

United Kingdom

Visa required

Visa for Indians visiting United Kingdom

Indian passport holders need a visa before travelling to the UK. A decision usually comes within 3 weeks.

ENTRY RULE	ALLOWED STAY	RULES CHECKED
Standard Visitor visa before travel	**Up to 6 months**	**9 Nov 2026**

Checklist: steps & documents

- [ ] Check that your plans are allowed for a Standard Visitor: for example a holiday, seeing family or friends, some business meetings or a short course.
- [ ] Apply and pay online on GOV.UK.
- [ ] Attend your appointment at a visa application centre to prove your identity and have your fingerprints and photo taken. You get your passport back the same day.
- [ ] Wait for the decision: usually within 3 weeks of applying and attending the appointment. The Home Office emails you when it has decided.
- [ ] Your passport must be valid for the whole of your stay.
- [ ] Be ready to show that you will leave the UK at the end of your visit, can support yourself during the trip and can pay for your return journey.
- [ ] You may be asked about your plans at the UK border.
- [ ] Only changing flights in the UK? A Standard Visitor visa also covers transit.

The general guide for this country. Ask for the full document list on the official site below.

Key points

- India is on the UK's visa national list: Indian citizens need a visa before they travel to the UK, for any purpose.
- Visiting often?
- The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel.
- You cannot work for a UK company, claim benefits or marry on this visa.
- If your application succeeds, you get an eVisa: a digital record of your immigration status.

Conditions

Transit visa: Required, unless holding a valid visa or permanent residence in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, EU or the USA. Visa not required if holding a biometric Irish visa endorsed with "BC" or "BC BIVS". eVisa can be applied through HM Government services portal UK-GOV Other exemptions apply for Visa-free Direct Airside Transit.

Questions agents ask

Can Indians use the UK ETA instead of a visa?

No. India is on the UK's visa national list, so Indian citizens must get a visa before they travel. The ETA is only for nationalities that do not need a visa.

How long does a UK visitor visa take?

Usually within 3 weeks after you apply online, prove your identity at a visa application centre and provide your documents. GOV.UK also shows whether a faster decision is available.

How early can I apply?

The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel.

Can I work in the UK on a visitor visa?

No. You cannot do paid or unpaid work for a UK company or as a self-employed person, except for certain permitted paid engagements.

Official sources

Official visa / e-visa site
https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor

GOV.UK: Apply for a Standard Visitor visa
https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa

GOV.UK: Visa to pass through the UK in transit
https://www.gov.uk/transit-visa

UK Immigration Rules, Appendix Visitor: Visa national list
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-nation...

Fees are not listed here because they change often and differ by centre: check the current fee on the official site.

Rules change often. Confirm with the official site before you book (our copy was checked 9 Nov 2026).

Visa data from Safar Samachar (safarsamachar.com), our travel news site. The picture is an AI-generated illustration, not a photograph.