



eTA Canada

Important information about the eTA for Canada

If you are flying to Canada or transiting through the country as an EU citizen, you are required to apply for an electronic travel authorisation (eTA) before departure. The only exception is for travellers with a Canadian or US passport, a Canadian visa, or a Canadian permanent resident card. You also do not require an eTA if you arrive by land or by (cruise) ship.

Mandatory	Yes
Suited for	Tourist travel, business trips or transit/transfer
Validity period	5 years, for multiple trips
Duration of stay	Up to 6 months per trip
Normal delivery time	Average 3 days
Urgent delivery	Average 45 minutes, default for departure within 5 days
Cost	£ 24,95 per person
Payment methods	Visa, Mastercard, American Express or PayPal

This document is only about the eTA for Canada. Applying for an eTA can easily be done online through a digital application form. Are you not eligible? In that case, you can visit Canada's High Commission to apply for a visa. To apply for the eTA, go to e-visa.co.uk/canada and follow the steps or click on the green button below.

Apply now >

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What is an eTA?

All travellers with the nationality of an EU country, such as Ireland, require an eTA (electronic Travel Authorization) before checking in for their flight to Canada. The same applies to travellers from the United Kingdom or Switzerland. An eTA is valid for five years and can be used for an unlimited number of trips to Canada within the validity period. To do so, it does not matter whether the travel purpose is the same for each trip, as long as it meets the requirements of the eTA Canada.

Applying online

Applying for an eTA can easily be done online. The costs are £24,95 per person, including service costs and taxes. You do not have to visit a consulate, high commission, or service office. However, to use an eTA, there are certain requirements that must be met. At the time of your application, you do not need to have booked a plane ticket or accommodations. You do not even need to know your exact arrival date. In the application form, you only need to enter an estimated arrival date.

Other arrival date? No problem

Once the application has been approved, it is no longer necessary to communicate any changes in your travel plans or arrival date. Keep in mind that an approved eTA is no guarantee that you can enter Canada. Both at the time of your application and during your trip, you have to meet the requirements that apply to travelling with an eTA. Upon arrival, travellers with an eTA are interviewed at random to check whether they meet the requirements.

Passport for an eTA application

An eTA is not a physical document but a digital travel authorisation that is linked to the passport number of the passport with which the application is submitted. Travellers therefore have to travel with the same passport they used when applying for the eTA. This passport needs to remain valid during the entire stay in Canada. The travel authorisation itself only has to be valid upon arrival.

Has your passport expired? Then, the eTA that was applied for with this passport is also no longer valid. In this case, you have to apply for a new eTA with a new passport. Applying for an eTA can only be done using a standard passport issued by a country that is exempt from the visa requirements, such as the UK or Ireland. Travellers with a UK or Irish emergency passport, or a German *Vorläufiger Reisepass* or *Kinderreisepass* can also apply for an eTA. In most cases, travellers who do not meet all of the requirements for the eTA can apply for a [Canada visa](#) instead.

What travel purposes is an eTA suitable for?

The eTA Canada can be used for tourist travel, business travel and study trips. Visiting family or friends also qualifies as tourist travel. Each stay in the country can last up to six months, regardless of the travel purpose. The requirement of having a valid travel authorisation applies to travellers of all ages, including babies and children. An eTA is also required for a transit in case you are leaving the aircraft. This also applies when you do not leave the airport in Canada.

With an eTA, you can therefore also choose to stay in a hotel outside the airport area if your transit has an overnight stay in Canada. You can even stay in Canada for a few days before continuing on to your next destination, because an eTA used for transit is also valid for a stay of up to six months in Canada. An eTA or visa is not required for EU and UK citizens travelling to Canada from the United States by land or who arrive by cruise ship.

Not for (registered) residents

Only travellers who have a Canadian or US passport, a Canada visa, or a Canadian permanent resident card are not subject to the eTA requirement. Canadian residents and former Canadian citizens or residents who are still registered in the Canadian population registry cannot apply for an eTA or visa.

The status of a Canadian citizen or resident never expires on its own, even if the person in question has not visited Canada in years. When in doubt about this status, it is always deemed necessary to check whether you are still registered in the Canadian population registry before you apply for an eTA. Only if you are no longer registered as a resident or citizen of Canada can you apply for an eTA.

When to apply for a replacement eTA

When a Work Permit or Study Permit for Canada is approved, the applicant automatically receives an eTA as well. Holders of a Work Permit or Study Permit who reside outside of Canada and whose eTA has expired have to apply for a new eTA in order to be allowed to travel to Canada. Even if your previous eTA has not yet expired, it is possible to apply for a new eTA travel permit. The new eTA replaces the previous travel authorisation after it has been approved.

Validity and requirements of the eTA Canada

Always check before submitting your application if you meet all the requirements of the eTA. The Canadian immigration service only recommends applying for a visa if you do not meet all these requirements or if you want to stay in Canada longer than six months.

Validity period

The eTA is valid for five years. Within this period, you can make an unlimited number of trips to Canada and can stay in the country for up to six months during each trip. Upon arrival in Canada, a stamp will be placed in your passport. This stamp will show you how long you are allowed to stay. If you meet all the requirements, you are in most cases allowed to stay in the country for up to six months with an eTA.

Staying in Canada longer than six months

Once you arrive in Canada, you can apply for an extension of the eTA. This is possible up to 30 days before you would have to leave the country without an extension. If you know you want to stay in the country longer than six months, it is recommended that you apply for a visa with the correct allowed duration of stay instead of an eTA. Only in this manner can you be certain before departure that you will be allowed to stay in the country for more than six months.

Requirements

Both at the time of applying and during your entire trip in Canada, you have to meet all the eTA requirements. To be able to use an eTA, you have to meet the following requirements:

- You travel to Canada for tourism, business or transit.
- You hold a valid passport that has been issued by a country exempt from the visa requirement.
- You do not pose a risk to the security or public health of Canada and it is not expected that you will cause an above-average burden on the country's healthcare system. In other words, this means you:
 - do not have a criminal record;
 - do not have seriously contagious diseases;
 - have never violated a visa-related law;
 - are not persecuted for a criminal offence;
 - have never committed a criminal offence.

Upon arrival in Canada, travellers are selected at random for a check. If you are selected, you have to make it probable that you:

- have sufficient reason to want to leave Canada again within six months. Convincing reasons may include having family, a job, or a home outside Canada. Having a ticket for a possible return trip may also be helpful. However, having a return or transit ticket is not required.
- have enough financial means to finance the (entire) stay and return journey.
- receive income from a country outside Canada (this could be a salary or benefit), with which you can support yourself and any family members.
 - Proof of income can both serve as proof of having sufficient financial means and as proof that you have a job outside of Canada and a reason to leave the country.

Also, always check the most recent requirements regarding [COVID-19 and travelling with an eTA](#).

Additional requirements in the case of a business trip or attending a training course

An eTA can also be used for business travel. This refers to visiting business partners, meetings, trade fairs or conferences, buying and selling, providing after-sales services, or setting up a trade fair. These activities are allowed as long as this does not involve manual work (such as setting up stands at a trade fair).

For highly skilled work at management or university level with an eTA, manual labour is allowed, but only once and for a maximum of 15 consecutive days in a 6-month period or once for 30 consecutive days per year. [Travellers using the eTA for a business trip to Canada](#) may be asked upon arrival for a letter of invitation from a (potential) business partner.

Attending training courses is also allowed with an eTA. Giving a training is only allowed if it is a training for the Canadian branch of your own employer residing outside of Canada. Journalists, film crews, arbitrators, coaches, and performing artists who travel for their jobs, as well as their essential support staff, can apply for an eTA. This also applies to academics who evaluate or examine research projects. Guest speakers at events can only travel with an eTA if the event at which they speak lasts up to five days.

How can you apply for an eTA Canada?

You can easily apply for an eTA Canada online by completing the digital application form on your computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone. This usually does not take longer than 10 minutes. You can complete the form for others as well, on the condition that they have given you permission

to do so. Subsequently, you have to show or read the entered details to the person or people in question.

With one application form, you can apply for an eTA for multiple travellers at the same time. To submit a group application, you click on "Add a Traveller" at the bottom of the form after entering the personal details and the contact and travel details of one of the travellers. This way, you can add multiple travellers to your application. You therefore do not have to enter the contact and travel details multiple times, and this way you can pay the costs for all individual travellers at the same time.

Which details do you need for the eTA application?

At the moment of your application, you only need your passport details and, in case of a group application, those of any other travellers. Keep in mind that all travellers need to meet all requirements for using the eTA both at the time of the application and while travelling. In some cases, additional requirements apply.¹

Keep in mind that you must enter all passport details accurately. When doing so, it is useful to know that British passports do not contain any letters, only digits. In addition to the passport details, for all travellers you enter a number of general details for all travellers, information about the employer and answer several background questions. Afterwards, you read the agreement that you need to agree to in order to complete the payment and the application.

Payment, confirmation and approval

The payment can be made safely with PayPal, Mastercard, Visa, or American Express. After you complete the payment, you will receive an email with a payment confirmation. In this email, you will also find a link to your personal status page, where, at any time, you can check the status of your application. Did you not immediately receive this email, or can you not find it anywhere? You can look up the [status of your eTA application for Canada](#) through this website as well. You will receive another email when your application has been approved. You do not have to print out the confirmation of an approved eTA.

Only in exceptional cases is additional information required

Only in exceptional cases does the Canadian immigration service require additional information before a decision is made with regard to the issuance of an eTA. If that is the case, you will receive an email with instructions on how to provide it. It is rare that an eTA application is rejected. Do you think you know what the reason for the rejection was? In that case, you can try to submit a new application after the problem has been solved. Do you not know why your eTA

¹ For example, a parent who travels to Canada without the other parent and with a minor (younger than 18) will require additional documents proving that he or she has permission to travel with the child from the other person with legal authority. For more information, visit www.gov.uk/permission-take-child-abroad.

application was rejected? Then, it is better to apply for a visa. If, in this case, you apply for an eTA again, it is likely that this application will be rejected as well.

Details on the eTA and checking in

Do you have to check in for your flight immediately after the eTA is approved? It is likely that your airline is not yet able to find your eTA. In this case, provide your J number (also called the eTA number). You can find this number on the status page of your application, in the confirmation email and in the document regarding the approval of your eTA.

Are you still unable to check in, but are your passport details correct on your eTA? In that case, your passport details are probably not properly linked to your flight ticket. To still be able to check in, you have to submit your correct passport details to your airline. Are the details on your eTA incorrect? Then you cannot travel with it. In that case, it is necessary to apply for a new eTA with the correct details.

Urgent applications

Most eTA applications are approved within three days. You can submit your eTA application urgently for a surcharge of £ 17,50, in which case the application is approved within 45 minutes on average. However, in exceptional cases, processing an urgent application can take longer. In any case, the Canadian immigration service recommends that you always wait to book your flight tickets until your application is approved. In fact, a manual random check or planned or unplanned technical maintenance might cause delays. Using this website, from five days prior to your scheduled departure to Canada, you need to select the option for an urgent application.

The average delivery times as mentioned on the website are met in most cases, but should never be interpreted as maximum delivery times. Furthermore, keep in mind that in case of group applications for multiple travellers, applications are assessed separately, in which case not everyone within the travelling group receives their eTA at the same time. If one of the applicants has to wait longer for approval, this does not mean that there is a bigger chance that this traveller will not receive an eTA.

Do you have other questions?

Do you have questions about the eTA after reading this document? You can always look up the [status of your application](#) on your personal status page or via the website. For more information, visit e-Visa.co.uk and read the frequently asked [questions about the eTA Canada](#). If you cannot find the answer to your question, you can, of course, always [contact](#) customer service.