

## **UK extends Electronic Travel Authorisation**

The government has indicated that when it steps up enforcement of the electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) from the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 that visitors to the UK including operators of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), who are not compliant with the scheme may be denied access to the UK.

### **Who needs an ETA**

Starting from April 2, 2025, EU citizens (and other European nationals from countries like Switzerland, Iceland, etc.) were required to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) to visit the UK for short stays. This was defined as visits up to 6 months for tourism, business, study or those physically passing through border controls to transit the UK

However, there has been a phased implementation process with Border Force advising and encouraging visitors to obtain an ETA. As of the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, this will change with more rigorous enforcement by the authorities. The government says that “those who do not have an ETA will be unable to board their transport and will not be permitted to travel to the UK”.

Drivers non-visa countries must check their eligibility and apply online or via the UK APP <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-eta-app> before travelling

### **How to apply**

Visitors can find more information about applying for an ETA and download the UK ETA app to apply.

[Whether an ETA or visa is needed depends](#) on the visitor’s nationality.

An ETA costs £16 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. According to a government information pack, “most applications made on the UK ETA app are approved in minutes.