



## Passport Update September 14, 2006:

### New Requirements for Travelers

New U.S. travel laws will require passports or other accepted identification documents for all passengers traveling to and from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. This law is a part of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. The new laws are being implemented in phases so Dive West recommends that you start now by obtaining a passport and use it when you travel on all Dive West vacations to avoid unnecessary delays.

### When will U.S. Travelers be affected?

In the proposed plan, the law will be implemented in phases. The proposed timeline will be as follows:

**December 31, 2006** - Requirement applied to all air and sea travel to or from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda.

**December 31, 2007** - Requirement extended to all land border crossings as well as air and sea travel.

### Remember, you'll need to apply for a U.S. Passport in person if:

- You are applying for a passport for the first time; or
- Your expired U.S. passport is not in your possession; or
- Your previous U.S. passport has expired and was issued more than 15 years ago; or
- Your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under 16 years of age; or
- Your currently valid U.S. passport has been lost or stolen.

To obtain a U.S. Passport for the first time you will need to go in person to one of the thousands of passport acceptance facilities around the U.S. The most common facility is the United States Post Office or the local courthouse. United States citizens can visit the State Department's travel website [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), or call the U.S. National Passport Information Center at 1-877-4USA-PPT.

For individuals needing a new passport, give yourself enough time to avoid unnecessary delays. That means you will need 6-8 weeks prior to your departure date to ensure that you receive your passport in time for your trip.

For More Information or to Apply for a Passport ... <http://travel.state.gov>