



# 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.  
ALL visa nationals may transit the UK without a visa (TWOV) in certain circumstances. Please see below for details.

Afghanistan  
Albania  
Algeria  
Angola  
Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Bahrain (1)  
Bangladesh  
Belarus  
Benin  
Bhutan  
Bolivia  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Burkina Faso  
Burma (Myanmar)  
Burundi  
Cambodia  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
China (People's Republic of) (2)

Colombia  
Comoros  
Congo  
Congo Dem. Republic (Zaire)  
Cuba  
Cyprus northern part of (3)  
Djibouti  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
Egypt  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Fiji  
Gabon  
Gambia  
Georgia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Guyana  
Haiti  
India (4)

Indonesia (7)  
Iran  
Iraq  
Ivory Coast  
Jamaica  
Jordan  
Kazakhstan  
Kenya  
Korea (Dem. People's Republic)  
Kosovo  
Kuwait (5)  
Kyrgyzstan  
Laos  
Lebanon  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Libya  
Macedonia (F.Y.R of)  
Madagascar (Malagasy)  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Moldova

Mongolia  
Montenegro  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Nepal  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Oman (5)  
Pakistan  
Palestinian Territories  
Peru  
Philippines  
Qatar (5)  
Russia  
Rwanda  
Sao Tome e Principe  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
Serbia  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia (3)  
South Africa (7)  
South Sudan

Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Surinam  
Swaziland  
Syria (8)  
Taiwan (6)  
Tajikistan  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Togo  
Tunisia  
Turkey (7)  
Turkmenistan  
Uganda  
Ukraine  
United Arab Emirates (5)  
Uzbekistan  
Venezuela (non biometric)  
Venezuela (biometric)  
Vietnam (4,7)  
Yemen  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

1. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
2. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa. Service passport holders may transit without a visa. Holders of a public affairs passport may not transit without a visa. Service and public affairs passport holders do not require a visa if travelling with a serving Chinese government minister on an official visit to the UK.
3. Passport not recognised by HM Government – visa should be issued on a uniform format form (UFF).
4. Holders of diplomatic or official passports may transit without a visa.
5. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit. Holders of ordinary passports do not require a visa if they hold a valid electronic visa waiver (EVW) document.
6. Passports that include a personal ID number on the biodata page are exempt from the visa requirement.
7. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
8. Holders may not use a B1/B2 USA visa to transit the UK.

### Airside 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; and
- (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)

Nationals of the countries shown in RED (underlined) above need a visa to transit AIRSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

- (i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA (whether or not the holder is travelling to or from these countries); or
- (ii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM the country in respect of which the visa is held and it is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid entry visa.
- (iii) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:
  - (a) Australia
  - (b) Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - (c) New Zealand
  - (d) USA issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid US Immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
- (iv) a valid common format residence permit issued by an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- (v) a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- (vi) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a destination other than the Republic of Ireland or the Common Travel Area); or
- (vii) a valid Schengen Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) group tourism visa where the holder is travelling TO the country that issued it; or
- (viii) a valid airline ticket FROM the Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate they entered there no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a valid Schengen ADS visa

NB: E-visas or e-residence permits are not acceptable unless the airline is able to verify it with the issuing country

### Landside Transit:

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

### Transit without visa (TWOV)

ALL visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom LANDSIDE without a visa must:

- (i) arrive and depart by air; and
- (v) have a confirmed onward flight that departs before 23:59hrs the following day; and
- (vi) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required)

Nationals of ALL countries (RED [underlined] and BLACK above) need a visa to transit LANDSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

- (i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airline ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey TO that country; or
- (ii) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airline ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey FROM that country; or
- (iii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM the country in respect of which the visa is held and it is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid entry visa; or
- (iv) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:
  - (a) Australia
  - (b) Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - (c) New Zealand
  - (d) USA issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid US Immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
- (v) a valid common format residence permit issued by an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- (vi) a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- (vii) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling TO the Republic of Ireland; or
- (viii) an Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling FROM the Republic of Ireland provided it is less than 3 months since the holder last entered there

NB: E-visas or e-residence permits are NOT acceptable for landside transit

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.

### 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 and refugee 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 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are not required to hold a DATV and may transit airside without a visa.**

### Seamen

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, Anguilla, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, British Virgin Isles, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova (Republic of), Montserrat, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Seychelles, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom (including the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar), Uruguay. **The seaman does not need to be a national of the country that issued the document**

If in doubt please telephone one of the numbers below for advice

Aberdeen Airport.....+44 3000 738455	Heathrow Airport Terminal 2.....+44 20 8929 3824/25	Manchester Airport Terminal 3.....+44 161 261 5903
Belfast Airport.....+44 28 944 84323	Heathrow Airport Terminal 3.....+44 20 8745 6920/21	Newcastle Airport.....+44 191 214 4580 / 4582
Birmingham Airport.....+44 121 606 7357/7368	Heathrow Airport Terminal 4.....+44 20 8745 4740	Newhaven Docks.....+44 1273 865936
Bournemouth.....+44 1202 579233	Heathrow Airport Terminal 5.....+44 20 8196 2490	Norwich.....+44 1603 268960
Bristol Airport.....+44 1275 472 843	Inverness.....+44 1667 462793	Plymouth.....+44 1752 689200
Cardiff.....+44 300 1064 188	Leeds Bradford Airport.....+44 113 391 1920	Poole.....+44 1202 634555
East Midlands Airport.....+44 1332 442050	Lerwick.....+44 1595 690614	Prestwick.....+44 01292 478675
Edinburgh Airport.....+44 131 3443113	Liverpool Airport.....+44 151 448 1448	Portsmouth Docks.....+44 2392 952749
Exeter Airport.....+44 1392 366492	London City Airport.....+44 20 7055 5912	Robin Hood Airport.....+44 1302 522300
Gatwick Airport.....+44 1293 501880	Luton Airport.....+44 1582 878700	Southampton Airport.....+44 23 8062 7107
Glasgow Airport.....+44 141 847 5300	Manchester Airport Terminal 1.....+44 161 261 5901	Southend Airport.....+44 1702 538574
Harwich Docks.....+44 300 1065 543	Manchester Airport Terminal 2.....+44 161 261 5902	Stansted Airport.....+44 1279 338809