

## **2019 General Election**

### **A summary of key tourism policies from party manifestos**

#### **Conservatives**

- An Australian-style points-based immigration system will be introduced based on skills that prioritises people who have a good grasp of English, have been law-abiding citizens in their own countries and have good education and qualifications. There will be fewer 'lower-skilled' migrants and overall numbers will come down.
- A student visa will be introduced to help universities attract talented young people and allow those students to stay on to apply for work here after they graduate.
- Charges will be enforced on those who come to the UK and use health services without contributing. The budget for the health tourism enforcement unit will also be doubled.
- A new Towns Fund will help communities to make sure their towns are safe and a pleasure to be in – it will be available initially to 100 towns.
- Business rates will be cut for small retail businesses and for local music venues, pubs and cinemas.
- A cultural capital programme of £250 million will be established to support local libraries and regional museums.
- A £150 million Community Ownership Fund will be established to encourage local takeovers of civic organisations or community assets that are under threat
- £100 billion will be made available for additional infrastructure spending – on roads, rail and other responsible, productive investments including regional rail initiatives (many of the Beeching lines will also be restored, reconnecting smaller towns)
- £1 billion will be invested to complete a fast-charging network to ensure that everyone is within 30 miles of a rapid electric vehicle charging station.
- An early consultation will be carried out about phasing out the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars, while minimising the impact on drivers and businesses.
- The new runway at Heathrow will go ahead provided that it can demonstrate that air quality and noise obligations will be met. In addition, new air traffic control technology will be introduced to cut the time aircraft spend waiting to land, reducing delays, noise nuisance and pollution. The Conservatives will also build on Britain's pioneering work in electric and low-carbon flights.
- Full fibre and gigabit capable broadband will be delivered to every home and business across the UK by 2025.
- An English Devolution White Paper will be published in 2020
- A fundamental review of business rates will be undertaken with a view to cutting the burden of tax on businesses
- The Employment Allowance for small businesses will be increased and a review of regulation undertaken to ensure it is sensible and proportionate
- The Apprenticeship Levy will be reviewed along with how the self-employed can be better supported

- A new National Skills Fund worth £3 billion will be created over the next Parliament to provide matching funding for individuals and SMEs for high-quality education and training.
- The bus network will receive investment to improve infrequent or non-existent services in the countryside, including more on-demand services.
- New National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be created
- Responsibility for corporation tax will be devolved and consideration also given to devolving responsibility for short-haul Air Passenger Duty for Northern Ireland
- Alcohol duty will be reviewed to ensure that the tax system is supporting British drink producers

Their manifesto is available to view in full [here](#).

### **Labour**

- A new £1 billion Cultural Capital Fund will be created for libraries, museums and galleries and free entry will be maintained for museums
- A new £1 billion Charter for the Arts includes £175m to reverse the decline of arts teaching and training - safeguarding future generations of creatives
- Free full fibre broadband will be delivered to every home by 2030
- A Town of Culture competition will be launched (in addition to the City of Culture competition)
- A National Investment Bank will be created to provide £250 billion of lending to invest in infrastructure, research and innovation - small and medium size businesses will be able to access this funding.
- A National Transformation Fund of £400 billion will be launched which will include substantive investment in the UK's transport system.
- Zero-hour contracts will be banned and there will be a requirement for cancelled shifts to be paid
- Four new bank holidays for the four patron saints will be introduced
- The rights of EU citizens here will be protected and those of UK citizens abroad
- Small businesses will benefit from the Apprenticeship Levy as the amount that can be transferred to non-levy-paying employers will be increased to 50% and an online matching service will be introduced
- New sales of combustion engine cars will end by 2030
- Increased aviation capacity, while not ruled out, would have to pass tests on air quality, noise pollution, climate change obligations and countryside benefits.
- New National Parks will be created alongside a revised system of other protected area designations
- Border controls will be reviewed to make them more effective.
- Business Rates will be reviewed to include the option of a land value tax on commercial landlords as an alternative.
- Free bus passes will be given to the under 25's so more young people can get out and about.
- Pubs will be listed as Assets of Community Value so community groups have the first chance to buy local pubs when they are under threat.
- A new national levy will be introduced on second homes used as holiday homes

- Councils will be given new powers to regulate short-term lets through companies such as Airbnb.

The manifesto is available to view in full [here](#).

### **Liberal Democrats**

- The status of tourism within Government will be upgraded, by creating a Department for Digital, Culture, Media, Sport and Tourism, with a designated Minister of State for Tourism.
- Local authorities will be enabled to bring in tourist levies to fund local tourism infrastructure.
- A programme of installing hyper-fast, fibre-optic broadband will be rolled out across the UK – with a particular focus on connecting rural areas, ensuring all businesses have access to superfast broadband (30Mbps download and 6Mbps upload). Small and medium-sized businesses will be prioritised.
- A new two-year visa for international students to work in the UK after graduation will be introduced and a major expansion of high-quality apprenticeships including Higher Apprenticeships, backed up by new sector-led National Colleges.
- A national skills strategy for key sectors will be developed and creative enterprise zones will be created to grow and regenerate the cultural output of areas across the UK.
- A new 'start-up allowance' will be created to help those starting a new business with their living costs in the crucial first weeks of their business
- The Future High Streets Fund will be expanded to finance the transformation of town centres
- Business Rates in England will be replaced with a Commercial Landowner Levy based solely on the land value of commercial sites rather than their entire capital value
- A 20 per cent higher minimum wage for people on zero-hour contracts will be set at times of normal demand to compensate them for the uncertainty of fluctuating hours of work
- A right to request a fixed-hours contract after 12 months for 'zero hours' and agency workers will be created
- The apprenticeship levy will be expanded into a wider 'Skills and Training Levy' to help prepare the UK's workforce for the economic challenges ahead with 25 per cent of the funds raised by the levy going into a 'Social Mobility Fund' targeted at areas with the greatest skill needs.
- Maintain free access to national museums and galleries
- Completing the coastal path, exploring a 'right to roam' for waterways and creating a new designation of National Nature Parks will all be considered
- Provision of £2billion to ensure that all private hire vehicles and new buses licensed to operate in urban areas (I presume coaches too) are ultra-low-emission or zero-emission vehicles by 2025

- Reduce the climate impact of flying by reforming the taxation of international flights to focus on those who fly the most, while reducing costs for those who take one or two international return flights per year, placing a moratorium on the development of new runways in the UK, opposing any expansion of Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted and any new airport in the Thames Estuary, and introducing a zero-carbon fuels blending requirement for domestic flights
- £4.5 billion will be allocated to restore bus routes and add new routes where there is local need including supporting rural bus services and encouraging alternatives to conventional bus services where they are not viable
- Local authorities will be allowed to increase the council tax by up to 500 per cent where homes are being bought as second homes
- A National Fund for Coastal Change will be launched, to enable local authorities to properly manage their changing coastlines.
- A £2 billion Rural Services Fund will be set up to enable the co-location of services in local hubs around existing local infrastructure.
- Tier 2 work visas will be replaced with a more flexible merit-based system

Their manifesto can be downloaded in full [here](#).

### **Scottish National Party**

- A reduction in VAT for the hospitality sector should be examined
- It should be as easy as possible for international tourists to visit Scotland
- Immigration powers should be devolved so that Scotland can have its own migration system via a "Scottish Visa"
- The Fair Work First approach should be adopted which champions the Real Living Wage and opposes exploitative zero hours contracts
- Digital connectivity needs investment including superfast broadband and 5G technology
- Legislation should be introduced to protect Scottish and UK consumers should roaming charges be reintroduced when the UK leaves the EU.
- The SNP will campaign for the UK government to bring forward plans to move to electric vehicles to match the Scottish target of 2032
- The SNP will urge the UK Government to adopt the Scottish target of being Carbon Neutral by 2040
- The UK Government should commit to improvements on the journey times between Scotland and London and improving connections to the North of England
- The number of domestic flights should be reduced in order to improve rail journey times between Edinburgh and London.

The manifesto is available to read in full [here](#).