

EILEEN ANDERSON, CTA
Luxury Travel Advisor
Journeys Afar, Inc.
affiliated with TRAVEL EXPERTS, INC
gowitheileen@gmail.com
919 623-3546 Mobile

SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

EXPEDITE CUSTOMS ARRIVALS ~ Mobile Passport Control (MPC) is an option for those without Global Entry returning to the US. A free service, eligible travelers can submit their travel document, photo, and customs declaration information via a free, secure app on a smartphone/other mobile device upon arrival without pre-approval. Upside: shorter wait times, less congestion and efficient processing. See: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/mobile-passport-control>

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS / U S CITIZENS – Electronic travel authorizations are now in force for the UK (<https://www.gov.uk/eta/apply>, and by Q4 2026, Europe will roll out its ETIAS/Electronic Travel Information & Authorization System (<https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias>). Fees apply to each. It's more important than ever to check country requirements at www.travel.state.gov. Though U S citizens may currently travel visa free to 141 foreign nations, regulations change without warning. Have at least 6 months passport validity beyond stay dates. Expiry dates sneak up on us, review and renew passports!



NEW EUROPEAN EES TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS:

~ European travelers this year will be introduced to its new EES/ [Entry/Exit System](#), not just for Americans but all visitors from outside Europe's [Schengen Area](#). This group of 29 countries allows trans border travel within the EU zone without customs checks. Allow extra checkin, connection, and ground transfer time, as longer lines are expected. In addition to the fingerprint scan and photographs, Americans will have to [provide details](#) from their

passports like their full name and date of birth. Travelers who refuse to provide their biometric data through the Entry/Exit System will be [denied entry](#) to the region. The system will also keep track of people who were denied entry. As of now, fingerprints of children younger than 12 years old will not be collected, authorities said.

The new system will eventually replace passport stamps, aims to increase security in the Schengen Area, help authorities track who enters and leaves the area, and crack down on those who stay longer than allowed, according to the EU. Files with personal data will be kept for [about three years](#) after their departure, according to the EU. Current list of the countries that will use the new system: *Austria – Belgium – Bulgaria – Croatia – Czechia – Denmark – Estonia – Finland – France – Germany – Greece – Hungary – Iceland – Italy – Latvia – Liechtenstein – Lithuania – Luxembourg – Malta – Netherlands – Norway – Poland – Portugal – Romania – Slovakia – Slovenia – Spain – Sweden – Switzerland*

FAST LANE OPTION ~ Travelers in premium economy, business & first class can use express security lanes in most major international airports. Some European airports also have express passport control. Another reason to consider booking premium cabins!

WHERE TO NEXT ? Italy? Greece? France? Spain? Can't decide? Do it all on a Mediterranean cruise with multi-country stops. Holiday fever? Visit Christmas markets in Vienna, Budapest, Bordeaux, along with cozy traditional celebrations in smaller towns and villages on a festive cruise along the Rhine, Danube, or French rivers. Looking to expand your horizons? Consider South America, Asia, Antarctica, or small ship yacht style sailings on Ritz Carlton Yachts, from the Caribbean to the Mediterranean and beyond. Most cruise lines have inventory open into 2028, it's never too early to plan!



I look forward to making your next trip the most memorable one ever!

~ *Eileen Anderson, CTA*
Journeys Afar, Inc.

919 623 3546 / gowitheileen@gmail.com