

Important Update: The New Entry/Exit System (EES) and What It Means for Your Travels in 2025

And The Introduction of the New ETIAS System.

As your trusted partner in Portugal Property investment, we always strive to keep you informed about important changes that may affect your travel and living arrangements in Europe.

Today, we want to bring your attention to a significant development in EU border control: the Entry/Exit System (EES), which is expected to come into force in 2025.



What is the Entry/Exit System (EES)?

The Entry/Exit System is a new automated border control system developed by the European Union to track the movements of Non-EU nationals crossing the external borders of the Schengen Area. This system will replace manual passport stamping and introduce Biometric scanning at border checkpoints.

For those of you who travel frequently between Europe and other regions, own property in Schengen countries, or are considering a move to Portugal, the EES will impact how you enter and exit the Schengen Zone.



What Changes Should You Expect?

1. Biometric Data Collection:

- Upon entering or exiting a Schengen country, facial images and fingerprints will be scanned and stored in the system.
- This process will streamline border crossings but may slightly extend the time it takes to pass through checkpoints, especially in the early stages of implementation.

2. Tracking of Authorized Stay:

- The system will automatically calculate your permitted duration of stay, which for most non-EU nationals is 90 days within a 180-day period. The EES will help prevent overstays by recording the exact date and time of entry and exit.
- If you frequently travel to your European property for extended stays, it will be easier to monitor and manage your stay without relying on manual passport stamps.

3. Impact on Visa Holders:

- If you hold a long-term visa or residency permit for an EU country, you will also be part of the EES system, though your visa will continue to dictate the length of your stay.
- For those considering the Golden Visa or other residency programs, the EES will streamline border management while maintaining your rights under these programs.

4. How to Prepare for the EES:

- **Plan Ahead:** Be aware of your permitted stay and ensure you comply with the 90/180 rule if applicable.
- **Understand the Process:** When arriving in Europe, expect to use biometric systems. Make sure your travel documents are up to date, and familiarize yourself with the new procedure.
- **Check Your Travel Status:** The EES will allow authorities to track visa and stay information more efficiently. This reduces errors and manual checks but requires travellers to remain vigilant about their status.



What are the Benefits?

- **Simplified Travel:** The EES will improve the efficiency and accuracy of border crossings, ensuring you spend less time at customs and more time enjoying your European home.
- **Improved Security:** With the EES in place, your data will be securely handled according to EU regulations (such as GDPR), offering peace of mind when traveling.
- **Transparency on Stays:** No more confusion about visa rules and authorized stay durations. The EES provides an automated system that clearly tracks your time within the Schengen Area.



What Does This Mean for Your Property Investments?

If you own property or are considering purchasing in a Schengen Area country, it's essential to stay informed about how the EES could impact your mobility. For those of you traveling seasonally, for work, or to manage your investments, the system provides clear records of your time in Europe, minimizing the risk of overstaying.

The EES is also part of a broader effort to ensure the security of the region, which ultimately protects your property investments.

A New Travel Authorisation for EU Visitors



According to ETIAS website, starting in the first half of 2025, the European Commission will roll out a U.S.-style electronic travel authorisation system for visitors from countries that are currently not part of the EU.

ETIAS stands for the European Travel Information and Authorisation System. In a nutshell, the ETIAS travel authorisation is an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals travelling to any of these 30 European countries, with Portugal firmly on the list. Travellers will need to complete an online registration form prior to travel and the authorisation works for short-term stays meaning it is not a work visa.

With a valid ETIAS travel authorisation, you can enter the territory of these European countries as often as you want for short-term stays, normally for up to 90 days in any 180-day period where the system will check the travellers security credentials.

The cost of an ETIAS is €7, travellers under the age of 18 and over 70 will, however, not need to pay the fee and the ETIAS authorisation is valid for three years. Whenever you travel to participating countries, your ETIAS authorisation must be valid for the duration of the stay.

The ETIAS authorisation is valid for three years whereby you can travel in a participating country for a short-term stay of 90 days within any 180-day period. Whenever you travel to participating countries, your ETIAS authorisation must be valid for the duration of the stay.

EU visitors from America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, along with 55 other countries that do not require a Schengen visa will require ETIAS to visit Europe.



UK Nationals

UK nationals are also on the list with regards to needing a valid ETIAS if they travel to any of the European countries requiring them for a short-term stay. UK nationals who wish to stay longer must meet the entry requirements in accordance with national or EU migration law, such as holding a visa or residence permit.

Withdrawal Agreement

"UK nationals and their family members who are beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement are exempt from ETIAS: they may reside on the territory of their EU host country and travel to other European countries requiring ETIAS as long as they hold documents proving their status", states the ETIAS website.

At OliveHomes.com, we are committed to helping you navigate these changes smoothly. If you have any questions about how the Entry/Exit System might affect your property ownership, or future investments, feel free to contact our team for personalized advice.

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Properties Of The Week

Charming 1+1 Bedroom Apartment Near Vilamoura Marina



Located just 100 metres from the vibrant Vilamoura Marina, this beautifully modified apartment offers a unique blend of comfort and convenience. Originally a 1-bedroom layout, this apartment has been cleverly reconfigured to include an additional bedroom, making it perfect for those seeking extra space in a prime location.

Ref. <u>OH2765</u> Price €260,000

Spacious two plus two Bedroom Townhouse for Sale in Boliqueime

This stunning townhouse is situated in a prime location within a private and secure condominium in the sought-after area of Boliqueime. Offering both privacy and convenience, this property is ideal for those seeking a tranquil lifestyle with easy access to local amenities.

Ref. <u>OH2766</u> Price €530,000



Testimonial Of The Week



Thank you to David and Olive Homes for all the help I needed and so much more. I couldn't have done it without you. What a fantastic service!

Stuart-Loulé



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