



RICKY LEACH DIGITAL & COMMS MANAGER AT FCO IN MALAGA

[Ricky Leach](#)

Wow. So Much Mis-information! Talk about back-room lawyers.... The Emergency Travel Document looks like a regular passport but is buff coloured. It currently costs 121€ and is valid for a journey **AND BACK** if you are resident overseas and can prove your address. It is not a piece of paper with a photo - oddly that is an Emergency Passport and these days they are usually only issued when an ETD cannot be issued for technical reasons. ETDs are the normal option as they are more secure and can be read by scanners.

To apply for an ETD you go to the consulate (there is one in Malaga) with proof of your travel (both ways if you want the doc to bring you back to Spain), 1 x passport photo - not certified or signed - just a passport sized photo that you can get done at the consulate for a fiver.

The ETD will only be taken by you at the border if it is a one-way doc to the UK. There is no such thing as getting an ETD for LEAVING the UK, so if you are not planning on getting a passport there, you'll have to get a return ETD from abroad - it is the same document but with details of your return journey listed inside. You cannot change the travel dates once the ETD has been issued.

If your passport has been stolen you need a police report, if it is lost you do not. If your old passport has expired, you'll need to take it to the consulate when you apply for the ETD.

You can apply for an ETD up to five days before travel. The ETD will allow you to travel through up to five countries on each leg of your journey (i.e. 5 there and 5 back), as long as you specify the itinerary at

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the time of applying.

You can only apply in person. Children have to be present if an ETD is being applied for them and parental consent may be requested if only one parent is in attendance.

The Consulate in Malaga is open 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday BUT because it can take up to 2 hours to issue the ETD, it's best to be there before 11am; otherwise you may have to return the next day to collect it.

You can book an appointment at the consulate if you want, or turn up and wait your turn. Bookings can be made online. Go to gov.uk, search 'Madrid Embassy' and you'll see a link down the page to book online for Malaga.

If you have any doubts call 902 109 356 or 913 342 194 between 9am and 5pm.

If you have never had a British passport, it has been expired for more than 10 years or you have been refused a passport application, you will find it almost impossible to be issued an ETD. Also, you can only normally have two issued in any one year.

I think that's about it!

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