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# 17 November 2026: US flights resume, Gatwick rail clears and touring offers open

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This UK Outbound Travel Briefing covers 11–17 November 2026: US disruption recovery, restored Gatwick rail access and a time-limited snow warning require precise departure messaging. (gov.uk) Sterling's reported level and Contiki's new promotion create separate pricing and selling considerations—not evidence of changing holiday bookings. (brecorder.com)

## Headlines

- US nationwide grounding lifted; residual disruption still requires itinerary checks.[1] (gov.uk)
- Brighton/Lewes–Gatwick rail incident cleared at 01:46 on 17 November.[2] (nationalrail.co.uk)
- Snow warning ends at 11:00 UTC on 17 November—not an all-day airport closure notice.[3] (weather.metoffice.gov.uk)
- Sterling reported at $1.3172; supplier and retail exchange rates remain separate.[4] (brecorder.com)
- Contiki's promotion targets selected 2027 departures; main discounts exclude flights.[5] (travelweekly.co.uk)

## Key figures

**299,351,416 passengers**[6]

**UK airport passengers — dated operating background**

2025 · Released on 13 February 2026, this CAA total includes inbound and connecting traffic and is not UK-resident outbound demand.[6][7]

**61.5%**[8]

**Overseas overnight-trip intention — survey background**

2026-09 · Released on 22 September 2026, this weighted VisitBritain/VisitEngland survey describes GB adults aged 16+ intending an overseas overnight trip within the next 12 months, not bookings.[8][7]

**19,203,000 visits**[9]

**UK-resident overseas visits — stale stored baseline**

2023-Q4 · Released on 17 May 2024, this ONS estimate describes October–December 2023 and cannot establish current demand.[9]

## Developments that matter

1. US flights: recovery, not a continuing nationwide grounding. The FCDO's 14 November update, marked current on 17 November, says the FAA has lifted the temporary grounding at all US airports but warns of continuing disruption. It does not establish that every flight or connection is operating normally.[1] (gov.uk)

Recommendation: confirm operating flights, onward connections and arrival transfers before contacting affected travellers. Review missed first nights and tour-joining arrangements individually; do not infer blanket cancellation eligibility from this operational notice. Keep recovery cases open until revised itineraries are confirmed.

2. Gatwick access: retire the superseded incident alert. National Rail records the Brighton/Lewes–Gatwick incident as reported at 07:06 on 16 November and cleared at 01:46 on 17 November. Its latest notice says trains can run normally; Gatwick Express, Southern and Thameslink were affected. This concerns rail access, not airport closure.[2] (nationalrail.co.uk)

Recommendation: remove this incident from blanket departure warnings while retaining follow-up for travellers affected on 16 November. Check individual services before recommending alternative transport.

## Destination access and operations

3. Snow: target the route and retain the expiry. The Met Office warning, updated at 09:24 UTC on 16 November, applies from 00:00 to 11:00 UTC on 17 November. It covers specified areas of England and southern Scotland, with possible higher-ground road and rail disruption—not confirmed flight cancellations.[3] (weather.metoffice.gov.uk)

Recommendation: contact early-departure passengers whose airport-access routes cross the warning area, advise additional journey time and check transport updates. After expiry, replace the warning with verified residual disruption information rather than leaving an undated alert live.

European border preparation remains background, not a newly announced change this week. FCDO Austria guidance inspected for this edition says short-stay Schengen travellers may need biometric registration under EES, without a registration charge, and should allow additional processing time. The guidance addresses British-citizen passport holders; check nationality and residence status rather than treating all UK residents identically.[10] (gov.uk) ABTA's guidance, updated on 17 August 2026, says ETIAS applications are unavailable. The EU portal returned no readable launch confirmation, so a fresh launch date remains unverified.[11][12] (abta.com)

## Value and holiday calendar

4. Sterling: recheck dollar costs before quoting. Reuters' 17 November report records sterling falling to $1.3172. This is a market observation, not a retail travel-money rate, supplier conversion rate or verified closing quotation. This report establishes no numerical weekly sterling–euro movement.[4] (brecorder.com) Recommendation: refresh dollar-denominated accommodation and excursion costs using the applicable payment rate; do not infer a particular holiday-price increase.

5. Contiki: a new, allocation-limited selling opportunity. Travel Weekly's 12 November report describes a promotion running from 12 November to 4 December 2026, with savings up to £555 on more than 150 trips departing in 2027. Selected departures have 50% discounts with 10 places per qualifying trip; Active New Zealand and Ski Austria feature in the 17 November promotional schedule. Those are promotional dates, not departure dates. Main discounts exclude flights and certain additional costs.[5] (travelweekly.co.uk)

Recommendation: test complete UK-origin touring propositions after checking eligibility, allocation and inclusions. Separately, Surrey's official school-term page directly confirms an autumn-term end of 18 December 2026 and spring half-term of 15–19 February 2027 for its community and voluntary controlled calendar. Academies, voluntary aided and foundation

schools may differ; schools set INSET days. These are existing dates, not a new announcement or UK-wide window. Check individual schools and relevant calendars across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.[13] (surreycc.gov.uk)

## Latest market evidence

Fresh publication does not mean current-week demand. Heathrow's 11 November release reports October 2026 terminal passengers of 7,296 in its published unit of '(000s)'. Its October column reports changes of -1.0% overall, -21.0% for the Middle East and 7.5% for Asia/Pacific. The inspected primary-source table does not explicitly identify their comparison baseline; these are retained as Heathrow's reported changes, not independently verified year-on-year comparisons. Airport flows do not isolate UK-resident holidays or establish available package capacity.[14] (mediacentre.heathrow.com)

ONS's 12 November first estimate reports real household consumption increasing by 0.6% in July–September 2026 against the preceding quarter, April–June 2026, and by 1.8% against July–September 2025. Net tourism contributed little to consumption growth. This is household-spending context, not November confidence or holiday bookings.[15] (ons.gov.uk)

Stored statistics remain dated background. CAA's 2025 total is 299,351,416 passengers, released on 13 February 2026; inbound and connecting traffic are included.[6][7] September's weighted VisitBritain/VisitEngland survey, released on 22 September 2026, records overseas overnight-trip intention among GB adults aged 16+ at 61.5%, not purchases.[8][7]

The frozen pack has no new or revised records against the 10 November 2026 edition. Its stale ONS quarterly visits series ends at 2023-Q4: 19,203,000 visits, released on 17 May 2024. No valid UK Google Trends series is stored. These limitations concern this pack, not all evidence available elsewhere.[9][7]

## Actions for travel businesses

Recommendations—not measured results:

- Audit departure messages covering US recovery, the cleared Gatwick incident and the snow-warning expiry. Record unresolved itineraries, time to reconfirmation and stale alerts removed. These are distinct operational events.[1][2][3] (gov.uk)
- Test eligible Ski Austria or Active New Zealand enquiries with fully costed UK-origin quotes alongside the tour-only offer. Record qualifying availability, quote acceptance, gross margin and abandonment reasons; advertised discounts are not achieved package savings.[5] (

travelweekly.co.uk)

- For dollar-costed itineraries, log supplier exchange rates and quote expiry. Compare equivalent departures and inclusions. For family campaigns, validate individual school calendars before selecting departure dates.[4][13] (brecorder.com)
- Keep airport traffic, household expenditure and survey intention separate in management reporting. Use them to frame product questions, not to claim measured acceleration in UK outbound sales.[14][15][8] (mediacentre.heathrow.com)

## Data gaps and limitations

- The inspected frozen TravelSpy pack contains no new or revised records relative to the 10 November 2026 edition; its stored ONS outbound series remain stale and do not establish November 2026 demand. This does not imply that newer ONS statistics are unavailable elsewhere.[7]
- No valid, unambiguous UK Google Trends series is stored in this frozen evidence pack.[7]
- This report and the inspected frozen pack establish no measured current-week UK outbound bookings or comparable package-price series. Advertised promotions and survey intentions are not substitutes for bookings or like-for-like package prices.[7][5][8] (travelweekly.co.uk)
- The inspected frozen pack supplies no exchange-rate series.[7] This report establishes no retail or supplier conversion rate or numerical weekly sterling–euro movement; W4 supplies only the cited market observation.[4] (brecorder.com)
- The EU ETIAS portal returned only a JavaScript requirement, so no fresh launch confirmation was readable. ABTA's accessible guidance was updated on 17 August 2026.[11][12] (abta.com)
- Remaining Contiki promotional allocations and complete UK-origin package costs require live supplier checks; the inspected promotion does not establish either.[5] (travelweekly.co.uk)
- Surrey's dates and school-category caveats were verified directly on its official School term dates page. Individual school dates and INSET days still require confirmation; the page is calendar background, not evidence of a new announcement this week.[13] (surreycc.gov.uk)
- Heathrow's inspected primary-source traffic table labels the October percentage changes without explicitly identifying their comparison baseline. This report therefore retains them only as the publisher's reported changes.[14] (mediacentre.heathrow.com)

## 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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