

# 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.

UK visas may now be in either physical form, or a digital eVisa. If a passenger holds a digital eVisa, the receipt of a '0A - Valid Permission to Travel Found' response message, via iAPI messaging, Direct REST or web user interfaces is satisfactory evidence of a passenger's permission to travel to the UK.

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

Congo  
Congo Dem. Republic  
Cuba  
Cyprus northern part of (2)  
Djibouti  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
Egypt  
El Salvador  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Eswatini (Swaziland)  
Ethiopia  
Fiji  
Gabon  
Gambia  
Georgia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Haiti  
Honduras

India (3)  
Indonesia  
Iran  
Iraq  
Ivory Coast  
Jamaica  
Jordan  
Kazakhstan  
Kenya  
Korea (Dem. People's Republic)  
Kosovo  
Kyrgyzstan  
Laos  
Lebanon  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Libya  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Moldova  
Mongolia  
Montenegro

Morocco  
Mozambique  
Myanmar (Burma)  
Namibia  
Nauru (8)  
Nepal  
Niger  
Nigeria  
North Macedonia  
Pakistan  
Palestine  
Philippines  
Russia  
Rwanda  
Sao Tome e Principe  
Senegal  
Serbia  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia (2)  
South Africa (7)  
South Sudan  
Sri Lanka

Sudan  
Surinam  
Syria (6)  
Taiwan (4)  
Tajikistan  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Togo  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tunisia  
Turkey (7)  
Turkmenistan  
Uganda  
Ukraine  
Uzbekistan  
Venezuela (non biometric)  
Venezuela (biometric)  
Vanuatu  
Vietnam (5)  
Yemen  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

1. Diplomatic or Service passport holders may transit airside without a visa.
  2. Passport not recognised by HM Government – visa should be issued on a Form for Affixing a Visa (FAV).
  3. Diplomatic or official passport holders may transit without a visa.
  4. Passports that include a personal ID number on the biadata page are exempt from the visa requirement.
  5. Diplomatic or Official passport holders may transit airside without a visa.
  6. Holders may not use a B1/B2 USA visa to transit the UK.
  7. Diplomatic passport holders may transit airside without a visa.
  8. There will be a transition period from 15:00hrs (GMT) 09 December 2025 until 15:00hrs (GMT) 20 January 2026 for nationals of Nauru seeking to enter the UK, during which passengers who hold a valid ETA and booked their travel before 15:00hrs (GMT) 09 December 2025 who are scheduled to arrive in the United Kingdom before 15:00hrs (GMT) 20 January 2026 may travel without a visa.
- There will also be a transition period from 00:01hrs (GMT) 10 December 2025 until 23:59hrs (GMT) 20 January 2026 for nationals of Nauru seeking to transit the UK airside to an onward destination. Nauru nationals who pre-booked to transit airside prior to 00:01hrs (GMT) 10 December 2025 for arrival in the UK for transit before 23:59 (GMT) 20 January 2026 may travel without a Direct Airside Transit visa. ETAs are not currently required for airside transit.

Please note, ETA eligible countries and requirements are **not** listed here.  
Guidance regarding ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation) can be found here:  
[www.gov.uk/electronictravelauthorisation](https://www.gov.uk/electronictravelauthorisation)

## 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: Other countries' 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:

- (iv) 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: Other countries' 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.

## 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 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 seafarer does not need to be a national of the country that issued the document.

Carriers and operators can seek advice about a passenger's permission to travel, by calling the UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub

Carrier Support Hub lines are for use by carriers and operators only. "Check if a passenger needs a UK visa service" to determine if a passenger requires a visa, here:

[Check if you need a UK visa - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)