

THE UK IS NOW FULLY DIGITAL

eVisas & ETA:
*What This Means for
International Mobility*

(2026 UPDATE)



THE STRUCTURAL SHIFT

From **25 February 2026**, most UK visa approvals will be issued as **eVisas** only.

- Physical visa stickers are **being phased out**
 - Immigration status is now **stored digitally**
 - Access via a **UKVI online account**
 - Airlines **verify permission** before boarding
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WHAT TRAVELLERS MUST DO

- Create/sign in to your **UKVI account**
- Ensure **passport details match** your digital record
- Use the **same passport** for travel
- **Update your account** if you renew your passport
- **Review your eVisa** before departure

Without correct digital authorisation, boarding may be refused.

ETA & DIGITAL COMPLIANCE

Visitors from **visa-free countries** must now obtain an **Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)**.

- **£16 fee**
- Valid for **2 years** (or until passport expiry)
- **Digitally linked** to passport
- Apply at least **3 working days** before travel

WHY THIS MATTERS

Digital immigration is no longer transitional, it is **operational**.



- **10M+ eVisas** already issued
- **19M+ ETA approvals** processed
- **Reduced fraud risk**
- **Faster verification** at borders
- **Greater institutional accountability**

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