



UNITED KINGDOM TRAVEL VisitBritain

Transportation in the UK

Driving

The UK boasts a well-connected network of motorways and main roads linking all major cities and towns. To drive a UK-registered vehicle legally, you require a valid driving licence, road tax, and an insurance certificate. Additionally, older vehicles must have an [MOT certificate](#).

Driving licences in the UK are issued by the [DVLA](#), with the minimum age for driving a car set at 17. Foreign nationals residing in the UK may be permitted to drive on [non-British licences](#) or can exchange their non-British licence for a British one.

If you bring your car to the UK for a short visit, registration is not necessary. However, if you plan to stay for a longer duration or become a UK resident, you must register your [vehicle as imported](#).

Taxis and Minicabs

[Taxis](#) are widely available in all major UK towns and cities and typically operate on a metered system. They can be pre-booked, hailed from the street, or found at designated taxi ranks. Minicabs, also known as private hire vehicles, require pre-booking. Fares can vary based on location and time, generally being higher in London and the south compared to other regions.

Buses

Local [bus services](#) are prevalent in all towns and cities, providing an affordable and convenient way to travel. Keep an eye on the timetable, as many services run less frequently during evenings, weekends, and bank holidays.

Coaches

Several coach companies operate routes between major cities [across the UK](#), often at slightly lower prices than train travel, although journey times may be longer.

Trains

The [UK rail network](#) offers quick intercity connections between all major cities, along with regular local trains serving smaller towns and cities. Tickets are usually cheaper when purchased in advance, and various railcards and concessions are available for discounted travel. Many train stations also provide car parking, though prices can vary significantly.

Trams and Underground Rail

Several UK cities feature alternative public transport systems, with the [London Underground](#), known as the 'Tube,' being the most famous. Glasgow has a subway system, while cities such as Manchester, Birmingham, and Nottingham operate light rail or tram services to ease road congestion.

Air Travel

Numerous international airports are located in or near UK cities, including London, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Belfast, and Edinburgh. [London Heathrow](#) ranks among the busiest airports globally, serving over 180 destinations across 85 countries. Thanks to many airlines operating within Europe, fares to most European destinations can be quite affordable. Domestic flights also connect major UK airports at reasonable prices.

Planning a Journey

The UK's extensive [public transport network](#) provides various options for getting around, depending on your location. If you're uncertain about the best travel option, the Trainline website offers route planning for all modes of public transport.



UNITED KINGDOM

WORKING Welcome to GOV.UK

Working Hours

In the UK, standard working hours are generally from Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. However, many organizations provide some flexibility within these hours, with various systems of flexible working or variable schedules to accommodate employees' other commitments.

Holidays

Most permanent employees working five days a week are entitled to at least 28 days of paid holiday (annual leave) each year, which includes bank holidays. Employers may choose to offer additional annual leave at their discretion. The holiday entitlements for temporary staff and contractors differ and should be clarified with the employer prior to starting the role. Self-employed individuals do not receive annual leave.

Bank Holidays

The UK observes eight regular bank holidays. While many organizations close on some or all of these dates, certain sectors, such as leisure and hospitality, may remain open.

Bank Holiday Dates:

- 1 January – New Year's Day
- 29 March – Good Friday
- 1 April – Easter Monday
- 6 May – Early May Bank Holiday
- 27 May – Spring Bank Holiday
- 26 August – Summer Bank Holiday
- 25 December – Christmas Day
- 26 December – Boxing Day

If a bank holiday falls on a weekend, a substitute weekday is designated as a bank holiday, typically the following Monday.

Visas and Eligibility to Work

Depending on your nationality, the purpose of your visit, and the length of your stay, you may need to obtain a visa before entering the UK. Visas confirm your right to live and/or work in the country. To determine if you require a visa, complete a [short questionnaire](#) on the [GOV.UK](#) website. However, this area can be complex, and the regulations regarding who can work in the UK are subject to change. As a general guideline, keep in mind:

- Never assume that a visa will be granted.
- An expired visa does not guarantee an extension.
- You cannot commence work until a visa has been issued, even if permission has been granted.
- Visas may still be denied, even with permission to work granted.
- It is your responsibility to manage your visa; if it lapses, your right to live and/or work in the UK may become invalid.

For the most current information, visit the [UK Border Agency](#) website.

Tax and National Insurance

To work in the UK, you must apply for a [National Insurance number](#). This unique identifier allows you to pay the taxes and National Insurance contributions required from all workers in the UK. Tax rates vary based on your earnings, and not all income is taxable. Typically, tax and National Insurance contributions are deducted directly from your pay through the PAYE (Pay As You Earn) system. Additional information can be found in the tax section on the GOV.UK website.

Pensions

Since National Insurance contributions are mandatory in the UK, your payments contribute to your entitlement to the [State Pension](#) upon retirement. In the past, many UK employers offered optional workplace [pension schemes](#). However, changes to the law in 2013 mandated that employers enroll the majority of their workforce in some form of pension scheme. This process, known as auto-enrolment, will be implemented gradually until 2018. Discuss with your employer the type of pension scheme they provide and how it pertains to you.

Benefits

Some foreign nationals residing in the UK may qualify for state benefits, like [Universal Credit](#) depending on their work and social circumstances, which may be subject to means-testing. To learn about your eligibility for [benefits](#), please refer to the benefits section on the [GOV.UK](#) website.

Disability

UK law provides substantial protection against discrimination for [disabled workers](#). The Equality Act 2010 specifies the rights of disabled employees, including the necessity for reasonable adjustments in the workplace. Most businesses are eager to accommodate such adjustments, so disabled workers should discuss their specific needs with their employer before starting their position.