



Passports

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PASSPORTS

Due to the increased security travelers face, it is highly recommended that each traveler obtain a passport. Although traveling with a certified copy of your birth certificate is still acceptable, having a passport will help in expediting you through each customs check and onto the fun part of your vacation. Each passenger must present identification and proof of citizenship upon check in at the pier, each time you re-board the ship and upon disembarkation at the end of the cruise. Passports are also beneficial at the security checkpoints of airports.

A passport is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies the identity and nationality of the bearer. It is a request to foreign governments to permit travel or temporary residence in their territories and access to all lawful, local aid and protection. It also allows bearers access to U.S. consular services and assistance while abroad and re-entry into the U.S.

New Applicants for a U.S. Passport

To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to a passport acceptance facility such as a post office, some public libraries and a number of county and municipal offices. The passport fee for age 16 and older is approximately \$55 and the execution fee is approximately \$30 for a total cost of about \$85. The processing time is usually 6 weeks.

Items to have when applying for a passport:

- Proof of citizenship such as a “certified” copy of your birth certificate. If you do not have a certified copy, you may contact the Vital Statistics Office in the state where you were born.
- Two photos of yourself. These may be obtained at numerous photography shops. Check the yellow pages for a photographer offering “Passport Photos”.
- A valid form of photo identification such as a driver’s license.

The facility will have the forms to complete. Minors may also get a passport. There are different requirements depending on the age of the child.

If you have any questions or for more information, please contact your travel agent or a good website for information is www.travel.state.gov and click on the passports tab.