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UK Travel Alert 2026: How the easyJet Fuel Shortage Impacts Your Flights

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easyJet has not cancelled any flights due to the global jet fuel shortage — yet. But the window of safety is closing fast. CEO Kenton Jarvis warned in early April that **fuel supplies were only guaranteed for about three weeks**, and that window is now running out. On 16 April, easyJet released a trading update showing **widening losses and withdrawn full-year guidance** as the fuel crisis deepens.

The shortage is driven by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz following the Iran conflict, which has disrupted roughly **20% of the world's oil supply**. A two-week ceasefire agreed on 8 April has failed to reopen the strait, and the US has since imposed its own naval blockade, leaving fuel flows severely restricted.

Both easyJet and Ryanair have warned passengers that **delays could hit European airports from early May**, with airports in London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, and Madrid expected to feel the squeeze. Here's what easyJet passengers need to know about the fuel crisis, what it means for your summer flights, and what to do if your plans are disrupted.

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Is easyJet Cancelling Flights Because of the Fuel Shortage?

easyJet's Current Status

As of mid-April 2026, **easyJet has not announced any flight cancellations or route reductions** linked to the fuel crisis. The airline is operating its full schedule across its European network from bases including [London Gatwick](#), [London Luton](#), [London Stansted](#), [Manchester](#), [Edinburgh](#), and [Bristol](#).

However, the airline has warned that delays could affect flights departing from European airports starting the week of **4 May 2026** as jet fuel stocks run low. Ryanair has issued a similar warning.

easyJet has also confirmed it **will not add a fuel surcharge** to existing bookings. CEO Jarvis stated this clearly in a [CNN interview](#) in March 2026.

Why easyJet Is Protected — for Now

easyJet's fuel hedging gives it a buffer that many airlines don't have. For the first half of its financial year (ending March 2026), the airline had **hedged 80% of its fuel needs**. For summer 2026, it is **70% hedged at \$706 per metric ton**.

This means easyJet locked in lower fuel prices before the crisis hit, insulating it from the worst of the price spike. But the unhedged portion is now being bought at record spot prices, and that exposure grows as the summer progresses.

The Supply Crunch Window

Jarvis warned in early April that he was **“confident for a week or two, probably confident for three weeks”** about fuel supply, but beyond that, no supplier was willing to guarantee availability. That three-week window has now largely elapsed.

On 10 April, Airports Council International (ACI) Europe issued a formal warning that European airports face a **systemic jet fuel shortage within three weeks** unless the Strait of Hormuz reopens. That timeline points to late April or early May as the moment when fuel constraints could move from localised rationing to a broader regional crunch.

Major UK carriers have indicated they hold **five to six weeks' worth of fuel reserves**, but these are depleting. Ryanair's CEO Michael O'Leary has said there is a “reasonable risk” that 10% to 25% of fuel supplies could be disrupted through May and June if the conflict continues.

The Ceasefire That Didn't Fix It

On 8 April, the US and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire. The deal was supposed to include reopening the Strait of Hormuz. But Iran began controlling traffic and charging tolls exceeding \$1 million per ship, and maritime traffic remained severely constrained.

On 12 April, negotiations between the US and Iran in Islamabad collapsed. The US then declared its own naval blockade of the strait, stopping all ships from entering or leaving. The Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed, and there is no clear timeline for reopening.

Will easyJet Fares Go Up?

Prices Are Rising Across the Industry

Ticket prices across European airlines were already **up 24% year-on-year** in early March 2026, according to [NBC News](#). European jet fuel has since climbed to a record **\$1,900 per metric ton**, more than double pre-crisis levels.

easyJet's hedging absorbs much of this cost for now. But Jarvis has warned that prices will **"start feeding through to the consumer towards the back end of the summer"** as those hedges expire.

easyJet's Financial Picture

On 16 April, easyJet released a trading update revealing a **£540–560 million pre-tax loss for the first half of its financial year** (October 2025 to March 2026), up from £394 million a year earlier. The airline cited £25 million in incremental fuel costs from the Middle East crisis and noted that every \$100 movement in fuel prices adds roughly **£40 million in costs** for the second half.

easyJet has **withdrawn its full-year guidance** due to fuel costs and geopolitical uncertainty. Summer bookings are slightly below last year, with 63% of Q3 capacity sold (down 2 percentage points from 2025). The airline plans to raise fares to offset cost increases.

If You've Already Booked

Your fare is locked in. easyJet cannot retroactively add surcharges or increase the price of tickets already purchased. No matter what happens with fuel costs, the price you paid is the price you'll fly for.

If You're Booking Now

Jarvis has urged travellers to **book as early as possible** to lock in current prices before fares climb further. The longer you wait, the more likely you are to pay a premium, especially for peak summer travel in July and August.

Compare fares across airlines on [Wego](#) to find the best deals before prices rise further. Search for [flights from London](#) or your nearest UK airport to compare options.

The Wider Fuel Crisis: What's Happening Across Europe

The fuel shortage is not just an easyJet problem. It is hitting the entire European aviation industry.

Fuel rationing is already underway at several Italian airports, including [Bologna](#), [Milan Linate](#), [Venice](#), and [Treviso](#). Priority is given to ambulance flights, state flights, and flights over three hours, while short-haul flights face a supply ceiling of 2,000 litres per aircraft.

Scandinavian airline SAS has already cancelled 1,000 flights in April. Ryanair has said it may need to cancel flights and reduce capacity over the summer if the shortage continues.

The UK is particularly vulnerable. Around **60% of Britain's kerosene imports come from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait**, and national stockpiles cover roughly one month of supply. Industry analysts have estimated that 5% to 10% of UK flights could face cancellation if the strait remains closed through summer.

Your Rights if easyJet Cancels Your Flight

easyJet hasn't cancelled flights yet, but the situation could change quickly. Here's what you're entitled to under **UK261** — the UK's air passenger rights regulation —

if your easyJet flight is cancelled.

Refund or Rebooking — Your Choice

If easyJet cancels your flight, the airline **must** offer you one of the following, according to the [UK Civil Aviation Authority](#):

- **A full refund** for all unused parts of your ticket, including return legs
- **Rebooking on an alternative flight** at the earliest opportunity, at no extra cost
- **Rebooking at a later date** that suits you, subject to availability

These rights apply **regardless of the reason** for the cancellation.

Compensation

Under UK261, you may be entitled to **fixed compensation of £220 to £520** per person if your flight is cancelled with less than 14 days' notice. The amount depends on flight distance:

Flight Distance	Compensation	Typical easyJet Routes
Up to 1,500 km	£220	Amsterdam, Paris
1,500–3,500 km	£350	Malaga, Rhodes, Faro
Over 3,500 km	£520	Most easyJet routes fall under the first two bands

However, airlines can refuse compensation if the cancellation was caused by **“extraordinary circumstances”** beyond their control. A global fuel shortage driven by a geopolitical conflict could qualify — meaning **your refund and rebooking rights are guaranteed, but monetary compensation may not be.**

Care and Assistance While You Wait

If you're stranded at the airport due to a cancellation, easyJet must provide:

- **Meals and refreshments** appropriate to the waiting time

- **Hotel accommodation** and transfers if an overnight stay is needed
- **Two free phone calls, emails, or faxes** to make arrangements

How to Claim Your Refund

If easyJet cancels your flight, the airline will contact you with options. You can also manage your booking through the [Manage Bookings](#) section on easyjet.com, or submit a claim through the [easyJet compensation claims portal](#).

Under UK law, you have **6 years to submit a compensation claim** (5 years if flying from a Scottish airport).

What You Should Do Right Now

Monitor Your Flight

Disruptions could come with very little notice — potentially just days before departure. Keep your contact details up to date with easyJet and track your flight through the [Wego flight tracker](#). Check regularly, especially if you're flying from early May onward.

Book Early and Consider Flexible Fares

If you haven't booked yet, do it sooner rather than later to lock in current prices. easyJet's **FLEXI fare** allows free changes to your flight date and time within one day of the original departure (subject to fare differences), which is worth the premium during a summer of uncertainty.

Compare options across airlines using [Wego](#) — if one carrier cuts a route, another may still fly it.

Check Your Travel Insurance

Many standard travel insurance policies **exclude “acts of war”** — which is how the Iran conflict is classified. Before relying on your cover, verify it explicitly includes flight cancellations caused by conflict-related disruptions. If it doesn't, consider upgrading your policy before you travel.

Have a Backup Route

If your easyJet flight is to a destination served by multiple airports, identify alternatives now. For instance, if your flight to [Palma de Mallorca](#) or [Alicante](#) gets cut, check which other carriers fly there from a nearby UK airport. Do this research before disruptions hit.

Don't Panic-Cancel

If you cancel your easyJet booking voluntarily, you lose your passenger rights. easyJet's standard cancellation policy only allows refunds (minus a £49 fee) within 24 hours of booking. After that, you forfeit the fare. **Wait for the airline to cancel** — that's when your full refund and rebooking rights activate.

Frequently Asked Questions

▶ **Has easyJet cancelled any flights because of the fuel crisis?**

▶ **Can easyJet add a fuel surcharge to my existing booking?**

▶ **Which airports and routes are most at risk?**

▶ **Didn't the US-Iran ceasefire fix the fuel problem?**

▶ **Should I avoid booking easyJet this summer?**

▶ **How much could fares increase?**

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