

# Vicky Ford

MEP for the East of England

## European Travel Advice 2016

Holidays should be fun, relaxing and something to look back on with a great deal of pleasure.

Last year I produced a fact sheet collating travel advice and have been asked to repeat it in the light of the EU referendum.

The information comes from the AA, FCO, DVLA, NHS and the passport agency on your behalf.

I hope this factsheet helps ensure your holiday is memorable for all the right reasons.



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East of England

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### POST REFERENDUM ADVICE

At the moment nothing has changed.

There will be no immediate changes to people traveling, living, working or studying in EU countries.

You will still be able to travel in the normal way.

You can continue to use your passport and other documentation.

You still have the right to live in all other EU countries and access your healthcare and pension.



[www.gov.uk/  
foreign-travel-  
advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

#### TERRORISM

The Foreign Office says the threat of terrorism should not spoil your holiday but travellers should remain vigilant. The FCO website is updated daily and is a good source of information.



[www.gov.uk/  
foreign-travel-  
advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

#### TURKEY

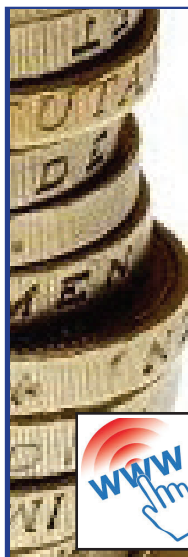
At the time of compiling this fact sheet an attempted coup was underway in Turkey. This is a fast moving situation that may take many weeks to resolve. The Foreign Office will up date its website continually.



[www.gov.uk/  
foreign-travel-  
advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

British Consulate in Ankara  
00 90 312 455 3344

Foreign Office Help Line  
020 7008 1500



#### Fluctuating Currency Post Vote

The value of the pound has fluctuated a great deal both before and after the referendum. Moneysupermarket.com has up-to-date advice.



[www.  
moneysupermarket.  
com/travel-money/](http://www.moneysupermarket.com/travel-money/)

### GREECE

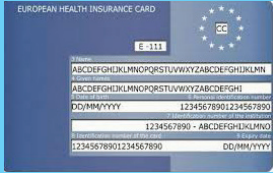
From the  
Foreign Office Website

“There has been a dramatic increase in the number of migrants and refugees arriving on Greek islands, including Lesbos, Kos and Samos, and seeking to continue their journey via Greece to other EU countries. The British Embassy is keeping the situation under review, but at present there are no reports of any specific risks to British nationals visiting these islands or at border crossing points.”



[www.gov.uk/  
foreign-travel-  
advice/greece](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/greece)

# GET AN EHIC CARD NOT A HOSPITAL BILL



The EHIC card is free of charge and enables access to state-provided healthcare in the EU and a few other countries, such as Switzerland and Norway. It will cover treatment until you return to the UK. It also covers treatment of pre-existing medical conditions and routine maternity care, providing the reason for a visit is not specifically to give birth.

The NHS website warns that the card is not an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover private medical healthcare, mountain rescue in ski resorts, being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is advisable to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy.

If you already have an EHIC card please check its validity.

For more information about what is covered in each country and to apply go to [www.gov.uk/ehic](http://www.gov.uk/ehic).

The card is free so be wary of websites that want to charge you for them. If you come across one of these sites please let me know & I will report it to Trading Standards.



[www.gov.uk/ehic](http://www.gov.uk/ehic)

## BRING BACK SOUVENIRS

# NOT A HUGE PHONE BILL

You may have heard that data roaming charges are to be scrapped. It's a victory for consumers, but, it isn't happening until June 2017.

So in the meantime BE CAREFUL and here are six simple rules to follow in the meantime.

### 1. Call your operator before you board the plane.

Your operator will almost certainly offer a special data and call bundle. Ring them, even from the and see what's on offer.

### 2. When you land read the text.

All networks will send you a text when you arrive in a foreign country spelling out the charges you will incur.

### 3. Use free Wi-Fi.

Travelsupermarket.com advises downloading Apps like WhatsApp, and Viber (there are others). These allow you to send texts and make calls for free over wi-fi (your friends will need the same App).



### 4. Be aware of what your phone is doing.

Apps do work in the background and can run up your bill before you've left the plane. So switch off mobile data before you leave the UK.

### 5. Check the roaming cap.

The current pre-2017 EU roaming cap covers the EU countries as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Turkey is not included so if in doubt check with your operator.

### 6. If in doubt keep the phone switched off.

# HIRING A CAR

The paper counterpart to the UK photocard licence has now been abolished and information about penalty points are now held on DVLA's driver record. If you are planning to hire a car the DVLA's website says you must print-out your own driving licence record from its website - you'll need to know your driving licence number, national insurance number and your post code.

You will also need a one-off code from the same website so the hire company can see you record. The code is valid for 21 days.



[www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence](http://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence)

# PASSPORT RENEWAL

Thousands of holidaymakers have their holiday ruined by not knowing they have an invalid passport. So please check the validity of your passport and your children's passports.

The Passport Agency advises travellers needing a passport urgently to make an appointment at the local Passport Customer Service Centre.

The Premium Service takes 4 hours but a note of caution, first passports and all child passports can't be obtained this way.

The Fast Track Service again needs an appointment and takes a week.

The Passport Agency says applicants should use the Post Office, or apply by post or online if you don't need your passport within a month.

There are unscrupulous websites that charge to make an appointment at the Passport Office.

If you come across one of these sites tell me and I will report it.

The FCO advises that you have at least three months left to run on your passport before you travel as some countries have this an entry requirement.



[www.gov.uk/get-a-passport-urgently](http://www.gov.uk/get-a-passport-urgently)