



IRISH FERRIES

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New passport requirements for travel between the Republic of Ireland and Britain with Irish Ferries

Dear travel partner,

We are writing to advise you of an important change to the travel documentation required for Irish Ferries passengers travelling between the Republic of Ireland and Britain.

From Monday, 28 September 2026, all passengers travelling on Irish Ferries services between the Republic of Ireland and Britain must present a valid passport or Irish passport card before boarding.

From this date, no other forms of ID will be accepted for any passengers, including for Irish and UK citizens, regardless of age.

This is to ensure compliance with UK Border Force requirements relating to the accuracy and integrity of passenger data before boarding.

When making bookings for travel on or after 28 September 2026, please ensure your customers are aware that:

- A valid passport is required for all passengers, including Irish & UK citizens
- Other forms of photo identification will no longer be accepted
- Passengers should check that their passport is valid and in date before travelling to avoid delays or being unable to board

These new requirements apply to Irish Ferries' services on the Dublin – Holyhead and Rosslare – Pembroke routes (in both directions).

Passengers travelling on or after 28 September 2026 who do not currently have a valid passport are encouraged to apply for one without delay. From today, Irish Ferries is implementing a communications plan to ensure all customers, travel partners and stakeholders are aware of the new requirements ahead of their introduction.

An FAQ document is attached to assist with any customer enquiries and if you require additional information, do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Irish Ferries

Passport and ETA requirements for Irish Ferries travel between Ireland and Britain

From 28 September 2026, all passengers travelling with Irish Ferries between the Republic of Ireland and Britain must present a valid passport or Irish passport card before boarding. This FAQ explains the new passport requirement, which routes are affected, what forms of ID will no longer be accepted, and when an Electronic Travel Authorisation may also be needed for travel to Britain.

Do I need a passport for travel between Ireland and Britain with Irish Ferries?

Yes. From 28 September 2026, all passengers travelling on Irish Ferries services between the Republic of Ireland and Britain must present a valid passport or Irish passport card before boarding. The new passport requirement applies to Irish Ferries' Dublin–Holyhead and Rosslare–Pembroke routes, in both directions.

This requirement applies to all passengers, including Irish and UK citizens. From 28 September 2026, driving licences, national identity cards and other forms of photographic identification will no longer be accepted for travel on these routes.

Irish Ferries is introducing this requirement to comply with UK Border Force requirements on the accuracy and integrity of passenger data before boarding.

Do I need an ETA for travel to Britain with Irish Ferries?

You may need an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) for travel to Britain if you are not a British or Irish citizen and are visiting for a short stay of up to six months. An ETA is a digital permission to travel for purposes such as tourism, visiting family, short business visits or certain transit journeys.

Passengers who need an ETA for travel to Britain but do not have one may not be allowed to board their Irish Ferries sailing.

How do I apply for an ETA for travel to Britain?

You can check whether you need an ETA for travel to Britain and apply on the [official UK government ETA application page](#). You can also read [Irish Ferries' ETA guidance](#) before you travel.

Travel tip: Apply for your ETA before travelling and use the same passport for your ETA application and your Irish Ferries journey.

Do non-EU citizens need a visa to travel to Britain or Ireland?

Non-EU nationals should travel with a valid passport and check visa requirements before booking. Visa processing can take several weeks, so passengers should apply well in advance of their travel date.

For the latest entry requirements:

- Check the Irish Government [website](#) for travel to Britain.
- Check the UK Government [website](#) for travel to Ireland.

Quick summary: passport and ETA requirements for travel between Ireland and Britain

Requirements can vary depending on nationality, destination and travel document.

Passengers should check official government guidance before travelling.

Passenger nationality	Passport required?	ETA required for travel to Britain?
Irish citizen	Yes — required from 28 September 2026	No
British citizen	Yes — required from 28 September 2026	No
EU citizen, non-Irish	Yes	Usually yes — check official guidance
Non-EU citizen	Yes	May be required
Children and infants	Yes	Depends on nationality

Before you travel

Before travelling, please check that every passenger has the correct travel document for their journey. If you are unsure which documents you need, or if your passport has not arrived before your travel date, contact Irish Ferries customer service at bookings@irishferries.com before going to the port.