

Britons to Pay €20 Fee for European Union Travel in 2026

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Starting in 2026, travellers from the United Kingdom will face a €20 fee when entering European Union (EU) countries, as part of new border security measures. The change reflects post-Brexit travel adjustments and aims to enhance security and streamline border crossings for non-EU visitors.

The European Union is introducing the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), a digital pre-travel authorisation similar to the United States' Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA). Once implemented, UK travellers will need to complete an online application and pay the €20 fee before entering any EU member state. This authorisation will be valid for three years or until the traveller's passport expires, whichever comes first.

According to EU officials, the system is designed to strengthen border controls by pre-screening visitors before they arrive, reducing the risk of illegal entry and security threats. The European Entry/Exit System (EES), which records the entry and exit of non-EU travellers, will also be introduced alongside ETIAS to further monitor movement across EU borders.

Travel industry representatives have urged UK holidaymakers to prepare for the new requirements, noting that the process will be straightforward but must be completed ahead of departure. The move will affect millions of Britons who travel to Europe for leisure and business each year, potentially adding an extra layer of planning to future trips.

While the cost is relatively small, the policy serves as a reminder of the broader changes in travel between the United Kingdom and the European Union since Brexit. For many, it marks yet another adjustment to the way Britons engage with the continent, underscoring the importance of staying informed on evolving travel regulations.