



BREXIT UPDATE

15TH OCTOBER 2019

Please note the information provided in this document is for general guidance only and does not and shall not constitute legal advice.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON BUSINESS TRAVEL

BREXIT – STATUS AS OF OCTOBER 15TH, 2019

Note: Updated from 9th October issue to provide details of visa requirements and ETIAS scheme.

If a deal is not agreed between the UK and EU by 19th October, and MPs don't vote in favour of leaving with no deal on the 31st, the prime minister will be legally obliged to ask the EU for a Brexit delay. If there is no agreed deal, and the prime minister refuses to seek an extension there is likely to be a legal battle.

Even if the prime minister requests an extension there is no guarantee that the other EU countries would agree. Leaving without a deal (or withdrawal agreement) means the UK would immediately exit the customs union and single market - arrangements designed to make trade easier.

The default position has been that the UK will leave the EU on 31 October at 23:00 GMT so we want to remind our customers of how this will affect travelling in the EU.

KEY DATES

October 17 th	Final EU council meeting before October 31 st
October 19 th	Deadline by which, if a deal has not been secured, the PM must request an extension from EU
October 21 st	Earliest date that opposition parties will countenance a General Election being called (subject to change at any time)
October 31 st	The day the UK could leave the EU, or a further extension period commences

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR TRAVELLERS?

The government has provided guidance for travel to the EU post-Brexit. Updates will be posted on the Brexit website and you can find it [here](#).

This includes:

- Check your passport;
- Get travel insurance or check your organisation's business travel insurance cover to make sure you are covered for healthcare;
- Make sure you have the right driving documents; and
- Prepare for longer border queues

The changes are summarised below.

Check the expiry date on your passport

It is expected that after 31st October, UK citizens will be required to have, on the day of travel:

- At least 6 months validity on their passport; and
- The passport to be less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left)

The UK Government has published a website tool to help travellers check the validity of their passport under these rules. You can find it [here](#).

You should check your passport now if you are planning to travel after 31st October. It usually takes around three weeks to renew your passport and there is a premium fast-track service if you need it sooner.

If you need support with your passport renewal, please contact our Visa and Passports team (email: visa@keytravel.com or phone: +44 (0) 207 843 9678).

15/10 Update: visa requirements when travelling to the EU

While the UK is still a member of the EU, UK citizens travelling to Europe only need their passport to enter the other member countries.

The European Parliament has confirmed that even in the event of a No Deal scenario, UK travellers will not require a visa to travel to the EU after Brexit for short-term business or leisure trips. Specifically, UK citizens will be able to visit the EU for up to 90 days within a 180-day period without a visa. It is also confirmed that travel to Ireland will not change after Brexit and UK citizens will be able to work in Ireland in the same way as before. However, a visa or permit may be required to stay for longer, or if a person wishes to work or study, but this will likely vary on a country by country basis.

However, after Brexit and from **January 2021**, British citizens will need to apply for and get an ETIAS visa waiver for travel to the EU. The ETIAS visa waiver for Europe is being developed to improve the security and border control of Europe. It will be similar to the US (ESTA) system currently in operation. When people apply for ETIAS, they will be screened using several European security databases including Interpol and Europol. Anyone who poses a security threat will be identified and prevented from reaching European soil.

The ETIAS must be applied for in advance and will cost €7 for a three-year validity period.

Check your organisation's health insurance cover before you travel

Being part of the European Union comes with the benefit of being able to access medical care in all member countries when travelling abroad. However, the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) that enables this may not be valid in all EU countries in the case of a no-deal Brexit. We strongly recommend buying travel insurance or checking your organisation's travel health insurance before travelling.

Advice from the Department of Health and Social Care states "UK nationals should follow current advice from the government which recommends travellers take out separate travel insurance to cover any healthcare requirements needed in any country within the EU or outside. This is particularly advisable for travellers with a pre-existing or long-term health condition."

Note: It's particularly important you get travel insurance with the right cover if you have a pre-existing medical condition. This is because the EHIC scheme covers pre-existing conditions, while many travel insurance policies do not.

Prepare for longer border control queues at airports within the EU

British travellers may no longer be able to use the EU or EEA passport lanes in a no-deal scenario. This could cause delays given the volume of UK/EU passengers, the additional passport checks that need to be carried out and the need to queue in manual passport check lanes, particularly at small airports where there is less infrastructure.

We therefore recommend that travellers consider the possibility of increased delays when arranging their onward transport or meetings.

Driving in the EU

If you're planning on driving in the EU, you will need some extra documents.

You'll need to apply for an International Driving Permit (IDP). These cost £5.50 and are available directly from the [Post Office](#). Travellers can check if they need an IDP [here](#).

Check carefully which permit is required for each country you intend to drive within, as you may need more than one permit to comply with the law.

If you're taking your own vehicle, you'll also need an insurance 'green card'. These physical cards are issued by insurers and you may be charged a small fee to cover administration costs. Speak with your insurer for more information on obtaining a Green Card for any trip on or after 31st October 2019. Allow 1 month to get this from your insurance company.

You'll also need a GB sticker.

Mobile data roaming: free roaming may end

After Brexit, the guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway will end so it is recommended you check with your phone operator to find out about any changes in roaming charges after 31 October 2019.

A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Key Travel support

At Key Travel we have set up contingency plans to ensure that our reservations teams, account managers and airline liaison specialists are all available during the immediate run up to the 31st October and in the following days, in case any of the transition measures fail and delays or cancellations occur.

We will share further updates once the final position on the EU withdrawal has been confirmed.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact your account manager.