

Technical factsheet

Visiting the UK or EU after the transition period

Visiting the EU on a UK passport

On 31 December 2020 the transition period between the UK and EU formally closes and travel to EU states will change for UK citizens.

The majority of EU countries are within the Schengen area (bit.ly/eu-schen). As the UK is not, UK passport holders become third-country citizens, meaning that their passports will need to have been **issued within the past 10 years** and have at least **six months' validity** remaining.

Visa free travel would be allowed for up to 90 days in a 180-day period in Schengen countries. Different rules will apply to non-Schengen EU countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania) and visits to these countries may not count toward the 90 day total. Do check the list of Schengen countries, as non-Schengen EU countries would also treat UK nationals as 'third country' and may have different entry requirements.

European Healthcare Insurance Cards will no longer be valid after 31 December 2020. The UK government advises citizens to get travel insurance that includes healthcare cover. Additionally, UK driving licences will no longer be valid in some countries and an [international driving permit](#) (IDP) may be required.

The terms upon which UK citizens are able to visit an EU member state after 31 December 2020 may be affected by the final agreement between the EU and UK.

Please note you may require a visa or permit if you intend to visit for study or work.

Visiting the UK on an EU passport

On 31 December 2020, the transition period between the UK and EU formally closes. EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will continue to be able to visit the UK for short trips without a visa. However, visitors will require a valid passport.

EEA and Swiss National ID cards will no longer be accepted from 1 October 2021. However, those with national ID cards can continue to use them until 31 December 2025 if:

- they have pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme
- have a frontier worker permit
- are an S2 Healthcare Visitor
- are a Swiss Service Provider

Visitors with a non-UK driving licence will continue to be able to drive in the UK.

Drivers with insurance issued in the EU, Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia or Switzerland will not need an insurance green card but it is advised to carry proof of insurance. Otherwise, check if your country is a participating member of the [green card system](#).

Irish citizens (Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland) would have the continued right to enter and remain in the UK and would not need to take any steps to protect their status.

The terms upon which EU citizens are able to visit the UK after 31 December 2020 may be affected by the final agreement between the EU and UK.

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