



16-18 Montagu Place
London W1H 2BQ
Phone: +44 20 7616 6000
Fax: +44 20 7723 9581
Visa Tel. 0871 3762101
Email: visaswiss.uk@vfshelpline.com
www.swissembassy.org.uk

Do I require a visa for Switzerland?

Travellers wishing to enter Switzerland for the purpose of tourism, business trips and visits for a maximum stay of 90 days do **NOT** require a Schengen visa for Switzerland if they hold one of the following passports (passport has to be valid at the time of departure from Switzerland):

1) **BRITISH PASSPORT:** must contain one of the following remarks:

"British Citizen" (B.C)

"British National" (Overseas)" (B.N:O.)

"British Overseas Territory Citizen" (B.O.T.C.), **only** with right of abode in UK

"British Subject", **only** with right of abode in UK

2) **TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:**

- UK travel documents, issued to refugees by the Home Office, with blue cover, two black stripes (gold stripes since 16.08.96) in the top left hand corner and mentioning agreement of 28 July 1951
- LATVIA Alien's Passport

3) **NATIONAL, OFFICIAL or DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, IDENTITY CARD:**

- of all EU countries and EEA

4) **NATIONAL, OFFICIAL or DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT** of any of the following countries:

Albania *	El Salvador	Mexico	Seychelles
Andorra	Guatemala	Monaco	Singapore
Argentina	Honduras	Montenegro *	South Korea
Australia	Hong Kong (HKSAR)	Nicaragua	Taiwan
Bosnia Herzegovina *	Israel	New Zealand	USA
Brazil	Japan	Panama	Uruguay
Brunei	Macao (MSAR only)	Paraguay	Vatican
Canada	Macedonia *	San Marino	Venezuela
Chile	Malaysia	Serbia *	West Indies (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis)
Costa Rica	Mauritius		

* only holders of biometric passports are exempt from the visa requirements

5) DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT of any of the following countries:

Albania	Dominican Republic	Moldova	Serbia
Algeria	Ecuador	Morocco	Thailand
Bolivia	Iran	Namibia	Tunisia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Guyana	Peru	Turkey
Colombia	Jamaica	Philippines	UAE
Cuba	Macedonia	Russia	Ukraine

6) OFFICIAL PASSPORT

Philippines (issued by the Philippines government for government officials only)

7) SERVICE PASSPORT of any of the following countries:

Algeria	Cuba	Macedonia	Peru
Bolivia	Dominican Republic	Moldova	Thailand
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ecuador	Morocco	Tunisia
Colombia	Guyana	Namibia	UAE

8) SPECIAL PASSPORT of any of the following countries:

Bolivia	Ecuador	Morocco	Tunisia
Colombia	Guyana	Namibia	UAE
Cuba	Macedonia	Peru	
Dominican Republic	Moldova	Thailand	

9) SCHOOL TRIPS EXEMPTION

Pupils of UK schools who would normally require a visa to enter Switzerland are exempt from the visa requirements if they are listed on a "List of Travellers" form which must be shown to immigration officials. They must also:

- be travelling on a school trip
- be accompanied by a teacher from the school
- have their own valid travel document
- have a valid UK residence permit or visa

To obtain the List of Travellers form, the teacher should apply online at:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/listoftravellers>

Further information about the List of Travellers can be obtained from:

British Council Information Centre

Tel. 0161 957 7755

Email: general.enquiries@britishcouncil.org

If you do not fulfil the above conditions you have to obtain a Schengen visa. Please note that the visa application must be submitted to the Swiss Embassy responsible for your place of residence. A visa application not submitted to the correct Swiss Embassy may be rejected.

For information on how to apply for a visa please see: www.swissembassy.org.uk

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