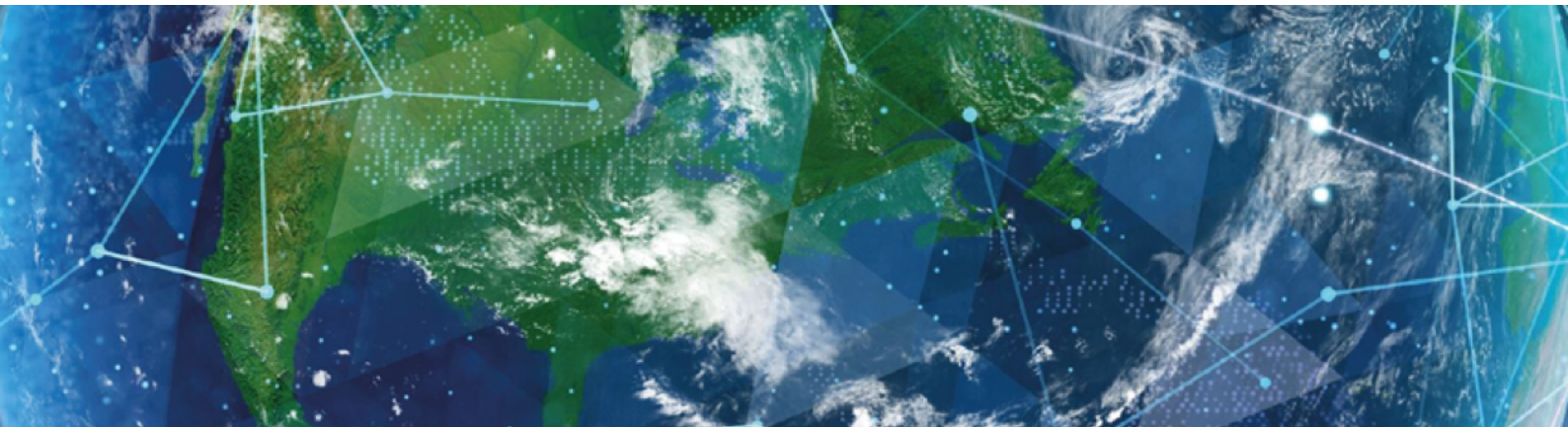


Country Travel Advice Report

United Kingdom

Overall Risk Rating: **Low | 2.00**



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Country Risk Rating Breakdown

Country Overall Risk Rating				Low 2.00
Security	Environmental	Infrastructural	Political	Medical
Low 2.25	Negligible - Low 1.50	Negligible - Low 1.50	Negligible - Low 1.50	Moderate 3.00

Country Overview

Low | 2.00

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) is an island nation located off the north-west coast of the European continent. It is a modern, developed country with a history of significant global influence and in 2021 was the world's fifth-largest economy by nominal GDP. The UK is made up of four constituent nations: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the latter three of which have their own devolved governments. It also maintains jurisdiction over a number of overseas territories around the world as a legacy of its formerly dominant maritime empire.

The UK can pose security challenges to domestic and foreign operators but for the most part remains a low-risk environment. Its exit from the European Union has created high levels of political and operational uncertainty while the UK renegotiates its future relationship with the bloc and other international partners. Terrorism dominates domestic security concerns, with Islamist militants and Irish dissident republicans continuing to issue threats. The main terrorist threat comes from small, self-directed groups and lone actors sympathizing with the Islamic State (IS) and other militant groups. Strict gun control laws in the UK mean that vehicles and knives, rather than firearms, will remain the most likely weapons used in any future terrorist incidents, although there remains a risk from improvised explosive device attacks.

A range of single-issue protest groups stage frequent demonstrations in major towns and cities but these only occasionally turn violent and generally remain very localized. Most criminal activity affecting travelers in urban areas is associated with petty theft such as pick-pocketing and bag-snatching. Most violent crime tends to be between rival gangs or drunken aggressors outside bars and nightclubs. Seasonal weather conditions can affect rail and air travel services and result in delays and cancellations.

Security

Low | 2.25

Overview

Islamist militant groups and unaffiliated individuals continue to plan attacks which could cause mass fatalities or otherwise have a significant disruptive impact in the United Kingdom. However, most complex attack plots have been disrupted at a relatively early stage in recent years and terrorist incidents are more likely to take the form of knife and vehicular attacks. There is also a risk of retaliatory anti-Muslim attacks launched by far-right extremists. Dissident republicans in Northern Ireland continue to pose a terrorist threat, with small improvised explosive devices (IEDs) frequently being discovered in Belfast and Londonderry, although these rarely cause any significant casualties or damage.

The main threat to travelers in the UK comes from non-violent opportunistic crime, particularly pick-pocketing and bag-snatching in urban centers. Various political and socio-economic issues can be triggers for demonstrations which are held regularly in London and other major cities. The vast majority of protests are well policed and remain peaceful, although demonstrations can occasionally lead to localized travel disruption.

Political

Negligible - Low | 1.50

Overview

The UK has historically had a highly stable, democratic political system. Despite some isolated high-profile instances of abuse of administrative power, the UK has a strong record of tackling corruption and bribery does not constitute a significant risk for travelers. On December 30, 2020, the UK and the EU formally signed a post-Brexit deal following many months of negotiations. The country's withdrawal from the European Union is likely to create high levels of political and operational uncertainty over the coming several months and years.

Infrastructural

Negligible - Low | 1.50

Overview

Air travel is safe and in compliance with international safety standards. Although road conditions are excellent in the UK, driving on the left-hand side of the road means it can take a while for travelers to get used to local driving conditions. Access to utilities is excellent and comparable to other developed countries in Western Europe.

Environmental

Negligible - Low | 1.50

Overview

The UK has a temperate climate, with the temperature varying with the four seasons. In general, there are warm summers and cool winters. Flooding can occur due to particularly heavy rainfall during winter months (December to February) and cause damage to property and disruption to travel. Air pollution occasionally spikes in London and other major cities but generally presents a negligible risk to travelers.

Medical

Moderate | 3.00

Overview

The standard of healthcare in the UK is high, although waiting times at public hospital accident and emergency departments can be long. People who live outside the European Economic Area, including former UK residents, should make sure they are covered by travel health insurance. Pharmacies are widely available and are generally well-stocked with prescription medicine and over-the-counter drugs. Water is safe to drink.

Fact Box

Government Type	Parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Population	65,138,230 (2015)
Currency	British Pound
Languages	English
Time Zone	UTC
Religions	Christian 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, none 25.7%
Traffic	Drives on the left
Plug Types	Type G
Ethnicities	White 87.2%, black/African/Caribbean/black British 3%, Asian/Asian British: Indian 2.3%, Asian/Asian British: Pakistani 1.9%
Drinking Water	Safe to Drink
Additional Information	<p>Significant Dates (2020)</p> <p>January 1 - New Year's Day January 2 - New Year's Holiday (Scotland) March 17 - St Patrick's Day Holiday (Northern Ireland) April 10 - Good Friday April 13 - Easter Monday May 8 - May Bank Holiday May 25 - Spring Bank Holiday July 12 - Battle of the Boyne / Orangemen's Day (Northern Ireland) August 31 - Summer Bank Holiday (except Scotland) November 30 - St Andrew's Day Holiday (Scotland) December 25 - Christmas Day December 26 - Boxing Day</p>
International Country Code	+44

Travel Risk Advice

Vaccinations and Key Health Risks

You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip.

Travellers should ensure that they have routine vaccines before the trip, such as measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, and polio vaccine.

Dependent on work, reason for travel, or underlying health conditions, some travellers visiting may require vaccines from:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Rabies

For non-emergency health enquiries, travellers may call '111'. Travellers may locate a nearest doctor's surgery or hospital by calling the NHS on '111' or visit the NHS website

Pre-departure

- Travellers should have adequate travel insurance in place; free medical care under the National Health Service (NHS) is allowed only for UK residents, certain EU nationals, travellers from countries such as Australia with reciprocal healthcare agreements and some visa holders.
- Travellers should provide friends and family with a copy of travel itinerary, and make a copy of important travel and identification documents.

On Arrival

Due to coronavirus, on arrival into the UK, you must: provide your journey and contact details; and not leave the place you're staying for the first 14 days you're in the UK except in very limited situations (known as 'self-isolating'). Further information can be found [here](#)

- There are no significant measures to undertake on arrival in the country. Passports must be valid for the whole of the stay.
- While the UK remains in the EU there will be no change to the rights and status of EU nationals living in the UK.

In Transit

- Public transport is generally safe and the rail network is extensive, although disruption due to weather, signal failures and industrial action is relatively common. Travellers should check National Rail (<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>) or the Transport for London (<https://tfl.gov.uk/>) websites for latest service updates.
- Cash cannot be used on board a bus in London; Paper Travelcard tickets, Oyster card or contactless payment are used instead.
- Self-driving may be conducted, and vehicles may be hired at locations throughout the country including airports. Drivers must be aged 17 or over and must hold an international driving licence, unless for the EU who only need a driving licence valid in their home country.
- Travellers should use a booked and licensed minicab or taxi. The only taxis that may be hailed from the street in London are 'Black cabs'.

At Your Hotel

- There are no significant measures to undertake at hotels in the United Kingdom. It is sensible to familiarise oneself with fire exits and evacuation routes. Luggage should not be left unattended in hotel lobbies.

In the Street

- Terrorism threat levels should be monitored using intelligence sources and local media. The UK Government's assessment of the terror threat level is available via the government terrorism and national emergencies website at <https://www.gov.uk/terrorism-national-emergency>.

- Travellers should exercise increased vigilance in crowded areas and heed any advice issued by local authorities. Travellers may also wish to download the CitizenAID app, which provides immediate advice in a shooting, stabbing or bomb incident and how to give life-saving first aid.
- Petty crime is common at tourist sites, restaurants, on buses, trains, and the London Underground. Travellers should avoid overt displays of wealth, dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment, not display money, jewellery or valuables and maintain a low profile.
- Travellers should use only small denomination notes, and keep any large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on their person. The contents of wallets and purses should be reduced, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships or accounts.
- Travellers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travellers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
- Travellers should be aware of their location and surroundings in major urban centres, avoiding high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travellers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.
- In crowded situations, travellers should be aware of jostling as this may be used as a ploy by pick-pockets.
- Travellers should ignore verbal bait from passers-by, not get into an argument and avoid eye contact with strangers.
- A range of protest groups stage frequent demonstrations in UK cities. Travellers should avoid any demonstrations, protests and rallies, which may attract security forces and present a dynamic and volatile environment.
- Travellers should be aware that photographing government buildings or military facilities may result in enquiries from police officers.

COVID-19 Information

Total Cases (ECDC) (Updated on Monday): 21,979,732

Weekly percentage increase in cases:1.07%

Travel Restrictions: Internal Restrictions Authorities in the UK plan to lift all of England's remaining domestic measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective Feb. 24, individuals will no longer be legally required to self-isolate if they test positive; nor will they need to take daily tests or self-isolate following contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID.

For details on official measures in England, [click here](#).

For details on official measures in place in Wales, [click here](#).

For details on official measures in place in Scotland, [click here](#).

For details on official restrictions in place in Northern Ireland, [click here](#).

Authorities could reimpose any restrictions with little-to-no notice depending on disease activity over the coming weeks. Officials have warned that they could reintroduce localized restrictions in response to local COVID-19 outbreaks.

International Travel Restrictions Authorities in the UK will remove all remaining COVID-19 international entry restrictions effective 04:00 March 18. Travelers will be able to enter without any special pandemic-related requirements.

Under existing regulations that remain in force until 04:00 March 18, all arrivals must fill in a passenger locator form (PLF) three days before arrival; fully vaccinated travelers must provide proof of vaccination on the PLF, but may enter without additional requirements. Unvaccinated travelers must possess proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken two days before departure and take a PCR test within two days after arrival. Travelers arriving from the UK-Ireland Common Travel Area and have not been elsewhere in the preceding 10 days are not required to complete the passenger location form. They are exempt from any testing or isolation requirement.

Additional Information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors#travel-corridors-countries-and-territories-exemption-list>

Threat Scale Reference

Threat Rating	Implication
1 - Negligible	The operating environment is benign and there are only isolated threats to business and/or travel.
2 – Low	The operating environment is generally permissive, although there are a limited number of threats to business and/or travel that requires basic mitigations.
3 – Moderate	The operating environment is challenging and there are serious threats to business and/or travel that requires some mitigations.
4 – High	The operating environment is hostile and there are significant threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring comprehensive mitigations and planning.
5 – Extreme	The operating environment is characterised by pervasive direct threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring strict risk management procedures.

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