

Global Entry vs TSA PreCheck: A Complete Comparison Guide

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GLOBAL ENTRY VS TSA PRECHECK®

— Which Trusted Traveler Program Is Right for You? —

GLOBAL ENTRY	TSA PRECHECK®
Best for international travelers Provides expedited clearance when entering the U.S.	Best for domestic travelers Provides faster screening at airport security.
Use at U.S. airports for international arrivals	Use at TSA security lanes across the U.S.
Includes TSA PreCheck® benefits	Keep shoes, belts, and light jackets on. Keep laptops in bag.
Renew every 5 years	Renew every 5 years
Fee: \$120	Fee: \$78

Both programs save you time and make travel easier—choose the one that fits your travel needs!

Need help with enrollment or travel questions? +1-855-867-4428

Frequent travelers are always looking for ways to save time at the airport. Two of the most popular trusted traveler programs in the United States are Global Entry and TSA PreCheck. While both programs help speed up the travel process, they serve different purposes and offer unique benefits. Understanding [global entry vs tsa precheck](#) can help you choose the program that best fits your travel needs.

In this guide, we'll compare eligibility, costs, benefits, and application processes to help you make an informed decision.

What Is TSA PreCheck?

TSA PreCheck is a program operated by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) that allows approved travelers to move through airport security more quickly at participating U.S. airports.

With TSA PreCheck, travelers typically enjoy:

- Shorter security lines
- No need to remove shoes
- No need to remove belts or light jackets
- Laptops and liquids can often remain in carry-on bags
- Faster screening procedures

For domestic travelers, TSA PreCheck can significantly reduce the time spent at airport security checkpoints.

What Is Global Entry?

Global Entry is a program administered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). It is designed to expedite entry into the United States for pre-approved, low-risk travelers returning from international destinations.

Global Entry members receive:

- Expedited customs processing upon arrival in the U.S.
- Access to automated kiosks at participating airports
- Faster international arrivals experience
- TSA PreCheck benefits included with membership

This inclusion of TSA PreCheck is one of the most important factors in the **global entry vs tsa precheck** debate.

Global Entry vs TSA PreCheck: Key Differences

Although both programs help travelers save time, they focus on different stages of the travel process.

TSA PreCheck

TSA PreCheck primarily benefits travelers during departure by providing expedited airport security screening.

Best for:

- Domestic travelers
- Occasional flyers
- Travelers who rarely leave the United States

Global Entry

Global Entry helps travelers returning to the United States from international trips by speeding up customs and immigration procedures.

Best for:

- International travelers
- Frequent flyers
- Business travelers with overseas trips

When comparing global entry vs tsa precheck, your travel habits play a major role in determining which program provides the greatest value.

Cost Comparison

One important consideration in the global entry vs tsa precheck comparison is cost.

TSA PreCheck Fee

TSA PreCheck generally has a lower enrollment fee and provides benefits for several years before renewal is required.

Global Entry Fee

Global Entry costs slightly more but includes all TSA PreCheck benefits in addition to expedited customs processing.

For travelers who frequently travel internationally, the additional cost is often considered worthwhile.

Application Process

TSA PreCheck Application

The TSA PreCheck process typically includes:

1. Online application submission
2. Identity verification
3. Background check
4. In-person enrollment appointment

Approval times can vary depending on application volume.

Global Entry Application

Global Entry applicants must complete:

1. Online application
2. Background review
3. Conditional approval
4. In-person interview with Customs and Border Protection

The interview requirement makes the Global Entry process slightly more involved.

Which Program Is Better?

The answer depends on your travel patterns.

Choose TSA PreCheck if:

- You mainly travel within the United States.
- You want a simpler application process.
- You rarely travel internationally.

Choose Global Entry if:

- You travel internationally several times each year.
- You want expedited customs clearance.
- You would also like to receive TSA PreCheck benefits.

For many travelers, the global entry vs tsa precheck decision comes down to whether international travel is part of their routine.

Benefits of Having Both

Because Global Entry automatically includes TSA PreCheck privileges, many international travelers view Global Entry as the more comprehensive option.

Instead of applying separately, eligible travelers can enjoy both domestic security screening benefits and expedited customs processing through a single membership.

Final Thoughts

When evaluating global entry vs tsa precheck, both programs offer excellent ways to reduce airport wait times and improve the travel experience. TSA PreCheck is ideal for domestic travelers who want faster security screening, while Global Entry is better suited for those who frequently travel internationally.