

# Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

## Background

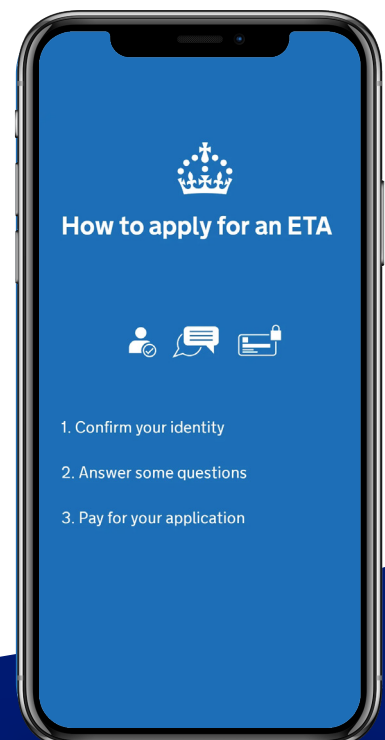
- Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETAs) are being introduced worldwide for visitors to the UK who do not currently need a visa for short stays, or who do not already have a UK immigration status – an ETA is a digital permission to travel.
- Eligible non-Europeans can apply in advance from 27 November 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)
- An ETA costs £10 and permits multiple journeys to the UK for stays of up to six months at a time over two years or until the holder's passport expires – whichever is sooner.

## 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.
- British and Irish citizens do not need an ETA.

## Applying for an ETA

The easiest way to apply for an ETA is through the 'UK ETA app', which can be downloaded from the [Google Play](#) or [Apple App Store](#). People can apply on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) if they do not have access to a smartphone.





## Frequently asked questions

### How do people know if they need to obtain a visa instead of an ETA?

- ? If a person intends to visit the UK for longer than six months, they need to obtain a relevant visa. They may also need a visa for stays of less than six months for purposes other than visit, transit and some business visits.
- ? People can check if they need a visa by using the [visa checking tool on GOV.UK](#)

### What happens if someone is not able to obtain an ETA?

- ? If an applicant's ETA application is rejected, they will be told the reason and can apply again.
- ? If an applicant's ETA application is refused, they cannot appeal and instead need to [apply for a visa](#) if they still wish to seek permission to come to the UK.

