



U.S. Russia Visa Agreement

What It Means for U.S. Citizens

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U.S.-Russia Visa Agreement

What It Means for U.S. Citizens

- 36 month, multiple-entry visas for the majority of visa categories (business, tourist, private, and humanitarian).
- U.S. citizens will be able to stay in Russia for up to 6 months from date of entry
- Burdensome, formal invitation letters via Russia's Federal Migration Service are no longer required, although written statement from host entity – company, institution, organization - will be necessary
- Can apply for a visa at any Russian Embassy or Consulate in the world
- Adjudication of visa application within 15 days
- No exit visa needed after passport lost or stolen
- U.S. citizens who received Russian visas *before* September 9 must follow the terms of the old visa regime

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Requirements: Business and Humanitarian Visas

- Visa application form + written statement from the host organization, including the following information:
 - Organization's full name, official address, and contact information
 - Full name of the person signing the written statement
 - If the organization is established in the territory of the Russian Federation, the organization's individual taxpayer number
 - Visa applicant's name, date of birth, citizenship, gender, passport number, number of entries sought, purpose of travel, requested period of entry, location of intended residence in Russia, and cities to be visited

U.S.-Russia Visa Agreement

Requirements: Private/Homestay Visas

- Visa application form + notarized written statement from the hosting individual, including the following information:
 - Hosting individual's full name, date of birth, citizenship, gender, passport number, address of registration, and individual's actual residence
 - Visa applicant's name, date of birth, citizenship, gender, passport number, number of entries sought, purpose of travel, requested period of entry, location of intended residence in Russia, and cities to be visited

U.S.-Russia Visa Agreement

Requirements: Tourist Visas

- Visa application form + hotel reservation confirmation + contract for provision of tourist services with a tourist organization registered with the Russian Federal Tourism Agency
- With the above documents, applicants for a tourist visa do not need any additional written statements from host entities

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Possible Additional Documentation

- **The Russian Embassy or Consulate receiving the visa application may ask for additional documentation, including:**
 - Bank statement from the applicant
 - Statement from the applicant's employer regarding the applicant's salary for the preceding year, half year, or month
 - Medical insurance valid in Russia and fully covering the period of the first trip
 - Documents regarding the applicant's ownership of property in the U.S.
 - A certificate of the makeup of the applicant's family (i.e., marriage certificate and children's birth certificates)
- **Applicants should consult with a Russian Embassy or Consulate for a detailed explanation of documentary requirements.**

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Exit Visas

- Leave Russia when your visa expires
- You may not overstay your visa validity by more than three days
 - If you overstay by three days or less, you may be granted an Exit Visa at the airport *at the discretion of the Russian Consular Officer*
 - This may not be available in smaller cities, and we strongly recommend you do not overstay at all
- It may take Russian authorities up to 20 calendar days to authorize an exit visa, and you will have to stay in Russia at your own expense.

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Exit Visas

- If your passport is lost or stolen, you no longer need to replace your Russian visa if that visa has not yet expired at the time of your departure
- You will need to replace your passport at the U.S. Embassy or one of the Consulates
- You will need to provide a police report of a lost or stolen passport
- We recommend carrying a copy of your passport bio page and Russian visa as proof of your visa's validity

U.S.-Russia Visa Agreement

Migration Cards/Registration

- U.S. citizens entering Russia must carry a migration card while in Russia
- You will usually receive a card before landing; Russian border officials will retain one of the identical halves of the card
- If you lose the other half, you are required to report the loss and replace it with the Federal Migration Service
- At Moscow's Vnukovo and Domodedovo Airports, migration cards are electronically completed and provided by immigration officials. If you receive an electronic card, continue to carry your migration cards in your U.S. passport and submit it to immigration authorities upon departure
- If you spend *more than 7 days* in Russia, you must register your visa and migration card through your sponsor. If you are staying at a hotel, hotel reception should register both on the first day of your stay.

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Cruise Ship Passengers – Transit Visas

- You are permitted to visit Russian ports without a visa for a **period of up to 72 hours**
- You may go ashore without a visa during port calls, but only if you are with an organized tour and accompanied at all times by a tour operator who has been duly licensed by Russian authorities
- If you arrive in Russia by ship or ferry, but want to depart by air, train, or other mode of transportation, you must have a visa
- You must present your U.S. passport to Russian immigration officers each time you depart or return to the ship during your port call in Russia

U.S.-Russia Visa Agreement

Recap: What's New? What's the Same?

36 month, multiple-entry visas for the majority of visa categories: business, tourist, private, and humanitarian	Work visa and student visa requirements have not changed!
Stay in Russia for up to 6 months from the date of entry	
Formal letters of invitation from the Federal Migration Service no longer necessary	Tourists still need hotel reservation confirmation + contract for provision of tourist services with a tourist organization registered with the Russian Federal Tourism Agency; other visa applicants need written statement from the host entity
Apply at any Russian Embassy or Consulate General worldwide	Use the online application to get started: http://evisa.kdmid.ru/
Lose your passport? Provide police report, replace U.S. passport, NO NEED TO REPLACE RUSSIAN VISA	Overstay your visa validity? Still need to get a Russian exit visa



For More Information...

- Russian Embassy in the U.S. (With updated info per 9/9 Visa Agreement) - http://www.russianembassy.org/Embassy_eng/Consulate/general.html
- Online visa application - <http://evisa.kdmid.ru>
- Russian Embassy's Official Visa Application Center for Americans submitting applications themselves (No updated info on new visa requirements) - <http://www.ils-usa.com/>