

Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA): Ireland and Northern Ireland factsheet

Background

- Each year the UK welcomes millions of visitors from around the world. From holidays to short term study or business trips, the UK is a dynamic, diverse, and exciting destination.
- Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETAs) are being introduced worldwide for visitors to the UK who do not currently need a visa for short stays, or who do not already have a UK immigration status – an ETA is a digital permission to travel.
- Eligible non-Europeans can apply in advance from 27 November 2024 and will need an ETA to travel from 8 January 2025.
- Eligible Europeans can apply from 5 March 2025 and will need an ETA to travel from 2 April 2025.
- Gulf Cooperation Council visitors already need an ETA to travel to the UK.
- Visitors can apply in advance and find out when to do so on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
- British and Irish citizens do not need an ETA.
- An ETA costs £10 and permits multiple journeys to the UK of up to six months at a time over two years or until the holder's passport expires – whichever is sooner.
- The introduction of ETA is in line with the approach many other countries have taken to border security, including the US and Australia, and will help prevent the arrival of those who present a threat to the UK.
- The UK Government remains committed to the principles of the Common Travel Area (CTA).

Eligibility for an ETA

- All visitors, including children, who do not [need a visa](#) for short stays or who do not have any other UK immigration status will need an ETA to travel to the UK or transit through the UK.
- An ETA is not a visa, it does not permit entry into the UK – it authorises an individual to travel to the UK.

- All visitors arriving in the UK, including those crossing the land border into Northern Ireland, continue to need to enter in line with the UK's immigration framework, including the need to obtain an ETA once required.

Non-Irish residents of Ireland

- People who are legally resident in Ireland and from a nationality that does not usually need a visa to visit the UK (e.g. European and US nationals), do not need an ETA when travelling to the UK from within the CTA, provided they hold acceptable evidence of their residence status.
- Applicants can check if they need a visa by using the [visa checking tool on GOV.UK](#)
- Non-Irish residents of Ireland who are travelling to the UK from outside of the CTA need an ETA before they travel, once required for their nationality.

Frequently asked questions

How do ETAs work in the context of the Ireland-Northern Ireland border?

- The Common Travel Area (CTA) allows British and Irish citizens to move freely and live in either Ireland or the UK and enjoy associated rights and privileges.
- The UK does not operate routine immigration controls on journeys from within the CTA, with no immigration controls whatsoever on the Ireland-Northern Ireland land border.
- All people arriving in the UK, including those crossing the land border into Northern Ireland, continue to need to enter in line with the UK's immigration framework, including the need to obtain an ETA once required.

How can eligible residents of Ireland prove their exemption from the ETA requirement?

- Those who are legally resident in Ireland and from a nationality that does not usually need a visa to visit the UK do not need to obtain an ETA when travelling to the UK from within the CTA.
- In order to benefit from this exemption, if required by a UK immigration official, non-Irish residents of Ireland will need to present physical evidence which demonstrates that they are legally resident in Ireland.
- Eligible children under the age of 16 do not need to carry a document to demonstrate an exemption to the ETA requirements.

- Full guidance on this exemption and acceptable evidence documents can be found at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

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