

New Entry & Exit Systems in Europe and the U.S. What Travellers Need to Know

International travel is becoming more digital. Both Europe and the United States are introducing new Entry/Exit Systems that use biometric data, like fingerprints and facial recognition, to verify identities at border crossings. Here's what travellers should know as these changes take effect.

Europe's Entry/Exit System (EES)

Operational since October 12, 2025, the Entry/Exit System (EES) is being gradually introduced at external borders across 29 European countries, with full implementation by April 10, 2026.

The EES applies to non-EU nationals visiting for a short stay (up to 90 days in any 180-day period), including Canadians and Americans travelling for tourism or business.

What to Expect

- Passport stamps are being replaced by digital records of entry and exit.
- At your first entry, border officers will collect a facial photo and fingerprints.
- On future trips, your data will already be stored, allowing for faster processing.
- Many airports and land borders will offer self-service kiosks or mobile pre-registration options.



Why it Matters

The EES will modernize border checks, prevent overstays, and improve Schengen Area security, while aiming to make travel smoother over time. Learn more [here](#).

New U.S. Entry & Exit Requirements

Starting December 26, 2025, the United States will implement similar biometric screening requirements for nearly all non-U.S. citizens, including Canadians entering by air, sea, or land.

What to Expect

- Facial recognition and fingerprint scans will be required for entry and exit.
- No exemptions for minors or older travelers.
- U.S. citizens may opt out, but foreign nationals must participate.
- Travelers may experience longer processing times during the rollout.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) says these updates aim to strengthen identity verification, reduce visa overstays, and prevent document fraud. Find the most current entry/exit requirements [here](#).



Travel Tips

- Ensure your passport and ID documents are valid and up to date.
- Allow extra time at border crossings during the early months of implementation.
- Review your visa or entry status before traveling.
- It's important to note that your biometric data will be handled under DHS privacy protocols.

What This Means for Travellers

Both systems reflect a broader move toward digital borders designed to enhance security and streamline travel. While the first crossings under these new systems may take longer, frequent travelers can expect more consistent, efficient border checks in the future.

Contact your Tier One Travel Consultant to plan your next trip!