

Who needs a Schengen Visa?

<http://www.schengenvisainfo.com/who-needs-schengen-visa/>

After the signing of the Schengen Convention in Luxembourg in 1990, among the 22 European Union member states and the 4 EFTA member states, the concept of free movement started being implemented just 5 years after, allowing the population of the certain member countries to travel freely and start a life in any of them countries.

Schengen Area nowadays covers most of the European Countries with an exception made for the United Kingdom and the countries that are soon to be part of this agreement as Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Ireland. Although not members of the European Union, the following countries like Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Lichtenstein are also part of the Schengen zone enjoying the same freedom of movement policy as the others.

In case of any individual threats, irrespective of nationality the competent authorities are prone to conduct a police check at any international border or border area however they are not equivalent to border control checks. Otherwise, any person regardless of nationality (always a citizen of the Schengen Zone member countries) is able to cross the international borders without any border checks.

However, regarding the non-members of the Schengen Area there is a mandatory visa requirement to enter the Schengen Zone for some countries. The countries whose citizens are required to obtain a Schengen visa in order to enter one of its member countries are listed in the following section.

Afghanistan	Guinea	Peru
Algeria	Guinea-Bissau	Philippines
Angola	Guyana	Qatar

Armenia	Haiti	Russia
Azerbaijan	India	Rwanda
Bahrain	Indonesia	Samoa
Bangladesh	Iran	Sao Tome And Principe
Belarus	Iraq	Saudi Arabia
Belize	Jamaica	Senegal
Benin	Jordan	Sierra Leone
Bhutan	Kazakhstan	Solomon Islands
Bolivia	Kenya	Somalia
Botswana	Kiribati	South Africa
Burkina Faso	Kuwait	Sri Lanka
Burma/Myanmar	Kyrgyzstan	St Lucia
Burundi	Laos	St Vincent & The Grenadines

Cambodia	Lebanon	Sudan
Cameroon	Lesotho	Suriname
Cape Verde	Liberia	Swaziland
Central African Republic	Libya	Syria
Chad	Madagascar	Tajikistan
China	Malawi	Tanzania
Colombia	Maldives	Thailand
Comoros	Mali	Timor-Leste
Congo	Marshall Islands	Togo
Cote D'ivoire	Mauritania	Tonga
Cuba	Micronesia	Trinidad and Tobago
Dem. Rep. Of Congo	Moldova	Tunisia
Djibouti	Mongolia	Turkey

Dominica	Morocco	Turkmenistan
Dominican Republic	Mozambique	Tuvalu
Ecuador	Namibia	Uganda
Egypt	Nauru	Ukraine
Equatorial Guinea	Nepal	Uzbekistan
Eritrea	Niger	Vanuatu
Ethiopia	Nigeria	Vietnam
Fiji	North Korea	Yemen
Gabon	Northern Mariana's	Zambia
Gambia	Oman	Zimbabwe
Georgia	Pakistan	Kosova
Ghana	Palau	
Grenada	Papua New Guinea	

Nevertheless, there are always exceptions to any rules as is the list of the countries that don't need a visa to enter the Schengen Zone even without being part of the agreement itself. Such countries are listed as following.

- Albania
- Andorra
- Argentina
- Australia
- Bermuda
- Brazil
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Cyprus
- El Salvador
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Japan
- Macao
- Macedonia
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Moldova (Visa waiver applies only to holders of biometric passports)
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- New Zealand (Including The Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau)
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Romania
- San Marino
- Serbia
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Switzerland
- Taiwan

- United Arab Emirates (*from May 7, 2015*)
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America (including Virgin Islands of The United States, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico)
- Uruguay
- Vatican
- Venezuela

The citizens of the countries of the Schengen Zone as well as the citizens of the countries that don't need a visa to enter the Schengen zone are however not allowed to reside in the traveling destination for the time desired without any other legal permission. The amount of days permitted to stay in any of the Schengen zone countries doesn't exceed 90 days/ three months every half a year needlessly of the travel reasons. Also, you got to bear in mind that the fact that you are able to obtain a Schengen visa to enter and reside for the certain amount of time in a Schengen area doesn't apply to working or studying in that country.

In the meantime, there are countries citizens of which need also an airport transit visa in order to change the airplane at an airport in a Schengen Area country. The list of the countries which are subject to the airport transit visa in the Schengen Area goes as following:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Congo (Drc)
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Iran
- Iraq
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka

There are however exceptions regarding the Airport Transit Visa for certain individuals. In case of the following terms, the nationals of the above mentioned countries are not obliged to obtain an airport transit visa:

- If the person holds a residency permit from a Schengen member country, a valid Schengen Visa for short stays or long stays.
- If the person holds a residency permit from countries such as, Andorra, Canada, Japan, San Marino or the USA that guarantees the persons whereabouts.

- If the person holds a valid Schengen visa or a valid visa for entering one of the EFTA countries as well as Canada, Japan or the United States, even if they are returning from those certain countries after using this visa.
- If the person is a family member of e EU citizen (close family only)
- If the person holds a diplomatic passport.

If you are a family member of an EU/EEA national it doesn't necessarily mean that you won't need a visa in order to enter the Schengen zone. It only means that the procedures on obtaining a visa will be alleviated and faster. Still, in order for this to apply you have to meet certain standards such as:

- You have to be a first degree family member of the EU/EEA citizen (husband or a child under 21years old).
- You have to join the EU/EEA citizen in the travel destination or the residing country within the Schengen Area and have proof of that.

In the case of citizens with more than one nationality the visa requirements depend on the passport he/she chooses to travel with. If you chose to travel with a passport of a nationality that requires a mandatory visa you will have to obtain one even if you are in possession of a passport of one of the Schengen member countries but you are not willing to use it for any reason.

In case you are holding a D visa that allows you not only to enter a Schengen area but also live there for a certain period of time, holding the residency permit of the certain country you are entitled to visit any Schengen country within the 90 days period every 6 months. As seen in the following section, in order to obtain a D visa you have to have a legitimate reason.