TS **TravelSpy · Industry reports**

3 November 2026: US boarding checks, Jet2 discounts and future APD costs

UK Outbound Travel Briefing · 3 November 2026 · Published 3 November 2026

This UK Outbound Travel Briefing covers 28 October–3 November 2026: a precisely timed US boarding requirement, Jet2's promotion and the Budget's future tax changes require different operational responses. (cdc.gov) Italy's expired strike window and a fresh sterling snapshot complete the week's priorities; neither establishes current disruption or stronger holiday demand. (gov.uk)

Headlines

- US attestation applies to departures at or after 11:59 p.m. EST on 3 November—not every departure that day.[1] (cdc.gov)
- Jet2 launches Black Friday discounts; advertised savings are not measured market-wide price falls.[2] (app.jet2.com)
- Budget APD uprating starts on 1 April 2028, not this November.[3] (gov.uk)
- Italy's notified strike window ended on 30 October; retain case follow-up, not an undated disruption alert.[4] (gov.uk)
- Sterling broadly steady in Reuters' 2 November report; retail exchange rates remain unverified.[5] (investing.com)

Key figures

19,203,000 visits[6]

UK resident overseas visits — historical background

2023-Q4 · Released on 17 May 2024, this stale stored ONS estimate describes visits in 2023-Q4, not current bookings.[6]

299,351,416 passengers[7]

UK airport passengers — annual context

2025 · Released on 13 February 2026, this CAA total includes inbound and connecting traffic and is not UK resident outbound demand.[7][8]

70%[9]

Overseas holiday intention — ABTA survey

2026 · Released on 13 October 2026, this representative UK-adult survey measures overseas holiday intentions for the following 12 months, not bookings or completed calendar-year travel.[9][8]

Developments that matter

1. US boarding documentation changes. CDC's guidance dated 30 October follows its 22 October order and 28 October amendment. It covers flights departing foreign countries for the United States at or after 11:59 p.m. EST on 3 November 2026. Travellers, including US connections, must attest that they have not been in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the preceding 21 days, unless exempt. DRC airport transit counts even without disembarking; missing attestation prevents boarding. Recommendation: screen complete itineraries and confirm airline collection processes.[1] (cdc.gov)

2. Jet2 changes the promotional comparison. Its 29 October announcement advertises £100 per person off all holidays, up to 20% off all flights and a £60 per person holiday deposit. These are supplier claims, not independently measured reductions in average package prices. Recommendation: compare identical departure dates, accommodation, baggage and transfers, checking live eligibility and the total payable—not just the discount or deposit.[2] (app.jet2.com)

3. The Budget changes future costing, not today's tax. HM Treasury's 28 October document announces RPI-linked increases to all Air Passenger Duty rates from 1 April 2028, rounded to the nearest penny. Recommendation: flag affected programmes and supplier discussions, but do not attribute immediate fare movements to this future uprating.[3] (gov.uk)

Destination access and operations

4. Italy requires retrospective case management. FCDO's 29 October update identified a national strike from 9pm on 29 October to 9pm on 30 October, warning of possible disruption across

aviation, rail, taxis, highways and local transport. That window has passed. The notice does not establish actual cancellations or continuing disruption on 3 November. Recommendation: remove the expired strike from live alerts while checking unresolved transfers and transport cases. FCDO separately warns that further demonstrations may occur in major cities; do not retire that advice alongside the strike notice.[4] (gov.uk)

For full British-citizen passport holders, FCDO requires the appropriate ESTA or visa; CDC attestation is additional, not a substitute. The USA advice landing page verifies a source update of 30 October and currency at 3 November; these are not original publication dates.[10][11] (gov.uk)

Regional product background: Newcastle Airport's 15 April announcement scheduled easyJet's twice-weekly Marrakech service from 3 November, with seats and packages offered. This verifies the planned start, not inaugural-flight completion. Recommendation: test a Marrakech flight-and-hotel proposition with transfers and an optional guided city visit only after confirming operations, availability and itinerary-specific FCDO advice; do not reuse April's launch fare.[12] (newcastleairport.com)

Value and holiday calendar

5. Sterling provides a costing reference, not a value guarantee. Reuters reported on 2 November 2026 that the pound was broadly steady, quoting US$1.3417 per £1 and 83.53p per €1. These are market quotations from that report, not executable consumer retail rates or a closing-rate series. Recommendation: timestamp exchange assumptions for dollar- and euro-priced components and obtain executable supplier quotes before promising savings. No current retail exchange-rate comparison was verified.[5] (investing.com)

Affordability remains a present-budget question. The Budget announces a £100 Household Energy Payment for households in council tax bands A–D in England, delivered from January 2027. It is neither money received during this briefing week nor an identical UK-wide payment, and it does not demonstrate additional holiday spending. Recommendation: explain payment schedules without suggesting future government support funds a booking today.[3] (gov.uk)

Calendar background must be jurisdiction-specific. The Welsh Government's published 2026–27 direction lists autumn half-term as 26–30 October 2026, placing this edition outside that window. Recommendation: distinguish Welsh half-term return communications from subsequent departure campaigns; check individual schools and separately verify England, Scotland and Northern Ireland before advertising family suitability. These are older calendar details, published on 3 March 2025, not weekly news.[13] (gov.wales)

Latest market evidence

The frozen TravelSpy pack contains no new or revised statistical records since the previous edition. Its ONS coverage is stale: the stored quarterly endpoint is 19,203,000 UK resident overseas visits in 2023-Q4, released on 17 May 2024. This is historical context, not this week's performance, and the pack's endpoint must not be described as the latest ONS publication available elsewhere.[8][6]

CAA's stored 2025 total is 299,351,416 UK airport passengers, released on 13 February 2026. It includes inbound and connecting traffic, so it cannot establish UK resident holiday demand. ABTA's 2026 survey wave reports 70% intending an overseas holiday in the following 12 months, released on 13 October 2026; its annual label does not mean completed full-year observations. Intentions are not bookings.[7][9][8]

No valid UK Google Trends series is available in this pack. These differing populations, periods and methods cannot be combined into a weekly demand measure. The inspected frozen TravelSpy evidence pack contains no national weekly booking or independently measured package-price series for this briefing.[8]

Actions for travel businesses

Recommendations for the next operating cycle:

- Assign an owner to US departure checks; record carrier-process confirmation and unresolved documentation cases against the precise effective time.[1] (cdc.gov)
- Audit Italy alerts for expired dates and track outstanding transfer cases separately from new disruption reports.[4] (gov.uk)
- Run matched package comparisons against Jet2's promotion. Record total price, inclusions, payment conditions and quote expiry; measure enquiry-to-booking conversion and margin in the test without claiming results in advance.[2] (app.jet2.com)
- Keep future APD assumptions separate from current-departure pricing. Refresh foreign-currency component quotes rather than treating Reuters' snapshot as a guaranteed rate.[3][5] (gov.uk)
- Make the Newcastle–Marrakech package test conditional on confirmed operations. Measure qualified enquiries and completed bookings separately; additional scheduled access alone is not evidence of demand.[1][2] (newcastleairport.com)

Data gaps and limitations

- The frozen TravelSpy pack has no new or revised statistical records; its stored ONS endpoint is stale and does not describe the full availability of ONS data elsewhere.[8]
- The inspected frozen TravelSpy evidence pack contains no national weekly booking or independently measured package-price series for this briefing.[8]
- No valid, unambiguous UK Google Trends series is stored in the evidence pack.[8]
- Carrier-specific US attestation collection processes were not independently confirmed.
- The Italy strike notice establishes the scheduled window, not actual cancellations or residual disruption.[4] (gov.uk)
- Newcastle–Marrakech inaugural-flight completion and current package inventory were not verified.[12] (newcastleairport.com)
- Jet2’s announcement was verified, but live promotional eligibility and matched final prices were not independently tested.[2] (app.jet2.com)
- Reuters’ 2 November quotations were checked on Investing.com; they are market quotations, not verified consumer retail exchange rates.[5] (investing.com)
- School calendars outside the cited Welsh direction, and individual school arrangements, were not verified.[13] (gov.wales)

Methodology

Figures come from market-specific statistics stored by TravelSpy with source timing and attribution, or cited published research. Each report is drafted by an AI research analyst, automatically checked figure-by-figure against the stored records, and independently fact-checked by a separate AI reviewer before publication. Sources keep their own periods, populations and units and are never blended. Sentiment, search interest and price indices are not bookings; airport passengers include nonresidents and connections. First-observed dates are not provider publication dates.

- **UK travel research**: included
- **UK resident outbound travel**: included
- **UK search interest**: not included (No valid, unambiguous UK series stored for this source.)
- **UK airport passenger context**: included
- **UK travel sentiment**: included

References

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