



International Travel Tips for Green Card Holders



Lawful Permanent Resident Card (aka Green Card) holders need a valid, unexpired Green Card or a valid re-entry permit to travel internationally and re-enter the United States.

Required documents for international travel



Green Card or Reentry Permit: You will need a valid, **unexpired** "Green Card" (Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card) to enter the United States after temporary travel abroad.



Visas: Check if the country you are visiting requires a visa for your nationality.



Passport: As a green card holder you do not need a passport to return to the US, but you likely need to present a passport to board a flight or enter another country. Some countries require that your passport be valid for a certain amount of time (for example, at least 6 months).



Airline requirements: Confirm with your airline before traveling, as they may have their own requirements.



Be careful!



Any time you travel internationally you will interact with immigration agents at the airport or border. This gives immigration an opportunity to review your background, including any criminal history and participation in political activism.

Sometimes criminal convictions that do not have immigration consequences for green card holders in the US can be problematic if the green card holder travels internationally and seeks to return to the US. Consult with an immigration attorney before traveling, especially if you have any criminal history!

Special Circumstances

Expired Green Card: Your green card must be valid on the day of your return to the US.

If your green card has expired, you may be able to present your expired green card as well as a notice from USCIS showing that your green card validity has been extended while an application is pending, or a temporary I-551 stamp in your passport.

Lost or stolen Green Card: If you lost your green card while outside the US, you will need to file a Form I-131A, Application for Travel Document (Carrier Documentation), to be able to board a flight back to the U.S.

This carrier documentation will allow an airline or other transportation carrier to board a lawful permanent resident bound for the United States without the carrier being penalized.

Longer absences:

- A green card holder **who has been outside the U.S. for more than 180 days** may face increased scrutiny.
- Long absences can lead the government to think you have abandoned your permanent resident status.

To learn more about rights & risks for Green Card Holders during the second Trump Administration, please visit **The National Immigration Law Center** for more information bit.ly/NILC_Greencard