**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 visas may need the UK without a visa (TWOV) in certain circumstances. Please see below for details.

1. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for visa-free transit to or from the UK.
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 holder of a public affairs passport. Minors under the age of 18 years who are on a visit to the UK. (e.g., an accompanying public affairs diplomatic representative (in the role of diplomatic representative) of a British government minister on an official visit to the UK).
3. Passports not recognised by HM Government – visa should be issued on a Form FAV (application for a Visa for Affixing a Visa (FAV))
4. Holders of diplomatic or official passports may transit without a visa.
5. Holders of ordinary passports do not require a visa if they hold a valid electronic visa waiver (EVS) document.
6. Passports that include a personal ID number or 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 transit area.

**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 an airport, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airside transit is possible).

**Transit without visa (TWOV):**
ALL visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom AIRSIDE without a visa must:

- arrive and depart by air;
- have a confirmed onward flight departing the same day from the same airport;
- and hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required).

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

- 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);
- a valid 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;
- a valid resident or refugee travel document;
- a valid resident permanent residence permit issued by:
  - Australia
  - Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - New Zealand
  - 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 Resident card provided it is accompanied by a valid i-767 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or 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 a valid Schengen Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) group tourism visa where the holder is travelling TO the country that issued it; or a valid airside ticket for a flight to a Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate they entered there no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a valid Schengen visa

**NB:** E-visas or e-residence permits are not acceptable unless the airline is aware of them and the issuing country.

**The decision to allow a passenger to travel 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 refugee travel documents require a direct airside transit visa (TWOV) depends on the country of issue 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.

**Seafarer:**
A seafarer travelling on duty, who is a visa national (including those in transit through the UK) does not need a visa if they hold a valid seafarer’s book issued by one of these countries which also contains a statement that it is issued under IL018 (or convention 1958), or IL019, or IL010; (including countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Israel, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, (Birma), Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Cape Verde, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom (including the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar), Uruguay. The seafarer does not need to be a national of the country that issued the document.

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