CHECKLIST

FREE CHECKLIST · EUROPE AND THE UK FROM AUSTRALIA

Europe's new border checks

The EU Entry/Exit System (EES), ETIAS (not open yet) and the UK ETA: what to do before you go, and at the border.



UK ETA	EES	ETIAS	SCHENGEN STAY
£20 each	**Free**	**Not open yet**	**90 days in 180**
Needed before you board for the UK	Nothing to do before you go	No start date; EUR 20 when it opens	One count for the whole area

Watch for fake sites. EES is free and ETIAS isn't open, yet Smartraveller warns of fraudulent websites asking people to register or pay for them. Use only the official addresses on this sheet.

BEFORE YOU GO in this order

- [ ] **1 Read Smartraveller, and check your passport** — **www.smartraveller.gov.au**/schengen
  Your passport must be valid for **3 months after you leave** the Schengen area, and issued in the last 10 years. Dual citizens: read Smartraveller's UK page too before you book.

- [ ] **2 UK on your route? Get the UK ETA** BEFORE YOU BOARD — **www.gov.uk**/eta
  £20 per person, babies and children too, and for a landside transit. Apply online or in the UK ETA app; other websites may charge more. No refund. Usually decided within a day, but allow **up to 3 working days**, and wait for the email before you travel. Lasts 2 years or until your passport expires. Dual British citizens can't use an ETA.

- [ ] **3 EES: nothing to register or pay** — **travel-europe.europa.eu**/ees
  Since 10 April 2026 the 29 EES countries take **4 fingerprints and a photo** at the border instead of stamping your passport (children under 12 aren't fingerprinted). Cyprus and Ireland still stamp. Ignore any site that asks for an EES fee.

- [ ] **4 ETIAS: don't pay anyone yet** — **travel-europe.europa.eu**/etias
  Not open and no start date on 17 November 2026. When it opens: **EUR 20** (free for under 18s and over 70s), valid 3 years or until your passport expires, on the official site or app only, one application per traveller.

HAVE READY for the UK ETA app

- [ ] **The passport you'll travel with**
  Remove its cover for the chip scan
- [ ] **An email address**
- [ ] **A card, Apple Pay or Google Pay**
- [ ] **An iPhone 7 or newer, or an Android phone with NFC**
  No app? Apply online at gov.uk/eta
- [ ] **A photo of each traveller's face**
  No face scan for children 9 and under
- [ ] **The ETA email**
  Keep the 16-digit reference

AT THE BORDER the first time

- [ ] **5 Allow extra time at European airports** — **www.smartraveller.gov.au**/schengen
  Smartraveller reports delays of **up to 4-6 hours** at some airports. Leave extra time between connections and bring water and food. On your first visit you'll answer a few border questions.

- [ ] **6 Count your 90 days** — **travel-europe.europa.eu**/ees/check-how-long-you-can-stay
  90 days in any 180, one count for all EES countries, recorded digitally. The EU tool shows your days left; it doesn't include stays that began before 10 April 2026.

Fees and rules change; always check the official site before you travel.
Every link and fee here was checked on the official sites on 17 November 2026.

A free checklist from Jess Doyle.
Not a government website.