

## What travel documentation is required for my trip to Scotland?

US and Canadian visitors must have a valid passport **and an ETA\* from before entering Scotland or the rest of the UK.** This should be valid throughout your whole trip. You will also need a visa if you're planning to stay for over six months.

**\*Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)** Travellers who can enter the UK without a visa will need an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA). This authorisation is electronically linked to your passport and allows you to enter the UK.

For full details and application link/smartphone app info, visit

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>

This video also gives step-by-step application information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uG1zaOMI63M>

## Requirements for the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

### Passport

#### Why do I need an ETA?

You'll need an ETA if you are:

- Visiting the UK for up to 6 months for tourism, visiting family and friends, business or study.
- Visiting the UK for up to 3 months on the [Creative Worker visa concession](#).
- [Transiting through a UK airport](#) – unless you're not going through UK border control.

**When do I need an electronic travel authorisation?** Eligible Europeans will need an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) from 2 April 2025 and can apply now. Eligible non-Europeans already need an ETA to travel to the UK. You can find a guide on how to apply further down this page.

#### Who will not need an ETA?

You will not need an ETA if you have either:

- A British or Irish passport
- Permission to live, work or study in the UK
- A visa to enter the UK
- A British overseas territories passport

#### Is the ETA a visa to enter the UK?

No, the ETA is not a visa. All other entry requirements into the UK will remain unchanged.

**When will the ETA be implemented?** The ETA system will be rolled out for all nationalities by April 2, 2025.

**How do I apply for an ETA?** You can apply on the UK ETA app, or online at GOV.UK. Each traveller must get their own ETA, including children and babies, and you can apply on behalf of others. You'll normally find out within 3 working days if your application is successful.

**Apply well in advance of your travel date.** You must apply at least 3 days before you travel and applications may take longer if further checks are needed.

**How much will an ETA cost?** An ETA will cost approx. £16 per person. You cannot get a refund after you apply.

**How will I receive my ETA?** You'll get an email confirmation if your application has been approved and your ETA will be linked electronically to the passport you applied with. You must use the same passport to travel.

**When does my ETA expire?** Your ETA will last for two years. It will allow multiple journeys to the UK and will be valid for two years or until your passport expires – whichever is sooner.

You can apply for the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) using the UK ETA smartphone app (for [Android](#) and [iPhone](#)) or on the [GOV.UK website](#). Using the UK ETA app makes it easier to take pictures of yourself and your passport, but you can also apply online if your smartphone is not compatible with the app or if you're applying for someone who's not with you.

**You need:**

- **The passport you'll use for travel to the UK**
- **Your email address**
- **A credit or debit card. Google Pay and Apple Pay also work**

The app or website will guide you through the process. The application consists of the following steps:

- Take a photo of the page of your passport that contains your photo and personal information. All information must be legible. If you use the website, you can upload a photo
- Scan the biometric chip in your passport with your smartphone
- Scan your face with your smartphone camera (only for travellers aged 10 and over)
- Take a photo of yourself against a non-obtrusive background with no shadows or objects. Your head and shoulders must be visible and your facial expression neutral. Head coverings are only permitted for religious or medical reasons. If you use the website, you can upload a photo
- Answer the questions provided - you do not need to provide any information about your travel plans
- Pay the fee with credit card, debit card, Google Pay or Apple Pay

You will then receive a reference number and confirmation of your application by email. You should receive a further email within three working days with the decision on your application.

**Your ETA will be digitally linked to your passport, so you only need to show your passport during your trip.**

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