

US to double ESTA fee for Europeans

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: Nationals from 41 countries — including all EU member states — are required to apply for the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) when visiting the US for up to 90 days.

Starting at the end of September, the cost of an ESTA is set to nearly double.

The price increase comes as the US grapples with a sharp drop in international tourist numbers — a trend that the new fee could further exacerbate.

The ESTA fee will rise from \$21 (€18) to \$40 (€34) on 30 September 2025.

The ESTA is required for travellers entering the US through the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and remains valid for two years. These include nationals of EU member states and the UK.

These travellers can visit the US for business or tourism stays for 90 days or less without a visa, as long as they have an ESTA.

The fee structure consists of a \$10 (€8.50) processing charge plus an extra \$30 (€25.60) authorisation fee once the ESTA gets approved. This extra \$30 includes a \$17 (€14.50) travel promotion charge and a \$13 (€11) Treasury General Fund charge.

When an ESTA application gets rejected, applicants pay only the \$10 processing charge.

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