

ESSENTIALTRAVEL.CO.UK FACT SHEET

Background

EssentialTravel.co.uk is one of the UK's leading online travel essentials providers. Since 2001, over five million British travellers have enjoyed peace of mind - travelling with the company's fully comprehensive, competitively priced travel insurance policies - and priority access to the most sought after airport car parks, hotels and lounges in the UK. EssentialTravel.co.uk also offers excellent rates on car hire and car hire excess insurance.

History

EssentialTravel.co.uk was launched in 2001; the result of a dynamic merger between Essential Travel, co-founded by Stuart Bensusan, Richard Hannan and Philip Jordan, and Online Essentials, owned by Simon Purnell and Stephen Smith. The two teams saw the opportunity that the internet presented to bring great value travel essentials straight to the consumer in an easily accessible format.

Travel Insurance

EssentialTravel.co.uk offers peace of mind to hundreds of thousands of holidaymakers each year. The company's travel insurance policies are safe, secure, fully comprehensive and underwritten by White Horse Insurance Ireland Ltd.

Travel insurance policies for single trip, annual multi trip and backpacker that can be easily customised to include, winter sports, adventure sports, business and wedding cover. All policies can include cover for pre-existing medical conditions.

All customers are guaranteed access to a UK-based 24-Hour Emergency Assistance Helpline, offering worldwide multi-lingual support.

Airport Parking

EssentialTravel.co.uk can save travellers money by enabling them to pre-book airport parking online. Customers can search online for live availability and prices at 25 major UK airports.

By booking airport parking with EssentialTravel.co.uk, customers can avoid paying any hidden costs and enjoy more flexibility should they need to cancel their booking. In July 2010, the company scrapped its two per cent credit card fee completely, reduced the cancellation waiver from £0.99 to just £0.50 and swapped the £9.50 cancellation charge,

which was previously applied to customers who wished to cancel a booking that had been made without paying the cancellation waiver, for a £5.00 fee. EssentialTravel.co.uk also reduced the cancellation notice period from 48 hours before arrival to just 12.

EssentialTravel.co.uk won't be beaten on price and guarantees customers won't be able to book airport parking cheaper anywhere else.

Holidaymakers can choose from over 130 car parks at 25 UK airports including Gatwick, Manchester, Bristol and many more. The pre-booking rate can be as much as 60 per cent cheaper than the rates available on the day of travel.

Airport Hotels

EssentialTravel.co.uk can save the hassle of an early morning start by booking an airport hotel with parking. Customers can search online for real time availability and prices with a choice of over 300 hotels at 25 UK airports.

EssentialTravel.co.uk guarantees customers can't book an airport hotel cheaper. They can book a room only or an airport hotel with parking package, which includes a hotel room and airport parking. Often this can work out cheaper than just booking airport parking alone.

Airport lounges

EssentialTravel.co.uk invites holidaymakers to sit back and relax in style by booking into a VIP airport lounge. Executive airport lounge access can be booked online for both the outward and homeward ends of a journey.

Airport lounge access gives travellers the opportunity to enjoy a quiet drink and light refreshments, read newspapers or simply watch TV before they embark on their trip or between connecting flights. All of the airport lounges offer a range of complimentary soft and alcoholic drinks and snacks and there are over 160 lounges, spanning 20 UK airports, to choose from.

Car Hire

EssentialTravel.co.uk provides a comprehensive comparison of some of the leading car hire suppliers covering over 4,000 worldwide destinations. Whether customers are travelling on business or pleasure, the website clearly compares the major car hire companies in seconds.

Some of the biggest car hire companies including Holiday Autos, Sixt, Auto Europe and easyCar can be compared at the click of a button

Car Hire Excess Insurance

EssentialTravel.co.uk can insure the excess on a hire car with a daily or annual policy. Holidaymakers can travel with total peace of mind that the rented vehicle is protected for every eventuality. Great value Car Rental Excess Waiver is available to people aged 21-84 holding a valid driver's licence.

Many drivers don't realise that when they sign the car hire paperwork, they've agreed to be accountable and liable for the majority of things that could go wrong with the rental vehicle. Theft, Loss or damage to the vehicle can lead to an excess of £2,000 per incident/£3,000 per car rental agreement, increasing to \$80,000 for rentals outside of Europe.

Travel Resource

The EssentialTravel.co.uk website is a useful tool for travel news, featuring an online travel magazine, travel news pages and a travel blog. Users will find destination guides, Travel Top 10 Tips, Travel How To's, money-saving suggestions and EssentialTravel.co.uk's quirky blog that looks at the practicalities and hilarities of modern travel.

Contact

EssentialTravel.co.uk has instant confirmation booking services available on its website and a team of friendly staff can talk customers through the offered holiday essentials on 0845 803 5434. Office opening hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Press Information

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