



Important: It is the responsibility of each traveller to ensure that they comply with passport, visa, insurance and health requirements. The following information should be read by all members of your party.

WildWings

Travel Information

The information that we provide is for UK citizens. If anyone in your party holds a foreign passport they must contact the embassy of the country/ies to be visited in respect of any different entry or visa requirements that may apply.

Passports

Ensure that your passport is valid for 6 months beyond your return date to the UK if you are travelling outside of Europe. Allow at least 3 weeks to obtain or renew a passport, much longer if you require a visa as well. A 10-year passport currently costs from £72.50; application forms are available online, or from the Post Office, who can also assist you to apply for a passport for an additional fee. For more information see www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports. You may also wish to keep a photocopy of your passport 'hidden away' inside your luggage in case of loss or theft abroad or left with a friend or relative you know you can contact easily.

Visas

Most countries that require UK passport holders to have a visa, have the full details and forms available to download from their UK Embassy's website. Some countries such as India, China and Russia have now outsourced visa applications to officially appointed agents. We can issue ETAs for Australia in conjunction with your flight booking and note all passengers to the USA must now pre-register online for entry at least 72 hours in advance of travel (ESTA). Canada also now requires pre-clearance (eTA). (We highly recommend that you use recorded or special delivery services when sending passport and visa application forms.)

A VISA IS / IS NOT REQUIRED?

UK Foreign Office Travel Advice

You should check the information for your destination country, especially if travelling outside Europe. See www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice. If you are travelling to a country with warnings posted, it may be a good idea to contact the British Embassy or Consulate on arrival, leaving them details of your itinerary. British Embassy and Consulate worldwide contact details can be found on the same website along with a wealth of other practical travel advice, suggestions and reminders.

Health

It is assumed that all members of the party are in good health and are not travelling against doctor's orders. If you are taking any kind of medication with you please ensure that all containers are labelled with the drugs pharmaceutical name as well as any brand name. You may also wish to check via the FO's website, that none of your drugs are banned in your destination country. A good travel first aid kit is highly recommended and a dental check up before departure is also suggested. Do not underestimate the effects of the sun abroad, cover up and use sun block plus drink plenty of water.

Vaccinations

You must consult your doctor or visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk for the most up to date information and advice concerning inoculations and Malaria, especially if you are travelling outside of Europe.

Health costs abroad:

The UK has some reciprocal arrangements with certain countries. For the European Union and Switzerland, a EHIC card is now available free for UK residents, details online at www.ehicuk.com.

Travel Insurance

Essential! Don't travel abroad without it. Single trip or annual policies are readily available. Read your policy carefully to ensure you understand the cover and conditions and that you are fully covered for your particular needs. Your home insurance may cover some of your personal effects but cancellation cover and medical expenses including emergency repatriation are not normally covered under such policies. Some credit and debit cards may give you cover but do check it is sufficient for your trip. Note especially that cancellation cover does not include change of mind or inability to afford the arrangements booked. Any pre-existing medical conditions should also be declared and your age, if over 65 at the time of travel. If you are travelling on a voyage, you may wish to try All Clear Cruise Insurance.

Most baggage sections do not cover loss if or damage due to 'lack of care' or

forgetfulness. Never pack optical/photographic equipment in your checked luggage, although tripods wrapped in clothes in checked-in cases do seem to survive most flights.

All claims for loss, theft or damage must be accompanied by a written report from the relevant overseas authorities. Take your policy with you when you travel or at least the 24 hour, worldwide emergency assistance contact details.

Optical Equipment

Travel insurance policies do not usually provide adequate cover for optical and camera equipment. In addition, your contract with the airline will almost certainly exclude them from reimbursing more than a fraction of the damage or loss, however caused. The only adequate way to insure such items is by special arrangement, for example under an all risk extension to household contents policy.

Money Matters

We do not recommend taking large amounts of cash abroad; traveller's cheques are the safest way to take large amounts with you or a prepaid cash card. It is usually best to take them in Pounds Sterling or Euros (depending on exchange rates), except to the Americas where you should definitely take US Dollar cheques.

American Express travellers cheques seems to have the best overseas replacement service if lost or stolen, and you have access to a 24 hour world-wide help line. Pre-paid cash cards are now becoming more available too eg Post Office, Visa, Mastercard etc or ask your own bank.

Credit and/or Debit cards are usually widely accepted of course, especially when leaving deposits without cash, paying for any extra charges on car hire and for hotel bills etc. They can also act as a cash source in many countries, being usable in many foreign ATMs. Some companies such as Visa, now offer mobile apps which will tell you where your nearest ATM is, and allow you to calculate exchange rates on the spot. It is also possible in some countries for you to pay with your card in either the local currency or Sterling. The general advice seems to be to choose the local currency, to avoid excessive UK bank charges and exchange rates.

Most banks and card-issuers publish leaflets detailing their financial travel services and charges (or visit their websites). Please note UK Debit Cards do not always work abroad, check with your bank!

You must inform your card issuer's when and where you will be abroad, before you travel, otherwise you will probably find your cards 'blocked' for security purposes!

Credit/Debit cards are essential for all car hire and most hotel room deposits. Tipping is expected in some countries, please budget for this purpose. The average in Europe is about 10% whilst the USA and the Caribbean, 15% - 20% is the norm.

Pre Flight:

UK airport parking and overnight hotels: We can book these for you at discount prices (saving up to 40%).

Flights

In-flight meals: Many flights within the UK, Europe, USA & Canada now charge for drinks, snacks and meals in economy class. A number of these airlines will also only accept payment onboard by card too. Where meals are included (certainly all long-haul flights), vegetarian and other special diets can be catered for by most airlines, but have to be requested in advance, which we can do for you in most cases. Mention it again when you check-in at the airport.

Aircraft seat selection: On many flights you can now pre-book your seats, but in most cases charges apply, which can vary from £3 to £25 or more, per seat, for each flight. Many scheduled airlines (eg British Airways) allow you to check-in online, usually within 24 hours of the flight's departure. You can pre-book your seats and print your boarding cards at home before you leave for the airport (or you can print them off at one of the self-check-in machines at the airport, and hand your hold luggage in at one of the 'bag drop' desks.) You do not need to check-in online, but you can expect less choice of seats if you leave it until arrival at the airport. If you are flying with a 'low-cost' airline, eg Easyjet or Ryanair, we will have already checked you in and your boarding cards will be in your travel documents.

Smoking: No airlines allow smoking onboard anymore. Many airports are now totally non-smoking too. Nicotine patches may assist the situation for smokers during travel periods.

Taxes: Your air ticket includes the applicable prepaid taxes at the time of purchase. In just a very few destinations, a local airport and/or city tax may be payable too.

E-tickets: All airlines now use these, although we will supply you with a paper air itinerary/e-ticket which you may need to produce at the check-in desk. In most cases now, you simply state your name and present your passport. You will be given a 'cardboard' boarding pass which you will need to present to get through security and onto the aircraft itself. Your passport will normally be required again for security, often at the gate and sometimes again at the time of boarding the aircraft. Do not pack it away after check-in therefore. Please ensure you keep your paper itinerary/e-ticket for your onward and/or return journey.

Airport Information: All UK airports (and most overseas) have their own website which will give details of parking, shops and services, check-in, any special security restrictions and usually live flight departure and arrival information too.

Flight information: If you wish to 'follow' a flight or are meeting someone at an airport, you can track the flight by visiting www.flightstats.co.uk. You can either use the specific flight option or view most airport arrival and departure boards. Many airline websites offer this facility too.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Electricity: Remember you will probably need to take a plug adapter for most destinations. You may also wish to check the voltage for your destination to make sure the devices you plan to use will be safe. In some countries, erratic power (and water supplies) can be part of normal life.

Bathrooms: In some countries (and ships), you may not find a plug in the washbasin, many 'travel extras' ranges now include these to buy.

Special requests: These are always passed onto our suppliers but cannot be guaranteed. For example: food 'preferences' (eg low fat, low salt), adjacent hotel rooms, room positions etc. We cannot be held responsible for their non-occurrence. Vegetarian diets can normally be accommodated but often not more specific ones such as vegan or kosher.

Field and Site Guides: WildSounds (Norfolk, UK) stock field guides, site guides and some general travel guides. Their staff are very knowledgeable, they are often amongst the first retailers to have new titles in stock plus often offer discounts. They also offer the increasing selection of e-guides too. Tel: 01263-741100 www.wildsounds.com An alternative would be NHBS (Devon, UK), www.nhbs.com or telephone 01803-865913.

Bird Sound Guides and Recording Equipment: Learning the calls before you go can be as important as reading the field guide. Bird sound guides, on CD and now for mobiles devices are available for many regions and families. Tel: 01263-741100 www.wildsounds.com

Museums: We have details of many Natural History Museums worldwide. They are often well worth a visit if you have an hour or two to spare. If you would like details for your destination, please ask.

Expeditions: If you are planning an 'expedition', Geography Outdoors (at the Royal Geographic Society in London) can supply a wealth of information, publications and advice, please visit www.rgs.org and follow the expedition links.

Travel gear: For equipment including camping gear, first aid kits, clothing, expedition kit etc, Nomad offers a huge range. Shops in London, Manchester, Cardiff, Bristol and Birmingham. In addition they operate travel immunisation centres and travel pharmacies. Visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk or telephone 0845-2600044.

Maps, charts, atlas and travel guides etc: Stanfords in London, is still probably the best map shop in the world, www.stanfords.co.uk or 0207-836-1321 in London. (Google maps should not be trusted for serious navigation in our view!)

Travel clothing: For performance, lightweightness, washability and durability, the Rohan range is very good. Visit www.rohan.co.uk, with branches nationwide. For voyages Musto specialise in marine gear, www.musto.com. For both company's products however, huge savings can be found at their outlet stores.

All information correct as of 10/2016 - subject to change.

DO YOU REQUIRE?

Domestic/Internal Flights

Accommodation

UK Airport Parking and/or Airport Hotels

Please contact us for any of these on:

Telephone: 0117 9658 333

Email us at: wildinfo@wildwings.co.uk



WildWings

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Bristol, BS16 3JB, UK

Web: www.wildwings.co.uk