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An Introduction To USA Passport Cards

Some of the most valuable memories I have ever made come from traveling. Traveling is such a valuable experience. Going beyond what you know and visiting a place where the people and the culture are different creates experiences that can't be created any way else, and I honestly believe traveling is a very special experience. However, it's easy to get discouraged. Sometimes it can get expensive, especially when costs associated with passports, plane tickets, and accommodations add up. However, there are some changes you can make. For example, you don't have to go very far to meet different people, and the [passport ID card](#) can help get you there.

Since July, 2008, passport cards have been an alternative form for travel documentation for citizens of the United States. In its earliest form, passport cards were known as the People Access Security Service, aka, the PASS card. The passport card works a lot like the typical passport book does, but it does have a few restrictions. If you are going to use the passport card for travel, you can only travel to places that are either connected by land to the United States, are close to the United States, or are under the United States government: Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda.

A passport card just looks like a typical card you would carry in your wallet. This particular travel card was made for those whose jobs or whatever take them over the borders or through sea ports often, and this explains another special rule. If you decide to travel with a passport card, it can only be by land or sea travel. International air travel requires the passport book in order to be granted access.

This card does a little more than other cards in your wallet. For example, it features a vicinity-read radio frequency identification, or RFID, chip. This chip, however, doesn't carry any of your personal information on it. It only contains a special number used to identify you in a government database. Some worry that because it's just a card, it can be easily forged or manipulated. However, a special laser is used to engrave it, along with other high-tech procedures, making forgeries and fakes easy to spot. The card even comes with a very special sleeve to keep it in, ensuring that no one can read your card illegally.

This RFID technology is seen in many other parts of daily life. For example, it's what your car key uses to unlock your car and not every other car in the parking lot. It's also used in some bank cards, in highway toll tags, and security access cards.

Passport cards are like passport books in some ways. Its basic function is the same: to get you into countries outside of our own. Also like a passport book, the passport card has a date of expiration. If you are under the age of 18, your passport card expires in five years while someone over 18's passport card expires after ten years.

You can apply for a U.S. passport card ID either in person or online. Online passport services specialize in expediting passports and passport cards, along with other passport services. If you need a passport card, these websites have an application. And if your documents are expired, you'll need forms for [online passport renewal](#). It's all done straight from your computer, making traveling a breeze and vacations a reality.

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