

ONWARD

# The Visa-Free Traveller's Playbook

2026 edition — where your passport can take you, and how to make the most of it.

Your passport is one of the most valuable things you own — it quietly decides which of the world's borders open with a smile and which need paperwork. This short guide shows you how to read that power, avoid the classic traps (hello, Schengen 90/180 rule), and travel further with less hassle.

Everything here is powered by Onward's free tools at [onwardpassport.com](https://onwardpassport.com) — the interactive globe, the passport ranking, and always-updated visa data.

## The passport-power gap

The strongest passport today opens about **168** destinations without a visa in advance. The weakest opens roughly **26** — a mobility gap of over **142** countries. Here are today's most powerful passports:

#	Passport	Visa-free-in-advance
1	United Arab Emirates	168
2	South Korea	166
2	Spain	166
3	Denmark	165
3	Finland	165
3	France	165
3	Germany	165
3	Italy	165
3	Norway	165
3	Singapore	165
3	Sweden	165
4	Austria	164

See the full live ranking and compare any two passports at [onwardpassport.com/ranking](https://onwardpassport.com/ranking).

## The Schengen 90/180 rule (don't overstay)

If you visit Europe's Schengen area visa-free or on a short-stay visa, you may spend at most **90 days in any rolling 180-day period**. On any given day, look back 180 days and count the days you were present — it must not exceed 90. Entry and exit days both count. Overstaying risks fines and future bans.

Track it in seconds with the free calculator at [onwardpassport.com/schengen-calculator](https://onwardpassport.com/schengen-calculator).

## Europe's new borders in 2026

What	Who	When	Cost
EU ETIAS (authorisation)	Visa-exempt visitors to Schengen	Targeted late 2026	~EUR 20
UK ETA (authorisation)	Visa-exempt visitors to the UK	Live now	~GBP 16
EU EES (border system)	Non-EU travellers at Schengen borders	Rolling out 2025-26	Free

Full plain-English guide: [onwardpassport.com/etias-guide](https://onwardpassport.com/etias-guide).

## Work from abroad: digital nomad visas

60+ countries now offer a digital-nomad or remote-work visa — most launched since 2020. Income requirements range from about USD 680/month (Colombia) to USD 3,000-5,000/month for many European programmes. Popular picks: Portugal, Spain, Estonia, Croatia, the UAE (Dubai), Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea.

Browse them with income and duration at [onwardpassport.com/nomad-visas](https://onwardpassport.com/nomad-visas).

## Your pre-trip checklist

- Passport valid at least 6 months beyond your trip (many countries require this).
- Check entry rules for your passport on the Onward globe — visa-free, on arrival, eTA or e-Visa?
- Apply for any e-Visa / ETIAS / UK ETA well before you fly.
- Travel insurance — at least EUR 30,000 medical cover for a Schengen visa; sensible everywhere.
- Track your Schengen days if hopping around Europe (90/180 rule).
- Sort a travel eSIM so you land connected.
- Have proof of onward travel and accommodation ready — some borders ask.

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Made with Onward — free tools to see where your passport can take you. [onwardpassport.com](https://onwardpassport.com)

General travel information, not legal or immigration advice. Visa data: passport-index dataset (MIT), refreshed regularly.

Always confirm current rules with the official government source before you travel.