



Five UK border mythbusters for faster travel this summer

1. Electronic passport (ePassport) gates are much slower than regular gates

Appearances can be deceiving. While the line may look a little longer, look closer, chances are it's moving much faster due to its automated system. If you have a chipped passport then give it a try, you will be surprised by how fast it can be.

2. During summer, airports are busy all of the time

It's true that summer is the busiest time to fly, but if you plan ahead you may be able to avoid the peak times at UK passport control. 23-24 July is when most British schools break for the summer, with Scottish schools breaking around 28 June, so things can get busy a week or two after these dates. Bank holidays are also busy.

The quietest times to return are between lunchtime and late afternoon on a weekday. Border Force officers aim to clear the majority of UK and EEA nationals within 25 minutes.

3. Non-EU and Non-UK citizens have to wait much longer than UK and EEA nationals at the border

Border Force officers aim to clear the majority of non-EU citizens through the border within 45 minutes. If you are a

passport holder from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan or the USA and regularly visit the UK, then you can sign up to be a Registered Traveller member. This gives you access to UK/EEA entry lanes and ePassport gates at many UK airports, with no need to fill in a landing card.

4. Getting through the border as a family is slower than travelling alone

If you are travelling as a family this summer, passengers aged 12-17 can also use ePassport gates at many UK airports. As long as you have a family member aged 18+ with you, you can all go through together. When you arrive back in the UK, check the eligibility of ePassport gates available.

5. It makes no difference if I get ready for my ID check in the queue or at passport control

Heathrow sees an average of 100,000 passengers arrive in the UK each day. If each person went through the border only 5 seconds faster, this saves everybody at the border a staggering 138 hours per day.

No one wants to wait longer than necessary. Getting ready beforehand saves you time. Remember – hats and sunglasses off, passport ready!

For more information about the UK border, visit www.gov.uk/uk-border-control