

January 2024, United Kingdom

What is an ETA and how to apply?

An ETA is a digital authorisation granting its holder permission to travel to the UK. The ETA requires all foreign nationals who are currently eligible for visa-free travel to the UK to obtain a pre-arranged multiple-entry travel authorisation through the 'UK ETA app' or online through the UK government website. Note that an ETA authorisation is not a visa; therefore, it does not introduce visa-like requirements (for example, consular visits).

How long is an ETA valid for?

Once granted, it is valid for a period of up to two years, or until the expiry date of the associated passport, whichever comes first. It is important to note that an ETA itself does not affect an individual's maximum duration of stay.

How much does an ETA cost?

An ETA costs GBP 10 per applicant.

What is the average processing time of an ETA?

The ETA application process is highly automated, and most applicants should receive their travel authorisation within three working days of having applied.

Who can apply?

As of October 2023, all Qatari nationals must obtain an ETA authorisation if they want to conduct any visa-exempt tourism, business, or transit activities in the UK.

Nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates can apply for an ETA as of February 1, 2024.

In addition, select foreign nationals requiring a pre-arranged visa waiver or immigration authorisation for short-term stays may choose to apply for an ETA instead. This includes short-term stays of:

- ▶ Up to three months under the Creative Worker Visa Concession; and up to six months for select activities (i.e., tourism, visiting family and friends, business purposes, or short-term study) may opt to apply for an ETA instead.

Who does not require an ETA?

The following individuals do not need an ETA to travel to the UK:

1. British and Irish nationals;
2. A non-Irish national who is lawfully resident in Ireland and is travelling to the UK from elsewhere in the Common Travel Area (i.e., Bailiwick of Jersey, Bailiwick of Guernsey, and the Isle of Man); and
3. Individuals who are required to apply for a visa to enter the UK or already have a valid visa to the UK.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#)

The information contained herein is current as of January 2024. It is offered for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or give rise to an attorney-client relationship between you and our firm. The information: (i) must be regarded as a practical guide for general information and not a process guide for determining the specific immigration requirements of the countries covered; (ii) should not be a substitute for a more in-depth analysis of applicable facts and circumstances (including, without limitation, criminal or health-related circumstances) conducted by competent professionals; and (iii) does not represent an opinion from Nomadic or any of its agents with regard to the laws of any of the jurisdictions concerned. The information herein does not guarantee the outcome or approval of any particular immigration application. These materials are subject to copyright by our firm with all rights reserved and shall not be disclosed in whole or in part in any form to any third party absent Nomadic's advance written consent.

