



TAANZ Talks

Biometric Visas for Entry to Australia?

Our very good friends at Travel Today tipped us off to a new requirement that some travellers to Australia would require a biometric visa from late September this year.

New Zealand citizens, commonwealth passport holders and a few other exempted nations are NOT required to hold the visa. For remaining persons, a visa will necessitate a personal visit to either the Auckland or Queenstown offices of the company responsible for providing year services on behalf of Border Security Australia.

We were curious as to why there were only two locations and sought some clarification. TAANZ has followed this up with its AFTA colleagues who have spoken to the senior Australian government official responsible for the visa decision.

The decision to operate from two cities only is a decision based on the historical data of applicants. There is no plan to extend to another city(s) at this point. In the wake of the Paris attacks biometrics are seen as another safeguard to help protect Australia's borders.

You can find more information on the visa, costs and locations of TTS at the website in the button below:

[TT Services Australia website](#)

Any customers who may need to apply for this visa should do so well in advance of the actual travel date and be particularly careful if they need a visa issued over the upcoming holiday season where demand may be high.

The following list holds the AU biometric visa exempt countries:

AU biometric visa exempt countries:

Andorra	Austria	Belgium	Brunei	Canada
Denmark	Finland	France	Germany	Greece
Hong Kong (SAR)	Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Japan
Liechtenstein	Luxembourg	Malaysia	Malta	Monaco
The Netherlands	Norway	Portugal	Republic of San Marino	Singapore
South Korea	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Taiwan*
United Kingdom (British Citizen)	United Kingdom (Overseas)**	United States of America	Vatican City	New Zealand

*Holders of Taiwan passports can only be processed for an ETA if resident in and applying in Taiwan. We regret that we are unable to offer the online ETA application service for Taiwanese passport holders on this website. Applications can be lodged with an approved ETA Travel Agent in Taiwan or Australian Visa Services office in Taipei.

** Holders of UK passports which indicate their nationality to be British National (Overseas) can only be processed for an ETA if resident in and applying in Hong Kong.



The Government of Canada announced an entry requirement change known as the Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) which will take effect from March 15th 2016. The mandatory requirement applies to all visa-exempt foreign nationals who travel or transit through to Canada by air. An eTA is not required when entering Canada by land or sea.

Quick facts on the eTA:

- eTA applications are now available online
- Online applicants will need a passport (from a visa-exempt country), credit card, and an email address to complete the online eTA application
- Upon a successful application the eTA is valid for up to 5 years
- The cost for an eTA application is \$7.00 Canadian dollars each
- One applicant per eTA application form
- Exceptions to the eTA application are U.S. citizens and travellers with a valid visa
- Travel Agents can apply on behalf of a client

For more information on the eTA, click in the button below:

Government of Canada: Electronic Travel Authorization



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Our mailing address is:

TAANZ
79 Boulcott St
Level 3, Tourism & Travel House
Wellington, 6140
New Zealand

[Add us to your address book](#)

PO Box 1888, DX SX10033

Website: www.taanz.org.nz

Telephone: 04 496 4884

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