



Asiana Airline flight attendants are trained on the new check-in process at the Incheon International Airport on Friday before the U.S. Visa Waiver Program for Korean nationals takes effect today. Ahn Hoon/The Korea Herald

Koreans allowed to enter U.S. without visa from today

By Song Sang-ho

Beginning today, Korean citizens will be allowed to enter the United States visa-free for up to 90 days.

The United States decided to include Korea in its Visa Waiver Program in September, which will be applied only to visitors for tourism and business. It takes effect today.

Travelers are required to carry electronic passports and obtain approval from the

Electronic System for Travel Authorization on its website (<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>) at least four days before leaving for the country.

Travelers for study, work and immigration must obtain U.S. visas. Those who have been denied visas cannot benefit from the program, officials said.

In a reciprocal measure, Korea will allow U.S. citizens to visit the nation for up to 90 days visa-free from today, the Justice Ministry

said yesterday. The previous visa-free stay was 30 days.

The VWP is expected to boost the tourism industry. The number of Korean travelers to the United States is expected to total 1.4 million-2 million next year, more than double the 700,000 recorded last year.

A total of 34 nations have a visa-free entry pact with the United States, including Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic, Estonia and Latvia.

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