

NEW EUROPEAN EES (ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM) FROM 12TH OCTOBER 2025

The government met on Wednesday to confirm the implementation of the new digital border system for non-EU citizens travelling to the Schengen area will go live from **12th October 2025**. Please find below a useful guide to explain what this new system is and how it will affect your travel arrangements.

WHAT IS EES?

This is a new **digital border control system** designed to improve security and the entry of non-EU citizens into the Schengen area by collecting biometric data (fingerprints, facial photos). This data will be used to track the non-EU citizens travelling in the Schengen area as well as the number of days they are travelling ensuring the number of days does not exceed the allowed 90 out 180 days.

WHAT IS THE SCHENGEN AREA?

The Schengen area is a border-free zone comprising **29 European countries** that have abolished internal border controls, allowing for free movement among citizens and non-EU nationals. As of 2025 the current countries are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.



WHAT EXTRA CONTROLS WILL BE PUT IN PLACE FROM 12TH OCTOBER 2025 AND HOW WILL THIS AFFECT OUR COACH CROSSING?

The UK port in Dover and Eurotunnel terminals at Folkstone and London St Pancreas will have a new clearing facility set up at the port/terminal. On arrival at the clearing facility all passengers will have to depart the coach and make their way through the clearing facility for a 3-point biometric check:

1. Passport digital scan
2. Fingerprint scan
3. Face to face identification by a French border control official



Following the biometric checks the passengers will immediately re-board the coach and make their way to the usual passenger check in stations.

HOW WILL THE NEW SYSTEM BE PHASED IN FROM 12TH OCTOBER?

Although the new system is live from 12th October 2025 the government have agreed the enforcement will be phased in. **In the first 4 weeks** the clearing facilities will be open and available, but the biometric checks will not be an enforced requirement. In these days some vehicles will be required to partake in the biometric checks but most will pass though as normal. Then from the **10th November to the 9th April** the number of checks will increase before the final phase on 10th April when ALL vehicles will be required to pass through the clearing facilities for compulsory biometric checks.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY TRIP I HAVE BOOKED WITH YOU?

We have been advised by the CPT (Confederation of Public Transport) that for the initial phase the time allowance for border controls should not be affected. At Galloway we already allow extra time for delays so we do not need to adjust your pickup times.

We constantly receive updates from the CPT on guidance at border control so will keep you updated of any changes.

We do expect that from 10th April 2026 we will have to allow more time for border control EES at the UK Dover port and Eurotunnel terminals, and this will be reflected in the travel itineraries we prepare and send to you.

WHAT IS ETIAS?



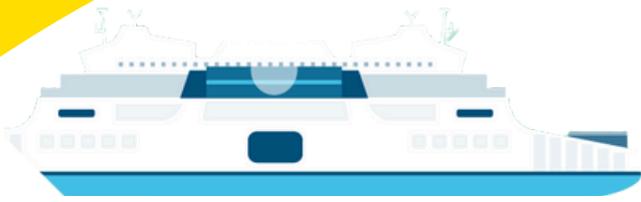
ETIAS is the European Travel Information and Authorisation System. It is a new electronic travel authorisation required for non-VISA non-EU nationals visiting countries in the Schengen Area for a short-term stay linked to tourism, business or transit. The application screens for security purposes and identifies high-risk travellers.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR ETIAS?

Travellers apply for ETIAS through the official ETIAS website. The cost is to be confirmed but is believed to be around €20 and is expected to be valid for 3 years. This fee may not apply to under 18s or over 70s however ALL travellers will be required to hold a valid ETIAS authorisation. The authorisation is digital and will be linked to your passport. There are current discussions between Government and the Schools Travel Forum regarding the possibility School students MAY be excluded from having to apply for ETIAS. We will of course be monitoring closely the outcome of these discussions.

WHEN WILL ETIAS BE LIVE?

Originally ETIAS was planned for 10th April 2026 however this is likely to now be pushed back to 10th October 2026.



HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY TRIP I HAVE WITH GALLOWAY?

As the **implementation date has not yet been agreed**, this will not affect your current travel plans with us. As soon as the implementation date is agreed, we will send guidance on how to apply for ETIAS.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR APPLYING FOR THE ETIAS?



The individual traveller is responsible for applying for the ETIAS. **Nearer the time we will send guidance on how you can manage this application with your students/parents.**

WATCH THIS SPACE

Please rest assured we are continually updated by our travel partners and will guide you through the new processes.

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Galloway