

Travel Money Guide



United Kingdom



Visa Costs (Inbound)

When travelling for tourism purposes, Australians and New Zealanders do not normally require a visa to enter the United Kingdom.

Departure Tax

An 'Air Passenger Duty' will typically be incorporated into the price you pay when booking your outbound flight. This fee varies based on your travel class and destination. For flights to Australia and New Zealand, the tax will usually be between £97 and £388. The Air Passenger Duty routinely increases, so refer to your airfare for the exact surcharge.

Tipping

In most UK cafés, bars and other establishments, tipping is either rare or simply not done. However, various restaurants may have their own standards for tipping, such as including a service charge in the bill or having a tips jar on the cashier's counter. Another exception would be giving your hotel porter a tip of £2 or so.

Tipping your taxi driver is similarly unconventional here, though they will usually be happy to keep the change for the sake of convenience.

ATM Access

Good – There are ATMs everywhere.



Debit and Credit Card Access

As in Australia and New Zealand, debit and credit cards are widely accepted. While it's convenient to have your plastic on standby, it's also a good idea to carry some pounds with you. This will cover you for costs at smaller shops and help you skip the high transaction fees often involved in paying by card.

Inform your bank of your travel plans to make sure your credit card activities don't cause alarm.

Pickpocket Security Rating

3 stars – theft is possible.

Especially when walking through busy areas, there is a chance of being targeted by a thief. The frequency of pickpocketing incidents is typically higher in summer, so be extra alert if visiting from May to September. Keep your cash close to your body and out of sight to maximise your security.



Cost of a Coffee

£1.30-£2.50

Insurance Cover Tips

Most travellers to the UK can rely on a standard travel insurance policy. If your itinerary features any winter sports, actions sports, or other activities that could be considered dangerous, speak with your provider about the extra cover you may require.

Accommodation

Budget: Around AU\$130/night*

Moderate: Around AU\$300/night*

Luxury: Around AU\$700/night*

*Based on a standard room for 2 people in London.

Transport

For tourists in London, the best way to get around is often the London Underground (or 'The Tube'). You will most likely prefer to purchase an Oyster Card for £10 so that all your train trips are cheap. If venturing into the suburbs, you may need to also catch a bus.

Other large cities in the United Kingdom have their own public transport networks, but you may find yourself relying more on taxis. As an example of taxi charges in the UK, a trip from Heathrow Airport to London's CBD typically costs between £40 and £70.

Bargaining Scale

A common misconception is that UK haggling is only appropriate in street markets. In fact, there are a number of chain stores where skilled hagglers can test their abilities and negotiate to save some money. Depending on your confidence level, you can take a shot at Comet, B&Q, PC World, and many others.



Top Expert Tip

If you're touring the UK and Ireland in the same trip, remember that you'll need to exchange your pounds for euros (or vice versa). With the nations so close together and so similar in many ways, it's easy to forget the currencies are completely different!

Scammers and Ripoffs

ATM fraud is an increasing problem in the UK. Do not use an ATM if other people in the vicinity are behaving suspiciously, and always cover the keypad when entering your PIN.

When shopping at street markets, be wary of potential knockoff products and non-genuine items, as you would in any country.

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