

Electronic Travel Documentation

Gone are the days of free travel to the UK.

If you're an Australian citizen with an Australian passport then you've enjoyed a good run of visa- and fee-free travel to a lot of countries, but times are changing. As of January 8, 2025, Aussies will no longer be able to travel to the UK fee-free.

Those looking to holiday in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will have to acquire an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA), which is a form that must be completed online and approved before you board your flight to the UK. Obtaining an ETA will cost approximately \$20 and will be a required prerequisite for travellers as of January 8, 2025.

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This ETA is not to be confused with the European Travel Information and Authorisation Sydney (ETIAS) visa waiver that is required for Australian citizens holidaying in the European countries that are part of the Schengen zone – think France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain and more. [ETIAS](#) will come into effect May 1, 2025 and will cost Aussies roughly \$12. You can read more about [ETIAS and how it could affect your travel plans here](#).

If you are travelling between Europe and the United Kingdom on the same trip you will need to pay for both an ETA and ETIAS as the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union (EU).

Online applications for ETA are already open for those who are travelling early this year. The visa-waiver will cover multiple journeys to the UK and stays for up to six months over a two year period or until the holder's passport expires, whichever comes first.

What is a UK ETA and do you need one?

The United Kingdom's Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) is a digital visa-waiver program. If you are travelling as an Australian citizen on an Australian passport to the UK from January 8, 2025, you will need to obtain an ETA before you board your flight to the UK.

How do you apply for a UK ETA?

You can apply for a UK ETA through the United Kingdom Government website or via the UK ETA app on your smartphone. To obtain a UK ETA you will need a valid passport, digital photo and a credit or debit card to pay the £10 fee. It will take approximately three business days to have your application assessed and approved. You should not leave your ETA to the last minute as you will need it to board your flight and one cannot be obtained instantaneously.

For more information, visit apply-for-an-eta.homeoffice.gov.uk

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