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Global Immigration alert

July 2026

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Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia introduces Electronic Travel Authorization for UK nationals

Executive summary

Effective 1 July 2026, Saudi Arabia has [introduced](#) a new [Electronic Travel Authorization \(ETA\)](#) for UK nationals traveling to the country.

Key developments

Key changes include the following:

- *Validity and permitted purposes:* The ETA is a multiple-entry travel authorization valid for two years and permits stays of up to 180 days. It may be used for tourism, business travel, study and medical treatment purposes, providing eligible travelers with an additional travel option for short-term visits to Saudi Arabia.
- *Restrictions:* The ETA cannot be used for employment activities or for performing work in Saudi Arabia. Individuals intending to undertake employment or activities that require work authorization must obtain the appropriate work authorization before traveling to the Kingdom. The ETA also cannot be used to undertake Hajj.
- *Application requirements:* Eligible individuals must submit their application through the KSA Visa [platform](#) and provide:
 - A passport valid for at least six months
 - A recent personal photograph
 - The completed application form
 - Payment of the applicable fee

The ETA visa fee is SAR50 and is nonrefundable.

Applicants may track the status of their application through the online portal. Approval or refusal notifications are issued by email.

The ETA is not available on arrival and cannot be extended.

Impact on employers

The introduction of the ETA provides an additional travel option for UK nationals visiting Saudi Arabia for permitted short-term activities, including business travel. Employers should continue to assess the purpose of each travel carefully to ensure that individuals enter Saudi Arabia under the appropriate immigration category.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals

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