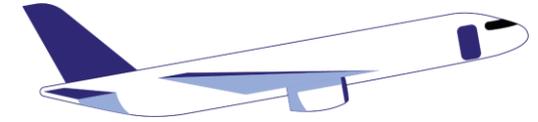# eVisa Visitor Toolkit

January 2026

A simpler, smarter way to visit the UK

- The UK is moving to a fully digital immigration system.

- The streamlined digital immigration system will be quicker and more secure for the millions of people who pass through the UK border each year. It paves the way for a contactless UK border in the future.
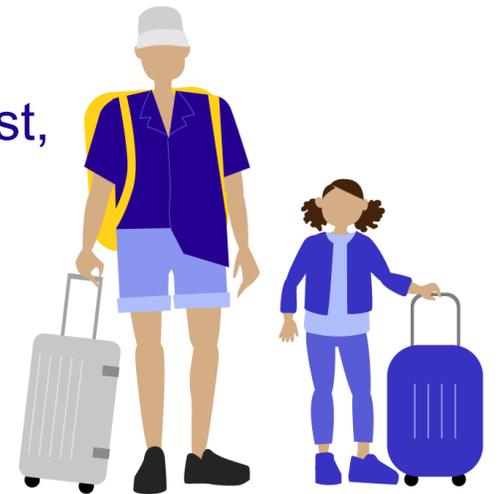
Changes coming from February 2026

- **From 25 February 2026**, everyone (except British and Irish citizens) wishing to travel to the UK will need a 'permission to travel'. Wherever possible, the permission will be digitally linked to the passport being used.

- **From 25 February**, most visitors who need a visa will get an **eVisa** only. This digital immigration status replaces visa vignette stickers in passports. Carriers (including airlines) will verify visitors travel permission via automated digital checks with the Home Office.

- Visitors who do not need a visa must apply for an **Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)**.

Guidance for existing visit visa holders

- From **25 February 2026**, carriers will check permission to travel to the UK digitally. Those with a UK Visitor Visa should create a UKVI account now to access their eVisa: www.gov.uk/evisa/set-up-ukvi-account. This ensures their visa can be confirmed automatically at ports and at the UK border.

- To benefit from smoother travel, people must link their permission to the passport they intend to travel with.

- Most people can update their UKVI account, including when overseas, using the Update your UK Visas and Immigration account details service.

- People may still use a valid visitor-visa vignette sticker in their passport as evidence of permission. If their passport has changed since the visa was issued, they must travel with both the current passport and the passport containing the vignette.

- Visitors can travel with a valid visa vignette sticker (or wet ink stamp) in their passport, but they will need to show it to the carrier when they check in.

What are the benefits of eVisas for visa-national visitors?

- **Streamlined application process:** The visa application process is quicker and simpler.

- **Convenience:** People can access and manage their own data via their UKVI account anytime, anywhere.

- **Security:** eVisas are more secure than physical documents and cannot be lost, stolen or tampered with.

What does the change to eVisas means for visitors coming to the UK?

- With an eVisa, people only need to attend the Visa Application Centre (VAC) once to confirm their identity. The VAC returns their passport during the appointment – this is more convenient as they don't need to visit again to collect a visa vignette sticker.

- Creating a UKVI account gives people online access to their immigration status.

- All commercial airlines travelling direct to the UK, cruises, ferries, and UK Border Force for international rail, can automatically check passengers' permission to travel. It is important that the passport used to travel is correctly linked to their UKVI account.

How visa national visitors should apply to come to the UK

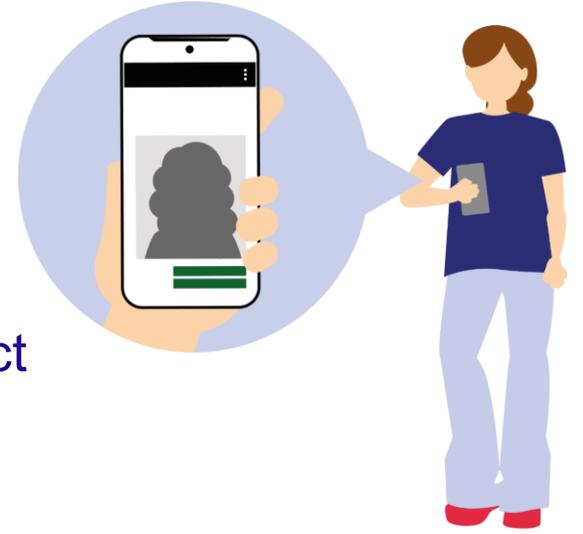✅ Check if they need a UK visa: **Check if you need a UK visa - GOV.UK**

✅ Apply for a visa and attend VAC to confirm identity: **Visit the UK as a Standard Visitor: Apply for a Standard Visitor visa - GOV.UK**

✅ Receive email notification on visa application: UKVI will email a decision notification to the applicant, and instructions on how to set up a UKVI account to access their eVisa.

How to create a UKVI account

- Creating a UKVI account is important for all visit visa holders - including dependants and children. To do this they should:

- Go to **Gov.uk/eVisa** or follow the link in their decision notification and select "Create an Account".

- Provide an email address and phone number to receive a security code.

- Verify their identity using their passport details. To do this people need access to a smartphone so they can install an app to confirm their identity, this step involves taking a photo of their face.

- Create UKVI accounts for any dependants or children if travelling as a family. The same email address and phone number can be used for this, if easier.

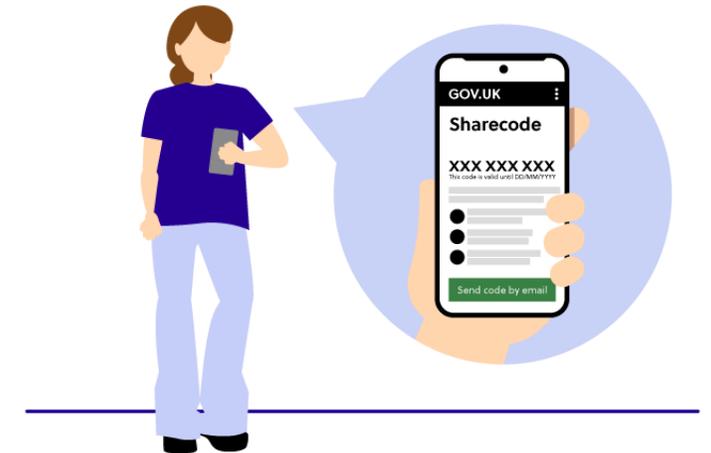- Once set up, people can sign in anytime to check their eVisa and update details.
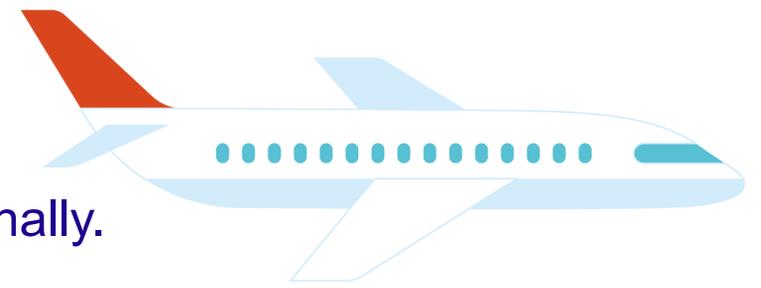
Top hints and tips

- As part of the UKVI account creation process, everyone needs to verify their identity. To do this, people will need to scan their chipped passport. The best way to do this is to place their phone directly on top of the passport, moving their phone around slowly until the chip has been found. If this does not work, people will be directed to an different process to verify their identity.

- Some people will have set up log in details to make their visa application online. This is not the same as creating their UKVI account. It is important that people still also create a UKVI account once their visa application is approved - **Set up a UKVI account to access your eVisa - GOV.UK**.

- When signing into our services to access an eVisa, for security purposes we will send 'One Time Passcodes'. These can be sent to the applicant's phone number or email address. We recommend for people overseas that they select the email option.

Help and guidance setting up and using a UKVI account

- If someone uses an agent to arrange their visa, the agent can act as a 'helper' to support UKVI account creation. A helper can have limited access to assist with creating the account. If a helper creates an account for someone else, they must be with the applicant in person for the ID check stage.

- Go to **Gov.uk/evisa** for help and guidance to:
    - set up a UKVI account to access an eVisa
    - view an eVisa and get a sharecode (if they wish) to prove immigration status
    - travel with an eVisa
    - update personal details and passport in a UKVI account
    - report an error with an eVisa
    - get help or view eVisa support videos.

Before travelling to the UK

Check eVisa details: Check the eVisa is correct before travelling internationally.

Update UKVI account if anything changes: People should update their UKVI account as soon as their details change, for example, updating passport details. Failure to update passport details may lead to extra checks, delays, or being denied boarding.

Travel with the passport linked to the eVisa: People should always use the passport linked to their eVisa. Immigration permission is digitally linked to that passport, which allows the carrier to automatically confirm permission to travel. If someone gets a new passport, they need to update their UKVI account so the eVisa is linked to the passport they will travel with.

Get a share code: Carriers will normally check permission to travel automatically. People can also get a share code to prove their status securely. Anyone travelling on to Ireland, will need a share code. People can get a code in advance of travel and take it with them (it is valid for 90 days and can be used multiple times).

Exit checks in other countries: Some countries may request evidence of UK immigration status when completing entry, exit or transit checks. People can use a share code to confirm their status securely.

Stakeholder resources

For the latest official information on eVisas, go to **Gov.uk/eVisa**.

This webpage is updated regularly. Subscribe to it to get notifications when the guidance changes.

Social Media Assets

Suggested Copy: The UK immigration system is going digital.

From 25 February 2026 visitors to the UK, who need a visa, will get an eVisa only.
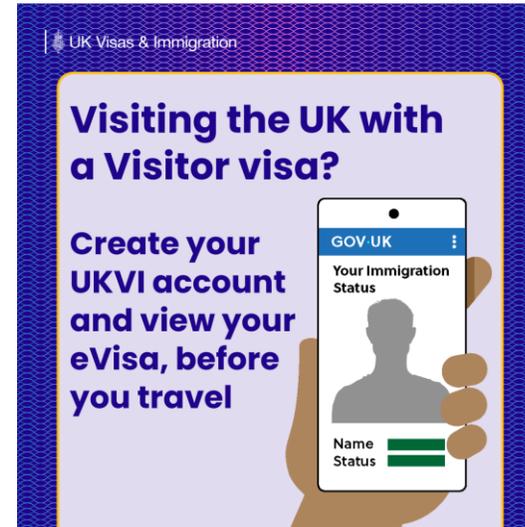
eVisas replace visa vignettes stickers in passports.

Find out more **www.gov.uk/eVisa**

Suggested Copy: A digital immigration system is more convenient and secure than physical documents -

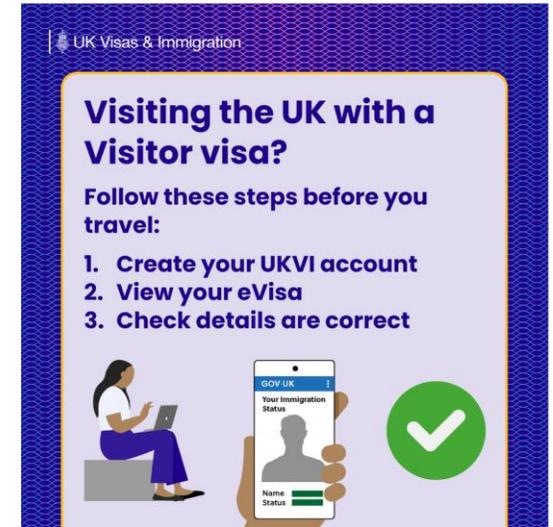eVisas are digitally linked to your passport and cannot be lost, stolen or tampered with.

Find out more **www.gov.uk/eVisa**

Suggested Copy: From 25 February 2026 visitors to the UK, who need a visa, will get an eVisa only.

Create your UKVI account and view your eVisa, before you travel to the UK.

Find out more **www.gov.uk/eVisa**

Suggested Copy: From 25 February 2026 visitors to the UK, who need a visa, will get an eVisa only.

Follow these steps when you receive your visa decision:

1. Create your UKVI account
2. View your eVisa
3. Check details are correct

Get started at **www.gov.uk/eVisa**

Further downloadable communications assets

[eVisa communications partner pack](#)

[ETA communications partner pack](#)