

Double S Travel

118 Talbot Road
Roundgreen
Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 7RA
Telephone 01582 752752
ABTA 16297, ATOL 6766, IATA, ACE
E-Mail steve@doublestravel.co.uk
Web www.doublestravel.co.uk
Twitter: [Double_S_Travel](#)



Double S Travel Worldchoice - Celebrating Twenty Four Years of service to the residents and businesses in the South Bedfordshire area 1985 - 2009

Today's Exchange Rates

Euro. Our tourist sell rate today: £1 = 1.10141 than last week
US Dollar. Our tourist sell rate today: £1 = 1.55551 better than last week

Swine Flu.

Swine flu passengers barred from flights

British Airways and **Virgin Atlantic** will prevent passengers from flying if staff suspect they are carrying the swine flu virus.

The new powers for check-in staff and cabin crew may create some confusion at UK airports at the start of the busy summer holiday period.

Medical experts have branded the decision a waste of time, saying it would be impossible for airline workers to diagnose the H1N1 virus.

A BA spokesman said: "If we have concerns about a customer, or a customer is concerned, then we have a 24-hour medical service we can call to give advice to staff.

"We have a medical team within the airline as well as a contingency planning group which has met for the past few years to look at the issue of a flu pandemic.

Paul Charles, Virgin Atlantic's director of communications, said: "If our medical team believe there are reasons not to fly, the passenger will be asked to produce a fit-to-fly certificate from their doctor or a hospital, and they will be put at our cost on to the next available flight."

Charles said there had not yet been any reported cases.

A spokesman for **Abta** claimed the response from the airlines was a sensible move which will help prevent the spread of the disease.

The government health secretary, **Andy Burnham**, has urged holidaymakers not to panic. He said: "I want families to go on their holidays and have a great time this summer, and mums and dads shouldn't worry unnecessarily about swine flu. But, just as they would anyway, parents should keep a close eye on their children's health."

Eight British teenagers are in hospital in China having been diagnosed with the respiratory illness and more than 50 of their classmates and teachers remain in quarantine at their hotel.

Last week scores of British tourists were stuck down with swine flu in the Cypriot resort, Ayia Napa.

The Cypriot government contacted *TTG* to say its ministry of health was doing its best to deal with the few reports cases and claimed the disease had not spread any further.

Travel firms told to boost flu plans (16 Jul 2009)

Passports

Much of the information below is taken from www.gov.uk

To renew an adult ten-year 32-page passport costs £72 for standard service, £97 for the one-week Fast Track Service and £114 for the one-day Premium service. If you were born on or before 2 September 1929 your passport is free of charge, but you will need to pay the extra fee for Fast Track or Premium services if you use them.

To get your passport within two weeks, you will need to apply in person at one of IPS's Regional Passport Offices.

The nearest Regional Passport Offices are either Peterborough or London.

You can use either the Fast Track one-week service, or the Premium one-day service

To use either service you must first make an appointment. You can do this by calling the IPS Passport Adviceline on 0300 222 0000. The line is open seven days a week between 7.00 am and 11.00 pm.

Fast Track one-week service

This service guarantees delivery of your passport by Secure Delivery within one week (excluding bank and public holidays) of you applying.

The guarantee applies only if: you supply your completed form and all supporting documents to IPS at the agreed appointment and you are in to sign for delivery of the passport if required. This service is not available for a first adult passport.

The Premium service is a guaranteed service in which you deliver your application and collect your passport on the same day. It is available on weekdays for appointments before:

- 4.00 pm in London
- 1.30 pm in Liverpool
- 1.00 pm in Peterborough
- 12.30 pm in Glasgow and Newport
- 12.00 noon in Belfast and Durham

And on Saturdays for appointments before 11.00 am.

The waiting time for your passport will be four hours from when the application is accepted and the cashier gives you a receipt.

Members of ABTA, Association of Cruise Experts, Leading Cruise Agent
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Proprietor: **SJ Pattenden TD, BA (Hons)**. VAT Number 449 3040 53.

Finalist Travel Agent of the Year 2009, 2006, 2005.

Finalist Business Travel Agent of the Year 2006. Nominated Travel Agent of the Year 2008, 2007.

This service is not available for:

- a first adult or first child passport
- making changes to your existing passport (such as changing your name)
- extending a limited passport
- replacing a lost, stolen or damaged passport

Current passport fees are set out in the table

	By post	Check & Send service*	One-week Fast Track service	One-day Premium service
First adult passport** (includes passport interview)	£72	£72	N/A	N/A
Replace a lost, stolen or missing passport	£72	£72	£97	N/A
First child passport and when previously included on a parent's passport	£46	£46	£81	N/A
Replace a lost, stolen or damaged child passport	£46	£46	£81	N/A
Renew or amend an existing adult passport**	£72	£72	£97	£114
Renew or amend an existing child passport	£46	£46	£81	£94
Extend a restricted validity child's passport issued before 1 May 2008	Free	Free	Free	N/A
Extend a restricted validity child's passport issued on or after 1 May 2008	£46	£46	£81	N/A

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Extend a restricted validity adult passport issued before 1 May 2008	Free	Free	Free	N/A
Extend a restricted validity adult passport issued on or after 1 May 2008	£72	£72	£97	N/A
Jumbo passport (48 page) (not available to children)	£85	£85	£105	£123***

* IPS recommends this service. As well as the fee shown you must pay a handling charge to the Post Office. The fee is currently £6.85.

** If you were born on or before 2 September 1929 you are eligible for a free standard 32-page ten-year passport. For Fast Track and Premium services you pay the difference between the standard passport fee and the fee for the enhanced service at the counter. For example, usual Fast Track fee is £97 less standard passport fee of £72. The fee you would pay therefore is £25.

*** A jumbo passport is available through Premium service only if you are applying to renew an existing passport.

Allow six weeks for a first adult passport

In most cases you will need to attend a passport interview, so Fast Track and Premium services do not apply. The timings in this section are for other applications. Interviews are held at offices around the country and each one takes around 30 minutes.

Cruise deal of the week.

18days, departing 24 Oct 09, MSC Poesia (their newest ship!), Venice, Bari, La Goulette, Malaga, Funchal, transatlantic crossing, St Thomas, San Juan, fort Lauderdale. Flights included. From £970pp inside cabin, £1089 outside cabin, £1259 balcony cabin. Details at www.doublestravel.co.uk under Escorted Groups, Special Cruise.

Any of these can be booked at www.doublestravel.co.uk using the Build a Holiday option, or call us on 01582 752 752.

Always:

- Check that your passport does not expire within six months of your return date. Passport advice line 0300 222 0000.
- Ensure you have taken out good travel insurance and if going to Europe, take your EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) with you too. You can apply for a card at www.ehic.org Note: The EHIC does not cover you in the Channel Islands.

- Put the 24hour UK Consular Assistance number - +44 020 7008 1500 into your mobile telephone – just in case you need emergency help.
- If hiring a car, don't forget to take both parts of your photo driving licence (the card and the paper counterpart) and a credit card with you. Some rental companies no longer accept the old-style green paper non-photo driving licences.
- Ensure you have all the visas you need in order to travel.
- If you have booked connecting flights, the baggage allowance may be smaller than your long-haul flights. To avoid extra charges, pack to the lowest baggage allowance.
- Tell your credit card and debit card issuer where you are going and for how long otherwise you may find your cards may be blocked. Take a Cash Passport instead of your debit card – much safer.
- Use public transport to get to the airport. Most travel insurance will only cover you for a missed departure if you used public transport.
- Take a photocopy of your passport with you. If you lose your original it is much simpler to replace if you have a copy available.
- Protect your money and your holiday by booking an ATOL protected holiday through a reputable travel agent. Even short-breaks using no-frills airlines can be covered if booked through an agent.
- Declare all medical conditions and hospital visits at the time of taking insurance and tell the insurer if you develop a medical condition before you travel otherwise they may not settle if you try to make a claim.
- Travelling to or through the USA? You need a visa (called an ESTA) in order to travel. www.usembassy.org.uk

In brief:

Thinking of going to New Zealand next year? Join my group, we depart 30th January! Places are limited. Call me on 01582 752752 or email me at steve@doublestravel.co.uk for details.

Interested in a cruise? Visit our cruise club website at www.upadeck.co.uk it contains details of over 20,000 cruises, port descriptions and ship details!

Do you Twitter? Follow Double_S_Travel.

If you would like to join my emailing-list to receive offers and news, simply email steve@doublestravel.co.uk and put 'Mailing List' in the subject box.

Remember, travel safely, protect your money by booking through an ATOL holder, but most of all - enjoy your travelling.

All the best, Steve Pattenden. steve@doublestravel.co.uk

Acknowledgements. www.direct.gov.uk and Travel Weekly.

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