



Five Tips to Avoid Denied Boarding

Although you may have a passport here are some tips to avoid costly delays or denial of boarding. Remember, being the traveler, it is important to make sure your traveling documents are in order and you have verified the destination requirements.

1. **Passport Validity.** Even if you don't need a visa for entry, some countries will not admit you if your passport expires less than six months from the time you plan to leave the country. If you show up at the airport with a soon-to-expire passport, you could be denied boarding. USA passports can be renewed prior to expiry, so make sure you know exactly when your passports expire and the rules for the countries you will visit.
2. **Check for Visas.** What if your business trip or dream vacation includes Russia or Brazil? For a Russian tourist visa, you must have the visa invitation information or obtain it from your inviting organization in order to complete the application form. For business travelers, you will also need to furnish an invitation from Russia. Passport and visa services will assist you in obtaining the visa, and some also assist with the Russian tourist voucher and invitation and official business invitation. If you have traveled to certain countries, you may have a valid visa already. Some visas are multiple entry, good for 6 months, 1 year, etc. Your visa vendor may have a record of its validity period and the type of visa granted.
3. **Check for Visas.** In order to disembark from cruise ships docking at foreign ports, a valid visa may be required. Some countries allow entrance when the travelers stay with a land tour group, but if the passengers want to explore on their own, visas maybe required. Check with your cruise company or visa service.
4. **Passport Pages.** If you do not have enough blank pages to have the passport stamped, the visa may not be granted, or you will not be allowed to travel. Some countries have visa stamps that take up an entire page – or require two blank pages, adjacent to each other. The Amendment pages at the back of the passport cannot be used for visas or immigration stamps.
5. **Damaged Passports.** Check the level of damage the passport sustained while hidden in the drawer or far-reaching corners of the garage. Passengers may not be allowed to travel with a damaged passport. Even if the damage seems minor – such as a small coffee spill – and all the information is legible, it's best to replace the old passport with a new one.

Don't let the little things get in your way of your critical business meeting or long overdue dream vacation. By following a few simple steps, you can rest assured that your travel plans will be accomplished without mental anguish or major delays.