S.

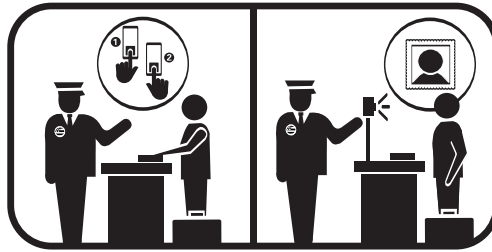
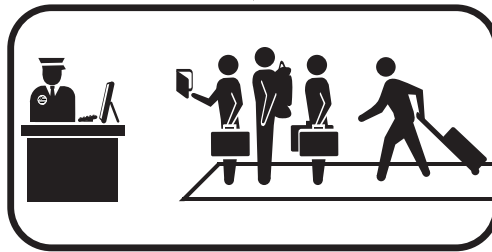
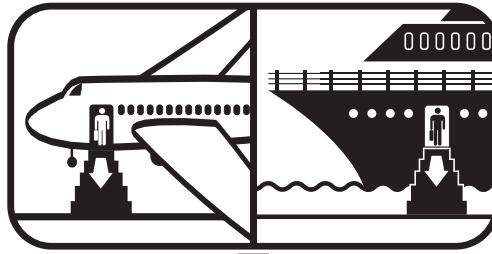


As part of the enhanced procedures, **visitors have their two index fingers scanned by an inkless device and a digital photograph taken.** This information is used to assist the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer in determining whether or not to admit the visitor. **These enhanced procedures add only seconds to the visitor's overall processing time.**

Visitors who enrolled in US-VISIT at the visa-issuing post will repeat the process of having their two index fingers scanned and photograph taken to ensure that the person entering the country is the same person who was issued the visa.



# Air and Sea Port US-VISIT Arrival Process for Visitors



# Upon Departure

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



As part of US-VISIT, **visitors 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 air and sea ports. By scanning travel documents and capturing fingerscans on the same inkless device, the system matches the visitors' identity, verifies departure, and confirms compliance with U.S. immigration policy. Compliance with these new security procedures is critical because the exit information also will be added to the visitors' travel record to document their status for future visits to the United States.

## About Privacy

US-VISIT will safeguard the personal information collected in a manner that is responsible and respectful of privacy concerns. Data obtained from visitors is securely stored and made available only to authorized officials on a need-to-know basis. US-VISIT conforms to all appropriate U.S. 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](http://www.dhs.gov/us-visit), by sending an email to [privacy@dhs.gov](mailto:privacy@dhs.gov), or by writing to the Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, US-VISIT, 425 Eye Street, NW, Washington DC 20536.



**US-VISIT** enhances the security of the United States while facilitating legitimate travel and trade. The United States 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.**

[www.dhs.gov/us-visit](http://www.dhs.gov/us-visit)