Headline: ’24 brings more digital paperwork to E.U. travel

Visiting Europe soon will require more than a passport. The European Union will implement new visa requirements – known as the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) – for non-EU passport holders in 2024. A specific date when this requirement will go into effect has yet to be determined.

ETIAS visas are not physical documents but are electronically linked to the traveler’s passport. In order to apply, travelers will need to provide their passport information or another travel document to which a visa can be affixed. Parents and legal guardians can apply on behalf of minors in their care.

ETIAS approval is valid for three years or until the passport under which it is registered expires, whichever comes first. The processing fee is set at 7 euros – or $7.74 – but applicants under the age of 18 or older than 70 can apply at no charge.

The application process shouldn’t take long. According to the E.U., the ETIAS approval should come within minutes for most applicants but can take up to 30 days. The government encourages travelers to apply well in advance of any trip, and strongly advisers travelers to receive their ETIAS approval prior to purchasing flights or booking hotels.

Cutline: ENTRANCE FEE – Beginning in 2024, the European Union will require travelers have visas to visit its countries. Image: MasterSergeant. Adobe Stock.