

Oct 07, 2022



GET CRACKING: The travel industry says wait times for visitor visa interviews exceed 400 days for first-time applicants from key countries, a snag that is hurting U.S. tourism efforts to rebound from the pandemic. The U.S. Travel Association on [Thursday published a new analysis](#) showing that an estimated 6.6 million potential visitors will be prevented from traveling to the United States in 2023 at a loss of \$11.6 billion in projected spending.

Effectively a travel ban: “Outrageous wait times send a message to travelers that the United States is closed for business,” said U.S. Travel President and CEO Geoff Freeman. “Excessive visa delays are essentially a travel ban — no one is going to wait one to two years to interview with a U.S. government official to gain permission to visit the United States.”