

What Travelers Need to Know About the UK's Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)

As of January 8, 2025, visa-exempt travelers carrying a passport from the U.S., Canada, Australia, or one of the nearly 50 other countries [on this list](#) must meet the UK's new entry requirement which means that you may be required to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) before entering the United Kingdom (for more details, see the Implementation Timeline below). The ETA permits stay of up to six months for purposes such as tourism, business, visiting family and friends, or short-term study. It's valid for two years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first, and allows multiple entries during its validity period.

Eligibility

You need an ETA if you're traveling to the UK without a visa. However, you **do not need** an ETA if you have a visa, have permission to live, work, or study in the UK, are a British or Irish citizen, or are traveling with a British Overseas Territories citizen passport.

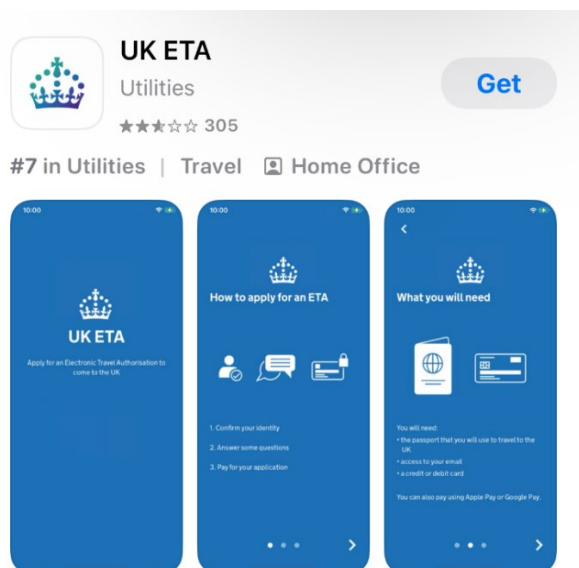
Implementation Timeline

- **From November 15, 2023:** Nationals of Qatar are required to obtain an ETA for travel to the UK.
- **From February 22, 2024:** Nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia must have an ETA.
- **From January 8, 2025:** The ETA requirement extends to nationals from countries including Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States, among others.
- **From April 2, 2025:** The ETA becomes mandatory for nationals from some European countries and other remaining eligible nations.

Application Process

1. Choose Your Application Method:

- **UK ETA App:** Download the official "UK ETA" app from the App Store or Google Play. This method is user-friendly and efficient.



- **Online Application:** If you prefer or if you're applying for someone else who isn't with you, you can apply online through the UK government's official website [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

2. Prepare Required Information:

- **Personal Details:** Full name, date of birth, and contact information.
- **Passport Information:** Passport number, issuance date, and expiration date.
- **Travel Plans:** Intended travel dates and accommodation details in the UK.
- **Purpose of Visit:** Specify whether your visit is for tourism, business, family visit, or other purposes.
- **Digital Photograph:** A recent digital passport-style photo that meets the UK's specifications.
- **Email Address:** An active email address for receiving your ETA approval.
- **Payment Method:** Credit or debit card details for paying the £10 application fee.

3. Complete the Application:

- **Using the App:** Follow the app's instructions to scan your passport, take a selfie, and provide the required information.
- **Online Application:** Fill out the online form with the necessary details and upload your digital photograph.

4. Submit and Pay:

- Review all the information you've provided to ensure accuracy.
- Pay the £10 application fee using your credit or debit card.

5. Await Confirmation:

- You will typically receive a decision within three working days, though it can be quicker. Occasionally, it may take longer. Each person must apply separately, and decisions may arrive at different times, even if applications were submitted simultaneously.

Important Considerations

- **Validity:** Your ETA is valid for two years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. During this period, you can enter the UK multiple times.
- **Entry Requirements:** An approved ETA does not guarantee entry into the UK. Upon arrival, you must still meet the standard entry requirements and may be subject to border control checks.
- **Exemptions:** You do not need an ETA if you have a visa, have permission to live, work, or study in the UK, are a British or Irish citizen, or are traveling with a British Overseas Territories citizen passport, or if you live in Ireland and are traveling from Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey, or the Isle of Man.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information, refer to the official UK government guidance on applying for an ETA.

Resources: [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)