UK VISA REQUIREMENTS

ALL nationals of the countries and territories listed below in red (underlined) need visas to enter or transit the UK. ALL nationals of the countries and territories listed below in black need visas to enter or transit the UK landside.

Airsides Transit (where available): Airside transit passengers are those who do not need to change airports and do not need to pass through the UK border. Passengers cannot transit AIRSIDE to the Republic of Ireland or anywhere within the common travel area.

Transit without visa (TWOV): ALL visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom AIRSIDE without a visa must:
(i) arrive and depart by air;
(ii) have a confirmed onward flight departing the same day from the same airport; and
(iii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required).

Landside Transit: Landside transit passengers are those who need or wish to pass through the UK border and enter or leave the UK for their destination (e.g. to change airport, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airside transfer is possible).

1. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourists or transit.
2. Holders of diplomatic, official or special passports may transit without a visa. Holders of a public affairs passport may transit without a visa and public affairs passport holders do not need a visa if they are travelling with a serving Chinese government minister on an official visit to the UK.
3. Passengers arriving via HM Government – visa should be issued by this office.
4. Holders of diplomatic or official passports may transit without a visa. Holders of diplomatic, special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourists or transit. Holders of ordinary passports do not require a visa if they hold a valid electronic visa waiver (EZWV) document.
5. Passengers holding a passport that includes a personal ID number on the biometric page are exempt from the visa requirement.
6. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourists or transit.
7. Holders of diplomatic passports may transit without a visa.

Airlines

If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

Passengers with the right of abode in the UK

If a visa national has a ‘certificate of entitlement to the right of abode’ label in their valid passport they do not need a visa.

Holders of non-national flight travel documents

If the passenger holds a refugee travel document issued by the UK they do not need a visa. If the passenger holds any other non-national or refugee travel document they need a visa to enter the UK. Whether holders of non-national and refugee travel documents require a direct airside transit visa (DATV) depends on their original nationality, and whether they qualify for one of the exemptions listed above. Persons recognised as stateless under the 1954 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are not required to hold a DATV and may transit without a visa. See below.

A seaman travelling on duty, who is a visa national (including those in transit through the UK) does not need a visa if he holds a valid seaman’s book issued by one of these countries which also contains a statement that it is issued under ILO108 (or convention of 1958) or ILO185, having previously ratified ILO108 (or convention of 2003): Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Azores, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bolivia, Bonaire, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Curaçao, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, People’s Republic of China, People’s Republic of Korea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivar), Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is decided by an immigration officer at the UK border.

UK permanent residents

If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

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