

Advice for UK Members Travelling to European Union

With the prospect of international travel getting ever closer we thought we would remind you of some of the recent changes that came into force on 1st January 2021 in terms of travelling to the European Union. If you're going on holiday to a country in either the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland from 1st January 2021, you need to make sure you:

1. Check that your passport is less than 10 years old and has at least 6 months validity left– note that it could take as long as 10 weeks to renew your passport
2. Have adequate travel insurance
3. Bring the correct driving documents, if you're hiring a car
4. Organise pet travel If you're bringing a pet, visit your vet at least one month in advance of travel to get them microchipped and vaccinated against rabies. You'll then need to get an animal health certificate (AHC) from your vet.

You can read the official UK Brexit guidance on the government website.

<https://www.gov.uk/visit-eu-switzerland-norway-iceland-liechtenstein>

Will I still be able to use my current passport?

You don't need to get a new passport if you're travelling to Europe from 1st January 2021, as long as your current passport has at least six months left on it and is less than 10 years old. If your passport doesn't meet these requirements, you may not be able to travel. Please note that as of April 2021, the passport application turnaround time for Her Majesty's Passport Office has changed and you now need to allow as long as 10 weeks for passport updates or renewals.

Will there be any changes to arriving in EU countries?

The officers at the border may ask to see your return ticket, from 1st January 2021, when you arrive in an EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland. You might also be asked to prove you have enough money to last your holiday. And, you might need to use a different lane when queuing up on arrival

Will I need different travel insurance?

Following Brexit, the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is being phased out and replaced with a new Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). Despite the name, the GHIC only works within EU countries. As of 1 January 2021, If you currently have an EHIC that's still valid, you can continue to use this. When your EHIC expires, you should apply for a new GHIC. Both cards entitle you to medical treatment in the EU. However, neither is a replacement for travel insurance and you must always have full travel insurance in place before you go on holiday

Will I need a visa to travel to the EU?

For holidays after 1st January 2021, you only need a visa for a country in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland if you're planning to stay for more than 90 days. For further information please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Will there be any changes to how long I can go on holiday for?

You can take a holiday of up to 90 days in any 180-day period from 1st January 2021, if you're travelling to a country in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland. If you want to stay for longer than 90 days, you'll need to apply for a visa, but the rules vary from country to country. You can find out more on <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Will I need extra driving documents?

Depending on which country you're travelling to and how long you're staying, you might need some extra driving documents, including an international driving permit, to drive in EU countries after Brexit. The rules vary from country to country, so it's worth checking in good time before your holiday. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>