

Australia

75%

## BOOK OR CARD?

The application fee for a **U.S. Passport** is **\$110** but the fee for a **Passport card** is **\$30**. card is valid for U.S. land and sea ports-of- entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico, Caribbean and Bermuda but not for air travel outside the US.



## NO GLASSES

As of **November 1, 2016**, customers applying

# It's Time to Check Top Travel Spots Off Your Bucket List This Summer: Hotels.com is Giving Away Free Passports

June 29, 2017

DALLAS, June 29, 2017 — International travel tops the bucket lists of most aspiring travelers. Surprisingly, two-thirds of Americans aren't ready for international travel because according to the U.S. Department of State, only 36 percent of citizens hold a valid U.S. passport.

Although the U.S. lags behind countries like Great Britain, Australia and Canada, Americans applied for about 17 million passports in 2016\* and it's already predicted that applications this year will hit 21 million. One of the barriers for a passport can be cost (a U.S. passport runs \$110), so online lodging expert Hotels.com® is helping Americans save by offering [free passports\\*\\*](#) with qualifying international accommodation bookings.

According to Hotels.com data, US searched for international cities is up 35% year over year. A U.S. Passport is required for travel outside the United States so be sure to gather the facts before you pack your bags.

**36%** OF AMERICANS HOLD A VALID PASSPORT, according to the State Department, compared to 60% of passport-holding Canadians and 75% for Brits and Aussies.\*

That means nearly 2/3rds of Americans aren't ready for international travel!



### BOOK OR CARD?

The application fee for a U.S. Passport is \$110 but the fee for a Passport card is \$30. A Passport card is valid for U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda but not for air travel outside the US.



### NO GLASSES

As of November 1, 2016, customers applying for or renewing their passport must remove their glasses for their photo.

The State Dept projects Americans will apply for

**21 MILLION PASSPORTS IN 2017**

up from 19.5 million in 2015 and 16.8 million in 2016.

#### STATES WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES OF PASSPORTS

- 156% NEW YORK
- 156% MASSACHUSETTS
- 150% ALASKA
- 150% CONNECTICUT
- 150% DELAWARE



#### STATES WITH THE LOWEST PERCENTAGES OF PASSPORTS

- 117% MISSISSIPPI
- 119% WEST VIRGINIA
- 122% ALABAMA
- 122% ARKANSAS
- 123% KENTUCKY

\*Source: US Dept of State  
www.hotels.com/passport/ for more info.  
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“Americans are eager to get out of town. We’re seeing a strong increase in searches for European destinations year over year,” said Josh Belkin, VP and GM for the Hotels.com brand. “With declining airfares, increased international flight options, and great hotel deals, now is an obvious time to venture abroad.”

To help streamline your travel planning, here are the **Most Popular International Destinations and Prices Paid based on the Hotels.com® Hotel Price Index™ (HPI®).**

<b>Top 10 International Destinations for U.S. Travelers</b>				
Rank	City, Country	2016 av hotel price paid	2015 av hotel price paid	% Change
1	London, UK	\$230	\$258	-11%
2	Paris, France	\$184	\$209	-12%
3	Toronto, Canada	\$159	\$150	6%
4	Tokyo, Japan	\$184	\$178	4%
5	Rome, Italy	\$164	\$172	-5%
6	Bangkok, Thailand	\$86	\$91	-6%
7	Hong Kong, China	\$162	\$170	-5%
8	Barcelona, Spain	\$182	\$173	5%
9	Montreal, Canada	\$168	\$163	3%
10	Vancouver, Canada	\$188	\$179	5%

Before you pack your bags, follow these **Five Simple Passport Tips**.

Before you pack your bags, follow these **five simple passport tips**:

1. **Be Informed.** Get to know the application process. See the US Department of State website for helpful [details](#).
2. **Keep time on your side.** The routine application process can take six – eight weeks so don't procrastinate.
3. **Drop the shades and spectacles.** Most people don't know that you can't wear glasses in your passport pic!
4. **Choose a Passport Card or Book.** A passport card costs \$30 and is valid for U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, [Mexico](#), the Caribbean and Bermuda, but not for air travel outside the U.S. You'll need a passport book for international air travel.
5. **Save \$110 with the Hotels.com Passport coupon.** Book by July 31 for travel through March 31, 2018. See [www.hotels.com/passport17](http://www.hotels.com/passport17) and our [Infographic](#) to learn more.

### About Hotels.com

Hotels.com L.P. operates Hotels.com, a leading online accommodation booking website with properties ranging from international chains and all-inclusive resorts to local favorites and bed & breakfasts, together with all the information needed to book the perfect stay. Customers get instant savings \*\*\* with Secret Prices through our mobile booking app and when logged into the booking website. Hotels.com Rewards members can earn and redeem free\*\*\*\* nights at thousands of properties worldwide. The Hotels.com Mobile Concierge on iPhone is like having a local expert in the palm of your hand, offering fast access to services such as transportation, on-demand food delivery, restaurant reservations and activities.

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\*Source: The US Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs.

\*\*See [www.hotels.com/passport17](http://www.hotels.com/passport17) for terms and conditions.

\*\*\*Instant savings are only available on select, participating properties.

\*\*\*\* Free nights are only available on select, participating properties. Maximum value of the free night is the average of daily rate of the 10 paid nights and doesn't include taxes or fees. See site for details.

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