

Trinidad Express, April 11, 2010.

I need to travel to Houston for work in two weeks and I attempted to make a visa appointment on your website, but all of the appointments before my departure date were full. I really need to go to this meeting! How do I make an appointment?

Rupa on the Platform

While the U.S. Embassy in Port of Spain tries hard to provide as many visa appointments as possible each day, same day appointments are not available due to security reasons and there are certain periods during the year that the Embassy is busier than usual, making it difficult to get a last minute appointment for a visa interview. The best way to avoid this situation is to schedule your visa appointment long before (at least three months) your intended date of travel. If you already have a visa, apply for a new visa before your current visa expires.

The Embassy recognizes that life is full of surprises and unfortunate events and so like all other U.S. Embassies in the world, we have an expedited appointment system. To request an expedited appointment, you must first pay the required fee at the TT Post, make a regular visa appointment, and then send an email requesting an expedited appointment to ConsularPOS@state.gov. In the email you should detail your current appointment date, your need for an expedited appointment and your purpose of travel.

An expedited appointment request does not guarantee that you will receive the expedited appointment. If the appointment is approved, you will receive an email back from the Embassy within two business days. If you do not hear back from the Embassy in three days, then you should assume that the expedited appointment was not approved. If the appointment isn't approved then we recommend that you check our appointment schedule frequently as visa applicants often cancel their appointments and several openings may become available.

Please note that a lack of planning does not constitute an emergency. We recommend that potential travelers and visa applicants plan far in advance and schedule appointments ahead of time. For instance, if you would like to travel to the United States this summer but do not have a visa, then you should try to schedule your appointment now. Or, if you already have a U.S. tourist visa, then please check its expiration date. A failure to recognize that your visa has expired the day before a trip to Sea World is not considered the type of emergency that qualifies for an expedited appointment.

We cannot grant every request because there are limits on how many applicants we can interview in a given amount of time. Still, the Embassy does its best to help all of its applicants receive appointments in a timely fashion.