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How Brexit Will Affect Americans: Cheaper travel to the UK and Europe, lower mortgage rates - but a very bumpy stock market ride

-Today Britain historically voted to leave the European Union by a very small margin of 52 percent to 48 percent

-Americans can expect an extremely bumpy stock market ride

-They can also look forward to cheaper travel to Europe and Britain

-Experts are concerned that counterterrorism efforts in Europe will wain

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Now that Britain has voted to leave the European Union in a squeaker vote giving 'Leave' the edge, Americans are probably wondering how this will all affect them.

There were 13.1 million votes having been counted in favor of leaving and 12.2 million in favor of remaining, according to [The New York Times](#). Britain will become the first country to leave the 28-member bloc.

The first noticeable difference the vote made was to plunge the British pound to a 30-year low. Currently, it will only cost \$1.34 to get one pound. And the U.S. dollar could continue to strengthen.

That's good news for Americans looking to travel to the UK this summer - or even beyond. Some experts warn the pound could lag for a decade.

Some Old Blighty attractions to take advantage of in the summer include the Portsmouth International Kite Festival, the Who playing at the Isle of Wight Festival, the Magna Carta celebration at Hedingham Castle, 200 public and private gardens open for the Open Garden Squares Weekend, and the world's tallest and longest slide opening at Olympic Park in Stratford, or the Sundance Film Festival in the West End.

Nearly ten percent of tourists in Britain last year came from the United States, according to government statistics, and Americans spent more than any other nationality, an average of 3,010

pounds, according to [People](#).

The euro has also fallen four percent in one day, now it costs \$1.09 to get one euro, making European destinations cheaper for American who might want to climb the Eiffel Tower or lounge on the beaches of Greece.

But if Europe is your destination of choice after visiting the UK, airfares could get pricey. Country hopping in Europe has always been fairly cheap thanks to discount airlines like RyanAir and EasyJet. However, with the UK now separate from Europe, new air service agreements would need to be put in place, which could ultimately mean that airfares will climb, according to [The Telegraph](#).

The big question mark is the stock market.

US markets were expected to open down 550 points on Friday morning.

About 50 percent of Americans have exposure to the markets through their 401K.

Companies listed on the S&P 500 derive 2.9 percent of their sales from Britain and 11.5 percent from all of Europe, according to FactSet, reports [The Washington Post](#).

Japan's Nikkei plummeted 8.2%. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong dropped 5.64%, according to [CNN Money](#).

'The markets have been betting on remain in the past few days, and when the first results came in, that has reversed,' Vicky Pryce, an economist and former U.K. government official, told the outlet.

'The market is looking for an an excuse, or trigger, to sell and might well get one' if Brexit voters win, says Axel Merk, chief investment officer at Merk Investments, told [USA Today](#). 'The market believes a potential Brexit is a very serious thing for risk assets.'

In the past month, London's major stock market index dropped nearly six percent before optimism about staying in the union erased the losses, according to [The Washington Post](#).

No doubt when London's markets wake up, they will have a headache. Billionaire investor George Soros says it could drop 15% to 20%, according to USA Today. This is likely to affect U.S. markets. How long it will last, however, is anyone's guess.

Experts differ on how badly Brexit will affect the American economy as a whole. At least one thinks it will not make much difference.

'I think it would be highly limited, I mean the United States is obviously a global, has global trade relations, not just with the European Union. The United States would presumably, very shortly, after Brexit, conclude every trade agreement with Great Britain and will continue to have

ordinary relations with the European Union as before,' Marian L. Tupy, a senior policy analyst at the Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity at the Cato Institute told The Daily Caller.

In the worst case scenario, there is an apocalyptic collapse of global market as everyone panics and sells off.

Investments considered a safe haven from markets, such as gold, and government bonds, and US Treasuries could climb.

If you're thinking of buying a home or refinancing, Brexit could be a good move for you.

While mortgage rates were expected to increase this year, they are instead at the lowest levels in three years as the Fed worried Brexit might become a reality.

Now that it is, those rates could plummet even lower.

Most of all, most experts agree that Britain's influence within Europe will now wane, and that isn't necessarily a good thing for America, given that Britain is the country's closest ally.

President Obama has been a proponent of staying in the Union for precisely that reason.

'Because Britain's values and institutions are so strong and so sound, we want to make sure that that influence is heard, that it's felt, that it influences how other countries think about critical issues,' he said, according to CNN.

The US and Britain routinely share intelligence, and now there is concern that America's counterterrorism influence in Europe, as well as cooperation between Europe, Britain, and America, will weaken.