

LIBERTY TRAVEL

FAQs Regarding U.S. Restrictions on European Travel

Friday, March 13, 2020

The United States' announcement regarding a travel ban from continental Europe has likely left you with a lot of questions regarding the safety and availability of travel to Europe. To help clarify things for you, we've prepared the questions and answers below that address key points:

Is there a European travel ban? Who does that apply to?

Effective 11:59PM, ET on Friday, March 13th, the United States will ban all travel from the Schengen Region of Europe to the United States.

The suspension applies to all foreign nationals physically present in the Schengen Area in the 14-day period prior to attempted entry into the U.S. The suspension applies to the movement of human beings, not goods or cargo.

This DOES NOT apply to U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, their children or spouses.

It also DOES NOT apply to people who boarded a flight scheduled to arrive in the U.S. that departed prior to 11:59PM March 13th.

Scope of suspension and limitation on entry:

The Order DOES NOT apply to:

- a) Any lawful permanent resident of the U.S.
- b) Any alien who is the spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident
- c) Any alien who is the parent or legal guardian of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident who is unmarried and under 21
- d) Any alien who is the sibling of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, provided that both are unmarried and under 21
- e) Any alien who is the child, foster child, or ward of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident
- f) Any alien traveling at the invitation of the U.S. Government for the purpose related to containment or mitigation of the virus
- g) Any alien traveling as a crew member on a relevant visa
- h) Any alien seeking entry pursuant to a few visas
- i) Any alien whose entry does not pose a significant risk to transmit the virus as determined by the CDC or Secretary of Health, or whose entry is in the national interest, as determined by the Secretary of State
- j) Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and spouses or children

Which countries in Europe does this ban/suspension apply to?

The order applies to the Schengen Area of Europe (26 countries):

- Austria
- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lichtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland

The travel suspension currently DOES NOT apply to the United Kingdom.

What happens to Americans still in Europe?

Per the announcement, U.S. permanent residents will be allowed to return pending their passing of health screenings. They will be directed to a limited number of airports where screening can take place either prior to departure or upon arrival. Enhanced screening is expected for all returning U.S. permanent residents. We expect advisement around requirements to be forthcoming.

Additional Key Points:

- Europe is experiencing widespread sustained transmission of respiratory illness caused by the novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19).
- **CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to the specified countries in Europe (as noted above).**
- Older adults and people of any age with serious chronic medical conditions are at increased risk for severe disease.
- Travelers should avoid contact with sick people and wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Travelers returning from the specified countries in Europe must stay home for 14 days after returning from travel, monitor their health, and practice social distancing.
- Travelers who are sick with fever, cough, or have trouble breathing should call ahead before seeking medical care.

How long will the policy last for?

The travel ban is expected last for 30 days. In his remarks, the President stated that the ban may be extended or shortened as required.

The U.S. Department of State has issued a Level 3 Health Advisory to reconsider travel abroad due to the global impact of COVID-19. What should I do if still want or have to travel?

If you decide to travel abroad, we recommend the following in accordance with the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories:

- Review and follow the [CDC's guidelines for the prevention of coronavirus](#).
- Check with your airlines or cruise lines regarding any updated information about your travel plans and/or restrictions.
- Visit travel.state.gov to view individual Travel Advisories for the most urgent threats to safety and security.
- Visit the Department of State's Embassy webpages on COVID-19 for information on conditions in each country or jurisdiction.
- Visit the [Department of Homeland Security's website](#) on the latest travel restrictions to the U.S.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency. The Department uses these Alerts to convey information about terrorist threats, security incidents, planned demonstrations, natural disasters, etc. In an emergency, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate, or call the following numbers: 1 (888) 407-4747 (toll-free in the United States and Canada) or 1 (202) 501-4444 from other countries or jurisdictions.