EU ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM (EES) INFORMATION

Helping you travel with

confidence

What is the EU Entry/Exit System (EES)? What is EES?

From 12 October 2025 the EU will introduce new border checks known as the Entry/Exit System (EES), as part of its plans to modernise the border system. This will require British and non-EU citizens to provide biometric data at all Schengen area entry and exit points.

Why?

EES is designed to improve border security within the EU and its neighbouring countries, and reduce illegal migration in the Schengen area. It will automate border control checks to help Schengen member countries to prevent non-EU visitors from overstaying.

What will British citizens need to do?

From 12 October, non-EU travellers including British citizens entering the Schengen area will be required to register their biometric details, such as fingerprints and a photo, and could be asked questions about their visit to the EU on arrival, as well as a further biometric check on their departure.
As EES is being implemented through a phased rollout, this experience may vary during the first six months.
Travellers do not need to take any action prior to arriving at the border, and there is no cost for EES registration.

What happens after implementation?

In late 2026, following the full implementation of EES, we expect the EU to introduce the ETIAS scheme. This will be a travel authorisation scheme like the UK's ETA. Further information on the differences between EES, ETIAS and ETA is on the next page.

KEY CHANGES

Flying to Europe?

Your fingerprints and photo may be taken at the EU border when you land. This may take a few minutes so be prepared to wait at busy times.

Travelling to Europe by Coach - Ferry, Tunnel or Train - Eurostar?

Your fingerprints and photo may be taken at the at the border in the UK before boarding. This may take a few minutes so be prepared to wait at busy times.

CHANGES AT BORDER

Border Scheme	What is it?	Who owns it?	When is it being introduced?	Who will it affect?	Where will the checks take place?
EES (Entry Exit System)	The registration of **biometric data**, such as fingerprints and a photo, from non-EU citizens when they travel to the **Schengen area**.	EU	From **12 October 2025** with 6 month phased implementation	**Non-EU travellers** including most British citizens travelling into the Schengen area	At the physical **Schengen border crossing**
ETIAS (Electronic Travel Information Authorisation System)	A **travel authorisation** for non-EU citizens visiting the Schengen area. Travellers will apply online and pay a fee.	EU	From **Autumn 2026**	**Non-EU travellers** including most British citizens travelling into the Schengen area	ETIAS will be applied for in advance online and will be **fully remote**.
ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation)	A **travel authorisation** for eligible visitors who do not need a visa for short stays in the UK. Visitors apply online and pay £16.	UK	Live	**Eligible nationals** visiting the UK (Not British or Irish citizens)	ETA is applied for in advance online and **fully remote**.