# Trinidad and Tobago tourists to require UK visa amid asylum claim surge



Tourists from Trinidad and Tobago will soon be required to obtain a visa to enter the United Kingdom, as part of a government initiative to address a significant rise in asylum applications from the Caribbean nation. The announcement regarding this policy change is expected to be formally made by the Home Office later today.

The decision comes on the heels of a substantial increase in the number of asylum claims from Trinidad and Tobago, which rose sharply from an average of 49 applications per year between 2015 and 2019 to 173 in 2022. By 2023, this figure ballooned to 348, with an alarming total of 439 claims registered in the last year alone. Government sources have indicated that the new rules aim to curb perceived abuses of the existing electronic travel authorisation (ETA) system, which previously allowed nationals from Trinidad and Tobago to visit the UK for up to six months without needing a visa.

A spokesperson for the Home Office elaborated on the rationale behind the policy change, stating, "There has been a significant increase in the number of Trinidad and Tobago nationals coming to the UK as visitors only to claim asylum on arrival, which constitutes a misuse of our immigration system." They also reassured that the UK's relationship with Trinidad and Tobago remains robust, emphasising that the new visa requirement would not diminish the welcoming stance towards legitimate visitors.

The revised policy is set against a backdrop of ongoing discussions in the UK regarding asylum and immigration reform. Recently, Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch proposed an amendment to the Government's Border Security Bill, aimed at requiring asylum seekers to repay the costs associated with their accommodation, adopting a loan-like system rather than providing free support. Currently, the UK government spends nearly £5 billion annually on asylum support, including substantial funds for housing in hotels.

Badenoch's proposals also include stricter conditions for spouses of migrants seeking to join them in the UK, requiring higher earnings thresholds and age restrictions. These measures are part of a broader effort to manage immigration and its associated costs, as the number of low-skilled migrants entering the UK through family-related visas has seen a significant rise.

Despite the current political climate and the newly imposed visa requirements, Trinidad and Tobago continues to be a popular destination for British tourists. In 2024, nearly 300,000 visitors arrived in the country by air or sea, a figure that nearly doubles when including cruise ship arrivals. However, the ongoing crime issues in Trinidad and Tobago, which recorded a record 624 murders last year, have raised concerns within both the tourism sector and among locals regarding safety.

Reports indicate that some hotels have begun experiencing cancellations, with Kaye Trotman, president of the Tobago Unique Bed, Breakfast and Self-Catering Association, noting that the state of emergency declared recently due to crime concerns has had a negative impact on bookings. The local tourism agency, however, has maintained that Tobago remains a welcoming destination for tourists, asserting that the emergency measures are intended to enhance the safety of both residents and visitors.

As the situation develops, the government will continue to review the visa restrictions and their implications for bilateral relations, tourism, and public safety in Trinidad and Tobago.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/trinidad-and-tobago/entry-requirements> - This URL provides information on the current entry requirements for Trinidad and Tobago, which includes visiting without a visa for up to 90 days. However, it does not mention the upcoming visa requirement for Trinidad and Tobago nationals visiting the UK.
2. <https://foreign.gov.tt/documents/1608/Revised_Public_Notice_re_UK_ETAs_October_29.pdf> - This document discusses the introduction of Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETAs) for Trinidad and Tobago nationals traveling to the UK, which is relevant to the context of immigration policies affecting Trinidad and Tobago.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-when-you-can-get-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta> - This page explains the ETA system for various nationalities, including those from Trinidad and Tobago, but does not address the new visa requirement for Trinidad and Tobago nationals.
4. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the article itself, but it does not provide independent corroboration of the claims made about the visa policy change.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/border-security-bill> - While not directly available in the search results, this hypothetical URL could provide information on broader UK immigration policies, including potential reforms like those mentioned in the article.
6. <https://www.trinidadandtobagonews.com> - This hypothetical URL could provide local perspectives on crime and tourism in Trinidad and Tobago, aligning with concerns mentioned in the article.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2026039/trinidad-tobago-uk-visa-asylum> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
8. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14489667/Tourists-Trinidad-Tobago-banned-entering-UK-visa-asylum-applications.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data