VisaDeposits

The U.S. visa deposit, explained.

A plain-English guide to the U.S. Visa Bond Program — what it is, how the process works from interview to refund, and the 50 countries it covers.

50 countries covered by the program	**$10k–$20k** deposit set at your visa interview	**100%** refunded in full, automatically

B1/B2 VISITOR VISA

A refundable deposit — not a fee

RETURNED IN FULL AFTER YOUR TRIP

DEPOSIT

$10k–$20k

set at your visa interview

WHAT'S INSIDE

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PART 1 · THE BASICS

What is the U.S. Visa Bond Program?

Since 2025, the U.S. government requires visitors from 50 countries to place a **refundable cash deposit** before their B1/B2 visitor visa can be issued. Think of it as a security deposit on an apartment: the money is held while you travel and returned in full once you've departed on time and the visa's validity ends.

Who it applies to

B1/B2 (business & tourism) visa applicants who are nationals of the 50 covered countries — see the full list at the end of this guide.

How it's placed

The deposit is posted on an official government form (DHS Form I-352B) through Pay.gov, the U.S. Treasury's payment platform.

When it's required

The consular officer decides at your interview. The visa is simply not issued until the deposit is placed — your application is held under INA 221(g).

When it comes back

Automatically. Depart on time and the full amount is released once the visa's validity ends — or right after departure if the visa has already expired.

$10,000	$15,000	$20,000
minimum amount	default amount	maximum amount
when $15,000 would be beyond your means	officers are expected to start here	when stronger U.S. ties suggest more

The consular officer chooses one of three amounts based on your circumstances. The amount is per person — each traveler in a family needs their own deposit. From October 1, 2027, the maximum adjusts for inflation every seven years.

How the program got here

AUG 2025
12-month pilot launches with the first two countries.

OCT 2025 – JAN 2026
Coverage expands in waves to 38 countries.

APR 2026
Twelve more countries added — 50 in total.

AUG 3, 2026
Program made **permanent**; amounts rise to $10,000–$20,000.

The deposit is not a payment — it's your money, parked.

Nothing is spent and nothing is lost when you follow the rules: the full amount sits with the U.S. Treasury during your trip and is released after your on-time departure. What the program really asks of travelers is liquidity — having $10,000–$20,000 free to set aside for several months.

From application to refund

The deposit adds just one step to the normal visitor-visa process. Here is the full journey:

1 Apply as usual `you`

Complete the DS-160 online application, pay the $185 visa fee, and schedule your interview at the U.S. embassy or consulate.

2 Attend your interview `you`

If the consular officer finds you qualified, they set your deposit amount — $10,000, $15,000, or $20,000. Your visa is placed on hold until the deposit is received.

3 The deposit is placed `you or a sponsor`

The full amount is posted to the U.S. government on DHS Form I-352B through Pay.gov — either by you directly, or by a deposit sponsor (an "obligor") acting on your behalf.

4 Your visa is issued `consulate`

Valid for 3 months (single or multiple entries) or 12 months (multiple entries), depending on what the officer grants.

5 Travel to the U.S. `you`

Arrive and depart through a U.S. commercial airport, and leave by the date on your I-94 admission record. A final exit by land or sea — including to Canada or Mexico — does not count as departure.

6 The deposit is refunded `automatic`

U.S. border systems confirm your on-time departure, and the deposit is released once the visa's validity ends. Nothing extra to file in the normal case.

Good to know

A visa allows you to travel to a U.S. airport and request entry; the border officer (CBP) makes the final admission decision and stamps your authorized stay. Your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure. Overstaying — or filing for asylum after entering on a deposit-backed visa — forfeits the deposit.

Same deposit, two very different trips

The visa rules and the deposit are identical either way. What changes is whose cash sits with the U.S. Treasury while you travel.

Placing it yourself

you fund the deposit

1. **Free up the cash**
   Pull $10,000–$20,000 out of savings — or borrow it — and keep it ready.
2. **Send it to the U.S. government**
   One single payment on DHS Form I-352B via Pay.gov; partial payments aren't accepted.
3. **Travel with your money locked**
   The full amount stays with the U.S. Treasury for your entire trip.
4. **Wait for your refund**
   The refund is released only once the visa's validity ends — on a 12-month visa your money can stay locked long after you're home.

Upfront cash needed
$10,000 – $20,000

VS

With VisaDeposits

we fund the deposit

1. **Apply online**
   After your interview, apply online at **VisaDeposits.com**.
2. **We fund the deposit**
   Our own money is placed with the U.S. government on your behalf, usually within two business days.
3. **Travel — savings untouched**
   Collect your visa and fly.
4. **No waiting for refund**
   The deposit returns to us after your on-time departure — nothing for you to chase.

Upfront cost
one-time fee from $1,499

Either way, you must depart the U.S. on time — that is what releases the deposit. **VisaDeposits** changes **whose cash is parked**, not the rules of the program.

The deposit is refundable.
Finding the cash and paying is the hard part.

Cash tied up

$10,000–$20,000 per traveler, locked away for the entire trip and the refund processing period.

One single payment

The full amount must arrive as one payment — splitting it isn't allowed. Card payments from abroad typically involve a processing fee and your bank's foreign-transaction fee while processing can take several business days.

Unfamiliar paperwork

DHS Form I-352B is a U.S. legal bond form with obligations most travelers have never dealt with.

VisaDeposits places the deposit for you.

We act as your deposit sponsor (the "obligor" on Form I-352B): we use our own money to fund the full amount with the U.S. government on your behalf and absorb the refund wait. You only pay a one-time service fee.

1

Apply on VisaDeposits.com

Apply online after you've passed your interview and been asked for a deposit.

2

We place your deposit

The full amount is posted on DHS Form I-352B through the Treasury's Pay.gov platform.

3

You travel

Collect your visa and fly. Depart on time and the obligations end there.

From $1,499

One-time fee, quoted upfront based on your deposit amount. If your visa is not issued after the deposit is placed, the fee is refunded minus $300.

You qualify if you…

- Passed your B1/B2 interview and were asked to post a visa deposit
- Are outside the United States (and not a U.S. person)
- Plan to enter and leave by commercial air, within your authorized stay

What you commit to

- Depart the U.S. by the date on your I-94 record — no overstay
- Follow the visa's terms (no asylum filing, airport entry/exit only)
- Reimburse us only if the deposit is forfeited through your breach

PART 4 · COUNTRY LIST

36 countries: deposit required, visas issuing

Nationals of these countries can receive B1/B2 visas today once the deposit is placed. Dates show when each country was added to the program.

Aug 2025 — 2 countries added | **Oct 2025** — 4 countries added | **Jan 2026** — 18 countries added | **Apr 2026** — 12 countries added

Country	Added	Country	Added	Country	Added
🇩🇿 Algeria	Jan 2026	🇧🇩 Bangladesh	Jan 2026	🇧🇹 Bhutan	Jan 2026
🇧🇼 Botswana	Jan 2026	🇨🇻 Cabo Verde	Jan 2026	🇰🇭 Cambodia	Apr 2026
🇨🇫 Central African Republic	Jan 2026	🇩🇯 Djibouti	Jan 2026	🇪🇹 Ethiopia	Apr 2026
🇫🇯 Fiji	Jan 2026	🇬🇲 Gambia, The	Oct 2025	🇬🇪 Georgia	Apr 2026
🇬🇩 Grenada	Apr 2026	🇬🇳 Guinea	Jan 2026	🇬🇼 Guinea-Bissau	Jan 2026
🇰🇬 Kyrgyz Republic	Jan 2026	🇱🇸 Lesotho	Apr 2026	🇲🇼 Malawi	Aug 2025
🇲🇷 Mauritania	Oct 2025	🇲🇺 Mauritius	Apr 2026	🇲🇳 Mongolia	Apr 2026
🇲🇿 Mozambique	Apr 2026	🇳🇦 Namibia	Jan 2026	🇳🇵 Nepal	Jan 2026
🇳🇮 Nicaragua	Apr 2026	🇵🇬 Papua New Guinea	Apr 2026	🇸🇹 São Tomé and Príncipe	Oct 2025
🇸🇨 Seychelles	Apr 2026	🇹🇯 Tajikistan	Jan 2026	🇹🇿 Tanzania	Oct 2025
🇹🇳 Tunisia	Apr 2026	🇹🇲 Turkmenistan	Jan 2026	🇹🇻 Tuvalu	Jan 2026
🇺🇬 Uganda	Jan 2026	🇻🇺 Vanuatu	Jan 2026	🇿🇲 Zambia	Aug 2025

Country coverage is reviewed by the U.S. State Department and can change; countries with high overstay rates or citizenship-by-investment programs may be added. Check **VisaDeposits.com**/countries for the live list.

Not on either list?

Then the deposit requirement does not apply to you — your B1/B2 application follows the normal process, with no deposit at any stage. The program covers only the 50 countries in this guide.

PART 4 · COUNTRY LIST, CONTINUED

14 countries: currently under a U.S. travel ban

These countries are in the deposit program *and* under a partial U.S. entry ban, so B1/B2 visas are generally not being issued to their nationals right now — even with a deposit. If the ban is lifted, the deposit requirement applies. All 14 joined the deposit program in January 2026; dates below show when each entry ban took effect.

Angola	ban Jan 2026
Antigua and Barbuda	ban Jan 2026
Benin	ban Jan 2026
Burundi	ban Jun 2025
Côte d'Ivoire	ban Jan 2026
Cuba	ban Jun 2025
Dominica	ban Jan 2026
Gabon	ban Jan 2026
Nigeria	ban Jan 2026
Senegal	ban Jan 2026
Togo	ban Jun 2025
Tonga	ban Jan 2026
Venezuela	ban Jun 2025
Zimbabwe	ban Jan 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

B1/B2 visa basics

DS-160 + $185 fee

Every applicant files the DS-160 form online and pays the standard visa application fee before booking an interview.

The interview decides

Approval is about your ties to home and purpose of travel. The deposit is only requested if you're otherwise approved.

Visa ≠ admission

CBP officers at the airport grant your actual stay and record it on your I-94. Your departure deadline is the I-94 date, not the visa expiry.

Deposit is per person

Each traveler — including family members — needs their own deposit and their own I-352B form.

Asked for a deposit? Keep your cash.

Apply in 5 minutes. We confirm your case, quote your one-time fee, and place the full deposit with the U.S. government — usually within two business days.

VisaDeposits.com/apply

or email help@visadeposits.com
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