



*Embassy of the United States of America  
Bridgetown, Barbados*

**Q: I am married to a U.S. citizen. Can I travel to the United States on a tourist visa or on the Visa Waiver Program and apply for a Green Card after arriving?**

A: Intending immigrants should always enter the United States on an immigrant visa. If you enter the United States on a tourist visa or the Visa Waiver Program you generally will not be allowed to change your status to that of a Lawful Permanent Resident. Moreover, if the inspector at the Port of Entry is aware of your intention to stay in the United States permanently, you will likely be refused entry into the United States. While it is true that some people who enter the United States on nonimmigrant visas do change their status to that of Lawful Permanent Resident, it is an expensive, time consuming, and difficult process. Also, while you are waiting for the lengthy process to be conducted, you cannot leave the United States for any reason. Therefore, it is advisable to obtain your immigrant visa overseas.

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