

THE

2017 STC Passport Ranking



EUROPEAN UNION
UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND



The 2017 STC Passport Index ranks over 190 passports for the third year running. Unlike other rankings that only calculate the number of visa-free destinations, we weight each destination by its popularity by international touristic arrival and the amount of time you are allowed to stay. This means that visa-free travel to France and visa-free travel to Palau do not equate to the same thing, and that permission to stay one week in a country is not the same as three months. Furthermore, our metric is not visa-free travel, but “same-day” travel, which includes visa-free, visa-on-arrival and electronic visas that take less than 24 hours to process.

We provide our ranking with two measuring sticks. The first is the score that is measured based on the number of same-day travel destinations weighted on their annual tourist arrivals and duration of stay. The second one is the star rating that gives a more precise value to key destinations in the first world and BRIC nations. The first-world countries are defined as Europe, the UK, the U.S., Canada and Australia, and the BRIC as Brazil, Russia, India and China. Our passport ranking will tell you exactly which countries' passports enable same-day travel to any of those destinations. Non-capitalized letter means that other ways to access those countries exist, either with an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation travel-card or by a Mainland Travel Permit card (Mainland China). Furthermore, we state the possibility of dual citizenship for all the countries. There have been some changes since last year. Mexico has been able to apply to electronic visa to Canada since December 1, 2016. This privilege is soon to be extended to Brazil, Bulgaria and Romania in May 2017. The significant change in our ran-

king has been for EU nationals travelling to Australia. Previously electronic visas would take a couple of days; now it's been approved in less than 24 hours. The only passport in Europe enabling visa-free travel into China is San Marino, and can stay the longest (90 days). For those interested in this collectible item, know that it will require you at least 30 years of residence and two-thirds of the approval of the Great and General Council of San Marino. The U.S. modified its Visa Waiver program in January 2016. It stipulates that waivers do not apply to individuals who have previously traveled to Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen on or after March 1, 2011, or for those who remain nationals of Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Syria in addition to the nationality that would otherwise entitle them to a visa waiver. Instead, they are now required to go through the strict process in order to obtain a visa. Certain categories such as diplomats, military, journalists, humanitarian workers or legitimate businessmen may have their visa requirement waived by the Secretary of Homeland Security. This means that only those

holding a passport from Canada, Palau, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia will not be subjected to those changes. This was seen as a backhanded sanction against Iran, which doesn't fit the terrorist profile, perhaps to satisfy all those who opposed the Iran nuclear deal.

So what is the value of a good passport? Well, if you are too poor to even hold one, there probably is none. But the more your wealth increases, the more its value increases as well. Of course, visiting Paris or Venice as a couple is lovely, but we are talking about enabling trade, allowing the holder to leave the same day to meet clients in person when the deal is stagnating. Enabling the holder to take their things and go to China directly when the order at a factory is having problems. It allows freedom of conducting business without borders and without delays. And furthermore, it allows security, both financial and physical. A good passport facilitates the diversification of your assets and reduce the pressure of risk. It can also, more importantly, help you escape war or persecution. Wealthy people are the most vulnerable during

political instability or uprisings due to the lawlessness that follows. Any passport can allow you to escape, but unfortunately, not all of them by land or legally and to the most favorable country. Afghans, for example, are locked within their borders as none of their neighboring countries give them legal passage. An Afghan would need to take a plane to Djibouti (being the closest country) in order to escape legally, whereas, with a little bit of planning, a good passport and money, you can pretty much choose any country in the world to relocate to with time.

So how do we measure a good passport? Well, we'll argue that anything 6 stars and above in our ranking is a world-class passport. Anything 4 stars and above is a good passport and anything below 3 stars is poor. If your passport is below 3 stars, you might want to seriously think about obtaining a second passport. It's important to verify if dual nationality is allowed, and if not, to inform yourself on the precautions to take. The star rating is based on nine countries only, with



different weights for each one. There are four countries with the highest star rating of 8.5: San Marino, Japan, Singapore and South Korea. What differentiates these countries from most Western nations is their ability to travel to BRIC nations as well as in the first world. One star alone is given when a passport is able to make same-day travel into China. Nevertheless, it's important to specify that nowadays many nationalities can stay in transit in the main Chinese cities like Beijing and Shanghai for 24–72 hours without a visa. In some cases, this might be enough for the business traveller.

The score, on the other hand, will give a more general look at the passport and is probably the fairest way to evaluate a passport. In that perspective, the UK takes top spot, with the rest of Europe following suit. The overweighting reason behind the UK's domination of the ranking is the freedom of movement in European nations since half of the most-visited countries in the world are on the Continent. Here below are the Top 10 countries by touristic arrival in 2015, compiled by the UNWTO.

Top 10 countries by touristic arrival in 2015

1. [France](#)
2. [United States](#)
3. [Spain](#)
4. [China](#)
5. [Italy](#)
6. [Turkey](#)
7. [Germany](#)
8. [United Kingdom](#)
9. [Mexico](#)
10. [Russian Federation](#)

There are a dozen countries with arms pretty much wide open to the world, either visa-free or with a visa-on-arrival like Samoa, Haiti, the Maldives, Micronesia, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Comoros, Djibouti, Timor-Leste (East-Timor), Madagascar and Dominica. These countries can be accessed by practically everyone with a passport. Some countries will even allow you to stay up to a year on your visa-on-arrival, or in some cases, your nationality might allow you to stay indefinitely in that country and have freedom of movement.

On the other hand, there are countries whose doors are closed and require a visa in most if not all cases. Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria and Turkmenistan do not allow anyone in without a visa. North Korea, Angola and Equatorial Guinea are some of the countries with an extremely strict visa policy. In the developed world, the U.S. and Australia are the strictest, as most of the countries allowed to visit visa-free still need to register for travel authorization.

When it comes to citizenship by investment scheme promoting a great travel passport, Malta possesses the highest rated passport on our list with a star rating of 7.5, enabling travel to the U.S., UK, EU, Canada and Australia in the first world nations and Brazil from the BRIC. Second behind Malta is Cyprus, with pretty much the same access to destinations except the U.S., which costs it 2 stars. For those looking for an 8.5-star passport, we would suggest obtaining permanent residence in Singapore, via the Global Investor Programme. You will be able to apply for citizenship after three years, but you will not be allowed to hold dual citizenship. Another downside is the children of Singapore permanent residents and naturalized citizens are liable to military service. There are few good passports you can obtain in roughly three months or less via investment: that of Grenada, Dominica and Cyprus. Malta's passport takes a year to obtain.



Passport index

STARS	COUNTRY	SCORE	FIRST WORLD	BRIC	DUAL ALLOWED
8,5	South Korea	726.599	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	BRc	Y/N*
8,5	Japan	702.295	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	rIC	N
8,5	Singapore	697.249	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	BrC	N
8,5	San Marino	655.902	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	BC	N
8	Hungary	805.476	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	BR	Y
8	New Zealand	685.440	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	BrC	Y
8	Brunei	645.025	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	rC	N
8	Bahamas	642.685	US, UK, EU, CA	BC	Y
7,5	Germany	814.954	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y*
7,5	Denmark	814.954	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	France	814.019	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Finland	813.761	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Italy	813.266	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Spain	813.188	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y/N*
7,5	Norway	812.448	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	N*
7,5	Netherlands	811.966	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	N*
7,5	Luxembourg	809.603	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Austria	809.426	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y/N*
7,5	Greece	807.373	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Ireland	807.168	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Belgium	806.505	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Sweden	805.188	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Czech Republic	804.957	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	N
7,5	Slovakia	803.464	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	N
7,5	Switzerland	802.102	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Portugal	800.797	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Slovenia	800.579	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y/N*
7,5	Malta	800.001	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Liechtenstein	799.812	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y/N*
7,5	Estonia	795.933	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	N
7,5	Lithuania	793.339	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	N*
7,5	Latvia	785.339	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y*
7,5	Iceland	781.703	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Poland	757.728	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Chile	691.075	US, UK, EU, CA	BR	Y
7,5	Australia	680.007	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	rc	Y
7,5	Monaco	624.500	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	N
7,5	Andorra	619.563	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
7,5	Taiwan	518.913	US, UK, EU, CA, AU	rc	Y/N*
7	United Kingdom	826.514	US, UK, EU, CA, AU		Y
7	Canada	711.028	US, UK, EU, CA, AU		Y
7	United States	709.340	US, UK, EU, CA, AU		Y
7	Hong Kong	642.036	UK, EU, CA, AU	BRc	N
7	Cayman Islands	535.653	US, UK, EU, CA	B	Y
7	Bermuda	530.975	US, UK, EU, CA	B	Y
7	British Virgin Islands	529.025	US, UK, EU, CA	B	Y
7	Turks and Caicos Islands	520.085	US, UK, EU, CA	B	Y
6	Seychelles	574.680	UK, EU	BRC	Y

STARS	COUNTRY	SCORE	FIRST WORLD	BRIC	DUAL ALLOWED
6	Micronesia	544.454	US, UK, EU		N
6	Vatican	528.170	UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
6	Palau	492.280	US, UK, EU		Y
6	Marshall Islands	483.343	US, UK, EU		N
5,5	Croatia	738.138	UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
5,5	Cyprus	735.344	UK, EU, CA, AU	B	Y
5,5	Malaysia	632.091	UK, EU, AU	BrC	Y/N*
5,5	Mexico	624.154	UK, EU, CA	BrC	Y
5,5	Israel	606.825	UK, EU, CA	BR	Y
5,5	Macau	594.113	UK, EU	BRc	N
5,5	Mauritius	583.678	UK, EU	RC	Y
5,5	Grenada	557.578	UK, EU	BC	Y
5	Romania	732.515	UK, EU, AU	B	Y
5	Bulgaria	729.445	UK, EU, AU	B	Y
5	Argentina	627.520	UK, EU	BR	Y
5	Uruguay	589.861	UK, EU	BR	Y
5	Brazil	574.733	UK, EU	BR	Y
5	Paraguay	561.591	UK, EU	BR	Y
5	Panama	557.857	UK, EU	BR	Y/N*
5	Barbados	529.271	UK, EU, CA	B	Y
5	Anguilla	528.169	UK, EU, CA	B	Y
5	Guatemala	527.962	UK, EU	BR	Y
5	Montserrat	527.023	UK, EU, CA	B	Y
5	El Salvador	513.173	UK, EU	BR	Y
5	Saint Helena	510.280	UK, EU, CA	B	Y
5	Samoa	498.062	UK, EU, CA	R	Y
5	Tonga	480.568	UK, EU	C	Y
4,5	Peru	580.086	EU	BRc	Y
4,5	Trinidad and Tobago	559.058	UK, EU	B	Y
4,5	Costa Rica	549.729	UK, EU	B	Y
4,5	Honduras	539.450	UK, EU	B	Y
4,5	Antigua and Barbuda	539.121	UK, EU	B	Y
4,5	Saint Kitts and Nevis	534.543	UK, EU	B	Y
4,5	Pitcairn Islands	527.749	UK, EU, CA		Y
4,5	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	520.388	UK, EU	B	Y
4,5	Dominica	519.882	UK, EU	B	Y
4,5	Nicaragua	492.934	UK, EU	R	Y
4,5	Vanuatu	486.970	UK, EU	R	Y
4,5	Solomon Islands	475.202	UK, EU, CA		N*
4	Gibraltar	562.975	EU, CA	B	Y
4	Venezuela	535.997	EU	BR	Y
4	Serbia	526.103	EU	BR	Y
4	Colombia	513.974	EU	BR	Y
4	Macedonia	512.695	EU	BR	N
4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	498.789	EU	BR	Y
4	Moldova	489.490	EU	BR	Y
4	Montenegro	482.646	EU	BR	N
4	Kiribati	479.061	UK, EU		N

STARS	COUNTRY	SCORE	FIRST WORLD	BRIC	DUAL ALLOWED
4	Saint Lucia	477.847	UK, EU		Y
4	East Timor	442.108	UK, EU		Y
3.5	Albania	473.562	EU	B	Y
3	United Arab Emirates	326.678	EU		N
2.5	Papua New Guinea	124.035	UK, CA	rc	N
2	Ecuador	162.604		BRC	Y
1.5	Russia	208.279		BRc	Y
1.5	Belize	176.771	UK	B	Y
1.5	Maldives	155.186	UK	I	Y
1.5	Fiji	149.079		RC	Y
1.5	Thailand	137.095		BRc	Y
1.5	Nauru	133.582	UK	R	Y
1.5	Namibia	116.306	UK	B	Y/N*
1.5	Philippines	96.628		BRc	Y
1	Ukraine	198.496		BR	N
1	Kazakhstan	150.789		BR	N
1	Tuvalu	147.047	UK		Y
1	Guyana	142.233		BR	N
1	Mongolia	126.668		BR	N
1	Bolivia	125.663		BR	Y
1	Belarus	123.748		BR	Y
1	Armenia	112.755		BR	Y
1	China	111.974		rC	N
1	Botswana	105.358	UK		N
1	Jordan	89.165		C	Y
0.5	Turkey	214.881		B	Y
0.5	South Africa	158.196		B	Y*
0.5	Jamaica	144.509		B	Y
0.5	Indonesia	136.522		rc	N
0.5	Suriname	122.700		B	N
0.5	Kyrgyzstan	114.657		R	Y
0.5	Tunisia	114.355		B	Y
0.5	Morocco	113.595		B	Y
0.5	Uzbekistan	111.070		R	N
0.5	Azerbaijan	108.706		R	N*
0.5	Georgia	105.410		B	N
0.5	Tajikistan	96.958		R	Y
0.5	Cuba	75.119		R	n
0.5	Vietnam	71.624		rc	Y/N*
0.5	India	66.705		I	N*
0.5	Bhutan	63.884		I	Y
0.5	Nepal	38.477		I	N
0	Qatar	202.579			N
0	Kuwait	199.521			N
0	Oman	189.988			N
0	Bahrain	165.974			N
0	Saudi Arabia	157.490			N
0	Dominican Republic	97.868			Y
0	Lesotho	92.940			Y
0	Haiti	82.079			Y
0	Tanzania	80.121			N
0	Egypt	78.948			Y
0	Madagascar	70.542			N
0	Zambia	70.449			Y

STARS	COUNTRY	SCORE	FIRST WORLD	BRIC	DUAL ALLOWED
0	Kenya	68.738			Y
0	Comoros	65.942			Y
0	Guinea	65.830			N
0	Uganda	64.967			Y
0	Mali	62.809			Y
0	Cambodia	61.512			N*
0	Algeria	61.193			Y
0	Zimbabwe	59.553			Y
0	Turkmenistan	58.187			Y
0	Benin	57.824			Y
0	Lebanon	57.741			Y
0	Laos	57.265			N
0	Malawi	56.800			N
0	Gambia	54.960			N
0	Gabon	54.356			N
0	Iran	51.472			Y
0	Liberia	50.607			N
0	Rwanda	50.559			Y
0	Kosovo	45.874			Y
0	Guinea-Bissau	45.653			N
0	Mauritania	43.838			N
0	Myanmar	41.124			N
0	Mozambique	38.495			N
0	Chad	38.491			Y
0	Ivory Coast	37.462			Y
0	Burkina Faso	36.945			Y
0	Sierra Leone	36.025			Y
0	Angola	34.349			Y
0	North Korea	33.813			N
0	Ghana	33.463			Y
0	Ethiopia	33.215			N
0	Palestine	31.114			Y
0	Yemen	30.655			Y
0	Burundi	30.247			Y
0	Congo	28.088			N
0	Sri Lanka	26.740			Y
0	Sudan	26.063			Y
0	Central African Republic	24.582			Y
0	Cameroon	23.631			N
0	Syria	22.687			Y
0	Senegal	22.565			Y
0	Eritrea	21.828			N*
0	Niger	21.820			N
0	Cape Verde	20.272			Y
0	Bangladesh	19.477			Y
0	Iraq	19.330			Y
0	South Sudan	18.417			Y
0	Democratic Republic of the Congo	16.809			N
0	Somalia	16.302			Y
0	Nigeria	15.032			Y
0	Pakistan	10.547			Y*
0	Libya	7.656			Y
0	Afghanistan	4.179			Y*

Notes

Afghanistan: de facto

Australia: Travel to Russia & China via APEC Card

Austria: Allowed to those acquiring another nationality by birth, naturalized citizen who are unable to renounce their previous nationality and by permission of the government

Azerbaijan: Allowed only presidential grant for special interest

Brunei: Travel to Russia via APEC Card

Cambodia: A Cambodian wife of a foreign national is permitted to retain her Cambodian citizenship

China: Travel to Russia via APEC Card

Eritrea: Special arrangements may be made for Eritrean citizens by birth who wish to retain a foreign citizenship they have since acquired.

Germany: Allowed in some cases. You need to apply to the government in order to keep your previous or German citizenship.

Hong Kong: Travel to China via MTP card

India: except those who acquire a other citizenship by birth

Indonesia: Travel to Russia & China via APEC Card

Japan: Travel to Russia via APEC Card

Latvia: Dual accept if for special interest or with EU, EFTA, NATO, Australia, NZ, Brazil, child of citizen of Latvia make decision at 25y

Liechtenstein: Not allowed if you want to acquire the citizenship of Liechtenstein

Lithuania: Allowed in limited circumstances, but now from normal circumstances

Macao: Travel to China via MTP card

Malaysia: Travel to Russia & China via APEC Card. Acquisitions of new nationality not allowed

Mexico: Travel to Russia & China via APEC Card

Namibia: Allowed only to citizen by birth or descent.

Netherlands: No dual but with some exception ex: You will lose certain rights when giving up your current nationality leading to serious financial losses, for example with respect to laws of succession. You must be able to demonstrate this.

New Zealand: Travel to Russia & China via APEC Card

Norway: No dual, but no need to renounce if its automatically lost like China or if you need to fly to a country at war for renunciation, if you losing property, inheritance or rights

Pakistan: Allowed with Australia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Panama: Panamanians are allowed dual citizenship, naturalized foreigners must renounce their previous citizenship.

Papua New Guinea: Travel to Russia & China via APEC Card

Peru: Travel to China via APEC Card

Philippines: Travel to China via APEC Card

Russia: Travel to China via APEC Card

Slovenia: Naturalized foreigners must forfeit their previous citizenship

Solomon Islands: To be voted on in 2017

South Africa: Citizens must apply for permission to the government

South Korea: Travel to China via APEC Card. Dual allowed to Immigrant Investors

Spain: Citizens must apply to the government in order to be permitted dual citizenship except for Ibero-American countries. Foreigners must orally declare that they renounce their former nationality, except for nationals of Ibero-American countries, Andorra, the Philippines, Equatorial Guinea and Portugal. Some country don't recognize the loss.

Taiwan: Travel to Russia & China via APEC Card. Foreign nationals must forfeit their previous citizenship

Thailand: Travel to China via APEC Card

Vietnam: Travel to Russia & China via APEC Card. Foreigners via parents or marriage can keep their previous citizenship, so do those who make a special contribution to Vietnam.

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2017 STC Passport Indexes

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