



## VISA INFORMATION

Transatlantic participants may need to apply for a visa. However, travelers from many countries (see table below) may qualify for the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). They will not need a Visa, but can use the [Electronic System for Travel Authorization \(ESTA\)](#).

Once they receive the ESTA, they will need a letter from the NYIC stating that they are participating in the 2011 Transatlantic Race and when they are departing the US. This will be enough for the customs agent to let them in the US without a return ticket.

Here are the guidelines for qualifying for the VWP:

- They have received an authorization to travel under the VWP through the [Electronic System for Travel Authorization \(ESTA\)](#)
- They present the appropriate type of passport valid for six months past their expected stay in the United States (unless [country-specific agreements](#) provide exemptions). This is a requirement in addition to other [passport requirements](#) for all categories of passports -- regular, diplomatic, and official - when the traveler is seeking to enter the United States for business or tourist purposes, for a maximum of 90 days;
- The purpose of their stay in the United States is 90 days or less for tourism or business ([Visitor \(B\) visa](#)) purpose of travel. (If in doubt, travelers should check with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate to verify that what they plan to do is considered tourism or business.) Transit through the United States is generally permitted.  
**Important Notice:** Foreign media representatives planning to engage in that vocation in the United States are not eligible for VWP travel, as the purpose of their stay does not qualify as "business". These professionals must obtain a nonimmigrant [media \(I\) visa](#). Note also that travelers planning to work or study cannot travel on VWP, and they must obtain the appropriate visa to travel to the United States [Learn More](#).
- If arriving by air or sea, they are traveling on an approved carrier (See the [approved carriers list](#)) and have a return trip ticket to any foreign destination (State Department said this would be OK for race participants);
- They can demonstrate the intent to stay 90 days or less in the United States and demonstrate sufficient funds to support themselves while in the United States. [Learn more](#) on the CBP website.

### Countries in the program:

Andorra	Denmark	Hungary	Liechtenstein	New Zealand	Slovenia
Australia	Estonia	Iceland	Lithuania	Norway	South Korea
Austria	Finland	Ireland	Luxembourg	Portugal	Spain
Belgium	France	Italy	Malta	San Marino	Sweden
Brunei	Germany	Japan	Monaco	Singapore	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Greece	Latvia	the Netherlands	Slovakia	United Kingdom



From what it looks like, if a person qualifies for the VWP, they will need to receive authorization to travel through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

#### **WEBSITES**

Visa information - [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1262.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1262.html)

Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) - [http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id\\_visa/esta/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/)

U.S. Department of State website - [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1990.html#countries](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html#countries)

Please advise me if you need a letter for Customs from New York Yacht Club regarding your participation in the Transatlantic Race 2011 or if I can help you with any related questions.

Sincerely,  
Dani

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