



EU Travel Guidance, from January 2021

At 23:00 on 31 December 2020, the transition period following the UK departure from the EU on 31 January 2020 was completed. Thus meaning that the UK is no longer a part of the European Union (EU). This affects travel, both for work and holiday and this document is intended to provide guidance with the information available currently, and will be updated as things change.

For more detail: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union>

Passports

On the day of travel from UK to the EU (as well as non-members Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland and the Vatican City) your passport must pass two tests:

1. Does it have six months' validity remaining?
2. Was it issued less than nine years, six months ago?

Passports issued from non EU countries are regarded as expired once they have been valid for 10 years. So it is essential to check the issue date and consider this rule when travelling to the EU and non-member countries. This rule would not apply if you were travelling to the USA for example.

For further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/passport-rules-for-travel-to-europe>
<https://www.passport.service.gov.uk/check-a-passport>

Border Control

EU fast track lines can no longer be used by British passport holders. Immigration is likely to be slower and British citizens are no longer guaranteed entry.

At border control, you may need to show your return or onward ticket and evidence that you have enough money for your trip. More questions may need to be answered for entry such as; purpose of your visit, where you plan to stay and travel, how long you intend to stay in the EU, how you will fund your stay, whether you constitute as a threat to public health.

Length of Stay

The 90/180 rule applies to British travellers, meaning that for all holiday and business travel, you may only stay 90 days in any rolling 180 day period in the EU. If you overstay, there is usually a 3 day grace period, but then you will be banned for one year. For example, if you spent January, February and March in Italy at a total of 90 days, you must leave by 1 April and you can't return until 30 June.

Different rules will apply to Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania. If you visit these countries, visits to other EU countries will not count towards the 90-day total. British citizens can stay as long as they like in the Republic of Ireland.

People who have a work or residential visa for a specific EU country will be treated differently.



It is an individual's responsibility to track their time spent in Europe within the rolling 180 day period, including holidays as well as work travel. Use the tracker and discuss any concerns with your line manager, prior to requesting travel to be booked.

VISAs

British travellers will initially not need a visa. And you will not need a VISA to attend a business meeting for example. From 2022 onwards, you will need to apply in advance for an 'Etias' from the European Union. This is similar to the US Esta and relatively straight forward to access.

For more information on the Etias: <https://etias.com/>

To check the details for the country you are visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Health Care

Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) will continue to be valid if you're travelling from the UK to an EU country. You can use a UK passport to get medically necessary healthcare in Norway (for example emergency treatment, or to treat a pre-existing condition). For further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/european-health-insurance-card>

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/healthcare-when-travelling-abroad/>

But if you're travelling to Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein, you should get appropriate travel insurance with healthcare cover before you travel. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance>

Driving Licences

You may need extra documents from 1 January 2021. If you're taking your own vehicle from the UK to Europe, you will need a green card and a GB sticker.

You might also need an international driving permit (IDP) to drive in some EU countries and Norway if you have a paper driving licence or a licence issued in Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey or the Isle of Man. The IDP is available at larger post offices. Take your driving licence plus a passport photo and £5.50 for each permit that you need.

For more information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-embassies-in-the-uk>

Motor Insurance

Under the European Union 2009 Motor Insurance Directive, any vehicle legally insured in one EU country can be driven between other European nations on the same policy.

From 1 January 2021, you are likely to need a "Green Card" – an official, multilingual translation of your car insurance that demonstrates you meet the minimum cover requirements for the country you're visiting. Insurers will generally provide them free of charge, but require around a month's notice.



Mobile Phone Tariffs

From 1 January 2021, the guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway will end.

Ofcom, the regulator for UK mobile phone companies, is yet to provide guidance on roaming charges when in the EU so at this point in time, nothing changes and no additional roaming charges will apply. We do expect this to change and at that point the contract with our existing mobile phone provider will be renegotiated. We will make you aware of any changes as soon as they happen.

We are still awaiting clarification on what implications, if any, there may be for those using EU mobile phones whilst travelling within the UK. We will confirm any changes as soon as they happen.

Visiting the UK

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will continue to be able to travel to the UK for holidays or short trips without needing a visa. You'll be able to cross the UK border using a valid passport which should be valid for the whole time you are in the UK. Irish citizens will continue to be able to enter and live in the UK as they do now.

EU/EEA and Swiss nationals travelling to the UK for work or for more than 6-months study, will now need appropriate entry clearance. Those who were resident in the UK before the end of free movement are entitled to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). Entry clearance may appear as a vignette in a national passport, or it may be granted digitally. EUSS leave will be granted digitally. For all other visits up to 6 months duration, no visa or entry clearance is required.

EU/EEA and Swiss national identity cards will remain valid for all passengers travelling to the UK until 1 October 2021.

Irish Passport Cards and Identity Cards held by British Citizens from Gibraltar will continue to be accepted indefinitely.

EU and Irish-issued Article 10/20 cards will no longer be acceptable as a valid travel document.

UK-issued Article 10/20 cards will continue to be acceptable

For more information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visiting-the-uk-from-1-january-2021>
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-national-list>