

What you need to know: COVID-19 and travel bans

October 27, 2020

To control the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus, governments around the world recommend against all but essential travel to certain countries, quarantining citizens returning from affected areas and restricting non-resident arrivals. After the World Health Organization classified the outbreak as a pandemic, outright bans on travel became more common. Countries are now beginning to ease lockdown measures, including a relaxation of travel restrictions.

This report summarizes some recent travel restriction developments around the world. Click on the region below to access the relevant content.

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Algeria

On June 28, Algeria's President ordered that air, land and sea borders remain closed until further notice. Entry is limited to nationals returning on repatriation flights from abroad, and foreign nationals with diplomatic or residency visas.¹ Arriving passengers have their temperatures taken and face a compulsory 14-day quarantine in their own accommodation or in a state facility.

Egypt

On March 25, Egypt imposed a partial curfew from 7 pm to 6 am for two weeks as part of government measures to restrict the spread of COVID-19.² During these hours, all mass public and private transport were banned. On April 9, the government extended the restrictions, including the closure of airports, by a further 15 days.³ It delayed the start of the curfew until 8 pm.

By the end of June, after a curfew lasting almost three months, Egypt had started to ease many of its COVID-19 restrictions, while retaining some precautionary measures.⁴ Restaurants and cafes could reopen at 25% of seating capacity.

From September 1, Egypt introduced new travel restrictions requiring all arriving passengers above the age of 6 years to produce a negative PCR test to confirm they are free of COVID-19.⁵ The test must have been conducted within 72 hours of flight departure time. This is extended to 96 hours for passengers flying from Canada, China, Frankfurt, Japan, London, North America, Paris, South America and Thailand

¹ [Gov.UK](#), FCO, August 20, 2020

² [Ahram Online](#), March 24, 2020

³ [Middle East Eye](#), April 8, 2020

⁴ [Egypt Independent](#), June 27, 2020

⁵ [The National](#), August 26, 2020

due to the longer flight time and transit period at departure airports.⁶ Negative tests had previously only been required for non-Egyptian passengers; Egyptian citizens are now included.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia introduced travel restrictions in March 2020. On April 8, the Government of Ethiopia declared a five-month State of Emergency, enabling it to introduce a number of measures including: ⁷

- Meeting of four or more people prohibited
- Face masks mandatory in all public places
- All movements across land borders are suspended
- Public transport operating at reduced capacity

All international arriving travelers, except those transiting through Ethiopia, must quarantine for 14 days, paid for at their own expense.⁸

Gabon

The State of Emergency was lifted on May 11.⁹ Restrictions on travel within Grande Libreville have been lifted, but restrictions on travel to other points in the country remain. A daily curfew operates from 8pm to 5am.

Mask wearing is mandatory in public areas. Gatherings of more than 10 people are banned. Restaurants with terraces have been allowed to reopen, but bars remain closed.

Commercial flights are very limited and are typically announced at short notice.

Ghana

On July 27, the Ghanaian government announced a further easing, including the lifting of some restrictions on public transport and domestic flights. However, the country's borders will remain closed to international travel until further notice.¹⁰ Ghanaian nationals can still return home from abroad but face a period in quarantine after arrival.

On August 17, Ghana's President suggested that the country might reopen its borders on September 1. The Ministry of Aviation, the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority and the Ghana Airports Company have been working together with the Ministry of Health and other agencies to plan for the resumption of international flights. This may include testing every single arriving passenger. ¹¹

Kenya

On June 6 the lockdown measures preventing movement in and out of Nairobi and Mombasa were extended until July 6.¹² And there's every chance it will be extended further, according to the country's National Emergency Response Committee, as infections continue to rise.

⁶ [Egyptair](#), September 16, 2020

⁷ [UK GOV](#), FCO, August 28, 2020

⁸ [Ethiopia Online Visa](#), August 28, 2020

⁹ [UK GOV](#), FCO, August 24, 2020

¹⁰ [AS News](#), July 27, 2020

¹¹ [Xinhua News](#), August 17, 2020

¹² [The Star](#), June 24, 2020

On July 6, Kenya's president announced a phased reopening of the country after four months of COVID-19 restrictions.¹³ The ban on movement into and out of Nairobi, Mombasa and Mandera was lifted on July 7. Domestic flights were allowed to resume on July 15 and international services on August 1. However, a nationwide curfew between 9pm and 4am remained in place for a further 30 days until August 7.

At the end of July, the government extended the curfew for a further 30 days, shortened restaurant opening hours and ordered bars to stay closed indefinitely. But it stopped short of locking down the country once again.¹⁴

Mali

Having recorded its first cases of COVID-19, Mali shut its land borders from March 26.¹⁵ It also implemented an overnight curfew between 21:00 and 05:00.

To enter Mali, international travelers must present a negative COVID-19 test certificate less than 72 hours old or be tested on arrival at the airport.

Mauritius

The Government of Mauritius commenced a phased easing of travel restrictions from October 1, 2020, reopening the border to Mauritian nationals, residents and tourists travelling for long stays.¹⁶ Anyone travelling to Mauritius must possess a certificate of a negative PCR test administered not more than 7 days prior to the date of embarkation and a proof of purchase of full-board hotel accommodation, at a designated hotel for a mandatory 14-day in-room quarantine. Otherwise, they will not be allowed to board a flight. On arrival, all passengers must still submit to a PCR test, which will be repeated on days 7 and 14 of their time in the country.

Morocco

A state of emergency came into effect in Morocco on March 20, 2020. Public places were closed, and international and internal travel was suspended.¹⁷ Moroccan nationals and foreigners had to stay at home. People needed exceptional movement permits to move around the country.

From early June 2020, the government started to ease lockdown measures, with a second phase of easing starting early in July.¹⁸ International flights were suspended except for specially arranged services.

From July 27, the Government banned travel to/from some of its biggest cities, including Casablanca, Fez, Marrakech, Meknes and Tangier, to contain a surge in COVID-19 cases.¹⁹ With COVID-19 cases rising in August, the government reiterated its advice for people to wear face masks, maintain social distancing and avoid physical greetings.

¹³ [Al Jazeera](#), July 6, 2020

¹⁴ [Reuters](#), July 27, 2020

¹⁵ [The Bulletin Time](#), March 26

¹⁶ [Air Mauritius](#), September 28, 2020

¹⁷ [Morocco World News](#), March 21, 2020

¹⁸ [Morocco World News](#), August 5, 2020

¹⁹ [Reuters](#), July 27, 2020

From the beginning of October 2020, Morocco's borders reopened to international visitors.²⁰ Anyone eligible to travel to the country must provide a negative PCR and antibody test (dated no earlier than 72 hours prior to travel). They must also present either an invite issued by a Moroccan company or an accommodation booking for the duration of their stay. They may also need to complete a passenger health form online and download the Wiqaytna tracking app.²¹

Nigeria

At the end of June, Nigeria lifted a ban on interstate travel and allowed domestic flights to resume.²² Commercial flights are now possible from 14 airports: Abuja, Benin, Calabar, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Kebbi, Lagos, Port Harcourt, Owerri, Maiduguri, Sokoto, Uyo and Yola. While the government also extended a partial curfew for a further four weeks, its duration was reduced to 10pm to 4am local time.

At the end of July, the Nigerian Federal Government extended the second phase of easing lockdown measures by one week.²³ A third extension of the second phase – this time for four weeks – was announced on August 6.²⁴

Rwanda

Rwanda will reopen its airports to international flights from August 1, more than four months after services were suspended. All arriving passengers must show proof within 72 hours of a negative COVID-19 PCR test from a certified laboratory. A second PCR test must be carried out on arrival, with results expected within 24 hours. During this time, passengers must stay in a designated hotel at their own expense.

Senegal

Senegal ended its state of emergency on June 30. While land and sea borders remain closed, international flights were allowed to resume from July 15.²⁵ However, as the country was excluded from the EU's list of 15 safe third-countries, Senegal's government indicated that it would not initially reopen to travelers arriving from EU countries.²⁶

Airlines are currently not allowed to carry foreign nationals from countries that have imposed travel restrictions on arrivals from Senegal, unless they are normally resident in Senegal, diplomats, military, health professionals and other specific professional categories.²⁷ To enter Senegal, travelers must provide a negative COVID-19 test result no more than seven days old, issued and authorized in the country from which the journey started. If this is not possible, travelers must take a test on arrival, at their own cost (40,000 CFA). All arriving passengers must also submit a Public Health Passenger Locator form to border control on arrival

Sierra Leone

²⁰ [Breaking Travel News](#), October 2, 2020

²¹ [UK Gov](#), FCO

²² [Anadolu Agency](#), June 30, 2020

²³ [AS News](#), July 28, 2020

²⁴ [Africa CGTN](#), August 6, 2020

²⁵ [U.S. Embassy in Senegal](#), COVID-19 Information

²⁶ [Africa News](#), July 3, 2020

²⁷ [U.K. FCO](#), Entry into Senegal

Sierra Leone declared a three-day nationwide lockdown running from May 3 to curb the spread of COVID-19. However, it was not until July 22 that the country finally reopened its airspace to international arrivals, while land borders remain closed. To fly into Sierra Leone, travelers must obtain authorization from the Government of Sierra Leone before travel. Travelers will need proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test issued no later than 72 hours before departure, a pre-departure public health passenger locator form and proof of payment for on-arrival COVID19 tests paid for through a government portal.²⁸

South Africa

Within days of declaring a state of national disaster, South Africa announced the beginning of a three-week nationwide lockdown from March 26.²⁹ People were not allowed to leave home except to buy food, medical supplies, collect social grants and seek medical attention.³⁰

South Africa had earlier prohibited travel from a number of high-risk countries including China, Iran, Italy, South Korea, Spain, Germany, the U.K. and the U.S.

South Africa partly lifted its two-month lockdown on June 1.³¹ A move to “level 3” included an easing of restrictions on air transport operations and the reopening of trunk routes connecting Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. Airlines still need to obtain approval for new safety procedures, slots and schedules.

By the end of August 2020, South Africa had allowed domestic air travel to resume across 18 airports, with Mthatha, Hoedspruit, Phalaborwa and Margate the latest additions to this list.

South Africa partially reopened its borders to international travelers from October 1, 2020.³² The move is part of the country’s downgrading of lockdown to Level One from September 20. Travel is still restricted to and from countries considered to be high risk. On arrival in South Africa, travelers are required to present a COVID-19 free certificate dated no later than 72 hours within their date of arrival or face a period of quarantine. They will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms on arrival. Air passengers are funneled through three international airports: Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban.

South Africa has classified countries into three risk categories:³³

- High risk – those with higher COVID-19 infections and reported deaths than South Africa. Leisure travel is not permitted; business travelers must apply in writing to the minister of home affairs
- Medium risk – those with a similar level of infections and deaths to South Africa
- Low risk – those with fewer cases and deaths than South Africa

The classification of countries is reviewed every two weeks.

²⁸ [U.K. FCO](#), Sierra Leone entry rules

²⁹ [Comair](#), March 24, 2020

³⁰ [CNN](#), March 24, 2020

³¹ [Al Jazeera](#), June 1, 2020

³² [Business Travel News](#), September 18, 2020

³³ [Breaking Travel News](#), October 2, 2020

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Cambodia

From April 10, Cambodia entered a state of emergency. However, the country lifted internal travel restrictions from midnight on April 16.³⁴

Airlines including Cambodia Angkor Air, China Airlines and EVA Air have resumed flights to and from Cambodian capital Phnom Penh under strict biosecurity guidelines.³⁵ Cathay Pacific, Emirates, Thai Airways and Qatar Airways are among airlines planning to resume flights in June and July.

On May 20, Cambodia revoked its ban on arrivals from France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Spain and the U.S., which it had introduced mid-March.³⁶ All passengers (including Cambodians) must present a health certificate confirming a negative test for COVID-19 not more than 72 hours before the date of travel. A health risk assessment will also be made before entry is allowed. Foreign nationals must provide proof of insurance cover for the duration of their stay, including a minimum medical coverage of \$50,000.

China

Having made major progress in its battle against the spread of COVID-19, China tried to stop re-importing the virus. In the middle of March, the number of new daily COVID-19 cases had fallen below 30 on some days, but then headed back above 100 as Chinese travelers returned home from abroad.

Concerns about a second wave of imported cases saw screening and quarantine increased for international travelers. All arrivals in Beijing were quarantined for 14 days, at their own expense, in hotels selected by the government.

China has been steadily easing domestic travel restrictions, with Wuhan ending a 76-day lockdown on April 8.³⁷

From June 8, Chinese authorities allowed foreign airlines to resume services, but only operating one flight per week to a Chinese city of their choice. All airlines can increase frequencies to two per week, if there are no arriving passengers testing positive for COVID-19 for three consecutive weeks. Any airline bringing in up to five infected passengers must suspend their Chinese operations for one week; up to 10 passengers, and the suspension lasts for a month.

Entry is suspended for foreign nationals with visas issued before March 27. Visas can be requested for travel for necessary economic, trade, scientific or technological activities. All overseas arrivals (including transit passengers) are subject to health checks (including COVID-19 tests), followed by a centralized 14-day quarantine.

Hong Kong

Despite recording its first COVID-19 cases in late January 2020, Hong Kong managed to keep infection rates low and avoid many of the extreme lockdown measures introduced in other countries. It experienced a second wave in March as returning students and residents created an imported spike in infections. In response, Hong Kong introduced strict border controls, COVID-19 tests on arrival and a 14-

³⁴ [Khmer Times](#), April 22, 2020

³⁵ [Khmer Times](#), May 5, 2020

³⁶ [Agence Kampuchea Presse](#), May 20, 2020

³⁷ [CNN](#), April 8, 2020

day quarantine. Electronic bracelets even tracked the movement of new arrivals. The widespread use of masks and social distancing measures kept COVID-19 in check. These measures were eased during June.

From the end of July, however, Hong Kong entered a third wave, regularly reporting more than 100 new cases a day.³⁸ The government responded by making mask wearing mandatory in public and urging people to stay at home as much as possible.³⁹ With the local situation causing concern, the Hong Kong Government requires all government employees, except those providing emergency and essential public services, to work from home until at least August 16.⁴⁰ The government has also appealed to private companies to allow their staff to work from home as far as is possible.

All inbound passengers must submit online a Health & Quarantine Information Declaration before boarding their flight.⁴¹ This produces a QR code – valid for 48 hours – which must be presented to Department of Health staff on arrival in Hong Kong. At this point, passengers are required to provide a deep throat saliva sample for COVID-19 testing at the Temporary Specimen Collection Centre of the Department of Health. Because of the time it takes for test results, any passengers arriving after noon will be held overnight in the Holding Centre for Test Result. Passengers with negative test results will be required to quarantine for 14 days in a hotel, home or other location. Those with a positive result will be placed under compulsory quarantine.

Any passenger arriving in Hong Kong, who, during the previous 14 days, has spent time in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, The Philippines, South Africa or the U.S., must provide the local authorities with four documents:⁴²

- Certificate issued by a medical institution or laboratory confirming a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of departure
- Original report of the test, clearly confirming the identity of the traveler
- A letter issued by a government authority confirming that the medical center or laboratory is approved
- Proof of a room reservation in a Hong Kong hotel for not less than 14 days starting from day of arrival

Before arriving in Hong Kong, airlines must confirm to the Department of Health that affected passengers have presented the above documentary proof at departure. Even then, passengers flying from these high risk countries will be required to have deep throat saliva samples collected on arrival in Hong Kong. After a negative result, they must still quarantine in a hotel for 14 days.

Since June 2020, Hong Kong has been approaching countries about the possibility of creating travel bubbles. It has held talks with countries including Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand and Vietnam. During October 2020, Hong Kong reached an in-principle agreement with Singapore on an air travel bubble. Once implemented, travelers will need to provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test and will not be subject to any quarantine or stay-home orders. They will also need to travel on dedicated flights, not open to transit passengers or those not meeting the air travel bubble requirements.

³⁸ [BBC](#), July 31, 2020

³⁹ [The Guardian](#), July 27, 2020

⁴⁰ [News.gov.hk](#), August 6, 2020

⁴¹ [Government](#) of Hong Kong SAR

⁴² [Government](#) of Hong Kong SAR

India

From March 19, India prohibited airline passengers from EU member states, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, the U.K. and Turkey from entering the country until March 31. Passengers arriving from or transiting through the U.A.E., Qatar, Oman and Kuwait had to enter a 14-day quarantine period. The Indian government also announced a ban on all international flights, running from March 22 until the end of the month.⁴³

From March 25, India suspended all domestic passenger flights as part of a national lockdown. It initially ran until the end of April 14, but it was extended until at least May 3.⁴⁴ The government started to ease some restrictions away from infection hotspots. As a result of the longer lockdown, India's civil aviation authority extended the suspension of all air services until May 3.

On May 1, the lockdown was extended for a further two weeks until May 18.⁴⁵ While the government subsequently extended the lockdown until the end of May, it allowed domestic flights to resume from May 25. Airlines were initially only allowed to operate one-third of their schedules, rebuilding capacity in a calibrated manner. Travel is subject to a number of conditions and restrictions including:⁴⁶

- Passengers should arrive at the airport two hours before departure
- Passengers will only be allowed into the terminal after passing a thermal screening and must have the government's Aarogya Set COVID-19 contact tracing app on their mobile phones.
- Passengers must check in online; there will be no physical check-in at airports. They must also use their e-boarding pass to board the aircraft
- Passengers can check in only one item of baggage
- All passengers must wear masks throughout the journey
- Airlines must provide protection kits (three layered surgical masks, face shield and sanitizer) to every passenger
- Whenever interacting with passengers, airport and airline staff will be protected by screens or face shields
- Passengers must board the aircraft in batches of 10, and only after a temperature check
- After landing, passengers will disembark the aircraft in batches, sequentially
- Baggage must be sanitized, and baggage trolleys will not be allowed
- Social distancing of at least one meter at entry gates, screening zones and in the terminals
- Airlines will need to keep seats free onboard to ensure physical distancing
- There will be no meal service on board, and passengers cannot eat their own food
- Cabin crew must wear protective gear – a full body gown, shoe cover, gloves, etc.

On July 3, India's Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) extended the ban on scheduled international passenger flights until July 31. This was subsequently extended until August 31.⁴⁷ The government will allow some international travel via travel bubble agreements signed with France, Germany, the Maldives, Qatar, the U.K. and the U.S. ⁴⁸ Under such arrangements, airlines from both countries will be able to operate to and from India. This has allowed United Airlines to restart flights to Delhi from Newark

⁴³ [Channel News Asia](#), March 20, 2020

⁴⁴ [Al Jazeera](#), April 14, 2020

⁴⁵ [BBC](#), May 1, 2020

⁴⁶ Ministry of Civil Aviation, May 21, 2020

⁴⁷ [Live Mint](#), August 2, 2020

⁴⁸ [Times of India](#), July 3, 2020

and San Francisco during the second half of July, and Air France from Paris to Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai over the same period.

The Indian government has also submitted proposals to neighboring countries, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, with a view to creating regional “air bubbles.” And it’s negotiating more arrangements with governments in Australia, Bahrain, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand. Such deals, if agreed, many initially only cover repatriation flights.

As well as the ban on regular international commercial flights, all land borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal are closed, except for returning Indian nationals. From August 8, Indian residents returning from abroad must make an online self-declaration at least 72 hours before travel. They must also commit to a mandatory 14-day quarantine, comprising seven days paid institutional quarantine at their own costs and seven days isolation at home.⁴⁹ Institutional quarantine may be avoided by submitting a negative RTPCR test report on arrival.

Indonesia

To curb the spread of COVID-19, foreign visitors are restricted from entering or transiting through Indonesian territory.⁵⁰ Exemptions apply to airline and maritime crews, diplomats, people involved in medical or essential work, and holders of temporary and permanent stay permits. All Indonesians returning to the country must hold a health alert card issued by their departure country and undertake a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine at home.

During March and most of April, Indonesia’s borders, international airports and seaports remained open for foreign travelers leaving the country, but they were closed to transiting passengers. Indonesia also closed its land borders with Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

To contain the spread of COVID-19, Indonesia banned all scheduled and charter air and sea travel to both domestic and international destinations from April 24 until June 1.⁵¹ The country has adopted a zoning system, designating areas as red, amber and green zones. Red zones are considered hotspots, while an easing of the lockdown conditions will be allowed in the other zones.

On May 25, a national taskforce extended a ban on intercity travel until at least June 7. Workers in healthcare, defense and security, and essential businesses were excluded.

Since the end of June, domestic travelers have had to carry a medical document certifying they are free from COVID-19 valid for 14 days from departure.⁵² The requirement applies to travel by air, sea or land. Travelers must also download and activate the Peduli Lindungi app.

International travelers arriving in Indonesia must undertake a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, unless possessing a test certificate from the departure country. If tested on arrival, travelers must quarantine while waiting for the test results. And they must download the Peduli Lindungi app.

⁴⁹ [Live Mint](#), August 2, 2020

⁵⁰ [Directorate General of Immigration](#), March 31, 2020

⁵¹ [Reuters](#), April 23, 2020

⁵² [The Jakarta Post](#), June 30, 2020

On September 14, 2020, Jakarta was placed in partial lockdown for a second time.⁵³ Effective for two weeks, tightened social restrictions mean businesses, shopping centers and places of worship can only operate at a limited capacity, while dining at restaurants and cafes is not allowed. During October, the city required asymptomatic COVID-19 patients to self-isolate for ten days in government-run isolation centers. Patients wishing to self-isolate elsewhere, e.g. at home, must pass a feasibility test performed by local health officials.

At the end of August, the governments of Indonesia and Singapore announced the start of discussions over a “green lane” for essential travel between the two countries. Indonesia already has similar arrangements in place with China, South Korea and the U.A.E. To enable the operation of the travel corridor (TCA), during October 2020, Indonesia’s Law and Human Rights Ministry intends to revise its temporary ban on foreigners entering the country.⁵⁴ From October 15, the government will launch an electronic visa service for essential travelers looking to visit Indonesia. It will also need to introduce COVID-19 screening measures at key airports and seaports, including Jakarta and Batam.⁵⁵

Japan

On March 9, Japan suspended visa or visa waivers for arrivals from China, Hong Kong, Macau and South Korea. All arrivals from these countries, including Japanese nationals, were quarantined for 14 days.

Following a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases, on April 7, Japan declared a month-long state of emergency.⁵⁶ It was intended to last until May 6 and initially applied to Tokyo and six other prefectures; Chiba, Kanagawa, Saitama, Osaka, Hyogo and Fukuoka. Prefectural governors can call on residents to stay at home and for non-essential businesses to close. They relied on self-restraint rather than penalties to encourage people to keep their travel to a minimum.

On May 25, Japan ended its state of emergency, removing restrictions on economic activity in Tokyo and the Chiba, Kanagawa, Saitama and Hokkaido prefectures.⁵⁷ The government has called on Japanese people to adopt a new lifestyle, which involves wearing face masks, maintaining social distancing and working from home. The government reassesses the situation every three weeks, relaxing restrictions accordingly. People were asked to refrain from crossing prefectural borders during May, with travel restrictions relaxed in stages through June 19.

Japan is easing travel restrictions by allowing entry by up to 250 business travelers daily from Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Vietnam. They must provide detail of their itineraries, including hotel and places being visited.⁵⁸ Entry to Japan is still generally denied for any non-Japanese nationals who, in the previous 14 days, have visited any of the following countries:⁵⁹

- Africa – Algeria, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Sao Tome, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan

⁵³ [Reuters](#), September 14, 2020

⁵⁴ [The Jakarta Post](#), October 2, 2020

⁵⁵ [The Jakarta Post](#), October 2, 2020

⁵⁶ [The Guardian](#), April 7, 2020

⁵⁷ [Kyodo News](#), May 26, 2020

⁵⁸ Japan Times

⁵⁹ [Japan.Travel](#), August 7, 2020

- Asia – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, HongKong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam
- Europe – Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, U.K., Vatican City
- Middle East – Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, U.A.E.
- North America – Canada, U.S.
- Southwest Pacific – Australia, New Zealand

Most businesses are now open in Japan, with some restrictions on large mass gatherings. Measures encouraging social distancing, wearing masks in public, avoiding closed spaces and exercising other basic precautions remain in place. The government will strengthen controls in the event of renewed outbreaks.⁶⁰

Malaysia

Starting March 18, 2020, Malaysia's government placed the country on a movement control order until March 31.⁶¹ Under the order, foreign travelers were barred from entering the country, while Malaysian citizens could not travel abroad. Anyone returning from abroad had to undergo a health inspection and a 14-day self-quarantine. Before the end of March, the government extended the lockdown for a further two weeks until April 14.⁶² On April 10, it subsequently extended the lockdown for a further two weeks through April 28, and then again until May 12.⁶³

By May 10, the government announced a further four-week extension of the lockdown until June 9, continuing the ban on international travel.⁶⁴ In a bid to revive the economy, the government allowed most businesses to reopen from May 4.

After a 3-month lockdown, on June 10, 2020, Malaysia entered a recovery phase lasting until the end of August.⁶⁵ Officials warned restrictions would be re-imposed if infections increased. Malaysians could travel for domestic holidays, but nightclubs, pubs and theme parks remained closed.

From September 7, 2020, Malaysia introduced a temporary travel ban on arrivals from several countries including Brazil, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the U.K. and U.S.⁶⁶ The list of countries will be reviewed on a weekly basis. The restrictions will affect permanent residents, participants in the Malaysia My Second Home program, expatriates and professional visit passholders, spouses of Malaysian citizens and students. All foreign tourists have been barred from the country since March 2020.

⁶⁰ [U.K. FCO](#), Japan

⁶¹ [Business Traveller](#), March 17, 2020

⁶² [Bangkok Post](#), March 25, 2020

⁶³ [Bangkok Post](#), April 10, 2020

⁶⁴ [Jakarta Post](#), May 10, 2020

⁶⁵ [The Hindu](#), June 10, 2020

On October 14, 2020, the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, and Selangor, were placed under a conditional movement control order (CMCO) lasting at least until November 9, 2020.⁶⁷ The CMCO effectively amounts to a lockdown on movement except for essential purposes, including commuting for work.

Maldives

The Maldives reopened its borders to international tourists on July 15.⁶⁸ But guest houses and hotels located on inhabited islands must wait until August 1 before reopening. Prior to entering the Maldives, tourists will **not** be required to produce a certificate or negative test result for COVID-19. There will be no need for tourists without symptoms to quarantine.

Myanmar

Myanmar's response to COVID-19 began on February 28 with a ban on mass gatherings.⁶⁹ By March 15, the government restricted entry from seven high-risk countries, expanding the list on March 20 to 17 countries, while introducing a 14-day quarantine for any arrivals. Quarantine was extended to arrivals from all countries from March 24. By March 31, Myanmar had banned entry from all countries, including arrivals across its land borders.

On April 11, the Myanmar government increased the quarantine period from 14 to 21 days.

A lockdown and stay-at-home order was introduced across seven townships in Yangon region on April 18. On May 13, the partial lockdown applied to 10 townships, and was extended until further notice.⁷⁰ But the measures had been relaxed in most townships by May 28.

Under the partial lockdown, residents must stay at home except to go to work. Only one person per household may leave the house to buy food and essentials. No one is allowed to travel in or out of the townships except to go to work.

From May 14, anyone failing to wear a mask when outside or gathering in a group of more than four people faces legal action.

On May 28, the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 extended existing virus prevention measures until June 15.⁷¹ It's not clear if this included the ban on international flights, which had been due to expire on May 31. However, Myanmar's airlines did progressively resume domestic flights during May. At the same time the Central Committee eased some lockdown restrictions, allowing gatherings of more than five people at government departments, organizations, companies, factories and workshops, private and monastic schools, restaurants where dining is permitted, and where essential jobs are performed.

⁶⁷ [Malay Mail](#), October 26, 2020

⁶⁸ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 25, 2020

⁶⁹ [Ministry of Health & Sports](#), COVID-19 Situation Report 54

⁷⁰ [The Irrawaddy](#), May 13, 2020

⁷¹ [Myanmar Times](#), May 28, 2020

Since June 1, highway buses have been allowed to operate from Mandalay to other regions and states, although passengers must social distance onboard.⁷² Tea shops and restaurants in administrative capital Nay Pyi Taw can now offer dine-in services.⁷³ But preschools remain closed until June 15.

Pakistan

Pakistan was placed in lockdown on March 24. The Pakistani government imposed a series of extensions since then. During May, the country eased into a “smart lockdown,” with targeted tracking and tracing of cases, while allowing some industrial and commercial activities to resume under safety guidelines.

The easing of the lockdown continued, with the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCCA) allowing the resumption of domestic flights from May 16. But it extended the ban on international flights until May 31.⁷⁴ The PCCA now allows limited domestic flights between Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta. These operate under strict procedures, ensuring disinfection, sanitizing, social distancing and safety for airline crew and passengers.

Pakistan’s National Coordination Committee (NDC) decided the easing of lockdown measures can continue, allowing dine-in restaurants, exhibition centers and beauty salons to reopen on August 10.⁷⁵ All restrictions on air travel, however, will remain in place until October 1.

Philippines

The Filipino government introduced a travel ban for all foreign nationals arriving from countries recording local transmissions of COVID-19 coronavirus. It also implemented a short-term ban on domestic air travel from March 17 until April 14. A lockdown in Manila and other high-risk areas was extended until May 15.⁷⁶

On May 28, community quarantine was downgraded to general community quarantine. The move allowed the country’s airlines to resume flights from June 1.

On August 7, the government placed more than 27 million people living in and around Manila and in four surrounding provinces on the island of Luzon into lockdown until at least August 15 after a surge in COVID-19 infections.⁷⁷ The lockdown has seen the return of stay-at-home orders (except for buying essential goods and exercising outdoors), the suspension of public transport (including Manila’s Jeepneys, which many Filipinos rely on for low-cost commutes) and the grounding of domestic flights.

Singapore

From March 20, all arriving travelers were issued a 14-day Stay Home Notice (SHN).⁷⁸ They had to prove where they intended to stay during quarantine. This could be a hotel booking for the entire period or a place of residence. From April 9, all travelers returning to Singapore (Singapore citizens, permanent

⁷² [Myanmar Times](#), June 1, 2020

⁷³ [Myanmar Times](#), June 1, 2020

⁷⁴ [Economic Times](#), May 16, 2020

⁷⁵ [The News](#), August 7, 2020

⁷⁶ [The Thaiger](#), April 28, 2020

⁷⁷ [The Diplomat](#), August 7, 2020

⁷⁸ [Singapore Tourism Board](#), March 18, 2020

residents and long-term pass holders) had to serve their SHN in government-designated facilities. The cost of staying in these facilities was paid for by the Government of Singapore.⁷⁹

All short-term visitors, who are nationals of any ASEAN country, must submit information on their health to the local Singapore Overseas Mission before traveling. The submission must be approved by Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) pre-trip.

On April 3, MOH announced a "circuit breaker" to minimize the further spread of COVID-19.⁸⁰ This amounted to an elevated set of safe distancing measures, including the closure from April 7 until May 4 of many workplaces, schools, recreation venues and non-essential shops.

On June 2, Singapore exited the Circuit Breaker and embarked on Phase One of its re-opening, with more than three-quarters of the economy resuming.⁸¹⁸² Singapore's Changi Airport gradually allowed transit passengers. Stringent measures remained to separate them from other passengers. Airport staff must wear personal protective equipment, and social distancing and temperature checks will continue.

Singapore has separately agreed a fast lane arrangement with China to restore essential business and official travel between the two countries from June 8. It initially allows travel between Singapore and six Chinese provinces and municipalities: Chongqing, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Tianjin and Zhejiang. The arrangement will be gradually expanded to include other Chinese regions. Travel is subject to multiple layers of approvals and health screenings before departure and after arrival.

While Singapore started to reopen its border to international travel, arriving travelers must bear the cost of mandatory COVID-19 testing and quarantine measures. The test costs up to S\$200 (US\$144), while staying at a dedicated "stay-home notice" facility during quarantine costs S\$2,000.

From June 18, travelers, who have spent 14 days prior to entering Singapore in Australia (subsequently excluding the state of Victoria), Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, mainland China, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam, are no longer required to serve stay-home notices at dedicated facilities. They must still take a compulsory COVID-19 test, but they may now serve stay home notices at home.⁸³ On August 29, South Korea was removed from this list of low-risk countries, with arrivals now required to serve a mandatory quarantine at dedicated facilities.

Short-term visitors to Singapore are still not allowed, except those with special prior approval or entering under "green lane" or "fast lane" arrangements, as Singapore has agreed with China.

On June 19, Singapore moved into the second phase of its reopening, with most activities allowed to resume with safe distancing and mask wearing.⁸⁴ The wearing of face masks is compulsory for everyone when outside their place of residence.⁸⁵ Visits to any shops and services must be recorded through a Safe Entry app or by signing in on entry.

⁷⁹ [Immigration and Checkpoints Authority](#), Singapore,

⁸⁰ [Ministry of Health](#), Singapore, April 3, 2020

⁸¹ [Ministry of Health](#), Singapore, May 19, 2020

⁸² [Ministry of Health](#), Singapore, May 28, 2020

⁸³ [Hotels Mag](#), June 23, 2020

⁸⁴ [Straits Times](#), June 18, 2020

At the end of June, Singapore agreed to work with Malaysia to enable the gradual and phased resumption of cross-border travel between the two countries.⁸⁶ They agreed to establish a Reciprocal Green Lane (RGL) and a Periodic Commuting Arrangement (PCA) to address the needs to different groups of travelers. The RGL will enable travel for essential business and official purposes. The PCA will allow residents with long-term immigration passes for work purposes in the other country to periodically return to their home countries for short-term home leave. Singapore and Malaysia are now working on the operational details.

As it looks to reinstate flights to Europe, Singapore's civil aviation authority is working with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) on COVID-19-related aviation health measures to ensure a harmonized approach.⁸⁷ Singapore will sign up to EASA's COVID-19 protocol, which sets out recommendations for airlines and airports to follow to minimize the risk of transmission.

From September 8, 2020, Singapore allowed entry from Brunei and New Zealand without a 14-day quarantine. Instead travelers must take a COVID-19 test on arrival at the airport, provided they had been in either Brunei or New Zealand in the previous 14 consecutive days. Entry will only be granted after a negative test result. Anyone needing medical treatment will have to bear the costs themselves. Before travel, non-Singaporeans must also apply for an air travel pass between seven and 30 days before entering Singapore. This is not required by returning Singapore citizens, permanent residents and long-term visit pass holders.

Singapore has also halved the quarantine period to seven days, followed by a COVID-19 test, for arrivals from Australia (except the state of Victoria), mainland China, Macau, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

At the end of August, the governments of Singapore and Indonesia announced the start of discussions over a "green lane" for essential travel between the two countries. Singapore already has similar arrangements in place with China and Malaysia.

From October 8, Singapore lifted border restrictions for visitors from Vietnam and Australia, except the state of Victoria. Singapore believes the risks of importing the virus from these two countries is low. From October 1, eligible travelers apply for an Air Travel Pass (ATP). On arrival in Singapore, they must take a COVID-19 test, requiring a negative result to enter the country.

The ATP has single entry validity and is a mandatory document for short-term foreign visitors from approved countries or regions. A Safe Travel Pass is required by foreign travelers from approved countries or regions seeking essential business and official travel to Singapore.

During October 2020, Singapore reached an in-principle agreement with Hong Kong on an air travel bubble. Once implemented, travelers will need to provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test and will not be subject to any quarantine or stay-home orders. They will also need to travel on dedicated flights, not open to transit passengers or those not meeting the air travel bubble requirements.

South Korea

In response to Japan's suspension of visas for South Korean tourists, on March 9, South Korea's ministry of foreign affairs increased its travel alert to Japan to level 2, advising citizens to reconsider travel. At the

⁸⁶ [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#), Singapore, June 27, 2020

⁸⁷ Cirium, July 22, 2020

same time, it stopped issuing 90-day tourism visa waivers for Japanese travelers and cancelled all visas already issued.

On April 8, South Korea's government temporarily suspended visa waivers for citizens of countries that imposed travel bans on South Koreans.⁸⁸ The move affected travelers from at least 88 countries, including Australia, Canada, France and Russia. The government wanted to retain the country's openness but decided to strengthen travel restrictions under the principles of reciprocity, which may complicate the process of lifting them in the future. It also planned to impose restrictions on foreigners traveling to South Korea for non-essential visits.

Today (August 2020), all arrivals, regardless of nationality and length of stay, must be tested for COVID-19 and undergo a 14-day quarantine at a government facility.⁸⁹ Transit passengers will have their temperatures checked, while those with symptoms will be subject to a COVID-19 test and hospitalization if found to be positive.

Sri Lanka

From midnight local time (18:30 GMT) on March 16, people arriving from the U.K. or transiting through it were banned from entering Sri Lanka. On March 19, the Sri Lankan Government extended the ban to everyone traveling to the country.⁹⁰ The ban initially ran until midnight (local time) on April 7, but was then extended until further notice.⁹¹ Passengers could still depart from or transit through Colombo airport, although transit times were restricted to not more than six hours.

Sri Lanka reversed plans to end its March 20-imposed lockdown on April 27, extending the measures until after May 4.⁹² The country then entered a two-month gradual easing, finally lifting the nationwide lockdown on June 28.⁹³ Authorities had planned to reopen Sri Lanka's border to international travel on August 1, but delayed this indefinitely following a spike in COVID-19 infections.⁹⁴

Taiwan

Taiwan introduced a ban on foreign arrivals from March 19. Exceptions were made for foreign residents, as well as travelers on diplomatic or official business, but they are subject to a 14-day self-quarantine upon arrival. On March 24, Taiwan applied the ban to transiting passengers as well and extended its duration from April 7 until April 30.⁹⁵

From June 7, Taiwan started to ease some restrictions, lifting limits on the number of people in public gatherings, and removing social distancing seating arrangements on trains and in entertainment venues were removed, although people were still required to wear masks.⁹⁶

⁸⁸ [Jakarta Post](#), April 8, 2020

⁸⁹ [U.K. FCO](#), South Korea

⁹⁰ [Malaysia Airlines](#), March 18, 2020

⁹¹ [SriLankan Airlines](#), March 29, 2020

⁹² [Gulf News](#), April 26, 2020

⁹³ [The Hindu](#), June 28, 2020

⁹⁴ [TTG Asia](#), July 14, 2020

⁹⁵ [Business Traveller](#), April 2, 2020

⁹⁶ [The Diplomat](#), June 5, 2020

Thailand

Thailand initially suspended its visa exemption policy for travelers from Hong Kong, Italy and South Korea. Visa-on-arrival was also stopped for 18 other countries: Bulgaria, Bhutan, China, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Malta, Mexico, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu.⁹⁷

On March 24, Thailand's government approved a one-month state of emergency from March 26, allowing it to impose stricter measures to control COVID-19.⁹⁸ The government can implement curfews, censor the media, disperse gatherings and deploy the military. At the end of June, Thailand extended its national state of emergency by a further month to July 31.

A ban on international flights has been subject to a series of extensions. The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) extended the ban from its April 30 expiry until the end of May.⁹⁹ By May 16, the ban was extended once again until June 30. Although the situation in Thailand is improving, there are concerns about a rise in COVID-19 cases in neighboring countries.

Thailand finally eased its ban on international passenger flights to the country from July 1.¹⁰⁰ The CAAT now permits international flights to operate to Thailand carrying 11 permitted categories of passenger. These include returning Thai nationals (and any non-Thai close relatives), non-Thai nationals with a valid certificate of residence or work permit, crew members, non-Thai national students or those in need of medical treatment. The CAAT makes no reference to transiting passengers or when scheduled international passenger flights can fully resume.

Vietnam

From March 15, Vietnam refused entry to foreign nationals if during the previous 14 days they had been to the U.K. or any Schengen country, even in transit. Three days later Vietnam stopped issuing new visas to all foreign travelers.¹⁰¹ The restriction applied to all arrivals from all countries and territories, except travelers eligible for visa waivers, including overseas Vietnamese and people entering the country for special reasons, such as experts and highly skilled workers. Anyone still allowed to enter the country must present an official document confirming they are free of COVID-19 coronavirus.

The suspension did not apply to diplomats and government officials. Any traveler arriving from the U.S., Europe and Southeast Asia was sent to medical camps for a 14-day quarantine.

As a two-week long nationwide lockdown ended on April 16, the Vietnamese government extended the restrictions, but only for 12 "high-risk" cities and provinces from a total of 63.¹⁰² The easing enabled local airlines VietJet and Vietnam Airlines to resume some domestic flights.¹⁰³ But they had to ensure passengers sit one meter apart and collect health declarations, check body temperatures, insist passengers wear face masks and limit talking and eating.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁷ [Independent](#), March 15, 2020

⁹⁸ [ABC News](#), March 24

⁹⁹ [Bangkok Post](#), April 27, 2020

¹⁰⁰ [Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand](#), June 30, 2020

¹⁰¹ [VN Express](#), March 17, 2020

¹⁰² [Straits Times](#), April 17, 2020

¹⁰³ [Reuters](#), April 16, 2020

¹⁰⁴ [VN Express](#), April 29, 2020

Late in July, after recording its first community infection since April, Vietnam re-imposed a number of disease prevention measures. Social distancing measures were introduced from July 28 for 15 days in the central city of Da Nang, where mass public events were also suspended.¹⁰⁵¹⁰⁶ All flights, passengers buses, taxis and train services to/from Da Nang were suspended. Wearing masks in public places is compulsory, and public gatherings of more than 30 people are banned. Da Nang city authorities decided to test all residents, including foreigners. Anyone suspected of coming into contact with an infected person had to quarantine in a government center for a minimum of 14 days.¹⁰⁷ Anyone testing positive will be tested at least five times and will only be released from hospital after three consecutive negative results. The 14-day quarantine then follows.

Elsewhere in the country, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City closed non-essential businesses, such as bars and nightclubs, until further notice. Gatherings of more than 30 people were also banned. Provincial authorities in Quang Nam and Phu Yen closed tourist attractions, while social distancing measures were introduced in Hoi An and Dak Lak province.

From September 18, Vietnam restored international air services to several Asian destinations.¹⁰⁸ Only Vietnamese nationals, diplomats, experts, managers, skilled workers, investors and their families may travel, but flights are not yet available for tourists. Weekly flights will connect Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to destinations in China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Passengers must prove a negative COVID-19 result from a test no more than five days before departure. When returning to Vietnam, they will be tested and placed under quarantine.

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On March 18, EU leaders agreed to ban travelers from outside the bloc for 30 days with immediate effect.¹⁰⁹ It prevented all non-EU nationals from visiting the EU, except long-term residents, family members of EU nationals and diplomats, cross-border and healthcare workers, and people transporting goods. Although they are not EU members, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland were expected to apply the ban, too.¹¹⁰ The U.K. and Ireland were also invited to join the program.

In early June, the European Commission called on member states to lift all border restrictions (within the EU/Schengen Area) by the end of June.¹¹¹ This relaxation came into effect from June 15.

European Union Member States approved a list of 15 non-member countries, from which residents could travel to the EU from July 1, 2020 even for non-essential purposes.¹¹² The original list comprised: Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay, with China subject to confirmation. Travelers from these countries must

¹⁰⁵ [Vietnam Briefing](#), August 7, 2020

¹⁰⁶ [The Guardian](#), July 27, 2020

¹⁰⁷ [U.K. FCO](#), Foreign travel advice, Vietnam

¹⁰⁸ [AP News](#), September 16, 2020

¹⁰⁹ [BBC](#), March 18, 2020

¹¹⁰ [Breaking Travel News](#), March 18, 2020

¹¹¹ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 5, 2020

still check with their destination country, as individual member states can decide to exclude some countries from the list. For example, Greece has barred residents of Serbia.

On July 16, the European Union Council updated the list of third-countries ranked as epidemiologically safe, removing Montenegro and Serbia.¹¹³ In its second review, on July 31, the EU removed Algeria, reducing the list of safe third countries to 11, with China still subject to confirmation of reciprocity.¹¹⁴ On October 22, the EU Council added Singapore to the list of safe countries, but it removed Canada, Georgia and Tunisia, so that its approved list now comprises just nine countries: Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Uruguay and China (still subject to confirmation).¹¹⁵ A ban remains in place for arrivals from the U.S., Brazil and Russia.¹¹⁶

EU adopts Common Approach to travel restrictions

On October 13, 2020, the EU Council approved proposals for coordinating measures restricting free movement in the EU relating to COVID-19.¹¹⁷¹¹⁸ This will result in common criteria governing travel across the EU during the pandemic, ensuring freedom of movement for EU citizens, increase transparency and avoid fragmentation and disruption of travel services. Rather than unilaterally closing borders, member states will now work together in a coordinated approach.

The Common Approach will include:

- A single set of criteria to assess the COVID-19 infection risk in each country and region:
 - Notification rate - number of tests per 100,000 population over 14 days
 - Test positivity rate - percentage of positive tests over past 7 days
 - Testing rate - number of new cases per 100,000 population in the last 14 days
 - Member states must provide data to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
- Common color mapping of risk areas in the EU territory (including Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway):
 - Green (safe to travel to) – notification rate less than 25, test positivity rate less than 4%
 - Orange – notification rate less than 50 but test positivity rate 4% or more, or, if notification rate is in the 25-150 range but test positivity rate is less than 4%
 - Red (high risk) – notification rate is 50 or more and test positivity rate is 4% or more, or if the notification rate is above 150
 - Grey – countries with insufficient information or if the testing rate is 300 or less

All 27 EU member states are obliged to comply with the new approach and permit entry for all travelers from other EU countries without discrimination. Travelers from green areas will face no restrictions; those from orange and red areas could be required to undergo quarantine/self-isolation, or COVID-19 testing prior to or on arrival. It is up to individual member states to decide on the restrictions applied to travelers arriving from orange, red or grey countries. Information on which member states apply which measures can be found in the Re-open EU website.¹¹⁹

¹¹³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 20, 2020

¹¹⁴ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 31, 2020

¹¹⁵ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 23, 2020

¹¹⁶ [Travel Agent Central](#), June 23, 2020

¹¹⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 13, 2020

¹¹⁸ [European Commission](#), A common approach to travel measures in the EU

¹¹⁹ [Re-open EU](#)

With the scheme's introduction from October 13, 2020, EU countries (plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland) were assigned the following risk color codes:

- Green: Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden
- Orange: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland
- Red: Hungary
- Grey: San Marino

Austria

During May, Austria entered a period of gradual and monitored reopening.¹²⁰ Restaurants and museums reopened on May 15, with accommodation and recreation following on May 29. Cross-border travel resumed on June 15, when the borders with Germany, Liechtenstein and Switzerland reopened.

In mid-July, Austria re-tightened some travel restrictions, extending the ban on flights from the U.K., Sweden and the Ukraine until July 31.¹²¹ It also introduced a ban on flights arriving from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Egypt, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia.

People from the following countries are now eligible to enter Austria without restrictions: Andorra, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Greece, Italy, Liechtenstein, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, U.K. and Vatican City.¹²²

Since August 1, Austria has required travelers arriving from 32 "high risk" countries to show a negative COVID-19 test not older than 72 hours, or undertake a mandatory 10-day quarantine:

- Europe – Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Moldova, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Ukraine
- Africa – Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa
- Americas – Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, U.S.
- Asia – Bangladesh, China's Hubei province, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines
- Middle East – Iran, Turkey

At the end of August 2020, Austria's Health Ministry introduced a new transit form, which travelers must complete when passing through the country. The new form must be completed by travelers arriving from the following countries:

- Europe – Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain (except Canary Island), Sweden, Ukraine
- Africa – Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa
- Americas – Peru, U.S.
- Asia – China's Hubei province, Pakistan, Philippines
- Middle East – Turkey

¹²⁰ [Austria Info](#), Current Situation

¹²¹ [Breaking Travel News](#), July 15, 2020

¹²² [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 5, 2020

Belgium

Belgium started easing its COVID-19 lockdown from May 4, 2020, in a series of steps:¹²³

- May 4 – business-to-business activity resumes, public transport operating with passengers required to wear face masks
- May 11 – a wider range of shops reopen with strict hygiene and social distancing rules in place
- May 18 – school classes resume
- June 8 – depending on the progress made, restaurants and tourist activities would be allowed to reopen. Non-essential international travel might also be allowed to resume.

Amid a rise in infections, Belgium's regional authorities reversed some of the easing on July 27, making masks compulsory for everyone over 12 years when using public transport and where social distancing is not possible, banning team and contact sports, and introducing a night-time curfew for all but essential workers.¹²⁴

The Belgian government has assigned a three-tier color code to indicate the travel status for European destinations:¹²⁵

Following a surge of COVID-19 cases, on August 5, 2020, Belgian authorities added some areas of France and Spain to its red list of destinations where non-essential travel is banned.¹²⁶

From August 1, anyone arriving in Belgium with plans to remain in the country for at least 48 hours must fill out an identification form (Passenger Locator Form).

From October 19, Belgium restored a number of lockdown measures, including a four-week closure of all bars and restaurants, an overnight curfew and restrictions on households mixing.

Bulgaria

In mid-June, Bulgaria abolished a mandatory quarantine for arrivals from EU member states, except Portugal and Sweden.¹²⁷ It removed a compulsory two-week quarantine for arrivals from the U.K. from July 16. It also removed the need for a PCR test and 14-day mandatory quarantine for arrivals from Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and Vatican City. Exemptions are now also valid for travelers from Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay.

From the end of July, Bulgaria allowed arrivals from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Israel, Kosovo, Kuwait, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, as long as they provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result not older than 72 hours.¹²⁸ At the start of August, Bulgaria also permitted arrivals from Jordan and Ukraine without the need to take a PCR test.¹²⁹

¹²³ [Politico.eu](#), May 6, 2020

¹²⁴ [BBC](#), July 28, 2020

¹²⁵ [Belgian Government](#), Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, August 26, 2020

¹²⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 6, 2020

¹²⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 19, 2020

¹²⁸ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 30, 2020

¹²⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 3, 2020

Croatia

As at August 12, 2020, among European destinations, the government recommended avoiding travel to the Andorra, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Malta, Norway, Poland and Portugal. It also urged people to avoid non-essential travel to Spain, the Schengen Area and the rest of the EU.

Cyprus

Since September 2020, Cyprus has classified its list of origin countries into three categories:¹³⁰

- Category A - arrivals do not need to provide a negative COVID-19 test result: Australia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, New Zealand, South Korea and Thailand
- Category B - negative test result (not older than 72 hours) required before entry: Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Sweden, U.K., Uruguay, Vatican City
- Category C - high risk – only specific categories of traveler allowed and must be tested on arrival or present a negative result: Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia

From September 24, 2020, Cyprus reduced its list of COVID-19 safe Category A countries to just eight. It downgraded Norway and Canada to Category B, while downgrading Austria, Portugal, Slovenia and Switzerland from Category B to C. However, Serbia has been upgraded to Category B.

Lithuania was downgraded from Category A to Category B from October 9, 2020. At the same time, Belgium, Georgia and Slovakia were downgraded to Category C.¹³¹

Czech Republic

After declaring a 30-day state of emergency, the Czech Republic closed its borders to travelers from 15 countries: Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.K.¹³² Neighboring country Slovakia also stopped all international travel. Its airports (Bratislava and Kosice) and international bus and train travel have all been affected.

Denmark

On March 13, 2020, Denmark's Foreign Ministry advised Danes to avoid all unnecessary travel abroad until April 13.¹³³

At the end of April, Denmark started easing the lockdown, initially reopening schools and smaller businesses. A second phase of easing in mid-May allowed shopping malls, cafes and restaurants to reopen.¹³⁴

¹³⁰ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 22, 2020

¹³¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 8, 2020

¹³² [Independent](#), March 15, 2020

¹³³ [Bloomberg](#), March 13, 2020

¹³⁴ [Reuters](#), May 18, 2020

From July 1, Denmark reopened its border to third-country residents arriving from just six of the 15 countries recommended by the EU: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Thailand.¹³⁵ On July 4, Denmark also allowed travel to resume from Norway.

On September 18, Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs advised against travel to Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal and Switzerland, following a rise in COVID-19 cases in the five countries.¹³⁶ San Marino was reclassified as safe from September 19.

Because of entry restrictions placed on Danish travelers, trips to Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia are also discouraged.

Outside of Europe, travelers from Australia, Canada, China, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay are eligible to enter Denmark.

From October 3, 2020, Denmark placed San Marino back on its list of high-risk countries, along with Slovakia. Travelers arriving from the following European countries must now self-isolate: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland.¹³⁷

Estonia

Estonia introduced a travel ban from March 17.

From May 16, it created a "travel bubble," reopening its borders with fellow Baltic states Latvia and Lithuania, allowing citizens and residents to move freely within the three countries.¹³⁸ Anybody entering the zone from outside the bubble had to self-isolate for 14 days.

From July 6, Estonia decided to open its borders to residents of 14 low-infection countries outside the EU.¹³⁹ It did not include China on this list, as it had yet to lift entry restrictions on EU citizens. At the same time, Estonia allowed nationals from any country to arrive to study or work in the country, although those arriving from countries with high infection rates must self-isolate for 14 days.

On September 28, authorities in Estonia lifted a mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement on arrivals from Finland, Latvia and Lithuania in a bid to facilitate cross-border movement.¹⁴⁰ The move follows a rule change, with quarantine required only for arrivals from countries with 25 cases per 100,000 inhabitants on average over the past 14 days. As a result, travelers arriving from 29 European countries must now follow a 14-day compulsory quarantine: Austria, Andorra, Bulgaria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, San Marino, Slovenia, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland and the U.K. Quarantine also applies to arrivals from Canada and Tunisia.

Finland

On July 23, Finland's government decided to reintroduce internal borders controls for three EU member states to prevent another wave of COVID-19. Existing border controls on arrivals from the Czech

¹³⁵ Schengen Visa Info, July 6, 2020

¹³⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 18, 2020

¹³⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 2, 2020

¹³⁸ [BBC](#), May 15, 2020

¹³⁹ Schengen Visa Info, July 8, 2020

¹⁴⁰ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 14, 2020

Republic, France, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden remain in place, with Austria, Slovenia and Switzerland added to this list from July 27.¹⁴¹

On August 19, Finland's government announced that it would reimpose from August 24 restrictions on non-essential travel to and from Cyprus, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Germany, Greece, Japan, Malta, Norway and San Marino. North Macedonia may also be added to the list, while Estonia, Italy, Lithuania and Slovakia risk a similar fate.

Finland has changed the way it rates each country's COVID-19 status, adjusting the two-week daily average for new COVID-19 cases used to define low-risk countries from 8-10 to 25.¹⁴² As a result, from September 19 (and until at least October 18), Finland will lift entry restrictions placed on seven EU/EEA countries: Cyprus, Germany, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Poland and Sweden. Residents from Australia, Canada and Japan can also enter Finland without quarantine.

From September 19, Finland required arrivals from Hungary and Italy to quarantine. Border controls with Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Slovakia and Sweden were re-imposed from September 28. These countries joined a list of EU/EEA countries comprising Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia and Switzerland. From September 28, Finland also tightened restrictions on arrivals from Canada, Georgia and Tunisia.¹⁴³

From October 5, Finland reinstated entry restrictions for all arrivals from Lithuania, Poland and San Marino, after each country breached the 25 new cases per 100,000 persons threshold.¹⁴⁴ Cyprus, Latvia and Liechtenstein followed on October 12, with restrictions in place until at least November 10.¹⁴⁵ The list of countries, for which no travel restrictions apply, included Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Thailand, Uruguay and Vatican City.

France

From March 14, France implemented restrictions aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19. These included closing restaurants, cafes, cinemas and nightclubs, but could be extended to include essential businesses, such as food stores, chemists, banks and petrol stations. People were also asked to reduce their travel.

From the middle of April, France extended its lockdown measures for four more weeks until May 11.¹⁴⁶ If new COVID-19 cases remained below 3,000 a day, France would commence a gradual easing of restrictions.¹⁴⁷ Face masks are compulsory on public transport and in schools.

On June 15, responding to recommendations of the European Commission, France lifted entry restrictions on non-essential travel to the country for citizens of the European Union and Schengen Area countries, excluding only Spain and the U.K due to reciprocity measures.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 22, 2020

¹⁴² [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 14, 2020

¹⁴³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 25, 2020

¹⁴⁴ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 2, 2020

¹⁴⁵ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 11, 2020

¹⁴⁶ [BBC](#), April 15, 2020

¹⁴⁷ [BBC](#), April 28, 2020

¹⁴⁸ [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 15, 2020

France planned to gradually and partially lift travel restrictions for third-country nationals. International students traveling to France for study purposes from any country could do so from July 1.¹⁴⁹

Travelers arriving in France from other EU member states, Andorra, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Rwanda, San Marino, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, the U.K., Uruguay and Vatican City are not subject to restrictions (quarantine), as long as they have not visited a country not on this list in the month prior to arrival in metropolitan France.¹⁵⁰

Depending on the point of departure, travelers arriving from any other country, or who have visited another country in the month before arrival, are subject to varying restrictions:

- Bahrain, Panama, U.A.E. and the U.S. – since August 12, arrivals must present prior to boarding a negative PCR test, carried out less than 72 hours before departure. Passengers may not board aircraft without this document.
- Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, India, Israel, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Oman, Palestine Territories, Peru, Qatar, Serbia, South Africa and Turkey – since July 27, arrivals must either present a negative PCR test, carried out less than 72 hours before departure, or submit to a test at the airport on arrival in France.
- All other countries – passengers should take a PCR test within 72 hours of travel or in the airport on arrival or comply with a two-week quarantine period.

In an attempt to avoid a national lockdown, France has imposed tighter restrictions in two of its biggest cities, Bordeaux and Marseille.¹⁵¹ From September 14, tighter limits on any form of gathering have been imposed in Bordeaux. Marseille has announced similar restrictions and increased the number of locations where mask wearing will be compulsory indoors.

Germany

Germany closed its borders with France, Austria, Denmark, Luxembourg and Switzerland on March 16. The restrictions did not affect the flow of goods and commerce. Commuters could continue to cross the borders.¹⁵² Germans and residents from the five countries could also cross the border to return home.

The German government discouraged its citizens from traveling in general, to reduce the risk of becoming stranded in a foreign country.

To keep the spread of COVID-19 in check, on April 10 the German Federal Government introduced new rules on all entries into Germany. This removed any differentiation between arrivals from EU and non-EU countries. Key points included:

- EU citizens, citizens of a Schengen-associated state or people living in Germany for some years can enter the country (with family members) to return home.
- Temporary controls will operate at the borders with Austria, Denmark, France, Luxembourg and Switzerland in coordination with these countries.
- Travelers without a valid reason for their trip will not be allowed to enter Germany.
- Any travelers allowed to enter the country must quarantine for 14 days.

¹⁴⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 18, 2020

¹⁵⁰ [Ministere de L'Europe et des Affaires Etrangeres](#)

¹⁵¹ [Euro News](#), September 15, 2020

¹⁵² [DW.com](#), March 16, 2020

- Quarantine is not necessary for anyone entering Germany daily (commuters) or for short trips (business travelers). But travelers must not display any symptoms of illness.
- Anyone wishing to enter Germany to work for longer periods must prove they are able to quarantine for two weeks or have suitable hygiene and contact avoidance measures in place.

On April 15, the German government announced plans to begin easing lockdown measures.¹⁵³ More shops re-opened and schools returned from May 4. But large public gatherings remain banned until the end of August and restaurants and cinemas stayed closed. Within days of the first easing measures, Germany recorded a rise in the COVID-19 infection and mortality rates.¹⁵⁴

On May 6, Germany's federal government and 16 states drafted a plan extending the easing to allow all shops to open and some sports to restart under certain conditions. Schools could gradually reopen, and individual states decided on reopening restaurants, hotels and gyms.¹⁵⁵ Based on infection rates, states could also decide on the reopening of universities, bars, trade fairs, theaters, cinemas and brothels. The state of Bavaria will partially reopen for tourism later in May.

Mouth and nose coverings are now compulsory in public spaces in all 16 of Germany's federal states.

On June 15, Germany lifted all border controls on arrivals from Austria, Denmark, France, Italy and Switzerland. Controls on air arrivals from Spain remained in place until June 21.¹⁵⁶

Among the 15 third-countries originally on the EU list, Germany allowed unrestricted entry to arrivals from just seven: Australia, Canada, Georgia, New Zealand, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. It reversed access to arrivals from Montenegro and Serbia.

Passengers arriving from at-risk countries like the U.S. must self-isolate in quarantine for 14 days. Lufthansa started to offer an on-site COVID-19 test at Frankfurt airport. The test, certified by German health authorities and paid for by travelers, comprises a throat swab, with results available within 4-5 hours. A negative result enables passengers to avoid the 14-day quarantine.

Germany's Health Ministry announced a plan to offer free COVID-19 tests for all returning travelers at all German airports.¹⁵⁷ The tests will initially be non-mandatory with the state covering the costs in all cases. Anyone returning from a low-risk country could receive a free test from their local authority rather than at the airport. Airports in Berlin, Cologne/Bonn, Frankfurt and Munich have already applied the new scheme. With the end of the summer holiday season approaching, the government may replace COVID-19 testing at airports for passengers from high-risk countries with a mandatory quarantine period of up to 14 days. Airlines have expressed dismay at the prospect of a blanket quarantine obligation.

On July 28, Germany joined other European countries warning against non-essential travel to Spain. Unnecessary tourist trips are not recommended to the Spanish regions of Aragon, Catalonia and Navarra rather than nationwide. The recommendation follows a rise in COVID-19 infections among people returning to Germany from abroad.

¹⁵³ [BBC](#), April 15, 2020

¹⁵⁴ [Al Jazeera](#), April 28, 2020

¹⁵⁵ [Reuters](#), May 6, 2020

¹⁵⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 10, 2020

¹⁵⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 27, 2020

On August 27, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended its advice against travel to more than 160 countries until September 14.¹⁵⁸ The advice did not apply to EU member states, four Schengen-associated countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), the U.K. and three micro-states (Monaco, San Marino and Vatican City). However, travel was not advised to the French cities of Paris, Marseille and Nice.

From October 1, 2020, the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs ended its travel warning discouraging travel to all third countries, replacing it with country-specific travel warnings.¹⁵⁹ As a result of the change, the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs updated its list of high-risk countries and regions, which included (as at October 24, 2020):¹⁶⁰¹⁶¹¹⁶²

- Countries: Belgium, Estonia, France (except Grand-Est), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, U.K.
- Regions: Austria (Salzburg, Upper Austria, Lower Austria, Burgenland, Styria), Croatia (Karlovac, Osijek-Baranja, Zagreb, Varazdin, Bjelovar-Bilogora), Denmark (Hovedstaden), Estonia (Jogeva), Hungary (Csongrad, Heves, Pest, Somogy, Vas, Zala), Italy (Aosta Valley, Lombardy, Piedmont, Tuscany, Veneto, Latium, Abruzzo, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna, Sardinia, Bolzano-South Tyrol), Lithuania (Siauliai), Romania (Alba, Cluj), Slovenia (Goriska, Karst, Posavska), Sweden (Jönköping, Ostergötland)

Travelers arriving from the above list must quarantine for 14 days after arriving in Germany.

From October 9, 2020, German authorities also reinstated entry bans for travelers arriving from Georgia and Tunisia.

On October 14, 2020, Germany announced tougher new restrictions on public life, as it faced a rise in COVID-19 cases.¹⁶³ Measures include limits on the number of people at private gatherings and a curfew on bars and restaurants in hotspot areas. Rules on face masks have also been tightened, with mask wearing mandatory in public areas where people are densely packed.

From November 8, 2020, Germany will introduce new guidelines on testing and quarantine for people returning from international risk zones.¹⁶⁴ Travelers should enter a 10-day quarantine, which can be reduced to five days with a negative test result. Exceptions include commuters and people transiting through high risk countries. Implementing the new rules is at the discretion of each of Germany's states.

Greece

In mid-May, Greece lifted travel restrictions on the mainland and Crete. Restrictions on travel to and between other Greek islands were lifted from May 25.

From June 15, Thessaloniki joined Athens airport in accepting international flights. And until June 30, arrivals from 29 mainly European countries, excluding the U.K. and Ireland, but including Australia, China, Israel, Lebanon, New Zealand and South Korea, were only subject to random testing. Existing testing and

¹⁵⁸ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 27, 2020

¹⁵⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 10, 2020

¹⁶⁰ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 1, 2020

¹⁶¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 9, 2020

¹⁶² [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 22, 2020

¹⁶³ [DW](#), October 16, 2020

¹⁶⁴ [The Local.de](#), October 15, 2020

quarantine measures applied to arrivals from all other countries. Land border arrivals from Albania, North Macedonia and Bulgaria are also permitted, with visitors subject to random testing.

From July 1, Greece removed all quarantine restrictions, with passengers from any destination tested at random. International flights to other Greek destinations also resumed. Arrivals by sea also restarted. However, from July 6, Greece closed its borders to arrivals from Serbia for at least one week after the country's authorities re-imposed lockdown restrictions in capital city Belgrade.¹⁶⁵

All travelers arriving in Greece must submit a Passenger Locator Form (PLF) up to one day before travel. They then receive a QR code on the day of their scheduled arrival which must be shown to screening staff. It's also recommended that travelers download the Visit Greece app.

As of July 28, passengers arriving on flights from Bulgaria and Romania must have a negative PCR test result performed up to 72 hours before their entry into Greece.¹⁶⁶ The Hellenic Government also urges its citizens not to travel to Spain.

On August 18, the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority extended an entry ban on international arrivals from outside the EU until August 31.¹⁶⁷ Arrivals from 11 other countries are also exempt from the ban: Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, the U.A.E. and Uruguay.

From August 20 until at least August 31, anyone arriving in Greece from Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Malta, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the U.A.E. must present a negative PCR test result, not older than 72 hours.¹⁶⁸

Hungary

Hungary did not support the EU Council's request to reopen its borders to 15 non-EU countries considered to be safe.¹⁶⁹ It did, however, keep the border open with southern neighbor Serbia, which is home to a large Hungarian minority. Hungary also created a strictly managed humanitarian travel corridor, to allow people to transit through the country.

In a bid to stop an increase in COVID-19 cases, the Hungarian government tightened preventive measures. It urged citizens to avoid traveling abroad from September 1, 2020, and in particular to southern countries.¹⁷⁰ Under existing regulations, anyone returning to Hungary from high-risk countries must self-isolate for 14 days, unless they show two negative PCR test results.

On September 1, Hungary reclosed its borders to all international arrivals.¹⁷¹ However, citizens of the V4 Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) may enter Hungary without restrictions, as long as they present a negative PCR test result upon arrival. This arrangement will operate until at least November 1, 2020.¹⁷²

¹⁶⁵ [BBC](#), July 6, 2020

¹⁶⁶ [Greek Government](#), Protocol for Arrivals in Greece

¹⁶⁷ [Schengen Visa Info.](#), August 19, 2020

¹⁶⁸ [Schengen Visa Info.](#), August 20, 2020

¹⁶⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 3, 2020

¹⁷⁰ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 25, 2020

¹⁷¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 31, 2020

¹⁷² [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 7, 2020

Iceland

On July 14, 2020, Iceland reopened its borders to arrivals from the 14 countries on the EU Council's list of safe third countries.¹⁷³ Within two days, it had reversed this decision for Montenegro and Serbia.

All arrivals (aged over 15 years) to Iceland must quarantine for 14 days. However, from August 19, travelers could shorten the self-isolation period by opting to be tested for COVID-19 on arrival and then again after a quarantine period lasting five or six days.¹⁷⁴ If both tests are negative, the traveler may leave quarantine. If either is positive, the traveler must endure a 14-day quarantine. Everyone must pre-register their option before arrival in Iceland. In October, following a rise in COVID-19 cases, the government extended this double screening process until the end of 2020, unless the situation improves.¹⁷⁵

Ireland

From March 14, Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs advised against all non-essential travel to the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Malta, Poland and Slovakia.¹⁷⁶ The government previously warned against non-essential travel to Spain, all travel to Italy and exercising caution when visiting other EU countries.

Official government advice against all non-essential travel remained until July 20,¹⁷⁷ requiring arrivals from overseas to quarantine for 14 days. The government planned to publish a list of safe countries.

Amid concerns about the spread of COVID-19, the Irish government delayed Phase 4 of its roadmap for easing lockdown, due to start on July 20.¹⁷⁸ Advice against all non-essential travel remained in place.

Citizens of all countries not on a "green list" are asked to restrict their movements for 14 days after arrival in Ireland. The green list currently comprises ten European countries: Estonia, Finland, Greece, Greenland, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Slovakia. Anyone arriving from these countries do not need to restrict their movements. The list is reviewed every two weeks.¹⁷⁹

On August 18, the government reversed some lockdown relaxation measures as part of its efforts to deal with rising COVID-19 case numbers.¹⁸⁰ Crowd numbers at outdoor events have been reduced from 200 to 15, indoor gathering have been reduced to six people. People are once again being encouraged to work from home and avoid public transport where possible. These restored restrictions initially remain in place until September 13.

Italy

With the number of new daily COVID-19 cases starting to fall, Italy slowly relaxed its lockdown early in May 2020, with factories and parks allowed to reopen. Later in the month, gyms, swimming pools and sports centers also reopened.¹⁸¹

¹⁷³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 20, 2020

¹⁷⁴ [Business Travel News Europe](#), August 17, 2020

¹⁷⁵ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 9, 2020

¹⁷⁶ [Irish Times](#), March 14, 2020

¹⁷⁷ [BBC](#), July 6, 2020

¹⁷⁸ [BBC](#), July 15, 2020

¹⁷⁹ [Department of the Taoiseach](#), August 6, 2020

¹⁸⁰ [BBC](#), August 19, 2020

¹⁸¹ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 2, 2020

Even though it risked a rise in cases, the government further eased lockdown measures, allowing international travel and trips between Italian regions to resume from June 3. Travelers arriving from EU countries and the U.K. no longer needed to enter a two-week quarantine after arrival.

Mask wearing is still mandatory in enclosed spaces, including public transport or anywhere where social distancing is impractical.

In line with European Union Council recommendations, Italy allows residents from the following third-countries to enter without restriction: Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. From July 16, 2020, it restored a ban on arrivals from Montenegro and Serbia.¹⁸²

Italy is still in a state of emergency, which will remain in place until January 31, 2021.

Travelers arriving from Croatia, Greece, Malta, Spain and certain regions of France, including Paris, must take a COVID-19 test, unless they have had a negative molecular or antigen (but not antibody) test less than 72 hours before arrival in Italy. Passengers are tested at Italian airports – often free of charge and without an appointment – or within 48 hours of entering Italy. By October 8, 2020, Italy had added arrivals from Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Great Britain to the list requiring a test or negative result.¹⁸³

On October 19, Italy announced a number of measures to deal with a rise in COVID-19 cases. These included the suspension of local conferences and festivals, new protocols for gyms and swimming, and restrictions on bars and restaurants.¹⁸⁴

Latvia

Latvia's government suspended international travel from March 17, except for Latvian nationals and residents returning to the country, or foreign nationals seeking to leave Latvia. As a result, local airline Air Baltic announced the suspension of all flights from Latvia and Estonia from March 17 until April 14.

Lithuania

Like most countries, Lithuania has a list of safe and unsafe countries in continual update. Citizens arriving from high risk countries must typically quarantine for two weeks after arrival.

In line with a number of European countries, Lithuania has switched to defining high-risk countries as those where cases exceed 25 per 100,000 inhabitants during a 14 day period. As a result, from September 14, Lithuania removed the self-isolation requirement for people arriving from a number of countries (adding them to a safe "yellow list"), while introducing it for others previously regarded as safe.¹⁸⁵ At the same time, the government removed the requirement for arrivals from high-risk countries to present a negative PCR result, on the basis of doubts about the reliability of such results.

¹⁸² [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 20, 2020

¹⁸³ [BTN Europe](#), October 8, 2020

¹⁸⁴ [BBC](#), October 18, 2020

¹⁸⁵ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 14, 2020

Date	Removed from high risk list	Added to high risk list
July 2020		Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Spain
July 18, 2020		Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania and Sweden
Aug 4, 2020		France, Malta
Aug 19, 2020	Antigua & Barbuda, Lesotho, Montserrat, São Tome and Principe	Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Nepal, U.K.
Aug. 31, 2020		Belarus, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia
Sept. 14, 2020	Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Estonia, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Germany, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Poland, Serbia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Sweden	Bulgaria, Canada, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Norway, Sweden, Tunisia
Oct. 12, 2020	Bolivia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Jamaica, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turks & Caicos, Venezuela, Virgin Islands	
Oct. 18, 2020		Bulgaria, Italy, Liechtenstein
Oct. 25, 2020	Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Norway	Portugal (except Azores and Madeira)

Anyone now returning to Lithuania, whether by air, sea or land, must submit their personal information on the National Center for Public Health (NVSC) website. All travelers returning from high-risk countries must self-isolate for 14 days, although this may be shortened to 10 days with a negative COVID-19 test result performed not earlier than eight days before arrival.

Luxembourg

Since August 12, anyone arriving in Luxembourg by air, whose journey did not begin in another EU state or in one of the ten non-EU countries exempted by the EU, must present proof of a negative COVID-19 test at time of boarding taken less than 48 hours before the flight.¹⁸⁶

Luxembourg has reopened cinemas, theaters and other cultural events, provided reservations are made in advance and social distancing is maintained. Bars and restaurants can open until midnight. Face coverings must be worn in public areas, or where social distancing requirements cannot be met, such as shops, supermarkets, exhibitions.¹⁸⁷ Face coverings must also be worn on public transport.

¹⁸⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 19, 2020

¹⁸⁷ [UK GOV](#), FCO, August 24, 2020

Malta

From March 11, Malta extended its travel ban to include France, Germany, Spain and Switzerland.¹⁸⁸ It had earlier imposed restrictions on travel to and from Italy. Arrivals from the five countries had to observe mandatory 14-day quarantines or face a €1,000 fine (approx. \$US1,115).

Malta is planning to reopen commercial travel to the country from July 1.¹⁸⁹ Arrivals from most EU countries will be allowed, but there will initially be restrictions on travelers arriving from Ile de France (France), Emilia Romagna, Lombardy and Piemonte (Italy), Madrid, Catalonia, Castilla-La Mancha, Castile and Leon (Spain) and Katowice (Poland). Restrictions on arrivals from other countries, such as the U.K., will be lifted on July 15.¹⁹⁰

Netherlands

On May 6, Dutch authorities outlined a four-month plan to phase out social restrictions, as long as COVID-19 cases remained under control.¹⁹¹ Easing of lockdown measures started in the second week of May and will be expanded in phases through September 1. However, the measures could be restored if there is a resurgence in infections.

Public transport resumed normal schedules from June 1, although passengers must wear non-medical face masks and allow for social distancing on buses and trains.¹⁹² Public buildings, restaurants, cafes, cinemas and theaters reopened, but with capacity limited to 30 guests/customers. These limits will be increased to 100 persons from July 1.

From September 1, a wider range of closer-contact venues, including gyms, saunas, cannabis cafes and sex establishments, will be allowed to reopen.

As at August 19, 2020, anyone entering the Netherlands from the following countries/territories is strongly advised to quarantine for 10 days: Aruba, Belgium (Antwerp and Brussels), Bulgaria, Croatia, France (Paris and Bouches-du-Rhone), Malta, Morocco, Portugal (Lisbon and Vale do Tejo), Romania, Sint Maarten, Spain (Madrid, Navarre, Balearics, Burgos, Salamanca, Soria, Almeria, Barcelona, Lerida, Huesca, Zaragoza and Teruel), Sweden (Vastra Gotaland), U.K. (Leicester).¹⁹³

Norway

After reporting its biggest spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases, Norway intensified its efforts to limit the spread of the virus.¹⁹⁴ These included barring travelers from China's Hubei province, South Korea, Iran, Italy and Austria's Tyrol region.

From March 16, Norway temporarily closed its airports and ports as part of wide-ranging restrictions aimed at tackling the spread of COVID-19. In practice, this meant that no one was allowed to travel to the country. The government arranged for Norwegians to return via Denmark, even though the latter

¹⁸⁸ [Times of Malta](#), March 11, 2020

¹⁸⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 15, 2020

¹⁹⁰ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 24, 2020

¹⁹¹ [Reuters](#), May 6, 2020

¹⁹² [Government of the Netherlands](#), Changes to coronavirus control measures from May 11 2020

¹⁹³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 19, 2020

¹⁹⁴ [Bloomberg](#), March 11, 2020

country closed its borders on March 14. Copenhagen airport had remained open to transfer traffic and for Danish nationals.

From the beginning of May, Norway started a two-month period of lifting restrictions.¹⁹⁵ It continues to rely on social distancing rules to prevent a resurgence of infections. Travel between Norway and Denmark resumed on June 15.¹⁹⁶

On July 27, Norway strongly advised against any travel to Spain and Andorra until August 20.¹⁹⁷ Anyone returning from either country must quarantine for ten days. At the same time, the Norwegian government withdrew its advice against travel to Hungary and some regions of Sweden.

The Norwegian Government also discourages travel to Bulgaria, Croatia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania and some regions of Sweden, applying a mandatory quarantine to any arrivals.

With COVID-19 cases rising across Europe, on August 13, the Norwegian Government downgraded safe “green” countries to “amber” status, stating a belief that all trips abroad are now associated with a risk of infection.¹⁹⁸ Travelers returning from amber countries do not need to quarantine, but it is recommended that they reconsider all non-essential travel to such countries.

From August 22, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs required travelers arriving from Austria, Greece, Ireland, the U.K. and the Capital Region of Denmark to quarantine for ten days.¹⁹⁹ They joined Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Faroe Islands, France, Iceland, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, parts of Sweden, and Switzerland on Norway’s red list of countries where non-essential travel is inadvisable.

From September 5, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia and the Vatican City were added to Norway’s red list.²⁰⁰ Northern regions of Sweden, Denmark’s Zealand region and Cyprus have, however, been regraded from red to amber, removing the need to quarantine when returning to Norway.

From September 12, Norway advised its citizens to avoid unnecessary travel to Hungary and Slovakia.²⁰¹ It also urged travelers not to visit the Jamtland and Orebro regions in Sweden, southern Denmark region and Finland’s Kainu region. This advice remained in place until October 1, 2020. From September 26, Iceland, Lithuania and some Nordic regions were also added to the red countries list.²⁰² From October 3, arrivals from Swedish regions Blekinge and Södermanland and Finland’s Uusimaa region must quarantine for 10 days.

From October 10, 2020, Norway advised its citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Latvia and some parts of Finland and Sweden. Anyone returning from these countries must self-isolate for ten days.²⁰³ By October 24, this advice had been extended to cover the whole of Sweden.

¹⁹⁵ [Reuters](#), June 5, 2020

¹⁹⁶ [The National](#), May 29, 2020

¹⁹⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 27, 2020

¹⁹⁸ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 13, 2020

¹⁹⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 21, 2020

²⁰⁰ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 4, 2020

²⁰¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 10, 2020

²⁰² [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 28, 2020

²⁰³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 10, 2020

Poland

Poland closed its borders to all foreigners for 10 days from March 15. Only Polish citizens could enter the country, subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine. As a result, all international passenger and rail connections were suspended. The country subsequently suspended domestic flights, too.

During May, Poland prepared to re-open to tourists, announcing new policy measures ahead of the reopening of its borders.²⁰⁴ Detailed guidelines for hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions include:

- Capacity limits on customers and staff
- Temperature checks before entering a building
- Staff to wear face masks and gloves at all times
- Regular disinfection of public areas, counters, handles, payment terminals, hotel room keys, elevators, toilet etc.

Domestic flights resumed at the end of May 2020, with some international flights restored from mid-June. From September 30, 2020, Poland allowed flights from the European Schengen area, after updating its no-fly list.²⁰⁵ Brazil, Israel and the U.S. are among the countries on the no-fly list. Ecuador, India, North Macedonia, Oman, Trinidad & Tobago and the U.A.E. were expected to join them soon. A further 20 countries may be added, subject to government approval: Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Kuwait, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Moldova, Montenegro, Qatar, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

From October 17, 2020, with infections rising, the highest level of restrictions were imposed across almost half of Poland, including Warsaw and most major cities.²⁰⁶ Parties are now banned; public gatherings are limited to 10 people; restaurants and bars are limited to 50% capacity and must close by 9pm. Swimming pools and gyms have been closed nationwide.

Portugal

Portugal declared a state of emergency on March 18, 2020.²⁰⁷ The government tightened containment measures on April 9 through April 13 to limit movement during the Easter holiday weekend. Airports were closed to all passenger travel and movement between municipalities was banned.

During May, Portugal gradually relaxed its lockdown through a three-phase reopening.²⁰⁸ This started on May 4, with a number of service-related businesses and some public transport allowed to resume. On May 18, the second phase saw restaurants, cafes and museums reopen. Health and safety measures remain in place, including the mandatory wearing of masks, two-meter social distancing, frequent sanitization and capacity limits. Phase three was enacted on June 6, opening beaches and other commercial services.

At the beginning of August 2020, Portuguese authorities allowed scheduled flights to resume from 12 non-EU countries: Australia, Canada, China, Georgia, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, South

²⁰⁴ [Breaking Travel News](#), May 20, 2020

²⁰⁵ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 29, 2020

²⁰⁶ BBC, October 16, 2020

²⁰⁷ [Bloomberg](#), April 9, 2020

²⁰⁸ [Travel Agent Central](#), May 19, 2020

Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay.²⁰⁹ Flights continue to be allowed from EU and Schengen Area countries and from the U.K.

From October 9, 2020, Portuguese authorities required international passengers to file a passenger locator form digitally (instead of paper form).²¹⁰ The form must be completed before travel, with a receipt verified by airlines at the departure gate.

Romania

Romania declared a 30-day state of emergency on March 16. To further slow the spread of coronavirus, the government enforced a strict lockdown from March 25.²¹¹ People can now only leave home to go to work, with a signed note from their employers, and to shop for food. People over the age of 65 must stay at home.

Russia

After a recent acceleration in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, Russia temporarily banned foreigners from traveling to the country. Russia limited flights to the U.S., U.K. and the U.A.E. from March 20.²¹² The government considered imposing further measures, including banning large gatherings, closing schools and encouraging working from home, which have already been introduced in some cities, including Moscow and St. Petersburg.

From March 27, the Russian government suspended international flights to and from the country. Repatriation flights are permitted.

On March 30, quarantine regulations were introduced in Moscow, largely aimed at making people work and stay at home. But they do not prevent Muscovites from leaving the city or Russians from elsewhere visiting Moscow.²¹³ The measures also apply across most Russian provinces, and a holiday has been declared across the entire country for the month of April. Long-distance (domestic) travel has so far not been subjected to any restrictions.

On June 1, a number of Russian regions began gradually lifting quarantine restrictions. Shops were allowed to re-open and residents were able to exercise outside. Masks and gloves must be worn in shops and on public transport.²¹⁴ But restaurants must remain closed and mass gatherings are barred until at least June 14.

Serbia

After imposing one of Europe's strictest lockdowns in March, Serbia lifted nationwide restrictions in May. Since then, the country has held sporting events with spectators, religious festivals and parliamentary elections. But COVID-19 infections have risen considerably since then.

At the beginning of July, authorities declared a state of emergency in several major cities and towns, including Belgrade, Kragujevac and Novi Pazar.²¹⁵ Gatherings are restricted, opening hours for cafes and

²⁰⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 3, 2020

²¹⁰ [BTN Europe](#), October 9, 2020

²¹¹ [Reuters](#), March 24, 2020

²¹² [The Moscow Times](#), March 19, 2020

²¹³ [Hotel News Now](#), April 8, 2020

²¹⁴ [France 24](#), June 1, 2020

²¹⁵ [BBC](#), July 6, 2020

restaurants have been reduced, sporting events are banned, and masks are compulsory on public transport and in indoor public spaces.

Slovakia

From September 10, 2020, anyone returning to Slovakia by air, having visited a high-risk country during the previous 14 days, must register electronically by completing an online form. Travelers crossing Slovakia's land border from Ukraine must also register.

Slovakia currently lists 26 countries as not being high-risk: Australia, Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, China, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, South Korea, Switzerland and the U.K.²¹⁶

From September 18, Slovakia will add the Czech Republic to its "red" countries list, after noting a rise in infections in the country.²¹⁷ Anyone returning from the country must present a negative COVID-19 test, not older than 72 hours, or self-isolate for five days. Cross-border workers are exempt. Austria and Hungary are at risk of joining the Czech Republic on the high-risk list. At the same time, Slovakia has placed Bulgaria, Canada and Sweden on its list of safe countries.

Slovenia

The Slovenian government lifted restrictions on international passenger air transport from May 12, 2020, after deciding not to extend the measures. However, in order to protect public health, airlines and airports must introduce a number of measures, while returning citizens and foreign visitors must still enter a period of quarantine following arrival.

Slovenia has since assigned a color-coding to each country: green (safe – COVID-19 rate of 25 per 100,000 persons, no need for a PCR test), orange (not safe or high-risk - no need for a PCR test for arrivals from EM member states or Schengen Area countries), and red (high-risk – 14-day quarantine unless a negative test result is provided). From September 29, 2020, the classification of countries comprised:²¹⁸

- Green – Australia, Cyprus, Finland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, New Zealand, Poland, Serbia, South Korea, Uruguay
- Orange – Italy and any other country not on the Green or Red lists
- Red – EU and Schengen Area – Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Switzerland
- Red – third countries – Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Bhutan, Cameroon, Cape Verde, CAR, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jamaica, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Nicaragua, North Korea, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Sao Tome, Saudi Arabia, Senegal,

²¹⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 10, 2020

²¹⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 16, 2020

²¹⁸ [Republic of Slovenia](#), September 27, 2020

Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, U.A.E., Ukraine, U.S., Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Spain

The Spanish government declared a state of emergency on March 14, 2020, which included restrictions on movement throughout the country from March 16 for 15 days. On April 9, Spain's prime minister asked parliament to extend the lockdown until April 25.²¹⁹

Within days of beginning to ease its lockdown in early May, a rise in deaths prompted Spain to declare an extension of the state of emergency until May 24. This, however, did not prevent the country from moving from Phase Zero to Phase One, allowing some further easing of measures from May 11. Terraces (but not the interiors) of bars and restaurants may reopen, as can hotels except their public spaces.²²⁰

Even as Spain eased its lockdown, it increased restrictions on international travel. From May 15, visitors entering the country from abroad had to go into quarantine for 14 days. The new restrictions were intended to reduce the risk of re-importing COVID-19. Initially in place until the May 24 end of the state of emergency, the government extended the quarantine measures until July 1. Airlines must hand out passenger location cards to let the authorities know where visitors will be when in quarantine.

The Spanish government ended quarantine measures from July 1.²²¹ From July 4, it also reopened its borders to residents of 12 third-countries: Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay.²²² Borders will also reopen for residents of Algeria, China and Morocco if these countries reopen their borders to Spanish residents.

Until at least the end of October 2020, Spain has closed Schengen's external borders, although there are some exceptions, including health professionals, students and cross-border workers. Travelers may also arrive from the EU, the Schengen Area, Andorra, Vatican City, San Marino and 11 other countries: Australia, Canada, China, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay.

On October 25, 2020, Spain declared a national state of emergency and imposed a night-time curfew running between the hours of 23:00 and 06:00.²²³ Local authorities may also ban travel between regions. The rules are initially in place for 15 days, but this may be extended to six months.

Sweden

From July 19, 2020, Sweden restored a ban on residents arriving in the country from Montenegro and Serbia. At the end of the month, Sweden removed its advice against travel to the Czech Republic, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland. On August 17, Sweden added Austria and Liechtenstein to the list of safe countries.²²⁴

From September 10, Sweden lifted its advice against travel to Cyprus, reciprocating a move by Cypriot authorities allowing Swedish visitors.²²⁵ On September 14, Sweden also removed its advice against non-

²¹⁹ [Bloomberg](#), April 9, 2020

²²⁰ [Reuters](#), May 6, 2020

²²¹ [Breaking Travel News](#), May 26, 2020

²²² [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 6, 2020

²²³ [BBC](#), October 25, 2020

²²⁴ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 17, 2020

²²⁵ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 10, 2020

essential travel to the U.K., once again reciprocating a move by the other country.²²⁶ It added Finland and Slovakia to this list from September 21.

Swedes were discouraged from non-essential travel to Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovenia until at least October 7, 2020. From October 8, Sweden removed Malta and Slovenia from this list.²²⁷ Advice against travel to the remaining four countries remains in place until November 4, 2020. Advice against travel to third countries, excluding Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay, remains in place until November 15, 2020.²²⁸

Non-essential travel is now permitted to the following European countries: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Vatican City and the U.K.

Switzerland

On May 27, the Swiss Health Minister announced plans to ease lockdown, once the state of emergency, first declared on March 16, officially ended on June 19.²²⁹ Complete freedom of movement across Switzerland's borders would be restored by July 6 at the latest. Border controls with Austria, France and Germany were lifted earlier, by June 15. But the border with Italy remained closed.

On August 10, Switzerland added seven more countries to its quarantine list: Spain (excluding the Balearic and Canary Islands), Singapore, the Bahamas, Equatorial Guinea, Romania, Sint Maarten and Sao Tome and Principe.²³⁰ Arrivals from these countries are required to undergo 10 days mandatory quarantine. The additions brought the list to 46 countries, with Azerbaijan, Russia and the U.A.E. removed at the same time.

From August 31, Switzerland no longer allowed passengers departing from countries with a high number of COVID-19 cases to transit through any of its international airports.²³¹ Passengers may still transit through a high-risk country, as long as they don't leave the international area of the airport.

All countries outside of the Schengen Area are considered high-risk, with the exception of: Andorra, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Ireland, Japan, Kosovo, Monaco, New Zealand, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay and Vatican City.

Travelers returning from countries on a red list must self-isolate for ten days. Countries currently include France (Brittany), Upper and Lower Austria, Italy (Liguria), Belgium, Ecuador, Hungary, Denmark, Iceland, Jamaica, Ireland, Luxembourg, Nepal, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Slovenia, Portugal and the U.K.²³²

From October 19, Switzerland made mask wearing in indoor public spaces compulsory and banned gatherings of more than 15 people in public places.²³³

²²⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 14, 2020

²²⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 9, 2020

²²⁸ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 22, 2020

²²⁹ [The Local](#), May 27, 2020

²³⁰ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 10, 2020

²³¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 31, 2020

²³² [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 28, 2020

²³³ [BBC](#), October 19, 2020

U.K.

On March 17, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advised British nationals to avoid all non-essential foreign travel.²³⁴ On April 6, it amended its advice, indicating it applied “indefinitely.”²³⁵

On March 23, the U.K. entered a three-week lockdown, which was extended for a further three weeks from April 16.²³⁶ The lockdown continued during May, although the government relaxed some measures and advised citizens to “Stay alert.” During June, the government continued to ease the lockdown, allowing schools and more businesses to reopen.

To reduce the risks of re-infection from abroad, the U.K. government from June 8 introduced new rules for entering the country from overseas (excluding arrivals from Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).²³⁷ The rules apply to both residents and visitors, who must:

- Provide journey and contact details when traveling to the U.K. This should be done before travel using an online form. Travelers may need to prove they’ve completed the form before being allowed to enter the U.K. (if not a resident).
- Self-isolate for 14 days after arrival. Border Force officers will arrange accommodation for travelers without somewhere to self-isolate at the traveler’s expense.

Failure to provide contact details risks a £100 fine; refusal to self-isolate risks a £1,000 fine. Travelers are also recommended to download the NHS contact tracing app, when it’s available (expected September).

For a full list of travelers exempt from the new quarantine rules, click [here](#).

From July 10, it was possible to arrive in England from many low-risk countries, including Germany, France, Italy and Spain, without the need to self-isolate, unless a non-exempt country had also been visited or transited through in the preceding 14 days.²³⁸ As a result, from July 4, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) exempted these destinations from its global advisory against “all but essential” international travel. All passengers, except those on a small list of exemptions, must still provide contact information on arrival in England. The full (dwindling) list of around 60 “travel corridor” countries is kept under constant review, with countries added or removed, often with little notice. So far 28 countries/territories have been and remain removed:

- Serbia was one of the first to be removed.
- Spain – from July 26 with just five hours’ notice.
- Luxembourg- on July 31
- Andorra, the Bahamas and Belgium - from August 8.
- Aruba, France, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Turks & Caicos Islands – removed from August 15 with less than 24 hours’ notice
- Austria, Croatia, Trinidad and Tobago – August 22
- Czech Republic, Jamaica, Switzerland – August 29
- Greece – islands of Crete, Lesvos, Mykonos, Santorini, Serifos, Tinos and Zakynthos – September 9 – reduced to Crete and Mykonos from October 10 and then Mykonos only from October 18 until October 25

²³⁴ [BBC](#), March 17, 2020

²³⁵ [Breaking Travel News](#), April 4, 2020

²³⁶ [BBC](#), April 16, 2020

²³⁷ [Gov.UK](#), COVID-19 guidance and support

²³⁸ [Gov.UK](#), July 3, 2020

- Portugal (second time) excluding Azores and Madeira, Hungary, French Polynesia and Reunion – September 12
- Guadeloupe and Slovenia – September 19
- Curacao, Denmark, Iceland and Slovakia - September 26
- Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, Poland, Turkey – October 3
- Italy, San Marino and Vatican City State – October 18
- Liechtenstein – October 25

On July 28 July, Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were added to the list of safe countries, with Brunei and Malaysia joining them from August 8. Portugal was restored as a safe destination on August 20 (but only for three weeks), with Cuba following on August 29. Sweden was added to the list from September 12. Singapore and Thailand were included on September 19. The exemptions apply to all modes of international transport, including sea, rail and air.

As at October 25, the following countries and territories have no self-isolation requirement on arrival in England:²³⁹

- Europe: Akrotiri & Dhekelia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal (Azores and Madeira only), Spain (Canary Islands only), Sweden
- Africa: Mauritius, Seychelles, St Helena, Ascension and Tristanda Cunha
- Asia Pacific: Australia, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam
- Latin America & Caribbean: Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Grenada, Montserrat, St Barthelemy, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Middle East:
- North America: St Pierre and Miquelon

The Devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland set out their own approach to exemptions. Passengers returning to these countries should comply with their laws and guidance.

After finding itself firmly in a second wave of COVID-19 cases, the U.K. moved to re-tighten some restrictions. From September 24/25, all pubs, restaurants and hospitality venues across England and Scotland must close at 10pm and can only offer table service. No more than six people can meet at any time, although there are a range of exceptions. From September 28, rules on mask wearing (public transport, taxis, shops, hospitality venues, museums, places of worship) and social distancing will be more strictly enforced, while fines and penalties have been increased.²⁴⁰ These measures could remain in place for up to six months.

At the start of October 2020, the U.K. government announced plans to reduce travel quarantine periods by introducing privately-paid testing on arrival.²⁴¹ By December 1, 2020, the U.K. hopes to roll out a testing program for inbound travelers, which will reduce the quarantine period to five days from 14. Passengers would pay for a private test to be taken a week after arrival in the U.K. The timing of the

²³⁹ [Gov.UK](#), October 2, 2020

²⁴⁰ [Gov.UK](#), September 22, 2020

²⁴¹ [BTN Europe](#), October 7, 2020

scheme depends on companies being able to manufacture sufficient tests. It is setting up a global travel taskforce to investigate the best approach. It will consider:

- How to implement a testing regime for international arrivals
- What innovative testing and non-testing approaches can help to facilitate business and leisure travel
- What steps could increase consumer confidence in travel

The taskforce will look at alternative testing models, including pilots with partner countries to ascertain if self-isolation could be undertaken before departure.

Separately, authorities in the U.K. and U.S. are discussing the creation of an air corridor between London and New York.²⁴² Planned to be in place by November 26, 2020, travelers using the corridor would still need to quarantine, but would need to do so for less than the standard 14 days.

On October 14, 2020, a new three-tier system of COVID-19 restrictions was introduced for a number of counties, cities and regions in England.²⁴³

- Very high – no household mixing indoors or outdoors in hospitality venues or in private gardens; rule of six applies to outdoor public spaces; closure of pubs and bars not serving meals; guidance against traveling in and out of the area – Lancashire, Liverpool region, Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire
- High – no household mixing indoors; rule of six applies outdoors; pubs and restaurants shut at 10pm – Essex, Greater London, York
- Medium – groups of not more than six people to meet indoors or outdoors; pubs and restaurants shut at 10pm

Initially, most of the country was allocated to the lowest tier – medium – with only the Liverpool region assigned to the top, very high-risk tier, with the most stringent restrictions. It was joined in this group by the county of Lancashire on October 17, 2020, Greater Manchester from October 22, and South Yorkshire (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield) from October 24. Reports suggest West Yorkshire, the North East, Teesside and Nottinghamshire may also join this group. At the same time, Essex, parts of the counties of Cumbria, Derbyshire and Surrey, Greater London and York city were moved into the high tier.

Separately, Wales announced plans for a nationwide “firebreak” lockdown from October 23, 2020, initially lasting until November 9. People stay at home (except for exercise or essential journeys), pubs, restaurants and non-essential shops must shut, as must hotels, hairdresser and beauticians.²⁴⁴

Ukraine

On August 29, 2020, Ukraine’s government closed the country’s borders to foreigners until September 28.²⁴⁵ The move was aimed at preventing a second wave of COVID-19 infections. There were a number of exceptions, including foreigners transiting Ukraine with documents confirming their departure within two days.

Ukraine reopened its borders to arrivals from 143 countries from September 28, 2020.²⁴⁶ Travelers arriving from countries classified green must purchase an insurance policy covering COVID-19 treatment

²⁴² [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 12, 2020

²⁴³ [BBC](#), October 14, 2020

²⁴⁴ [BBC](#), October 19, 2020

²⁴⁵ [Ukrinform](#), August 28, 2020

²⁴⁶ [Traveling Lifestyle](#), October 6, 2020

and quarantine issued by a Ukraine registered company. There is no need for a test or quarantine. Travelers can still enter Ukraine from a red-listed country, but they will need to take a COVID-19 PCR test on arrival and self-isolate. Ukraine updates its list of green and red countries every 24 hours.

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Anguilla

The Caribbean island of Anguilla, which had recorded only three cases of COVID-19 by August 16, will reopen its borders to international travelers from August 21.²⁴⁷ Having witnessed developments in neighboring islands, Anguilla has developed its own strict protocols to contain and mitigate the risks of an imported case.

Visitors must pre-register online at the Anguilla Tourist Board's website. They must provide home address and proposed travel dates. They must also submit a negative PCR test result, taken within three to five days prior to arrival and have a health policy covering any medical expenses incurred in relation to COVID-19 treatment. On approval, an electronic certificate is issued authorizing travel. Visitors from low-risk countries will be given preference.

On arrival, passengers will be given a PCR test, with a second administered on day ten of their visit. Only after the results from the second test may visitors move freely around the island. In the event of a positive result, they must self-isolate at a government-approved location.

Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda reopened its borders to international travel from all countries on June 4, receiving an American Airlines flight from Miami.²⁴⁸ The country closed its borders in mid-March.

On arrival, passengers must wear face masks in the airport, complete a health declaration, undergo health and temperature screenings, and take a nasal swab test for COVID-19. When at the hotel, guests are asked to wear a mask where they might come into contact with other guests and staff.

Argentina

Argentina suspended all flights from Europe, the U.S., China, Japan, South Korea and Iran. Non-residents traveling through these countries are barred from entry.

Argentina's government introduced a nationwide quarantine on March 17, 2020. On April 9, it extended the duration of the quarantine for a second time; this time until April 23.²⁴⁹

On April 27, Argentina's National Civil Aviation Administration (ANAC) asked airlines to stop selling tickets for all domestic and international departures until September 1.²⁵⁰ The agency claimed the decree was aimed at preventing airlines from ticketing flights not approved by the Argentine authorities.²⁵¹

²⁴⁷ [Breaking Travel News](#), August 17, 2020

²⁴⁸ [Travel Agent Central](#), June 4, 2020

²⁴⁹ [GardaWorld](#), April 9, 2020

²⁵⁰ [Breaking Travel News](#), April 28, 2020

It was not until November 2, 2020, that the government started to reopen the country, allowing travelers (residents) from neighboring countries Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay to enter Argentina. They must present a negative result from a coronavirus test taken within the previous 48 hours and have healthcare insurance with COVID-19 coverage. Travel is restricted to capital city Buenos Aires and for a period of 10 days.²⁵²

Domestic non-essential travel and other international travel is still strongly restricted.

Belize

Belize had planned to reopen its borders to international travel on August 15, 2020, but this was postponed until further notice.²⁵³ Land borders remain closed, but Belize City airport reopened on October 1, 2020, for restricted entry and with strict protocols in place.²⁵⁴

Bolivia

After banning travelers arriving from China, Italy, South Korea and Spain, Bolivia suspended direct flights to Europe from March 14, 2020, extending the ban to all international flights from March 17.

After declaring a national health emergency on March 25, the Bolivian government implemented a mandatory nationwide quarantine until April 4. On April 7, it extended the suspension of international flights until April 18.²⁵⁵ A week later, the government further extended the lockdown until April 30,²⁵⁶ and then again until May 10. A total quarantine of the country was subsequently extended until the end of July 2020.

Domestic flights were allowed to restart on June 3, but the government has yet to confirm a date for the resumption of international services.²⁵⁷

Brazil

On March 19, 2020, Brazilian authorities banned citizens from certain countries from entering the country.²⁵⁸ These included citizens of the European Union, China, Japan, Australia, Malaysia and South Korea, but not travelers from the U.S. Brazil's Justice Ministry selected the countries based on risk. It then applied a ban to all foreign travelers entering the country via its land borders until April 15, 2020, and until April 30 for those arriving by water or air transportation.²⁵⁹

During March 2020, both the federal and Sao Paulo state governments declared a state of calamity until December 31, 2020.²⁶⁰ On March 24, 2020, Sao Paulo state commenced a quarantine until April 30, closing schools, non-essential stores, bars and restaurant, events and hotels.²⁶¹ Across the country, 24 of

²⁵² [Secrets of Buenos Aires](#), October 26, 2020

²⁵³ [Travel off path](#), August 7, 2020

²⁵⁴ U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Belize](#)

²⁵⁵ [GardaWorld](#), April 7, 2020

²⁵⁶ [GardaWorld](#), April 15, 2020

²⁵⁷ [La Agencia de Viajes Colombia](#), August 12, 2020

²⁵⁸ [Reuters](#), March 19, 2020

²⁵⁹ [WorldAware](#), April 2, 2020

²⁶⁰ [The Brazilian Report](#), March 20, 2020

²⁶¹ [Bloomberg](#), March 21, 2020

Brazil's 27 states introduced strict social isolation measures. The states of Mato Grosso, Rondonia and Roraima were some of the first to relax some restrictions.²⁶²

On the day that it reported a record number of COVID-19 cases, Brazil ended a four-month ban on foreign visitors arriving by air on July 30.²⁶³ Today, foreign nationals are still allowed to enter Brazil by air, but some land borders remain closed, except to Brazilian citizens, resident foreign nationals and foreign spouses.²⁶⁴ The land border with Paraguay is now fully open. Travelers needing to cross Brazil's land border in order to board a flight back to their home country must contact their embassy to secure permission from the Federal Police.

British Virgin Islands

The British Virgin Islands will reopen its borders on December 1, 2020, ending a lockdown and curfew introduced in April.²⁶⁵

Chile

Chile entered a 90-day National State of Catastrophe on March 18.²⁶⁶ As part of this government-mandated confinement period, it prohibited all international travel by air, road, sea and river transportation.

On August 17, Chile began to relax one of the world's longest quarantines, moving Santiago to a transitional stage under a "Step by Step" reopening.²⁶⁷ People must still remain indoors wherever possible, wear masks in public and wash their hands. But they may now leave home on a weekday without police permission and meet in small groups, while businesses can gradually reopen.

International travel remains suspended until further notice.

Colombia

Colombia initially barred travelers who had visited Asia or Europe in the past 14 days from visiting the country. Residents returning from these regions were required to self-isolate for 14 days.

From March 23, the Colombian government introduced a 30-day ban on international passenger flights arriving at any of the country's airports.²⁶⁸ The ban did not differentiate between Colombian and foreign citizens. The measure also included international connections, even if no passengers board or leave the aircraft in Colombia.

Colombia has been under strict quarantine since March 25. A series of extensions have since been announced. The latest extends the nationwide lockdown beyond July 15 until August 1. International travel may be allowed to resume from September 1.

Since July 21, 2020, aviation authority Aerocivil has allowed domestic flights to resume between Cucuta and Bucaramanga under a pilot project.²⁶⁹ Flights between Medellin and Armenia are also under

²⁶² [The Guardian](#), April 1, 2020

²⁶³ [Axios](#), July 30, 2020

²⁶⁴ U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Brazil](#)

²⁶⁵ [Breaking Travel News](#), September 24, 2020

²⁶⁶ [Gov.UK](#), foreign travel advice

²⁶⁷ [Al Jazeera](#), August 12, 2020

²⁶⁸ Cirium, March 20, 2020

²⁶⁹ [Colombia Report](#), July 30, 2020

consideration. Domestic services from Bogota to Barranquilla or Cartagena may also resume on a test basis on September 1. The normalization of international flights for tourism and visitors is not expected to take place until November 2020.

Costa Rica

The country reopened its borders for tourism on August 1, 2020, allowing arrivals only from select low-risk countries. This list initially included the EU, Canada and the U.K. On arrival, travelers had to present a negative PCR coronavirus result received within the 48 hours before departure to Costa Rica.²⁷⁰

From November 1, 2020, Costa Rica will fully reopen its borders and will no longer require travelers to provide a negative test result.²⁷¹ This decision, however, may be reviewed, depending on what happens to infection rates after the country is reopened. Visitors must still complete an electronic health form before arriving and have health insurance, or buy it locally through the National Insurance Institute or insurance company Sagicor.

Dominican Republic

By July 8, 2020, the Dominican Republic reopened its borders to international travelers.²⁷² This coincided with the start of phase four of the country's de-escalation of COVID-19 measures.²⁷³ A special Travel Resource Center platform has been created to deliver accurate, up to date information for visitors and answer frequently asked travel questions.

To protect against COVID-19, the country has introduced extra measures at airports. These include a temperature check for all passengers as they disembark the aircraft. Anyone with a high temperature or displaying other symptoms will need to take a rapid COVID-19 test and follow an isolation protocol. All passengers must submit a health affidavit, confirming no COVID-19 symptoms in the last 72 hours and providing contact details for the next 30 days.

Hotel occupancy was initially restricted to 30%, although this was increased to 50% in August.

From the end of September, the Dominican Republic plans to randomly perform rapid tests (diagnostic breath test) on selected travelers on arrival. Once this measure is in place, the requirement for a negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival will be removed.²⁷⁴

Ecuador

Ecuador initially required visitors arriving from certain countries to self-isolate for 14 days. The list included: China, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S. (Washington, New York, Massachusetts and California). The restrictions applied to anyone transiting through any of these countries.

From March 16, the government suspended all international arrivals by air and barred all foreign nationals from entering the country by air, land or sea.²⁷⁵ Ecuadorian nationals were given one day to return home, with returning journeys banned from March 17.

²⁷⁰ [Travel off path](#), August 7, 2020

²⁷¹ [Travel Weekly](#), October 23, 2020

²⁷² [Breaking Travel News](#), July 8, 2020

²⁷³ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 19, 2020

²⁷⁴ [Breaking Travel News](#), August 27, 2020

²⁷⁵ [GardaWorld](#), March 15, 2020

In mid-June, Ecuador extended its state of exception for two months until August 13.²⁷⁶ While some lockdown measures have been eased since mid-May, Ecuador's land borders with Colombia and Peru remain closed.²⁷⁷

International commercial flights were allowed to resume on June 1. On arrival, passengers must provide their itinerary and local contact details and present a negative PCR test for COVID-19, taken up to 7 days prior to departure. Failure to do this will require travelers to self-quarantine for 14 days at their own expense in hotels or private accommodation.

El Salvador

Before it had even recorded its first case of COVID-19, El Salvador imposed some tough controls to curb the spread of the virus.²⁷⁸ The government banned all foreign visitors to the country (except diplomats) arriving via all ports. El Salvadorans returning home must quarantine for 30 days. Border closures currently remain in place until August 18.

The government is proceeding with its plans to reopen San Salvador airport to transit passengers only on September 4, with a full reopening following on September 19.

Guatemala

Guatemala banned citizens from Europe, Iran, China, South Korea and North Korea from entering the country from March 12. A travel ban affecting most non-Guatemalans was extended until August 15 and seems to have been extended further, with the resumption of international flights pushed back to September 1.

Honduras

Honduras has restricted entry of travelers from Europe, China, Iran and South Korea via air or land.

Domestic flights had resumed by mid-August, linking Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, with international services following on August 17.

Jamaica

In July 2020, Jamaica revised its restrictions on travelers visiting the island.²⁷⁹ All visitors had to complete an online travel authorization, while arrivals from certain U.S. states (Arizona, Florida, New York and Texas) had to provide further documentation, uploading negative COVID-19 PCR test results. Test results should be no more than 10 days old on arrival in Jamaica.

All visitors are screened on arrival in Jamaica via thermal temperature checks, symptom observation and a brief interview with a health officer. Leisure travelers may be subject to swab testing following a risk assessment. Anyone allowed into Jamaica must comply with a stay in zone order, which requires people to remain at their hotel or resort within the resilient corridor for the duration of their stay.

In October 2020, Jamaica revised the travel authorization process, expanding acceptable testing categories, so that travelers may now choose between presenting a negative COVID-19 antigen test or a

²⁷⁶ [Yahoo1 News](#), June 16, 2020

²⁷⁷ [UK Gov](#), FCO, Ecuador

²⁷⁸ [Bloomberg](#), March 11, 2020

²⁷⁹ [Breaking Travel News](#), July 20, 2020

negative PCR test. Testing must be performed by an accredited lab, with results presented to the airline on departure and on arrival in Jamaica.²⁸⁰

In November 2020, Jamaica plans to launch a mandatory travel protection and emergency services program, known as Jamaica Cares.²⁸¹ Travelers must pay a \$40 fee to cover the cost of case management, transportation logistics, field rescue, evacuation and repatriation for medical emergencies, including COVID-19, but also including other crises such as natural disasters. Jamaica Care also includes international health coverage up to \$100,000 per visitor traveling to and from Jamaica, and on-island health coverage up to \$50,000. The \$40 fee will be included as part of the Travel Authorization application, a document required by all travelers prior to arrival. All non-Jamaican passport holders must participate in Jamaica Cares. The program is supported by Global Rescue, a provider of medical, security, evacuation and travel risk management services.

Nicaragua

The government would like to reopen the country to international air travel during August, but travelers will most likely be required to prove they are COVID-19-free.²⁸²

Paraguay

All flights to Europe were cancelled between March 13 and March 26. The ban only directly affected Air Europa's five-weekly flights from Asuncion to Madrid.

Paraguay has implemented a quarantine, which the government extended until the middle of April.

Peru

As part of a government-mandated 15-day confinement period, all international passenger traffic by air, road, sea and river transportation was prohibited. LATAM Airlines and Viva Air suspended all flights from March 17 to March 30, although Sky Airline Peru continued to sell domestic tickets.

Peru has since entered a state of emergency, which was extended on April 8 until April 26.²⁸³ Facing a surge of infections, in mid-August, the government banned family gatherings, reinstated a Sunday curfew and extended lockdowns to five more regions.²⁸⁴

Peru's international borders remain closed, although repatriation flights were allowed to resume from Lima on August 17.²⁸⁵ Starting August 31, the decision to reopen Peru's international borders is expected to be reviewed every 15 days.

St. Lucia

From July 9, the government of St. Lucia introduced new and updated protocols for arrivals.²⁸⁶ Travelers had to obtain a negative PCR (polymerized chain reaction) test within seven days of travel, unless arriving from designated travel bubble countries and territories: Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica,

²⁸⁰ [Breaking Travel News](#), October 12, 2020

²⁸¹ [Travel Weekly](#), October 26, 2020

²⁸² [La Agencia de Viajes Colombia](#), August 12, 2020

²⁸³ [Republic World](#), April 9, 2020

²⁸⁴ [MercoPress](#), August 14, 2020

²⁸⁵ [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Peru

²⁸⁶ [Breaking Travel News](#), July 8, 2020

Montserrat, St Barthelemy, St Kitts & Nevis, St Martin, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Sint Martin, Trinidad & Tobago, and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

At the end of August, the government announced a further easing, allowing travelers to stay in up to two COVID-certified properties for the duration of their stay.²⁸⁷

Turks & Caicos

The Turks & Caicos Islands will officially reopen its borders on July 22.²⁸⁸ This will be accompanied by a series of new protocols addressing standards, training and personal protective equipment. The country expects flights to resume from the U.S., Canada and Europe as soon as it is ready to receive them. Providenciales International Airport will reopen on July 22.

Uruguay

Air services have been grounded since March 25. On August 6, the National Civil Aviation and Airport Infrastructure Directorate (DINACIA) has proposed the resumption of commercial aviation.

U.S. Virgin Islands

After seeing total confirmed cases rise from 398 at the beginning of August to 734 by August 16, the U.S. Virgin Islands has reclosed its borders to international arrivals.²⁸⁹ From August 19, arrivals are suspended for at least one month. The territory has also reverted back to its “stay-at-home” phase of its COVID-19 response for the next two weeks.

With immediate effect, all hotels, villas, Airbnb listings, guesthouses and all other forms of accommodation were ordered not to accept or book any reservations for 30 days. From August 19, they could not check in any new guests, except business travelers, flight crew, emergency personnel and government workers with written authorization from a relevant government agency.

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Iran

With many Iranians not following a stay-at-home policy, the authorities introduced a ban on intercity travel from March 26.²⁹⁰ To prevent a second outbreak in Iran, the closure of schools, universities, public spaces and sports centers has been extended.

Israel

From March 6, Israel required arriving foreign travelers, who had visited Austria, France, Germany, Spain and Switzerland within the last 14 days, to provide a residential address for a 14-day self-isolation. Without proof, entry into the country was denied. Israeli citizens returning from these countries had to

²⁸⁷ [Breaking Travel News](#), August 27, 2020

²⁸⁸ [Breaking Travel News](#), May 31, 2020

²⁸⁹ [Breaking Travel News](#), August, 17, 2020

²⁹⁰ [GardaWorld](#), March 26, 2020

self-isolate.²⁹¹ By March 9, all arrivals had to self-isolate. Visitors already in the country on that date were given 72 hours to leave.²⁹²

On April 7, the Israeli government locked the country down, imposing a short-term intercity travel ban until April 10. Public transportation and international flights were closed until April 12. It was not until June that Israel began to slowly reopen. Passenger rail services resumed on June 22, although capacity was limited to prevent crowding. Passengers must also book seats in advance using a special voucher system.²⁹³ But there would be no further easing of restrictions until a recent spike in COVID-19 infections was flattened.²⁹⁴ The government threatened to reapply restrictions to achieve this goal. Israel continues to ban almost all non-Israelis from entering the country and requires returning nationals to self-quarantine for two weeks after arrival.

In mid-August, Israel agreed a strict travel corridor with Greek authorities. From a yet-to-be-confirmed date, up to 600 Israelis will be allowed to visit Greece each week, but may only visit Athens, Thessaloniki and the islands of Crete and Corfu. Travelers must submit a COVID-19 test on departure from Israel and on arrival in Greece, followed by a two-day quarantine.²⁹⁵ Currently, just four countries with a low incidence of COVID-19 permit entry to Israeli passport holders subject to a negative COVID-19 test result: Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro and Rwanda.²⁹⁶

Following a surge in daily infections, from September 18, Israel entered its second national lockdown, initially for three weeks.²⁹⁷ Restrictions include:

- A ban on more than 10 people meeting indoors and more than 20 people outdoors
- Schools and shopping centers will close; people must stay within 500 meters of home, unless traveling to work
- Supermarkets and pharmacies remain open. Non-governmental offices and businesses can also stay open, but they must not accept customers

As it entered the second week of lockdown, Israel tightened restrictions further from September 25, with non-essential businesses closed and travel restricted to 0.6 miles (one kilometer) from people's homes.

Jordan

On April 9, Jordan imposed a 48-hour nationwide curfew just two weeks after relaxing a lockdown the government had earlier introduced in March.²⁹⁸ Commercial flights in and out of Jordan were suspended until at least August 18.²⁹⁹

Jordan renewed some restrictions from September 17, 2020, closing schools, mosques, public markets and restaurants for two weeks.³⁰⁰ A spike in infections forced the government to implement a 48-hour

²⁹¹ [easyJet](#), March 12, 2020

²⁹² UK Government, Foreign Travel Advice, [Israel](#), March 12, 2020

²⁹³ [The Times of Israel](#), June 19, 2020

²⁹⁴ [The Times of Israel](#), June 18, 2020

²⁹⁵ [Haaretz](#), August 13, 2020

²⁹⁶ [Haaretz](#), August 11, 2020

²⁹⁷ [BBC](#), September 14, 2020

²⁹⁸ [Gulf News](#), April 9, 2020

²⁹⁹ [Gov.UK, FCO](#), August 14, 2020

³⁰⁰ [Reuters](#), September 14, 2020

nationwide lockdown from October 9, as it tried to avoid a more prolonged shutdown.³⁰¹ A second 48-hour lockdown followed from October 16, although it did not apply to travelers arriving from abroad.³⁰²

Kuwait

Kuwait was the first country to suspend all air travel to and from Japan and Singapore, implementing a ban on Feb. 25.

From March 13, Kuwait's government is suspending all air services to and from the emirate. The suspension remains in effect "until further notice." Only Kuwaiti citizens and their immediate relatives will be permitted to fly into the Gulf state. Local airlines Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways are suspending all flights.

Lebanon

On July 28, the Lebanese government reinforced lockdown measures after a spike in new cases.³⁰³ From July 30, the country will shut down for five days with another five-day lockdown due the following week. Bars, restaurants, nightclubs, shopping centers, gyms and religious gatherings will close. The country's Minister of Health has accused people of not abiding by preventive measure and international arrivals of not respecting the isolation period.

Palestinian Authority

Following a rise in virus cases, the Palestinian Authority introduced a five-day lockdown in the West Bank from July 3.³⁰⁴ All businesses have been closed except for pharmacies and supermarkets. Travel and movement for non-essential reasons is prohibited.

Saudi Arabia

On March 12, the Saudi government suspended flights and travel by its citizens and expatriates to a number of markets, including the European Union, Switzerland, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Philippines, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Djibouti and Somalia. It also suspended entry to arrivals from these countries. Saudi Arabia also suspended all traffic through land crossings with Jordan.

The restrictions excluded health workers currently in Saudi Arabia from the Philippines and India, and evacuation, shipping and trade trips taking necessary precautions.

Prior to these new restrictions, Saudi Arabia had already banned travel to 19 countries, including neighboring states.³⁰⁵

Saudi Arabia started easing its lockdown measures from May 28 in a three-phase return to normality.³⁰⁶ The first phase (May 28-30) reduced a night-time curfew in all regions except Makkah. Private travel between cities and regions could resume. The second phase (May 31 to June 20) saw the length of the

³⁰¹ [Al Jazeera](#), October 9, 2020

³⁰² [BBC](#), October 15, 2020

³⁰³ [Arab News](#), July 28, 2020

³⁰⁴ [The Times of Israel](#), July 1, 2020

³⁰⁵ [Gulf News](#), March 12, 2020

³⁰⁶ [Arab News](#), May 27

curfew reduced further. As part of this easing of lockdown measures, domestic flights resumed from May 31.³⁰⁷ Flights had been suspended since March 20.

When international flights resume, all arriving travelers must show a negative coronavirus PCR test within 48 hours of departure.³⁰⁸ They will also have their temperature checked and be tested on arrival in Saudi Arabia. On arrival, all passengers must self-quarantine for 14 days.

Turkey

Turkey reopened its international land, sea and air borders on June 12.³⁰⁹ All arrivals are subject to a medical evaluation, anyone showing symptoms must undergo a PCR test. Following a positive result, travelers must seek medical treatment at a hospital nominated by the Ministry of Health or a private facility in Turkey at their own expense. Departing passengers may need to (privately) arrange a COVID-19 test if required by their destination, as this is currently not available at airports and seaports.

While the government has ruled out widespread lockdowns, with daily deaths and cases returning to May levels, it re-imposed some restrictions from September 13, including a ban on weddings and limiting passenger numbers on public transportation.³¹⁰ Taxis may now carry no more than three people, all payments must be made by contactless payment or credit cards, and if one person is seated alone in a taxi, they must seat as far as possible away from the driver.³¹¹ Masks are also compulsory for both driver and passenger(s) for the duration of the journey. When traveling on mass transit systems, passengers are banned from standing once all seats are occupied, although limited standing may be allowed on some metro and metro bus services. Wearing a mask is now compulsory.

United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)

From March 17, the U.A.E. temporarily suspended issuing entry visas to travelers from all countries except holders of diplomatic passports and passport holders from 45 countries for whom visas are granted on arrival.³¹² Travelers in this group were subject to additional medical checks on arrival. The list of 45 countries included most European countries (with some limits on Italy), as well as Australia, Brunei, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the U.S.

The U.A.E.'s National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA) and General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) subsequently suspended passenger flights to, from and through the country from March 25 for two weeks. The suspension, which remained in place until further notice, affected major global hubs Dubai and Abu Dhabi as well as Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah airports.

From March 26, U.A.E. residents were ordered to stay at home for two-three days to allow the authorities to sterilize all public transport services, including Dubai Metro, trams, taxis, buses and all other public or private spaces and roads.³¹³

³⁰⁷ [Breaking Travel News](#), May 27, 2020

³⁰⁸ [FCO](#), July 29, 2020

³⁰⁹ [FCO](#), July 29, 2020

³¹⁰ [Reuters](#), September 13, 2020

³¹¹ [Daily Sabah](#), September 11, 2020

³¹² [Which School Advisor](#), March 15, 2020

³¹³ [Gulf News](#), March 26, 2020

While regular flights remain suspended, from the first week of June, airlines based in the U.A.E. resumed transit flights through hubs at Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah.

Dubai allowed foreign tourists and business travelers to enter the emirate from July 7.³¹⁴ Before arriving, visitors must take a PCR test up to four days (96 hours) prior to their date of travel.³¹⁵ Otherwise, a PCR test will be carried out upon arrival at Dubai's airports. All travelers must also complete a health declaration form.

From August 1, anyone travelling to the U.A.E. must first have a COVID-19 test, regardless from which country their journey started.³¹⁶ This applies to tourists, transit passengers, residents and U.A.E. citizens.

On August 27, Abu Dhabi tightened travel restrictions within the U.A.E. Motorists may only travel to Abu Dhabi within 48 hours of receiving a negative PCR nose swab test. They must also undergo a DPI (diffractive phase interferometry) laser test at screening centers across the seven emirates.³¹⁷ The PCR test typically costs Dh370 and the DPI test Dh50.

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Bermuda

As part of its fourth phase of reopening the country's economy, the Bermuda government will allow international air services to resume on July 1.³¹⁸ Travelers who test negative for COVID-19 72 hours before arrival, and who also test negative upon arrival in Bermuda, will enjoy freedom of movement within Bermuda, subject to local health guidelines.

Canada

From November 2, 2020, some international passengers arriving in Calgary, Alberta, will be able to reduce or avoid quarantine by taking a "rapid" COVID-19 test. Travelers must still self-isolate between arrival and receiving a negative test result, which could be returned within two days. A negative result will exempt travelers from the 14-day quarantine, but they must also commit to taking a second test within six or seven days of arrival. Testing-on arrival will initially be available on a trial basis over a 26 week period. Participants (Alberta residents and international passengers arriving on non-stop flights) will also be required to be monitored daily for symptoms and follow enhanced preventive health measures, such as wearing masks in public places and avoiding contact with high-risk groups.

Mexico

From June 1, Mexico began to gradually ease its lockdown originally introduced on March 23.³¹⁹ Production was allowed to resume in the automotive, mining and construction industries. The move is part of a traffic light plan for restarting the economy. In red zones, such as Mexico City (until at least June 15), only essential activities are possible. In green zones, most activities can resume.

³¹⁴ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 23, 2020

³¹⁵ [Breaking Travel News](#), July 7, 2020

³¹⁶ [The National](#), July 23, 2020

³¹⁷ [The National](#), August 25, 2020

³¹⁸ [Travel Agent Central](#), June 22, 2020

³¹⁹ [Medical Express](#), June 1, 2020

Restrictions on non-essential travel at the U.S.-Mexico land border were due to end of August 21. The Mexican government supports an extension of the restrictions for a further month.³²⁰

U.S. restricts entry from China and Iran

Early in February, foreign nationals who had visited mainland China or Iran within the past 14 days were barred from entering the U.S.³²¹ American citizens, lawful permanent residents and their families, who had visited either country, were required to undergo health screenings at one of 11 U.S. airports. A 14-day quarantine was required in some cases.

U.S.-Europe

The U.S. Department of State had issued a Global Level 3 Health Advisory, recommending U.S. citizens reconsider travel abroad due to the global impact of COVID-19.³²²

Effective from midnight on March 13, the U.S. implemented a ban on all travel from Europe for the next 30 days. The restrictions will be adjusted “subject to conditions on the ground.” The restrictions did not initially apply to travel to and from the U.K., but still affected U.K. residents and all other travelers who had visited the Schengen area within 14 days of departure to the U.S. All foreign nationals traveling to a Schengen country within 14 days of U.S. arrival were to be denied permission to travel (by the airline).

The initial ban **applied only to foreign nationals** visiting certain European countries covered by the Schengen agreement for 14 days before their scheduled arrival in the U.S. Non-EU countries, including Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are also part of Schengen, so were included in the restrictions. Other non-Schengen European countries include Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine. While Monaco, San Marino and Vatican City are not members of the visa-free zone, these states have opened their borders to it, so should be included in the U.S. restrictions.³²³ The Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands are special members of the EU and are part of the Schengen Zone, even though they are islands.

The ban **did not apply** to U.S. citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives of citizens. Any U.S. citizen or lawful U.S. permanent resident returning to the U.S, having visited a Schengen country within the previous 14 days, had to arrive through an approved airport:³²⁴

- Atlanta: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlantic International Airport (ATL)
- Boston: Boston Logan International Airport (BOS)
- Chicago: Chicago O’Hare International Airport (ORD)
- Dallas/Fort Worth: Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)
- Detroit: Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW)
- Honolulu: Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL)
- Los Angeles: Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)
- Miami: Miami International Airport (MIA)
- New York City: John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK)
- Newark, N.J.: Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR)

³²⁰ [Reuters](#), August 13, 2020

³²¹ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

³²² [U.S. Department of State](#), March 11, 2020

³²³ [Schengen Visa Info](#)

³²⁴ [American Airlines](#), March 14, 2020

- San Francisco: San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
- Seattle: Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)
- Washington, D.C.: Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD)

Nearly 40 airlines were operating 560 daily return flights between the U.S. and mainland Europe, equating to nearly 17,000 monthly flights and 4.8 million seats.³²⁵ U.S. airlines were already scaling back services to some European cities, including Milan, Rome, Barcelona, Madrid and Paris.

The inevitable drop in demand resulted in fewer transatlantic flights. As the ban relates to travel and not flights, air services could continue, but likely at a much-reduced level. Travelers trying to get back from North America to a Schengen country could fly via Canada, the U.K., Ireland or even Russia and Turkey.

Under the EC261 regulation, travelers may have been due up to €600 (approx. \$US617) in compensation if their transatlantic flight was delayed or cancelled. But it is unclear if the executive order from the U.S. president allows airlines to declare *force majeure*, i.e., circumstances beyond their control, which could result in zero compensation. If due, compensation applied to all flights departing from the EU, but only to those operated by EU carriers back to the EU. Even if passengers had purchased a ticket from an EU airline, they should check that the actual flight (from the U.S.) is operated by an EU and not a U.S. carrier.

The U.S. government suggested it might allow travel to resume earlier than 30 days, should the situation change materially.

On March 14, the U.S. announced an extension of its European travel ban to include travelers arriving from the U.K. and Ireland. The ban was effective from midnight EST on March 16, but as with the Schengen area ban, U.S. citizens and legal residents could still return home via 13 specified gateway airports. Foreign nationals who had traveled to the U.K. or Ireland within the last 14 days were denied permission to travel to the U.S.

U.S.-international travel

On March 19, the U.S. Department of State raised its travel warning to Level 4, its highest possible level.³²⁶ The advisory carried a “Do Not Travel” recommendation and urged U.S. citizens living abroad in countries still operating international flights to return home. Those remaining abroad had to prepare to remain outside the U.S. for an indefinite period.

On September 11, the U.S. announced plans to end enhanced health screening of travelers from certain countries within a week, and as early as September 14.³²⁷ These visitors will no longer be channeled through 15 large U.S. gateway airports. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believes the screening, which includes temperature checks and questioning travelers about COVID-19 symptoms, has limited effectiveness, as some infected people have no symptoms. The extra screening reportedly uncovered just 15 COVID-19 cases among 675,000 going through the process.

The extra screening had applied to people who had visited China, Iran, most countries in mainland Europe, the U.K., Ireland and Brazil.

³²⁵ Cirium, March 12, 2020

³²⁶ Cirium, March, 19, 2020

³²⁷ [AP News](#), September 11, 2020

U.S. states

At one point, more than 90% of the U.S. population was subject to some degree of lockdown. But as the infection rate dropped in several hotspots, such as New York City, governors in some states allowed lockdown restrictions to expire or actively ended them.³²⁸ From April 25, Georgia, Oklahoma, Alaska and South Carolina allowed some businesses to reopen. Texas did not renew its lockdown after its April 30 expiry. Colorado, Tennessee, Mississippi and Montana eased some lockdown measures. Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming never issued mandatory orders to stay at home.

By May 20, all 50 U.S. states had moved towards a partial reopening, even though a number had still to meet federal guidance recommending a 14-day downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases before easing lockdown.³²⁹ Each state is taking a different approach to reopening. Slower moving states, typically in the North East and West Coast, have started regional, rather than statewide, easing.

With some southern and western states reporting record numbers of COVID-19 cases, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut announced plans to ask travelers to self-isolate for 14 days after arriving from Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Utah.³³⁰ Anyone not entering quarantine risks being fined between \$1,000 and \$5,000.³³¹

A number of major airlines have called on governments to establish a joint COVID-19 testing program to allow travel to resume between the U.S. and Europe, which remains largely restricted.³³²

U.S.-Canada

On March 18, 2020, Canada banned arrivals by non-Canadian citizens. Permanent Canadian residents, the immediate family members of Canadian citizens, diplomats and aircrew were unaffected, but were expected to self-isolate for 14-days upon their return. U.S. citizens were initially excluded from the ban.

From March 18, the U.S./Canada border closed temporarily to non-essential traffic.³³³ Essential cross-border travel and trade can continue. There is no set timeframe for how long the closure will last. On June 24, U.S. Customs and Border Protection extended the restrictions through July 21.³³⁴ It was then extended until August 21, and it has since been extended further until November 21, 2020.³³⁵

U.S.-Mexico

On March 20, the U.S. and Mexico agreed to restrict “non-essential” travel between the two countries.³³⁶ On June 24, U.S. Customs and Border Protection extended the restrictions through July 21.³³⁷

³²⁸ [BBC](#), April 27, 2020

³²⁹ [BBC](#), May 20, 2020

³³⁰ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 25, 2020

³³¹ [BBC](#), June 25, 2020

³³² [Business Travel News](#), July 22, 2020

³³³ [BBC](#), March 19, 2020

³³⁴ [Land Line](#), June 23, 2020

³³⁵ [Bellingham Herald](#), October 19, 2020

³³⁶ [BBC](#), March 20, 2020

³³⁷ [Land Line](#), June 23, 2020

While restrictions on non-essential travel remain, on August 21, the U.S. authorities introduced extra measures to reduce it at land border crossings in Arizona, California and Texas.³³⁸

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Australia

Australia initially imposed travel bans on foreign nationals arriving from China, South Korea, Iran and Italy, and required Australians and permanent residents returning from these countries self-isolate for 14 days.³³⁹ From March 20, it expanded the ban to cover all foreign travelers, applying to all non-citizens and non-residents.³⁴⁰ Australians could still return from overseas but had to self-isolate for 14 days. New Zealanders living in Australia as Australian residents were unaffected by the restrictions. Visa holders already in Australia could remain in the country.

On March 22, Australia tightened restrictions on domestic travel, immediately recommending against all non-essential travel, particularly interstate and over longer distances.³⁴¹ At this stage, the ban was not intended to prevent people going about normal daily activities, like shopping and traveling to work.

Australia set out a three-stage plan to end the lockdown and restart its economy by July.³⁴² The country entered a four-week period of initial easing, allowing limited opening of restaurants and cafes. In stage two, gyms, cinemas and galleries reopened, and some interstate travel would be allowed. When implemented, stage three would allow all interstate travel and some limited international travel, including trans-Tasman flights.

In mid-June, Australia's Tourism Minister announced that the country's border would stay closed until 2021. There may be some exceptions, such as travel between Australia and New Zealand, but the timeframe has yet to be confirmed. The government may also consider allowing in visitors for longer-term business, investment and educational purposes. It may also give preference to travelers arriving from countries that have dealt with COVID-19 as effectively as New Zealand.

The easing of the domestic lockdown has been hit by a COVID-19 outbreak in Melbourne, the country's second-largest city, which was returned to a six-week lockdown.³⁴³ People must stay home except for work, essential services, medical treatment or school. The reversal dashed hopes of lifting social distancing and state border restrictions across the country by the end of July. It has already resulted in the closure of the border between Victoria, Melbourne's home state, and New South Wales.

As the states of Victoria and New South Wales battled COVID-19 outbreaks, the Northern Territory announced on August 11 it expects to close its borders to COVID-19-affected states for at least another 18 months.³⁴⁴ People can still travel from virus hotspots, but must complete a mandatory 14-day hotel

³³⁸ [Reuters](#), August 21, 2020

³³⁹ [Independent](#), March 15, 2020

³⁴⁰ [ABC](#), March 19, 2020

³⁴¹ [The Chronicle](#), March 22, 2020

³⁴² [Sky News](#), May 8, 2020

³⁴³ [Bloomberg](#), July 7 2020

³⁴⁴ [BBC](#), August 11, 2020

quarantine at their own cost. Queensland has also closed its borders to New South Wales, which includes Sydney and the Australian Capital Territory (Canberra).

New Zealand

New Zealand introduced a ban on all overseas arrivals by non-citizens and non-residents from March 19, 2020. Exemptions included spouses and children of citizens and residents still abroad, key health workers and people traveling for humanitarian reasons.³⁴⁵ It also excluded people bringing in freight on ship or planes.³⁴⁶ The ban didn't apply to Australians living in New Zealand as New Zealand residents.

Starting March 25, New Zealand entered a four-week lockdown to halt the spread of COVID-19.³⁴⁷ Air travel was only available to people undertaking essential services or for carrying freight.

New Zealand lifted most COVID-19 restrictions on June 8, when the country moved to level one, the lowest of a four-tier alert system.³⁴⁸ While social distancing was no longer required and there were no limits on public gatherings, New Zealand's international borders remained closed. Any New Zealanders returning to the country must enter a 14-day quarantine.

After detecting its first locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in more than 100 days, on August 12, New Zealand returned Auckland to strict lockdown, placing it into Level Three restrictions.³⁴⁹ Residents were urged to work from home and only leave their houses for essential purposes, such as going to the supermarket or local park. Schools, bars and restaurants were closed, and gatherings of more than ten people were restricted. Travel in/out of Auckland was restricted to people returning home. The restrictions were subsequently extended until August 30.³⁵⁰

The rest of New Zealand was also moved to Level Two restriction until September 6. From August 24, mask wearing on all public transport and rideshare services was made mandatory.

New Zealand will lift restrictions nationwide on September 21, except in Auckland, which is at the center of a second wave of infections.³⁵¹ Restrictions in Auckland, which is now on Level 2.5, will be reviewed on September 21 and may be changed from September 23. The government immediately eased all physical distancing requirements on aircraft. Masks will remain compulsory on all public transportation.

Australia and New Zealand travel bubble

From October 15, 2020, Australia will create a Safe Travel Zone with New Zealand, paving the way for the resumption of travel between the two countries.³⁵² Initially, the arrangement will only allow one-way travel from New Zealand to Australia. In the first stage, only New South Wales and the Northern Territory can participate in the scheme.

Passengers will be able to travel to Australia, quarantine-free, as long as they have not been in an area designated as a COVID-19 hotspot in New Zealand in the preceding 14 days (there are currently no such

³⁴⁵ [NPR](#), March 19, 2020

³⁴⁶ [The Guardian](#), March 19, 2020

³⁴⁷ [Cirium](#), March 23, 2020

³⁴⁸ [BBC](#), June 8, 2020

³⁴⁹ [Sky News](#), August 11, 2020

³⁵⁰ [9News](#), August 24, 2020

³⁵¹ [Reuters](#), September 14, 2020

³⁵² [Prime Minister of Australia](#), October 2, 2020

hotspots). Anyone returning to New Zealand would be required to comply with that country's travel requirements. Only New Zealand citizens may enter Australia and must undergo a two-week quarantine.

Note

The COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, and the situation is changing on almost an hourly basis. The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at October 27, 2020. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

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