



UK ETA INFORMATION

For our clients traveling to or via the UK

Important Information About the UK Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)

ACTION REQUIRED!

**AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE
DEPARTURE.**

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If you are traveling to the United Kingdom, you may be required to obtain a **UK Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)** before you travel.

The ETA is an electronic travel permission that is digitally linked to your passport. It is **not a visa** and does not guarantee admission to the United Kingdom. The ETA allows eligible visitors to travel to the UK for permitted purposes, including tourism and visiting family or friends, generally for stays of up to six months. (Cite: [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

IMPORTANT: You must receive approval **before traveling to the UK**. Airlines and other carriers may check your travel authorization before allowing you to board.

⚠ VERY IMPORTANT: APPLY WELL IN ADVANCE (30 or more days is suggested)

The UK Government currently advises travelers to allow **up to 3 working days** for an ETA decision. Many applications are approved much faster, and some are approved within minutes, but some applications require additional review. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

We recommend: DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE WEEK BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT TO APPLY.

We strongly recommend applying for your ETA **well in advance of your departure**, even though the UK Government's stated processing time is generally up to 3 working days.

Applying early gives you additional time to address any questions, application issues, or delays that may arise.

You must receive the ETA approval before you travel.

STEP 1 — DETERMINE WHETHER YOU NEED A UK ETA

Most visitors from countries such as the **United States, Canada, Australia and many European countries** generally need an ETA rather than a traditional visa when visiting the UK for tourism. However, requirements depend upon your nationality, immigration status and purpose of travel. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

Some travelers do **not** need an ETA, including certain people who already have UK immigration permission. Before applying, check the official UK Government requirements:

[Check if you need a UK ETA or visa — GOV.UK](https://gov.uk/check-uk-visa) at <https://gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

Do not assume that you need or don't need an ETA. Always verify your individual requirements via the UK ETA website. Our travel advisors cannot confirm/deny your individual ETA requirements. You must do this yourself via the UK official website.

STEP 2 — MAKE SURE YOU WILL TRAVEL WITH THE CORRECT PASSPORT

Your ETA is electronically linked to the **specific passport used when you apply**. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

Therefore:

- Apply using the passport you intend to use for your UK trip.
- Make sure the passport information you enter is exactly correct.
- If you obtain a new passport after receiving your ETA, you will generally need to apply for a **new ETA**, because the ETA is linked to the passport used in the application. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

IMPORTANT: Double-check every passport number, name, date of birth and other information before submitting your application.

STEP 3 — HAVE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION READY

Before beginning the application, have the following available:

You will need:

- Your current passport
- An email address that you can access
- A credit or debit card, or an accepted digital payment method
- Your residential address
- Information about your employment
- Information about any other nationalities you hold
- Information concerning criminal convictions, if applicable
- Access to a smartphone camera if using the UK ETA app
- A recent photograph/face image as required by the application

The UK ETA application requires passport and facial information as part of the identity verification process. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

STEP 4 — USE ONLY THE OFFICIAL UK GOVERNMENT WEBSITE OR APP



BEWARE OF THIRD-PARTY SCAM ETA WEBSITES

There are many SCAM websites that advertise UK ETA application services and may charge additional fees.

We recommend using only the official UK Government website or the official UK ETA app.

The UK Government specifically warns that other websites may charge more and that travelers should avoid websites that imitate official government services. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

OFFICIAL ONLINE APPLICATION

[Apply for a UK ETA — Official GOV.UK Application](https://gov.uk/eta/apply) at <https://gov.uk/eta/apply>

This is the **ONLY** official UK Government application website.

STEP 5 — CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO APPLY

There are two official ways to apply:

OPTION A — Apply using the UK ETA App

The official **UK ETA** app can be downloaded through the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

The app will guide you through:

1. Photographing your passport
2. Scanning your passport
3. Completing a facial scan when required
4. Taking a facial photograph
5. Answering the required questions
6. Paying the application fee
7. Submitting your application

The UK Government provides detailed instructions for using the app here:

[Official UK ETA App Instructions — GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-eta-app) at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-eta-app>

OPTION B — Apply Online

If you cannot or do not wish to use the app, you can apply through the official UK Government website.

[Apply Online for Your UK ETA — GOV.UK](https://gov.uk/eta/apply) <https://gov.uk/eta/apply>

STEP 6 — COMPLETE THE APPLICATION CAREFULLY

Follow the instructions displayed on the official application. You will be asked for personal and travel-related information.

TAKE YOUR TIME!

Before submitting the application, carefully review:

- Your full name
- Date of birth
- Passport number
- Passport nationality
- Passport expiration date

- Address
- Email address
- Other required information

The information must match your passport.

Incorrect information can cause delays or problems with your application. The UK Government advises that incorrect passport details can result in an application being delayed or rejected.

([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

STEP 7 — PAY THE ETA FEE

The current UK Government ETA fee is: **£20 per person (subject to change at any time)**

The application fee is paid during the online or app application process. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)) at <https://gov.uk/eta/apply>

The application accepts various payment methods, including major credit/debit cards and certain digital payment methods.

IMPORTANT

Every traveler who requires an ETA must have an individual ETA.

This includes:

- Adults
- Children
- Babies/infants

The UK Government states that each person traveling requires their own ETA where an ETA is required. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

STEP 8 — SUBMIT THE APPLICATION

Once you have reviewed all information and paid the fee, submit the application. You should receive an email confirming that your application has been submitted. **Keep this email for your records.**

STEP 9 — WAIT FOR YOUR ETA APPROVAL

The UK Government states that ETA decisions are **usually received within a day**, although travelers should **allow up to 3 working days** for a decision. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

Some applications may be approved within minutes, while others may require additional review.

VERY IMPORTANT

DO NOT TRAVEL UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT YOUR ETA HAS BEEN APPROVED.

The UK Government specifically states that you must wait until you receive an email confirming that you have an ETA before traveling to the UK. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

STEP 10 — CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Watch the email address you used for your application.

Check:

- Your regular inbox
- Spam folder
- Junk folder
- Promotions/other folders, if applicable

Your approval email will contain your **16-digit ETA reference number**. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

We strongly recommend PRINTING A COPY OF THE CONFIRMATION and keeping it with you at all times during your trip. Your travel advisor DOES NOT have access to this information and cannot assist you with obtaining your number or additional copies of the confirmation emails.

STEP 11 — VERIFY YOUR ETA BEFORE DEPARTURE

Once you have received approval, you can use the official UK Government website to check your ETA status and expiration date.

[Check Your UK ETA — Official GOV.UK Service](https://gov.uk/check-eta) at <https://gov.uk/check-eta>

This is particularly useful if you applied well in advance of your trip.

STEP 12 — TRAVEL TO THE UK

Once your ETA has been approved, it is electronically linked to the passport used in your application. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

When traveling:

Make sure you bring the same passport used for your ETA application.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES & GROUPS

If you are traveling as a family or group, **do not assume that one ETA covers everyone.** Each person who requires an ETA must have their own authorization. This includes children and infants. ([GOV.UK](https://gov.uk))

We recommend creating a simple checklist:

- Passenger 1 — ETA approved
 - Passenger 2 — ETA approved
 - Passenger 3 — ETA approved
 - Passenger 4 — ETA approved
 - All passengers traveling with the same passports used for the applications
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HOW LONG IS AN ETA VALID?

A UK ETA is generally valid for **2 years**, or until the passport used for the application expires, whichever occurs first. During that period, it can generally be used for multiple trips to the UK. ([GOV.UK](#))

IMPORTANT:

If your passport expires or you obtain a new passport, you will need to check the UK Government requirements and may need to obtain a new ETA before traveling.

WHAT IF I HAVE NOT RECEIVED MY ETA?

The UK Government advises allowing up to **3 working days** for a decision. ([GOV.UK](#))

If you have waited longer than 3 working days:

1. Check your email inbox.
2. Check your spam/junk folder.
3. Confirm that you submitted the application successfully.
4. Check the official UK Government ETA information.
5. Contact UK Visas and Immigration through the official government channels if necessary.

Do not submit duplicate applications simply because you have not received an immediate decision unless the UK Government instructs you to do so.

IMPORTANT TRAVEL ADVISORY

Obtaining an ETA does **not guarantee you admission to the United Kingdom**. An ETA is permission to travel to the UK. Final admission is determined by UK Border Force/UK immigration authorities when you arrive. ([GOV.UK](#)) You should also make sure that your passport and other travel documents meet all applicable UK entry requirements.

ENJOY YOUR TRIP TO THE UNITED KINGDOM! GB

Important: UK entry and immigration requirements can change. Travelers should always verify the current requirements directly with the UK Government before departure. The official GOV.UK website is the authoritative source for current ETA requirements. Please be advised that Unlimited Journeys Travel Advisors cannot legally assist you with the UK ETA application process or provide any sort of information as to your approval/denial. You must contact the UK Government via their official channels for support and guidance.

*Information prepared as a travel-planning aid only and is not an official government document.
Requirements are subject to change at any time and should be verified prior to travel.*