

# UK VISA REQUIREMENTS



**ALL** nationals of the countries and territories listed below in **red (underlined)** need visas to enter or transit the UK.  
**ALL** nationals of the countries and territories listed below in **black** need visas to enter or transit the UK landside.  
**ALL** visa nationals may transit the UK without a visa (TWOV) in certain circumstances. Please see below for details.

**Afghanistan**  
**Albania**  
**Algeria**  
**Angola**  
**Armenia**  
**Azerbaijan**  
**Bahrain (1)**  
**Bangladesh**  
**Belarus**  
**Benin**  
**Bhutan**  
**Bolivia**  
**Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**Burkina Faso**  
**Burma (Myanmar)**  
**Burundi**  
**Cambodia**  
**Cameroon**  
**Cape Verde**  
**Central African Republic**  
**Chad**  
**China (People's Republic of) (2)**

**Colombia**  
**Comoros**  
**Congo**  
**Congo Dem. Republic (Zaire)**  
**Cuba**  
**Cyprus northern part of (3)**  
**Djibouti**  
**Dominican Republic**  
**Ecuador**  
**Egypt**  
**Equatorial Guinea**  
**Eritrea**  
**Ethiopia**  
**Fiji**  
**Gabon**  
**Gambia**  
**Georgia**  
**Ghana**  
**Guinea**  
**Guinea-Bissau**  
**Guyana**  
**Haiti**  
**India (4)**

**Indonesia**  
**Iran**  
**Iraq**  
**Ivory Coast**  
**Jamaica**  
**Jordan**  
**Kazakhstan**  
**Kenya**  
**Korea (Dem. People's Republic)**  
**Kosovo**  
**Kuwait (1)**  
**Kyrgyzstan**  
**Laos**  
**Lebanon**  
**Lesotho**  
**Liberia**  
**Libya**  
**Macedonia (F.Y.R. of)**  
**Madagascar (Malagasy)**  
**Malawi**  
**Mali**  
**Mauritania**  
**Moldova**

**Mongolia**  
**Montenegro**  
**Morocco**  
**Mozambique**  
**Nepal**  
**Niger**  
**Nigeria**  
**Oman (5)**  
**Pakistan**  
**Palestinian Territories**  
**Peru**  
**Philippines**  
**Qatar (5)**  
**Russia**  
**Rwanda**  
**Sao Tome e Principe**  
**Saudi Arabia**  
**Senegal**  
**Serbia**  
**Sierra Leone**  
**Somalia (3)**  
**South Africa**  
**South Sudan**

**Sri Lanka**  
**Sudan**  
**Surinam**  
**Swaziland**  
**Syria**  
**Taiwan (6)**  
**Tajikistan**  
**Tanzania**  
**Thailand**  
**Togo**  
**Tunisia**  
**Turkey (7)**  
**Turkmenistan**  
**Uganda**  
**Ukraine**  
**United Arab Emirates (5)**  
**Uzbekistan**  
**Venezuela (non biometric)**  
**Venezuela (biometric)**  
**Vietnam (4)**  
**Yemen**  
**Zambia**  
**Zimbabwe**

1. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official or tourist visits.
2. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa. Service passport holders may transit without a visa. Holders of a public affairs passport may not transit without a visa. Service and public affairs passport holders do not require a visa if travelling with a serving Chinese government minister on an official visit to the UK.
3. Passport not recognised by HM Government - visa issued on a uniform format form (UFF).
4. Holders of diplomatic or official passports may transit without a visa.
5. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official or tourist visits. Holders of ordinary passports do not require a visa if they hold a valid electronic visa waiver (EVW) document.
6. Passports that include a personal ID number on the biodata page are exempt from the visa requirement.
7. Holders of diplomatic passports only do not require a visa for official or tourist visits.

## Airside Transit:

Airside transit passengers are those who do not need to change airports and do not need to pass through the UK border. Passengers cannot transit AIRSIDE to the Republic of Ireland or anywhere within the common travel area.

## Transit without visa (TWOV)

**ALL** visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom AIRSIDE without a visa must:

- arrive and depart by air; and
- have a confirmed onward flight departing the same day from the same airport; and
- hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required)

Nationals of the countries shown in RED (underlined) above need a visa to transit AIRSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

- a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA (whether or not the holder is travelling to or from these countries); or
- a valid residence permit issued by:
  - Australia
  - Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - New Zealand
  - USA issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid USA-I551 Temporary Immigrant visa (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
- a valid common format residence permit issued by an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a destination other than the Republic of Ireland or the Common Travel Area); or
- a valid Schengen Approved destination Scheme (ADS) group tourism visa where the holder is travelling TO the country that issued it; or
- a valid airline ticket FROM the Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate they entered there no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a valid Schengen ADS visa

NB: E-visas or e-residence permits are not acceptable unless the airline is able to verify it with the issuing country

## Landside Transit:

Landside transit passengers are those who need or wish to pass through the UK border and enter the UK (e.g. to change airport, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airside transfer is possible)

## Transit without visa (TWOV)

**ALL** visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom LANDSIDE without a visa must:

- arrive and depart by air; and
- have a confirmed onward flight that departs before 23:59hrs the following day; and
- hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required)

Nationals of ALL countries (RED [underlined] and BLACK above need a visa to transit LANDSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

- a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airline ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey TO that country; or
- a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airline ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey FROM that country; or
- a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM the country in respect of which the visa is held and it is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid entry visa; or
- a valid residence permit issued by:
  - Australia
  - Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - New Zealand
  - USA issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid USA-I551 Temporary Immigrant visa (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
- a valid common format residence permit issued by an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling TO the Republic of Ireland; or
- an Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling FROM the Republic of Ireland provided it is less than 3 months since the holder last entered there

NB: E-visas or e-residence permits are NOT acceptable for landside transit

The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is decided by the immigration officer at the UK border who must be satisfied that the passenger is genuinely in transit

## UK permanent residents

If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

## Passengers with the right of abode in the UK

If a visa national has a 'certificate of entitlement to the right of abode' label in their valid passport they do not need a visa.

## Holders of non-national and refugee travel documents

If the passenger holds a refugee travel document issued by the UK they do not need a visa. If the passenger holds any other non-national or refugee travel document they need a visa to enter the UK. Whether holders of non-national and refugee travel documents require a direct airside transit visa (DATV) depends on their original nationality, and whether they qualify for one of the exemptions listed above. Persons recognised as stateless under the 1954 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are not required to hold a DATV and may transit airside without a visa.

## Seamen

A seaman travelling on duty, who is a visa national (including those in transit through the UK) does not need a visa if he holds a seaman's book issued by one of these countries which contains the name and title of the issuing authority, the date and place of issue and a statement that the document is issued for the purpose of the relevant ILO Convention:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, British Virgin Isles, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova (Republic of), Montserrat, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Seychelles, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom (including the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey), Uruguay. *The seaman does not need to be a national of the country that issued the document*

If in doubt please telephone one of the numbers below for advice

Belfast Airport.....+44 28 944 22500  
 Birmingham Airport.....+44 121 606 7357/7368  
 Bournemouth.....+44 1202 579233  
 Bristol Airport.....+44 1275 472 843  
 Cardiff.....+44 1446 712920  
 East Midlands Airport.....+44 1332 442050  
 Exeter Airport.....+44 1392 366492  
 Edinburgh.....+44 131 348 4026  
 Gatwick Airport North Terminal.....+44 1293 507382/3  
 Gatwick Airport South Terminal.....+44 1293 502626/9  
 Glasgow Airport.....+44 141 847 5300

Harwich Docks .....+44 1255 509700  
 Heathrow Airport Terminal 1 .....+44 20 8745 6804  
 Heathrow Airport Terminal 2.....+44 20 8929 3824/25  
 Heathrow Airport Terminal 3.....+44 20 8745 6920/21  
 Heathrow Airport Terminal 4.....+44 20 8745 4739  
 Heathrow Airport Terminal 5.....+44 20 8196 2490  
 Leeds Bradford Airport.....+44 113 391 1920  
 Liverpool Airport.....+44 151 448 1448  
 London City Airport.....+44 20 7055 5900  
 Luton Airport.....+44 1582 878700  
 Manchester Airport Terminal 1.....+44 161 489 2663

Manchester Airport Terminal 2.....+44 161 489 6001  
 Manchester Airport Terminal 3.....+44 161 489 2399  
 Newcastle Airport.....+44 191 214 4398/4126/4580  
 Newhaven Docks .....+44 1273 615400  
 Norwich.....+44 1603 268960  
 Poole.....+44 1202 634555  
 Prestwick.....+44 01292 478675  
 Portsmouth Docks.....+44 2392 952749  
 Robin Hood Airport.....+44 1302 522300  
 Southampton Airport.....+44 23 8062 7107  
 Stansted Airport .....+44 1279 680118