



Embassy of the United States of America  
100 Duke & Young Streets, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana

## **Installment Seventy Two**

### **Ask the Consul – Summer Travel**

#### **Q: Why write about summer travel a week before Christmas?**

Soon after the New Year begins, many people will begin to make plans for summer vacation, some of which may include travel to visit family or friends in the United States. Now is the best time to plan for such summer travel. During the months following the holidays fewer applicants apply for visas. This means a better availability of appointments and shorter wait times. Ideally, applicants should make their appointments at least two months before the date that they wish to travel. Applicants who are planning to travel this summer and do not yet have an appointment should make one soon. Planning ahead will help avoid the disappointment and inconvenience of disrupted travel plans.

#### **Q: What do I need to bring to the interview?**

Applicants applying for visitor visas need only bring their passport and application form. The Embassy will not review any additional documents related to visa applications, but will evaluate the applicant's qualifications based on the interview alone. This policy allows for better consideration of the applicant's qualifications. All applicants should come to their interview prepared to speak about their reasons for visiting the United States and their ties to Guyana. Applicants applying for visas for other purposes, such as student or crewmember visas, should come prepared with all required documents. A list of specific required documents for different visa categories can be found at the Embassy website <http://georgetown.usembassy.gov/visas/niv.html>.

Applicants should check their passports to make sure they have AT LEAST six months remaining validity and to ensure that their passports are in good condition. The Embassy cannot issue a visa in a passport that is damaged or mutilated or soon to expire.

#### **Q: What if I need an expedited appointment?**

The waiting period for an interview appointment varies with demand. Typically, the Embassy is able to offer appointments within one to two weeks. However, during certain times of year, like the busy summer season, the wait can be as long as several weeks. Qualified applicants can ensure their ability to obtain a visa in time for their planned travel by requesting their appointments early. Failure to plan ahead for non-emergency travel is not grounds for an expedited appointment; the consular section will schedule expedited appointments only in rare cases where a genuine emergency exists. Applicants with emergency travel should first try to obtain a timely appointment through our online appointment system before contacting our visa inquiries unit.

**Q: If I am issued a Visitor Visa, when will the visa be ready?**

Non-immigrant visa applications are subject to a greater degree of scrutiny than in the past. All applicants require a personal interview. Most qualified applicants receive their visas on the following business day; however, some applicants may be informed at the interview that their applications require additional processing. The time needed for processing these cases is always difficult to predict. Therefore, we recommend that individuals allow ample time before their planned travel date when seeking to obtain a visa.

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*“Ask the Consul” is a weekly column from the U.S. Embassy answering questions about U.S. immigration law and visa issues. If you have a general question about visa policy please email it to us at [AskGeorge@state.gov](mailto:AskGeorge@state.gov). We select questions each week and publish the answers in Stabroek News and on our website at [http://georgetown.usembassy.gov/guyana/ask\\_con.html](http://georgetown.usembassy.gov/guyana/ask_con.html). For more information about visas please see <http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov> or <http://georgetown.usembassy.gov/>.*

*Other than the questions we select, we DO NOT respond to questions sent to Ask the Consul. Please contact the visa inquiries unit (email [visageorge@state.gov](mailto:visageorge@state.gov) or call 225-7965 between 8 am- 12 pm and 1 pm- 4 pm Monday through Friday) if you have questions about a specific case.*