## Top tips for travellers to the UK

Millions of people travel to the UK every year. To help you enjoy a trouble-free arrival in the UK, this page lists some important tips to help you avoid any unnecessary delays.

- 1. If you need a **visa** to visit the UK, allow plenty of time to apply. You can find more information on our <u>visa</u> <u>services</u> section.
- 2. If you have a visa, you must keep to the **conditions** attached to your visa. For example, you must not take up employment while you are here if your visa prevents you from working, and you must leave the UK before your visa expires.
- 3. Your **passport** must be valid for the duration of your stay in the UK, and it must contain a page that is blank on both sides.
- 4. You will need to produce a valid passport for yourself and any **child** you are travelling with. If you have a different name from the child, or you are not their parent, bring proof of your relationship or a letter from the child's parent(s) giving consent for them to travel.
- 5. If you are a European Union (EU) citizen, and you are aged 18 or over and have a chipped passport, you can use our <u>e-passport gates</u> at 15 major UK airports. This service offers a secure, self-service alternative to our conventional border controls.
- 6. If you give **false or misleading information** (including false receipts or documents) to UK Border Agency officers when you bring goods into the country, you may receive a severe penalty and your goods may be seized.
- 7. Just because an item is on sale in another country, this does not automatically mean that it can be brought to the UK you need to be aware of the rules on restricted or banned items. You are not allowed to bring **endangered animals and plants**, including products made from them, into the UK unless you have a permit.
- 8. Do not bring **counterfeit goods**, **drugs**, **offensive weapons** (including knives) or **indecent or obscene material**, as these are also banned.
- 9. You must declare any sums of cash of **10,000 euros** or more (or the equivalent in another currency) if you are travelling from a country outside the European Union.
- 10. Unless you have the correct documentation, do not bring in **prescription medicines** containing controlled drugs. Most over-the-counter medicines are acceptable, but you may need a licence to carry some prescription medicines.
- 11. There are very strict controls on the **food products** that you can bring into the UK from outside the European Union, even for personal use. For example, you cannot bring in meat or dairy products. Import restrictions also apply to many other food items, including fish products, egg and honey products, and some fruit and vegetables.
- 12. There are also strict allowances on goods being brought into the UK, such as **tobacco**, **alcohol** and **gifts**. If you bring in goods that exceed these limits, you could face long delays, seizure of the goods and even prosecution. If you are not sure about any item you are carrying, always ask a UK Border Agency

To find out which items you are allowed to bring to the UK, see our <u>Customs</u> section.