

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

January 8, 2021

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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### Africa

#### Algeria

*On June 28, 2020, Algeria closed air, land and sea borders until further notice.*

Entry is limited to nationals returning on repatriation flights from abroad, and foreign nationals with diplomatic or residency visas.<sup>1</sup> Arriving passengers have their temperatures taken and face a compulsory 14-day quarantine in their own accommodation or in a state facility.

#### Egypt

*By the end of June 2020, after a curfew lasting almost three months, Egypt started to ease many COVID-19 restrictions, while retaining some precautionary measures.<sup>2</sup>*

From September 1, 2020, Egypt required all arriving passengers above the age of 6 years to produce a negative PCR test to confirm they are free of COVID-19.<sup>3</sup> 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 due to the longer flight time and transit period at departure airports.<sup>4</sup> 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.*

<sup>1</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO, August 20, 2020

<sup>2</sup> [Egypt Independent](#), June 27, 2020

<sup>3</sup> [The National](#), August 26, 2020

<sup>4</sup> [Egyptair](#), September 16, 2020

All air passengers (over the age of 10 years) must provide proof of a negative RT PCR test issued within the previous 120 hours, before they can enter Ethiopia. Arrivals must then complete a mandatory 7-day quarantine.<sup>5</sup>

### Gabon

*A State of Emergency was lifted on May 11, 2020.<sup>6</sup>*

Commercial flights are limited, with each airline allowed to operate three international services per week. Land and sea borders remain closed.<sup>7</sup> On arrival, international passengers must test for COVID-19 at Libreville Airport and self-isolate for 48 hours whilst waiting for the result. Following a negative result, passengers receive a test certificate valid for 14 days, which may be renewed, but only after taking another test.<sup>8</sup>

Any foreign national wishing to leave Gabon must obtain government permission and have a negative COVID-19 test result before departure.

### Ghana

*On July 27, 2020, the Ghanaian government announced a further easing, including the lifting of some restrictions on public transport and domestic flights. However, the country's borders remained closed to international travel.<sup>9</sup>*

Ghana reopened its borders to international air travel on September 1, 2020. Its land and sea borders remain closed.<sup>10</sup> All arriving passengers must complete an online health declaration form before departure. On arrival, they must provide evidence of a negative result from a PCR test and have their temperature checked. Passengers must also take a mandatory COVID-19 antigen test at Accra airport at a cost of \$150. Depending on the result, a period in quarantine may be required.

### Kenya

*On July 6, 2020, Kenya began a phased reopening after four months of COVID-19 restrictions.<sup>11</sup> This included the lifting of a ban on movement into and out of Nairobi, Mombasa and Mandera. Domestic flights resumed on July 15 and international services on August 1.*

Just weeks after lifting some restrictions, Kenya reintroduced a number of measures from the beginning of November 2020. Government agencies are more strictly enforcing public health measures, such as mandatory wearing of masks in public places, while public gatherings have been banned and nighttime curfews have been extended until January 2021.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Dec. 14, 2020

<sup>6</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO, August 24, 2020

<sup>7</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Dec. 14, 2020

<sup>8</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Dec. 14, 2020

<sup>9</sup> [AS News](#), July 27, 2020

<sup>10</sup> [UK GOV](#), FCO, Nov 12, 2020

<sup>11</sup> [Al Jazeera](#), July 6, 2020

<sup>12</sup> [VOA News](#), Nov. 4, 2020

Travelers arriving in Kenya from 128 countries and territories are exempt from quarantine.<sup>13</sup> Such passengers are still required to present a negative certificate for a COVID-19 test carried out within 96 hours before departure.<sup>14</sup>

### Mali

*Mali shut its land borders from March 26.<sup>15</sup>*

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.<sup>16</sup>*

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 on March 20, 2020. Public places closed, and all travel was suspended.<sup>17</sup> From early June 2020, the government started to ease lockdown measures, with a second phase of easing starting early in July.<sup>18</sup> Most international flights were suspended.*

Morocco's borders reopened to international visitors in October 2020.<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup>

### Nigeria

*At the end of June 2020, Nigeria lifted a ban on interstate travel and allowed domestic flights to resume.<sup>21</sup> The restart of international flights from Abuja and Lagos took place on September 5.*

Before departing for Nigeria, travelers must complete a health declaration in the Nigeria International Travel Portal.<sup>22</sup> They must also have tested negative for COVID-19 within 120 hours of their departure and

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<sup>13</sup> [Kenya Airport Authority](#), Dec. 14, 2020

<sup>14</sup> [Kenya Airport Authority](#)

<sup>15</sup> [The Bulletin Time](#), March 26

<sup>16</sup> [Air Mauritius](#), September 28, 2020

<sup>17</sup> [Morocco World News](#), March 21, 2020

<sup>18</sup> [Morocco World News](#), August 5, 2020

<sup>19</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), October 2, 2020

<sup>20</sup> [UK Gov](#), FCO

<sup>21</sup> [Anadolu Agency](#), June 30, 2020

<sup>22</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Dec. 16, 2020

uploaded a copy of their PCR certificate. Also before travel, passengers must book and pay for a repeat PCR test for the seventh day of their stay in Nigeria. They must quarantine until this test is taken.

### Rwanda

*Rwanda reopened its airports to international flights from August 1, 2020, more than four months after services were suspended.*

All arriving passengers must present a negative result from a PCR test taken within 120 hours of departure. A second PCR test is 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, 2020. While land and sea borders remain closed (except the Senegal-Gambia border), international flights resumed from July 15.<sup>23</sup> However, as the country was excluded from the EU's list of 15 safe third-countries, Senegal did not initially reopen to travelers arriving from EU countries.<sup>24</sup>*

Airlines may not 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.<sup>25</sup> To enter Senegal, travelers must provide a negative COVID-19 test result no more than five 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

*Sierra Leone declared its first nationwide lockdown in May 2020. The country reopened its airspace to international arrivals on July 22, but land borders remain closed.*

To fly into Sierra Leone, travelers must obtain authorization from the Government of Sierra Leone. They 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 COVID-19 tests paid for through a government portal.<sup>26</sup>

### South Africa

*South Africa declared a state of national disaster in March 2020.<sup>27</sup> It partly lifted a two-month lockdown on June 1.<sup>28</sup> 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. By the end of August 2020, domestic air travel resumed across 18 airports. South Africa partially reopened its borders to international travelers from October 1, 2020.<sup>29</sup>*

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<sup>23</sup> [U.S. Embassy in Senegal](#), COVID-19 Information

<sup>24</sup> [Africa News](#), July 3, 2020

<sup>25</sup> [U.K. FCO](#), Entry into Senegal

<sup>26</sup> [U.K. FCO](#), Sierra Leone entry rules

<sup>27</sup> [Comair](#), March 24, 2020

<sup>28</sup> [Al Jazeera](#), June 1, 2020

<sup>29</sup> [Business Travel News](#), September 18, 2020

On November 11, 2020, the government reopened its international borders for air travel from all countries.<sup>30</sup> International air travel is restricted to three airports: Johannesburg OR Tambo International, Durban King Shaka International and Cape Town International. Arriving passengers must produce a negative PCR result from a test not older than 72 hours prior to departure. They must also provide proof of accommodation should they need to self-quarantine. Any arriving passenger displaying COVID-19 symptoms or confirming recent contact with an infected person must take a COVID-19 test at their own cost. A positive result requires a 10-day quarantine at a designated location.

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### Cambodia

*From April 10, 2020, Cambodia entered a state of emergency. However, the country lifted internal travel restrictions from midnight on April 16.<sup>31</sup> 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.<sup>32</sup>*

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

*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.*

*From June 8, 2020, foreign airlines resumed services, but only operating one flight per week to a Chinese city of their choice. Since mid-December 2020, any airline bringing in five or more infected passengers on a flight must suspend operations on the particular route for two weeks. If the figure is above 10 cases, the suspension is increased to four weeks.*

Visas are now issued for entry into China but under strict conditions.<sup>33</sup> Recipients must submit a Health Declaration Form to the nearest Chinese Embassy or Consulate some days before travel, as the form must be certified and returned by post. Travelers must also provide evidence of a negative nucleic acid and IgM antibody tests taken by the same clinic no more than 48 hours before travel.

Following health checks on arrival, international travelers must quarantine for at least 14 days at home or at a centralized government hotel. Follow-up swab tests may be taken during quarantine.

Anyone traveling within China faces mandatory temperature checks and the use of health apps or QR codes to prove their travel history at transport hubs, hotels, commercial buildings (including restaurants) and residential areas. Restrictions on movement and quarantine arrangements remain in place between different parts of the country.

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<sup>30</sup> [South African Government](#), Travel – Coronavirus COVID-19

<sup>31</sup> [Khmer Times](#), April 22, 2020

<sup>32</sup> [Agence Kampuchea Presse](#), May 20, 2020

<sup>33</sup> [Gov.UK](#), Dec. 16, 2020, China

In December 2020, China and Japan agreed to relax quarantine restrictions for anyone testing negative for COVID-19. Travelers must also submit an itinerary of their activities in advance. When in Japan, Chinese business travelers should keep their activities to a minimum, not use public transportation and avoid contact with random people or crowds.

### Hong Kong

*Early in the pandemic Hong Kong managed to avoid many of the extreme lockdown measures introduced in other countries. In response to a second wave in March 2020, Hong Kong introduced strict border controls, COVID-19 tests on arrival and a 14-day quarantine. Electronic bracelets even tracked the movement of new arrivals.*

*The widespread use of masks and social distancing measures were eased during June. As Hong Kong entered a third wave in July, the government made mask wearing mandatory in public and urged people to stay at home as much as possible.<sup>34</sup>*

Travelers arriving from overseas, who are not Hong Kong residents, will be denied entry.<sup>35</sup> All inbound passengers must submit online a Health & Quarantine Information Declaration before boarding their flight.<sup>36</sup> 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 must supply a deep throat saliva sample for COVID-19 testing at the Temporary Specimen Collection Centre of the Department of Health. Because of the time taken for results, passengers arriving after noon are held overnight in the Holding Centre for Test Result. Passengers with negative test results must quarantine for 14 days in a hotel, home or other location. Those with a positive result will be placed under compulsory quarantine.

Hong Kong has approached other countries about creating travel bubbles. These have included Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand and Vietnam. An air travel bubble with Singapore, due to commence on November 22, 2020, has been postponed into 2021 following another surge in cases. When operational, it will allow passengers to avoid quarantine by taking pre-departure and on-arrival COVID-19 PCR tests. Initially there will be daily flights between Hong Kong and Singapore, with passengers capped at 200 per flight.

### India

*From March 22, 2020, the Indian government banned all international flights.<sup>37</sup> Three days later, it suspended all domestic passenger flights as part of a national lockdown, lasting until the end of May. The government started to ease restrictions away from infection hotspots.*

*Domestic flights were allowed to resume from May 25. Airlines were initially only allowed to operate one-third of their schedules, rebuilding capacity in a calibrated manner. Travel was subject to a number of conditions and restrictions including:<sup>38</sup>*

- *Arrival at the airport two hours before departure*
- *Thermal screening at airport entry and installing the Arogya Setu COVID-19 contact tracing app*
- *Check in online, one item of baggage and use e-boarding pass to board the aircraft*

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<sup>34</sup> [The Guardian](#), July 27, 2020

<sup>35</sup> [Gov.UK](#), Dec. 16, 2020

<sup>36</sup> [Government](#) of Hong Kong SAR

<sup>37</sup> [Channel News Asia](#), March 20, 2020

<sup>38</sup> Ministry of Civil Aviation, May 21, 2020

- *Airlines must provide protection kits (three layered surgical masks, face shield and sanitizer) to every passenger, who must wear a mask throughout the journey*
- *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 trollies 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*
- *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.*

*The ban on scheduled international passenger flights largely remains in place. The government has allowed some international travel via travel bubble agreements with France, Germany, the Maldives, Qatar, the U.K. and the U.S.* <sup>39</sup>

All regularly scheduled international flights remain suspended.<sup>40</sup> Land borders with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal are closed, except for returning Indian nationals.

Anyone traveling to India 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 cost and seven days isolation at home.<sup>41</sup> <sup>42</sup> Institutional quarantine may be avoided by submitting a negative RT-PCR result on arrival from a test taken not more than 96 hours before departure, although a 14-day home quarantine will be required instead. On arrival, all travelers have their temperatures checked, must download the *Arogya Setu* app and provide contact details.

## Indonesia

*During March and most of April 2020, 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 curb the spread of COVID-19, foreign visitors are barred from entering or transiting through Indonesian territory.<sup>43</sup> Exemptions apply to airline and maritime crews, diplomats, people involved in medical or essential work, and holders of temporary (KITAS) and permanent stay (KITAP) permits. Arriving travelers must possess a certificate (in English) confirming a negative PCR test result not older than 72 hours. Otherwise they must take a test on arrival and quarantine, at their own expense, until the test results are received, typically in seven days. All travelers must download the *Peduli Lindungi* app.

To travel within Indonesia by air, sea or land, travelers need a certificate to show they are free from COVID-19.<sup>44</sup> To travel by air, they also need a completed airline travel declaration form and a completed e-HAC online form. It's also recommended to download and activate the *Peduli Lindungi* app.

Jakarta is still under a limited lockdown, with some public activities restricted to preserve social distancing. Until January 8, 2021, anyone traveling to/from Jakarta by any type of transport must present a negative

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<sup>39</sup> [Times of India](#), July 3, 2020

<sup>40</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>41</sup> [Ministry of Health and Family Welfare](#), Nov. 5, 2020

<sup>42</sup> [Live Mint](#), August 2, 2020

<sup>43</sup> [Directorate General of Immigration](#), March 31, 2020

<sup>44</sup> [The Jakarta Post](#), June 30, 2020



rapid antigen test result. Air passengers can take a test at Jakarta airport before departure. Negative PCR test results are also acceptable, but antibody test results are not.

## Japan

*On March 9, 2020, 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.*

*On April 7, Japan declared a month-long state of emergency,<sup>45</sup> which finally ended on May 25.<sup>46</sup> The government called on Japanese to adopt a new lifestyle, wearing face masks, maintaining social distancing and working from home. The government reassessed the situation every three weeks, relaxing restrictions accordingly.*

Most businesses are now open, 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.<sup>47</sup>

Japan eased 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.<sup>48</sup>

In December 2020, Japan and China agreed to relax quarantine restrictions for anyone testing negative for COVID-19. Travelers must also submit an itinerary of their activities in advance. When in Japan, Chinese business travelers should minimize their activities, not use public transportation and avoid contact with random people or crowds. Japan has similar schemes in place with Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam.

Since December 18, 2020, Japan has required international arrivals at Tokyo's Haneda and Narita airports and Osaka Kansai airport to complete an online quarantine questionnaire. Upon completion, a QR code is generated, which must be presented on arrival Japan.

## Malaysia

*From March 18, 2020, the government placed the country on a movement control order, beginning a three-month lockdown.<sup>49</sup> Foreign travel to/from Malaysia was banned. Anyone returning from abroad had to undergo a health inspection and a 14-day self-quarantine.*

*On June 10, 2020, Malaysia entered a recovery phase lasting until the end of August.<sup>50</sup> Domestic holidays were permitted, but nightclubs, pubs and theme parks remained closed.*

*From September 7, 2020, Malaysia introduced a temporary ban on arrivals from countries including Brazil, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the UK and US.<sup>51</sup> The list of countries is reviewed weekly. The restrictions affected permanent residents, participants in the Malaysia My Second Home program, expatriates and professional visit passholders, spouses of Malaysian citizens and students.*

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<sup>45</sup> [The Guardian](#), April 7, 2020

<sup>46</sup> [Kyodo News](#), May 26, 2020

<sup>47</sup> [U.K. FCO](#), Japan

<sup>48</sup> Japan Times

<sup>49</sup> [Business Traveller](#), March 17, 2020

<sup>50</sup> [The Hindu](#), June 10, 2020

<sup>51</sup> [Jakarta Post](#), September 7, 2020



*On October 14, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, and Selangor were placed under a conditional movement control order (CMCO) lasting at least until November 9, 2020.<sup>52</sup> The CMCO effectively amounted to a lockdown on movement except for essential purposes, including commuting for work.*

Inter-state travel is permitted, with domestic flights operating as normal from Kuala Lumpur and Subang.

International travelers need permission to visit Malaysia. A COVID-19 test may be required on arrival. All arriving travelers must quarantine for 10 days at a designated government facility at the traveler's cost. Travelers must also download the *MySejahtera* app.

## Maldives

*The Maldives reopened its borders to international tourists on July 15, with guest houses and hotels located on inhabited islands reopening on August 1.<sup>53</sup>*

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.

A Public Health Emergency is in place until January 4, 2021.<sup>54</sup> Travel is now unrestricted between Greater Male and the other islands, but a 10 day home quarantine is mandatory upon arrival at the destination (excludes anyone making a journey direct from Male airport).

All arriving tourists and short term visitors must present a negative PCR test result, which is issued no more than 96 hours prior to departure.

## Myanmar

*Myanmar's response to COVID-19 began on February 28 with a ban on mass gatherings.<sup>55</sup> By March 20, the government restricted entry from 17 high-risk countries, while introducing a 14-day quarantine for any arrivals. Quarantine was extended to all arrivals from March 24. By March 31, Myanmar had banned entry from all countries, including arrivals across its land borders.*

*A lockdown and "Stay at Home" order was introduced in Yangon region in April.<sup>56</sup>*

Yangon and many other parts of Myanmar are currently under "Stay at Home" orders. People may only leave home for essential supplies or to undertake essential work.<sup>57</sup>

Domestic flights resumed on December 16. Passengers must show a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken no more than 36 hours prior to departure. Quarantine may be required at the destination, particularly if it is subject to a "Stay at Home" order. All international commercial flights are suspended until at least December 31, 2020.

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<sup>52</sup> [Malay Mail](#), October 26, 2020

<sup>53</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), June 25, 2020

<sup>54</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Maldives, Dec. 15, 2020

<sup>55</sup> [Ministry of Health & Sports](#), COVID-19 Situation Report 54

<sup>56</sup> [The Irrawaddy](#), May 13, 2020

<sup>57</sup> [Gov.UK](#), Myanmar

## Pakistan

*Pakistan was placed in lockdown on March 24. 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.*

*Domestic flights resumed from May 16, with limited services between Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta. International flights stayed suspended until May 31.<sup>58</sup> Restrictions on air travel, however, remained in place until October 1.*

Land borders with Afghanistan, India and Iran are closed. Anyone crossing into Pakistan must comply with COVID-19 testing and quarantine measures.

Since August 9, airlines have been allowed to operate international flights from all Pakistani airports. Arriving passengers must present evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 96 hours of the start of travel. A list of countries from which travelers are exempt from the test requirement is updated very two weeks.<sup>59</sup>

## 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. A lockdown in Manila and other high-risk areas was extended until May 15.<sup>60</sup>*

*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 Manila and four surrounding provinces on the island of Luzon into lockdown until at least August 15.<sup>61</sup> The lockdown saw the return of stay-at-home orders, the suspension of public transport and the grounding of domestic flights.*

Metro Manila, Bacolod, Batangas, Iloilo City and Tacloban are subject to General Community Quarantine (GCQ) measures, while the rest of the country is under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ). Non-essential travel is now permitted between the two types of region.

Since August 1, 2020, restrictions have been placed on foreign nationals allowed to enter the Philippines. Arriving passengers may face a mandatory 14-day quarantine and a COVID-19 test. They may also need to download the Traze Contact Tracing app.

## Singapore

*From March 20, all arriving travelers were issued a 14-day Stay Home Notice (SHN),<sup>62</sup> often served in government-designated facilities, with costs paid for by the Government of Singapore.<sup>63</sup>*

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<sup>58</sup> [Economic Times](#), May 16, 2020

<sup>59</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>60</sup> [The Thaiger](#), April 28, 2020

<sup>61</sup> [The Diplomat](#), August 7, 2020

<sup>62</sup> [Singapore Tourism Board](#), March 18, 2020

<sup>63</sup> [Immigration and Checkpoints Authority](#), Singapore,

*On April 3, a “circuit breaker” was introduced, amounting 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.<sup>64</sup>*

*On June 2, Singapore embarked on Phase One of its re-opening, with more than three-quarters of the economy resuming.<sup>65</sup> Singapore’s Changi Airport gradually allowed transit passengers. On June 19, Phase Two commenced, with most activities allowed to resume with safe distancing and mask wearing.<sup>67</sup> The wearing of face masks is compulsory for everyone when outside their place of residence.<sup>68</sup> Visits to any shops and services must be recorded through a Safe Entry app or by signing in on entry.*

Singapore has agreed a fast lane arrangement with China to restore essential business and official travel between the two countries. From June 8, 2020, it initially allowed travel between Singapore and six Chinese provinces and municipalities. 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 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. Anyone needing medical treatment must 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, Ma cau, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

From October 8, Singapore lifted border restrictions for visitors from Vietnam and Australia, except the state of Victoria. 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.

An air travel bubble was due to commence with Hong Kong on November 22, 2020, allowing travelers to avoid a 14-day quarantine. A spike in infections in Hong Kong delayed implementation into 2021. Once operational, it will initially allow daily flights between Hong Kong and Singapore. These are not open to transit passengers and will only be allowed to carry 200 people per flight. Before departure, passengers must take a COVID-19 PCR test, with a post-arrival test also required after landing in Hong Kong.

From mid-January 2021, Singapore will also allow short-term business travel without quarantine, although travelers’ movements will be subject to strict restrictions. The Connect@Singapore initiative will be available to a limited number of businesses, official and high economic value travelers from any country,

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<sup>64</sup> [Ministry of Health](#), Singapore, April 3, 2020

<sup>65</sup> [Ministry of Health](#), Singapore, May 19, 2020

<sup>66</sup> [Ministry of Health](#), Singapore, May 28, 2020

<sup>67</sup> [Straits Times](#), June 18, 2020

<sup>68</sup> [U.K. FCO](#), Singapore

allowing them to enter Singapore and remain for up to 14 days. Travelers may arrive in groups of up to five people and will be transported from the airport to dedicated facilities, where they must remain for the duration of their stay. Before travel and on arrival in Singapore, travelers must deliver a negative PCR test result and will be subject to antigen rapid tests on alternate days during their stay.

### South Korea

*On April 8, 2020, the government temporarily suspended visa waivers for citizens of countries that imposed travel bans on South Koreans.<sup>69</sup> 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. It also planned to impose restrictions on foreigners traveling to South Korea for non-essential visits.*

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.<sup>70</sup> Transit passengers have their temperatures checked, while those with symptoms are subject to a COVID-19 test and hospitalization if found to be positive.

Rising COVID-19 cases during December 2020 could see South Korea impose Level 3 restrictions, returning the country to a "soft lockdown. Schools have already closed, and Level 3 would require all but essential workers to stay at home, ban gatherings of more than 10 people and limit capacity on trains to 50%.<sup>71</sup>

### Sri Lanka

*On March 19, 2020, the Sri Lankan Government extended banned all travelers from entering the country.<sup>72</sup> The ban was extended until further notice.<sup>73</sup> Passengers could still depart from or transit through Colombo airport, although transit times were restricted to not more than six hours.*

*From May 4, 2020, Sri Lanka entered a two-month gradual easing, finally lifting the nationwide lockdown on June 28.<sup>74</sup> 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.<sup>75</sup>*

Colombo's international airport is due to reopen on December 26, 2020 ahead of Sri Lanka reopening its borders in January 2021.<sup>76</sup> Travelers must quarantine for 14 days and have COVID-19 insurance.

### Taiwan

*Taiwan introduced a ban on foreign arrivals from March 19. Exceptions were made for foreign residents, and travelers on diplomatic or official business, but subject to a 14-day self-quarantine. The ban was expanded to include transiting passengers and extended until April 30.<sup>77</sup>*

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<sup>69</sup> [Jakarta Post](#), April 8, 2020

<sup>70</sup> [U.K. FCO](#), South Korea

<sup>71</sup> [The Guardian](#), Dec. 15, 2020

<sup>72</sup> [Malaysia Airlines](#), March 18, 2020

<sup>73</sup> [SriLankan Airlines](#), March 29, 2020

<sup>74</sup> [The Hindu](#), June 28, 2020

<sup>75</sup> [TTG Asia](#), July 14, 2020

<sup>76</sup> [Edition](#), Dec. 3, 2020

<sup>77</sup> [Business Traveller](#), April 2, 2020

*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.<sup>78</sup>*

On arrival, international passengers must quarantine at a designated center for 14 days. The period may be lower for travelers from destinations designated low risk. Foreign nationals may not travel to Taiwan for tourism or to visit friends. They must provide a negative COVID-19 test report completed in the three working days prior to boarding their flight.<sup>79</sup>

### Thailand

*A one-month state of emergency started from March 26, 2020, allowing the government to implement curfews, censor the media, disperse gatherings and deploy the military.<sup>80</sup> At the end of June, Thailand extended its national state of emergency by a further month to July 31.*

Thailand finally eased its ban on international passenger flights from July 1.<sup>81</sup> Flights operated 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.

Thailand reopened its borders to international travel from any country in mid-December 2020.<sup>82</sup> Visitors must apply for a short-term tourist visa (TRV) or a longer-term special tourist visa (STV). A mandatory 14-day quarantine at a government-approved facility, certificate of entry (COE) and health insurance covering COVID are also required in both cases.

### 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, and soon after stopped issuing new visas to all foreign travelers.<sup>83</sup> Anyone still allowed to enter the country had to present an official document confirming they were free of COVID-19 coronavirus. 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 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.<sup>84</sup> The easing enabled local airlines VietJet and Vietnam Airlines to resume some domestic flights.<sup>85</sup>*

*In July, Vietnam re-imposed a number of restrictions, largely to deal with an outbreak in the city of Da Nang.<sup>86</sup> All flights, passengers buses, taxis and train services to/from the city were suspended. Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City closed non-essential businesses, such as bars and nightclubs.*

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<sup>78</sup> [The Diplomat](#), June 5, 2020

<sup>79</sup> [Gov.uk](#), FCO

<sup>80</sup> [ABC News](#), March 24

<sup>81</sup> [Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand](#), June 30, 2020

<sup>82</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), Dec. 17, 2020

<sup>83</sup> [VN Express](#), March 17, 2020

<sup>84</sup> [Straits Times](#), April 17, 2020

<sup>85</sup> [Reuters](#), April 16, 2020

<sup>86</sup> [Vietnam Briefing](#), August 7, 2020

<sup>87</sup> [The Guardian](#), July 27, 2020

From September 18, Vietnam restored international air services to several Asian destinations.<sup>88</sup> Only Vietnamese nationals, diplomats, experts, managers, skilled workers, investors and their families may travel, but flights were not made available to tourists. Passengers must provide a negative COVID-19 result from a test no more than five days before departure. When returning to Vietnam, they are tested and placed under quarantine.

Access to Vietnam has been suspended for most foreign nationals. Transiting through Vietnam is not allowed. Borders with China, Cambodia and Laos remain closed.

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*On March 18, 2020, the EU banned travelers from outside the bloc for 30 days.<sup>89</sup> It prevented all non-EU nationals from visiting, 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.<sup>90</sup> 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.<sup>91</sup> This relaxation came into effect from June 15.*

*The EU has separately created a list of epidemiologically safe non-member countries, from which residents can travel, even for non-essential purposes.<sup>92</sup> Effective July 1, 2020, the initial 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 still check with their destination, as individual member states have excluded some countries from the list.*

The European Union Council regularly updates the list of epidemiologically safe countries. During July, Algeria, Montenegro and Serbia were removed,<sup>93</sup> with Canada, Georgia and Tunisia following in October. Uruguay is the latest country to have been removed from December 16, 2020. With Singapore added in October, the list now comprises just seven countries: Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand, with China still subject to confirmation.<sup>94</sup>

## EU adopts Common Approach to travel restrictions

*In October 2020, the EU Council moved to coordinate measures restricting free movement in the EU.<sup>95</sup> <sup>96</sup> This resulted in common criteria governing travel across the EU during the pandemic. Rather than unilaterally closing borders, member states must now work together in a coordinated approach.*

*The Common Approach includes:*

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<sup>88</sup> [AP News](#), September 16, 2020

<sup>89</sup> [BBC](#), March 18, 2020

<sup>90</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), Mar. 18, 2020

<sup>91</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), June 5, 2020

<sup>92</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 29, 2020

<sup>93</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 20, 2020

<sup>94</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Dec. 17, 2020

<sup>95</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Oct. 13, 2020

<sup>96</sup> [European Commission](#), A common approach to travel measures in the EU

- *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 Common Approach and permit entry for all travelers from other EU countries without discrimination. Travelers from green areas face no restrictions; those from orange and red areas may need 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.<sup>97</sup>

As at December 23, 2020, the following risk color codes have been assigned to EU and EEA countries:<sup>98</sup>

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

### EU and the UK

Following the detection of a new variant of COVID-19, a number of EU governments banned arrivals from the UK from December 21, 2020. Belgium initially prohibiting travel for 24 hours, while France imposed a 48 hour ban. Germany, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania closed their borders to UK arrivals until December 31, and the Netherlands banned flights from the UK until January 1, 2021. Bulgaria will require arrivals from the UK to self-isolate for 10 days until January 31, 2021.

With the end of the Brexit transition period on December 31, 2020, the UK becomes a third country in relation to the EU. As a result it loses its EU exemption from any COVID-19-related travel bans.

### Austria

*During May 2020, Austria entered a period of gradual and monitored reopening.<sup>99</sup> Cross-border travel resumed on June 15, when the borders with Germany, Liechtenstein and Switzerland reopened.*

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<sup>97</sup> [Re-open EU](#)

<sup>98</sup> [Re-open EU](#)

<sup>99</sup> [Austria Info](#), Current Situation



*In mid-July, Austria re-tightened some travel restrictions, extending the ban on flights from the U.K., Sweden and the Ukraine and introducing a ban on flights arriving from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Egypt, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia.<sup>100</sup>*

On November 3, Austria entered a second lockdown, lasting until December 7. It entered a third lockdown from December 26, which is expected to last at least one month. People may only leave home for essential purposes. Non-essential shops, bars and restaurants will close.

To re-enter society, people require a negative result from a mass-testing scheme over a three-day period commencing January 15. People with a negative result may leave home from January 18; anyone not tested must quarantine until January 25 and then wear FFP2 masks while at work or shopping.<sup>101</sup>

### Belgium

*Belgium started easing its COVID-19 lockdown from May 4, 2020, in a series of steps, ending with restaurants, tourist activities and non-essential travel resuming from June 8.<sup>102</sup> 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.<sup>103</sup>*

*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.*

The Belgian government has assigned a three-tier color code to indicate the travel status for European destinations.<sup>104</sup> The authorities strongly discourage travel to red regions and recommend vigilance when traveling to orange regions, where a test or quarantine may be required.

Anyone arriving in Belgium by air or boat must complete a Passenger Locator Form, which includes a health declaration. Anyone arriving by another means of transport, with plans to stay for more than 48 hours in Belgium, must also complete the form. Travelers considered to have a high risk of COVID-19 receive a text message. They must then quarantine for seven days and then be tested.<sup>105</sup> From December 25, 2020, anyone not a Belgian resident must provide evidence of a negative result before entry, from a test taken no more than 48 hours prior to arrival.

### Bulgaria

*In June 2020, Bulgaria abolished a mandatory quarantine for arrivals from EU member states, except Portugal and Sweden.<sup>106</sup> 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.*

*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*

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<sup>100</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), July 15, 2020

<sup>101</sup> [The Local.at](#), Dec. 21, 2020

<sup>102</sup> [Politico.eu](#), May 6, 2020

<sup>103</sup> [BBC](#), July 28, 2020

<sup>104</sup> [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

<sup>105</sup> [Info Coronavirus.be](#)

<sup>106</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 19, 2020

*COVID-19 test result not older than 72 hours.<sup>107</sup> At the start of August, Bulgaria also permitted arrivals from Jordan and Ukraine without the need to take a PCR test.<sup>108</sup>*

An Emergency Epidemic situation is in place until the end of January 2021. COVID-19 measures and restrictions include mandatory mask wearing, 10-day self-isolation for anyone coming into contact with someone testing positive, and 14-day quarantine for anyone testing positive. Most public facilities and events have been closed.

### Czech Republic

*After declaring a 30-day state of emergency in March 2020, 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.<sup>109</sup> Neighboring country Slovakia also stopped all international travel.*

From December 20, 2020, the government banned non-essential travel to the Czech Republic. Anyone arriving from any country considered high risk (red) must complete a Public Health Passenger Locator Form and submit a PCR test result not older than 72 hours.<sup>110</sup>

### Denmark

*On March 13, 2020, Denmark's Foreign Ministry advised Danes to avoid all unnecessary travel abroad.<sup>111</sup>*

*At the end of April, Denmark started easing lockdown, initially reopening schools and smaller businesses. A second phase of easing in mid-May allowed shopping malls, cafes and restaurants to reopen.<sup>112</sup>*

*From July 1, 2020, 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.<sup>113</sup> On July 4, Denmark also allowed travel to resume from Norway.*

In December 2020, Denmark introduced a new regional approach for classifying European Union and Schengen Zone countries and the U.K. The move had no initial impact given that all countries are considered high risk and Danes are highly discouraged from traveling.<sup>114</sup> Specifically the government recommends against travel to Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway and the U.K.

At the same time, Denmark reduced the mandatory quarantine period for anyone returning from an orange risk country from 14 to 10 days. Quarantine may also be ended after the fourth day upon a negative test result.

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<sup>107</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 30, 2020

<sup>108</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 3, 2020

<sup>109</sup> [Independent](#), March 15, 2020

<sup>110</sup> [Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic](#)

<sup>111</sup> [Bloomberg](#), March 13, 2020

<sup>112</sup> [Reuters](#), May 18, 2020

<sup>113</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 6, 2020

<sup>114</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Dec. 14, 2020

## Estonia

*Estonia introduced a travel ban from March 17, 2020. From May 16, it created a “travel bubble,” reopening its borders with Latvia and Lithuania, allowing citizens and residents to move freely within the three countries.<sup>115</sup> Anybody entering the zone from outside the bubble had to self-isolate for 14 days.*

*From July 6, Estonia opened its borders to residents of 14 low-infection countries outside the EU.<sup>116</sup>*

*From September, Estonia required quarantine only for arrivals from countries with 25 cases per 100,000 inhabitants on average over the past 14 days.<sup>117</sup> As a result, travelers arriving from 29 European countries had to follow a 14-day compulsory quarantine.*

All travelers arriving in Estonia must submit a customer locator form at the port of entry or electronically via the country’s Health Board portal before arrival. Anyone needing to quarantine can reduce the period by taking a COVID-19 test.

## Finland

*During July 2020, Finland maintained internal border controls with EU/EEA members including Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.<sup>118</sup>*

*From August 24, the government re-imposed restrictions on non-essential travel to and from Cyprus, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Germany, Greece, Japan, Malta, Norway and San Marino. It has since continued to relax and tighten restrictions on a regular basis.*

Finland 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.<sup>119</sup> This rule now applies to Schengen countries and non-Schengen EU countries.

Entry restrictions, due to expire on January 12, 2021, have now been extended until February 9.<sup>120</sup> Arrivals from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland are only permitted for essential purposes and travelers must self-isolate for 10 days, a period that can be shortened after taking two COVID-19 tests.

Travelers may also arrive from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand and from non-Schengen European countries Andorra, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Monaco, Romania, San Marino, the UK and Vatican City. The 10-day quarantine and testing requirements apply.

## France

*From March 14, France implemented restrictions including closing restaurants, cafes, cinemas and nightclubs. People were also asked to reduce their travel. From mid-April, lockdown was extended until*

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<sup>115</sup> [BBC](#), May 15, 2020

<sup>116</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 8, 2020

<sup>117</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 14, 2020

<sup>118</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 22, 2020

<sup>119</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 14, 2020

<sup>120</sup> [Ministry of the Interior](#), Jan. 7, 2021

*May 11.<sup>121</sup> If new daily COVID-19 cases stayed below 3,000, a gradual easing of restrictions could start.<sup>122</sup> Face masks were made compulsory on public transport and in schools.*

*On June 15, France lifted entry restrictions on non-essential travel for citizens of the European Union and Schengen Area countries, excluding only Spain and the U.K due to reciprocity measures.<sup>123</sup>*

On October 30, France started a second national lockdown, albeit with less severe restrictions than before.<sup>124</sup> People could only leave home for essential, work or medical reasons. In mid-December, the lockdown was replaced with a nightly curfew and the closure of certain types of venue. International and domestic travel for non-essential reasons was allowed to resume. At the time, France's list of safe countries comprised: the EU, Andorra, Australia, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Rwanda, San Marino, South Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, the U.K. and Vatican City.<sup>125</sup>

## Germany

*Germany closed its borders with neighboring countries on March 16. Commuters and returning Germans and residents could continue to cross the borders.<sup>126</sup> The German government discouraged citizens from traveling in general, to reduce the risk of becoming stranded in a foreign country.*

*On April 10, 2020, the 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 states 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.*
- *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 began easing lockdown.<sup>127</sup> 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.<sup>128</sup> Under a government plan, all shops could reopen and some sports restart under certain conditions.<sup>129</sup>*

*On June 15, Germany lifted all border controls on arrivals from Austria, Denmark, France, Italy and Switzerland.<sup>130</sup> Among the 15 third-countries originally on the EU list, Germany allowed unrestricted entry*

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<sup>121</sup> [BBC](#), April 15, 2020

<sup>122</sup> [BBC](#), April 28, 2020

<sup>123</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 15, 2020

<sup>124</sup> [BBC](#), October 29, 2020

<sup>125</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Dec. 15, 2020

<sup>126</sup> [DW.com](#), March 16, 2020

<sup>127</sup> [BBC](#), April 15, 2020

<sup>128</sup> [Al Jazeera](#), April 28, 2020

<sup>129</sup> [Reuters](#), May 6, 2020

<sup>130</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 10, 2020

*to arrivals from just seven: Australia, Canada, Georgia, New Zealand, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. It reversed access to arrivals from Montenegro and Serbia.*

From October 1, 2020, the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs ended its travel advice discouraging travel to all third countries, replacing it with country-specific travel warnings.<sup>131</sup> As a result of the change, the government department updated its list of high-risk countries and regions. Travelers arriving from these locations must quarantine for 14 days.

On October 14, 2020, Germany announced tougher new restrictions on public life.<sup>132</sup> Measures included limits on the number of people at private gatherings and a curfew on bars and restaurants in hotspot areas. Rules on face masks were also tightened, with mask wearing mandatory in public areas where people are densely packed.

On November 2, 2020, Germany entered its second national lockdown, but with less severe restrictions than before.<sup>133</sup> Restaurants, bars, gyms and theaters closed. Social contacts were more limited, and tourism was halted. The partial lockdown initially remained in place until November 30, but a number of restrictions were re-imposed from December 16, 2020.<sup>134</sup> Until January 31, 2021, all non-essential shops and services, schools and day care centers are closed. Employees are encouraged to work from home.

From November 8, 2020, new guidelines for people returning from international risk zones required travelers to enter a 10-day quarantine, reduced to five days with a negative test result.<sup>135</sup> Exceptions include commuters and people transiting through high risk countries. The Robert Koch Institut updates the list of high risk countries on a weekly basis.<sup>136</sup>

Stricter rules apply to international arrivals from Jan. 11, 2021.<sup>137</sup> Arrivals from a high-risk area must present a negative result from a test taken less than 48 hours before arrival. They must take a second test on arrival and enter a 10-day quarantine, which may be shortened to five days upon a negative result.

## Greece

*In mid-May 2020, 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.*

*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.*

*On August 18, the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority extended an entry ban on international arrivals from outside the EU until August 31.<sup>138</sup> 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.*

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<sup>131</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Sept. 10, 2020

<sup>132</sup> [DW](#), Oct. 16, 2020

<sup>133</sup> [BBC](#), Oct. 30, 2020

<sup>134</sup> [DW](#), Dec. 13, 2020

<sup>135</sup> [The Local.de](#), Oct. 15, 2020

<sup>136</sup> [Robert Koch Institut](#)

<sup>137</sup> [BTN, Europe](#), Jan. 7, 2021

<sup>138</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Aug. 19, 2020

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.

### Hungary

*Hungary did not support the EU Council's request to reopen its borders to 15 non-EU countries considered to be safe.<sup>139</sup> It did, however, keep the border open with southern neighbor Serbia and created a strictly managed humanitarian travel corridor, to allow people to transit through the country.*

*The Hungarian government tightened preventive measures, urging citizens to avoid traveling abroad from September 1, 2020, and in particular to southern countries.<sup>140</sup> Anyone returning to Hungary from high-risk countries had to self-isolate for 14 days, unless presenting two negative PCR test results.*

*At the same time, Hungary closed its borders to all international arrivals.<sup>141</sup> However, citizens of the V4 Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) could enter without restrictions, if presenting a negative PCR test result. This arrangement operated until at least November 1, 2020.<sup>142</sup>*

Hungary's borders remain largely closed to foreign travelers.<sup>143</sup> Until at least January 11, 2021, the country is under curfew between 8pm to 5am. Leisure facilities and restaurants are closed. Hotels are open, but only for business travelers. Mask wearing is mandatory on public transport and in taxis, in shops and in most other indoor locations.

### 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.<sup>144</sup> 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.<sup>145</sup> 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.<sup>146</sup>

### Ireland

*Official government advice against all non-essential travel, first brought in during March 2020, remained until July 20,<sup>147</sup> requiring arrivals from overseas to quarantine for 14 days.*

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<sup>139</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 3, 2020

<sup>140</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Aug. 25, 2020

<sup>141</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Aug. 31, 2020

<sup>142</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Oct. 7, 2020

<sup>143</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>144</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 20, 2020

<sup>145</sup> [Business Travel News Europe](#), August 17, 2020

<sup>146</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 9, 2020

<sup>147</sup> [BBC](#), July 6, 2020

*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.<sup>148</sup> Advice against all non-essential travel remained in place.*

*On August 18, the government reversed some lockdown relaxation measures.<sup>149</sup> Crowd numbers at outdoor events were reduced, indoor gatherings were limited to six people. People were again encouraged to work from home and avoid public transport.*

On September 15, the Irish Government published a plan for Living with COVID-19, outlining a framework of restrictive measures for the next 6-9 months. The framework comprises five levels. Between December 24, 2020 and January 1, 2021, Ireland will progressively move to Level 5, the top level of its restrictions. As a result, international travel will be banned, restaurants and pubs will be closed, and there will be no household mixing indoors.<sup>150</sup>

## Italy

*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.<sup>151</sup>*

*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.*

*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.<sup>152</sup>*

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

All arriving travelers must complete a self-declaration form from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before departure. If having spent time (including transit) in the 14 days prior to arrival in a country where Italy requires self-isolation, travelers must quarantine for 14 days.

## 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.*

Anyone intending to enter Latvia must submit an electronic form to the government 48 hours before arrival. It is not possible to fly direct to Latvia from countries where the number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people is twice the average of the EU/EEA and the UK. Anyone arriving from these countries must self-isolate for ten days.<sup>153</sup>

Between December 21, 2020 and January 11, 2021, the Latvian government has introduced a number of restrictions including the closure of non-essential retail and beauty care services.<sup>154</sup>

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<sup>148</sup> [BBC](#), July 15, 2020

<sup>149</sup> [BBC](#), August 19, 2020

<sup>150</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>151</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), June 2, 2020

<sup>152</sup> [BBC](#), Oct. 18, 2020

<sup>153</sup> [Latvian Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#), Dec. 18, 2020

<sup>154</sup> [COVID19.gov.lv](#)



## 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.*

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.

Lithuania entered a national quarantine on November 7, escalated to a nationwide lockdown from December 16. Until January 3, 2021, residents may not move outside their immediate municipality, unless for essential reasons, for which evidence may be required. Until January 31, people may only leave home to work, shop for essential products, exercise, for health reasons, or to travel to an airport or border crossing.<sup>155</sup>

## Luxembourg

*Since August 12, 2020, 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.<sup>156</sup>*

Third country nationals may not travel to Luxembourg until December 31, 2020. Exemptions have been granted for travelers from Australia, China (subject to reciprocity), Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand.<sup>157</sup>

## Malta

*During March 2020, Malta banned travelers from a number of European countries.<sup>158</sup>*

*Malta reopened to international travel from July 1,<sup>159</sup> although arrivals from some European countries and regions were subject to restriction.*

Certain restrictions apply to travelers, depending on whether they arrive from a country on the Green, Red or Amber list.<sup>160</sup> Arrivals from Green countries have their temperatures checked and must complete a self-declaration form. Those arriving from an Amber country must present a negative PCR result from a swab test taken within the previous 72 hours. Travelers from Red countries must first spend 14 days in a safe corridor country before traveling to Malta, and they must also present a negative PCR result.

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<sup>155</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>156</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 19, 2020

<sup>157</sup> [The Luxembourg Government](#), Visiting Luxembourg

<sup>158</sup> [Times of Malta](#), Mar. 11, 2020

<sup>159</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 15, 2020

<sup>160</sup> [Visit Malta](#), COVID-19 Info Page, Dec. 21, 2020

## Netherlands

*On May 6, Dutch authorities outlined a four-month plan to phase out social restrictions.<sup>161</sup> Easing started in the second week of May, expanding in phases through September 1.*

*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.<sup>162</sup> Public buildings, restaurants, cafes, cinemas and theaters reopened, but subject to capacity limits.*

*From September 1, a wider range of closer-contact venues, including gyms, saunas, cannabis cafes and sex establishments, reopened.*

The Netherlands entered its “strictest lockdown yet” on December 15, 2020, with extra measures in place until at least January 19, 2021.<sup>163</sup> These include the closure of entertainment venues, contact-based professions, bars, restaurants and cafes, and non-essential shops. People should use public transport for essential travel only and require a pre-entry health check before traveling by taxi, minibus or coach.

From December 29, 2020, the Dutch government required all travelers (including Dutch nationals) arriving from another EU member state or Schengen Area country to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 result from a PCR test conducted within the last 72 hours.<sup>164</sup> Test results may be submitted in Dutch, English, German, French or Spanish. Arrivals from Iceland are currently exempt as are certain categories of traveler, including cross-border commuters and diplomats.

## Norway

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

*From the beginning of May, Norway started a two-month period of lifting restrictions.<sup>165</sup> It continued to rely on social distancing rules to prevent a resurgence of infections. Travel between Norway and Denmark resumed on June 15.<sup>166</sup>*

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) classifies European regions and countries as green (no need to quarantine on arrival in Norway), yellow (no need to quarantine), red (quarantine for 10 days).<sup>167</sup> A map illustrating the classifications is updated regularly.

Before entering Norway, travelers must complete a registration form, which should be submitted to the police at border control. Anyone arriving from areas with high levels of infection must quarantine for 10 days. Those unable to quarantine at home must do so at an official quarantine hotel, contributing a set charge of NOK 500 per night.<sup>168</sup> Foreign citizens arriving from red countries must present a negative COVID-19 certificate from a test conducted during the 72 hours before arrival.

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<sup>161</sup> [Reuters](#), May 6, 2020

<sup>162</sup> [Government of the Netherlands](#), Changes to coronavirus control measures from May 11, 2020

<sup>163</sup> [Government of the Netherlands](#), Dutch measures against coronavirus

<sup>164</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Dec. 28, 2020

<sup>165</sup> [Reuters](#), June 5, 2020

<sup>166</sup> [The National](#), May 29, 2020

<sup>167</sup> [Norwegian Institute of Public Health](#), Dec. 22, 2020

<sup>168</sup> [Government.no](#), Questions and answers about entry, Dec. 23, 2020

Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against non-essential travel to all countries. This advice applies until January 15, 2021.<sup>169</sup> Exceptions have been made for Nordic, Schengen Area and EEA countries that meet infection level criteria set out by the NIPH, but during December 2020, this list comprised only Greenland and a district of Finland.

The Norwegian government also advises against unnecessary domestic travel. Restrictions may vary between regions.

## Poland

*Poland initially 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.<sup>170</sup> Detailed guidelines for hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions included:*

- *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 and frequently touched surfaces*

*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.<sup>171</sup>*

*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.<sup>172</sup> Parties were banned; public gatherings were limited to 10 people; restaurants and bars were limited to 50% capacity and closed by 9pm.*

From December 28, 2020, the government extended strict sanitary rules and restrictions already in place nationwide until at least January 17, 2021.<sup>173</sup> People arriving in Poland by public transport must self-isolate for 10 days. Exceptions apply, including travelers that have been vaccinated against COVID-19, people arriving by private car, and anyone traveling for professional, official or employment reasons.

## Portugal

*Portugal declared a state of emergency on March 18, 2020.<sup>174</sup> Airports were closed to all passenger travel and movement between municipalities was banned.*

*During May, lockdown was gradually relaxed, starting with service-related businesses and some public transport resuming.<sup>175</sup> A 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,*

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<sup>169</sup> [Government.no](#), Dec. 12, 2020

<sup>170</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), May 20, 2020

<sup>171</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Sept. 29, 2020

<sup>172</sup> BBC, Oct. 16, 2020

<sup>173</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>174</sup> [Bloomberg](#), Apr. 9, 2020

<sup>175</sup> [Travel Agent Central](#), May 19, 2020

*frequent sanitization and capacity limits. Phase three was enacted on June 6, opening beaches and other commercial services.*

*In August, scheduled flights resumed from 12 non-EU countries. Flights were already allowed from the EU, Schengen Area and the UK. <sup>176</sup>*

Since October, international passengers have been required to digitally file a passenger locator form.<sup>177</sup> It must be completed before travel, with a receipt verified by airlines at the departure gate.

From November 4, 2020, 70% of Portugal's population, including those in Lisbon and Porto, were placed back in lockdown.<sup>178</sup> People had to stay at home, except to go to work, school or shopping. Companies were ordered to switch to remote working.

From November 24, a new state of emergency was declared.<sup>179</sup> Municipalities have been classified according to transmission risks as "extremely high," "very high," "high," and "moderate." Curfews have been introduced and travel is restricted between municipalities. The state of emergency will last at least until January 1, 2021.

### 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.<sup>180</sup> People could only leave home to go to work, with a signed note from their employers, and to shop for food.*

Anyone arriving from a country on Romania's list of high epidemiological risk countries must self-isolate for 14 days on arrival. The list is reviewed regularly by the Romanian National Public Health Institute.

### Russia

*From March 27, 2020, the Russian government suspended international flights to and from the country. Temporary entry restrictions for almost all foreign citizens were enforced from March 30, and these appear to remain in place.*

*On March 30, quarantine regulations were introduced in Moscow, but they did not prevent Muscovites from leaving the city or others visiting Moscow.<sup>181</sup> The measures also applied across most Russian provinces, and a holiday was declared across the entire country for April.*

*On June 1, 2020, 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 were still to be worn in shops and on public transport.<sup>182</sup>*

On October 27, 2020, Russia reinstated a nationwide mask mandate, requiring face coverings to be worn in all crowded spaces, including public transport, taxis and elevators.<sup>183</sup> A curfew on restaurants and similar establishments between 23:00 and 06:00 was also introduced.

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<sup>176</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 3, 2020

<sup>177</sup> [BTN Europe](#), Oct. 9, 2020

<sup>178</sup> [The Portugal News](#), Nov. 2, 2020

<sup>179</sup> [The Portugal News](#), Nov. 27, 2020

<sup>180</sup> [Reuters](#), March 24, 2020

<sup>181</sup> [Hotel News Now](#), Apr. 8, 2020

<sup>182</sup> [France 24](#), June 1, 2020

<sup>183</sup> [The Moscow Times](#), Oct. 27, 2020

All travelers arriving in Russia must present a negative COVID-19 test certificate dated less than 72 hours before travel. Those arriving for permanent work purposes must also self-isolate on arrival; all other arrivals do not need to quarantine.<sup>184</sup>

### Serbia

*After imposing one of Europe's strictest lockdowns in March, Serbia lifted nationwide restrictions in May.*

*At the beginning of July, authorities declared a state of emergency in several major cities and towns, including Belgrade, Kragujevac and Novi Pazar.<sup>185</sup> Gatherings were restricted, opening hours for cafes and restaurants were reduced, sporting events were banned, and masks were compulsory on public transport and in indoor public spaces.*

Serbia continues to maintain restrictions, including a curfew for restaurants, cafes and shopping malls between 8pm and 5am. Indoor gatherings are limited to five people.

### Slovakia

*From September 10, 2020, anyone returning to Slovakia by air, having visited a high-risk country during the previous 14 days, had to register using an online form.*

Travelers arriving in Slovakia, having spent the previous 14 days in an EU or EEA country or Switzerland, must present a negative result from an RT-PCR test (or an antigen test from Austria or the Czech Republic) no older than 72 hours. Travelers arriving from other countries must register on the Slovak Government's website, while air travelers must also complete the Passenger Locator Form. On arrival, they must self-isolate for up to 14 days.

### Slovenia

*The Slovenian government lifted restrictions on international passenger air transport from May 12, 2020.*

*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 quarantine), amber (not safe or high-risk – quarantine might be required), and red (high-risk – 10-day quarantine required). Exemptions apply for travelers arriving from amber or red countries with a negative test result issued in an EU/Schengen country that is not more than 48 hours old, and also for anyone arriving from an EU/Schengen amber list country.

### Spain

*The Spanish government declared a state of emergency on March 14, 2020, which included restrictions on movement throughout the country.<sup>186</sup>*

*Within days of beginning to ease its lockdown in early May, Spain extended 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.<sup>187</sup>*

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<sup>184</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>185</sup> [BBC](#), July 6, 2020

<sup>186</sup> [Bloomberg](#), Apr. 9, 2020

<sup>187</sup> [Reuters](#), May 6, 2020

*Even as Spain eased its lockdown, it increased restrictions on international travel, with visitors having to quarantine for 14 days. Initially in place until the May 24 end of the state of emergency, the quarantine measures were extended 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, and soon after reopened its borders to arrivals from 12 third-countries.<sup>188 189</sup>*

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.<sup>190</sup> Local authorities could ban travel between regions. The rules were initially in place for 15 days but could be extended to six months.

Spain's borders are open to arrivals from EU and Schengen Area countries. Restrictions are in place on travelers outside these areas. All passengers traveling to Spanish airports from risk countries, as determined by the European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control, must present a negative PCR, TMA (Transcription Mediated Amplification) or LAMP result from a test taken within no more than 72 hours prior to arrival. This must be declared in a mandatory Health Control Form.

### Sweden

While Sweden does not generally require travelers entering the country from abroad to be quarantined or undergo health checks,<sup>191</sup> from December 21, 2020, it banned arrivals from Denmark and the UK until January 21, 2021.<sup>192</sup> Only Swedish citizens or Danish citizens living or working in Sweden are exempt.

The Swedish government is not restricting domestic travel, but normal safety measures remain in place, while the frequency and capacity of public transport is limited. Face masks on public transport are recommended from January 7, 2021.

### Switzerland

*A state of emergency, first declared on March 16, 2020, officially ended on June 19.<sup>193</sup> Complete freedom of movement across Switzerland's borders was restored by July 6. Border controls with Austria, France and Germany were lifted in mid-June.*

*Switzerland created a list of countries, from which arrivals must undergo 10 days mandatory quarantine.*

*From August 31, Switzerland stopped passengers departing from countries with a high number of COVID-19 cases from transiting through any of its international airports.<sup>194</sup>*

*From October 19, 2020, Switzerland made mask wearing in indoor public spaces compulsory and banned gatherings of more than 15 people in public places.<sup>195</sup>*

From October 29, 2020, the Swiss Federal Council raised its quarantine threshold, so that only countries with an incidence rate (infections per 100,000 people) 60 higher than Switzerland are placed on its

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<sup>188</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), May 26, 2020

<sup>189</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 6, 2020

<sup>190</sup> [BBC](#), Oct. 25, 2020

<sup>191</sup> [Public Health Agency of Sweden](#), If you are planning to travel

<sup>192</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), Dec. 22, 2020

<sup>193</sup> [The Local](#), May 27, 2020

<sup>194</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 31, 2020

<sup>195</sup> [BBC](#), October 19, 2020

quarantine list. Business travelers and people traveling for medical reasons are exempt from any quarantine obligation for trips lasting not more than five days.<sup>196</sup> Anyone facing quarantine must do so for 10 days. The Swiss Federal Office of Public Health maintains a list of approved countries.<sup>197</sup>

From December 12, restaurants, bars, shops, markets, museums and leisure facilities must close between 7pm and 6am, while only restaurants and bars may open on Sundays and bank holidays. Most events are prohibited. Individual cantons have imposed further restrictions.

## UK

*On March 23, the UK entered a lockdown, which continued during May, although some measures were relaxed. Easing continued in June, with schools and more businesses reopening. On April 6, 2020, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advised against all non-essential foreign travel, "indefinitely."<sup>198</sup>*

*The UK re-tightened some restrictions late in September 2020, closing pubs, restaurants and hospitality venues at 10pm and allowing no more than six people to meet at any time. Rules on mask wearing (public transport, taxis, shops, hospitality venues, places of worship) and social distancing were to be more strictly enforced, with fines and penalties increased.<sup>199</sup> These measures could remain in place for up to six months.*

*On October 14, 2020, England introduced a three-tier system of COVID-19 restrictions, which was interrupted between November 5 and December 2 by a second, less strict national lockdown.<sup>200</sup> A fourth tier was introduced during December 2020 and progressively extended across most of the country.*

To reduce the risks of re-infection from abroad, all travelers arriving in the UK (excluding arrivals from Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) must:<sup>201</sup>

- Provide journey and contact details 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.

The FCO operates a list of safe countries, arrival from which requires no period of quarantine.<sup>202</sup> All passengers, except those on a small list of exemptions, must still provide contact information on arrival in England. The full list of safe countries is kept under constant review, with countries added or removed, often with little notice. Currently 42 countries/territories have been **removed** from the list:

- Europe: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece (excluding five islands), Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal (not Azores and Madeira), San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Vatican City
- Africa: Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Reunion, Seychelles

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<sup>196</sup> [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 29, 2020

<sup>197</sup> [Federal Office of Public Health](#)

<sup>198</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), April 4, 2020

<sup>199</sup> [Gov.UK](#), September 22, 2020

<sup>200</sup> [BBC](#), October 14, 2020

<sup>201</sup> [Gov.UK](#), COVID-19 guidance and support

<sup>202</sup> [Gov.UK](#), July 3, 2020



- Asia Pacific: French Polynesia
- Latin America & Caribbean: Curacao, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, US Virgin Islands
- Middle East: Israel, Turkey
- North America: Bahamas

As at January 9, 2021, the following had no self-isolation requirement on arrival in England:<sup>203</sup>

- Europe: Faroe Islands, Finland, Gibraltar, Greece (Corfu, Crete, Kos, Rhodes and Zakynthos only), Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Liechtenstein, Norway, Portugal (Azores and Madeira only)
- Africa: Rwanda, St Helena/Ascension/Tristan da Cunha
- Asia Pacific: Australia, Bhutan, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Northern Marianas, Pacific Islands, Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam
- Latin America & Caribbean: Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Bermuda, Bonaire/St Eustatius/Saba, British Antarctic Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Cuba, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Grenada, Montserrat, St Barthelemy, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks & Caicos Islands, Uruguay
- Middle East: Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
- 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.

On December 14, 2020, the UK government reduced the mandatory quarantine period for travelers arriving from high-risk countries from 14 to ten days.<sup>204</sup> One day later, it introduced its “test to release” scheme to make international travel easier.<sup>205</sup> Travelers arriving from a country not on the travel corridor list may opt into the scheme to reduce their mandatory period of quarantine from 10 to 5 full days. After arrival in the U.K., they must self-isolate for 5 days before taking a COVID-19 test. These are conducted by private clinics on an approved list and may be performed in-person or via the post. Prices start from £89.<sup>206</sup> After receiving a negative result, travelers may end self-isolation.

All international passengers will soon have to test negative for COVID-19 before traveling to the UK.<sup>207</sup> All travelers, arriving by plane, boat or train (except those arriving from Ireland) will need to test not more than 72 hours before departure to the UK. Even with a negative result, arrivals from countries not on the list of safe countries must still quarantine. Anyone failing to comply with the new regulations, which may come into force as early as January 11, 2021, could face an immediate £500 fine.

## Ukraine

*On August 29, 2020, Ukraine’s government closed the country’s borders to foreigners until September 28.<sup>208</sup> Exceptions included foreigners transiting Ukraine with documents confirming their departure within two days.*

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<sup>203</sup> [Gov.UK](#), October 2, 2020

<sup>204</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), Dec. 14, 2020

<sup>205</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Test to Release for international travel

<sup>206</sup> [BTN Europe](#), Dec. 14, 2020

<sup>207</sup> [BBC](#), Jan. 8, 2021

<sup>208</sup> [Ukrinform](#), August 28, 2020

Travelers arriving from Green Zone countries must purchase an insurance policy covering COVID-19 treatment and quarantine issued by a Ukraine registered company.<sup>209</sup> There is no need for a test or quarantine. Travelers can still enter Ukraine from Red Zone countries, 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.

## Latin America [back to top](#)

### Anguilla

*Anguilla reopened its borders to international travelers from August 21, 2020.<sup>210</sup>*

The Caribbean island 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 a home address and proposed travel dates. They must also submit a negative PCR test result, taken within 3 to 5 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

*After closing them in mid-March 2020, Antigua and Barbuda reopened its borders to international travel from all countries on June 4, 2020.<sup>211</sup>*

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's government initially introduced a nationwide quarantine on March 17, 2020. 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.<sup>212</sup> The agency claimed the decree was aimed at preventing airlines from ticketing flights not approved by the Argentine authorities.<sup>213</sup>*

The government started to reopen the country on November 2, allowing residents from neighboring countries Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay to enter Argentina. They must present a negative result from a coronavirus PCR test taken within the previous 72 hours and have healthcare insurance with COVID-19 coverage. Travel is restricted to capital city Buenos Aires and for a period of 10 days.<sup>214</sup>

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

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<sup>209</sup> [Visit Ukraine](#)

<sup>210</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), August 17, 2020

<sup>211</sup> [Travel Agent Central](#), June 4, 2020

<sup>212</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), April 28, 2020

<sup>213</sup> [BBC](#), April 28, 2020

<sup>214</sup> [Secrets of Buenos Aires](#), October 26, 2020

## Belize

*Belize had planned to reopen its borders to international travel on August 15, 2020, but this was postponed until further notice.<sup>215</sup> Belize City airport reopened on October 1, 2020, for restricted entry and with strict protocols in place.<sup>216</sup>*

All land borders and sea ports remain closed for tourist travel with the exception of departures to Mexico by land with prior approval.<sup>217</sup> There are some exemptions that allow entry into Belize by land or sea.

Anyone flying to Belize must download the Belize Health App, providing required information within 72 hours of departure. Travelers must also take a PCR test in the 72 hours before boarding their flight, with a negative result enabling fast track arrival. Passengers may also test on arrival for a US\$50 fee. Even those that tested before departure may be selected at random for a secondary test.

## Bolivia

*By March 17, 2020, Bolivia had banned all international flights. A mandatory nationwide lockdown followed the March 25 declaration of a national health emergency. The country remained under total quarantine until the end of July 2020.*

It is now possible to enter and leave Bolivia on a commercial flight, but a negative test for COVID-19 is obligatory and may need to be certified by the Bolivian consulate. Land, river and lake border crossings remain closed.<sup>218</sup>

## Brazil

*During March 2020, the Brazilian authorities banned all foreign travelers from entering the country, initially until the end of April.<sup>219</sup> It was not until July 30 that the ban on foreign visitors arriving by air was finally relaxed.<sup>220</sup>*

Foreign nationals are allowed to enter Brazil by air, but some land borders remain closed, except to Brazilian citizens, resident foreign nationals and foreign spouses.<sup>221</sup> 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 reopened its borders on December 1, 2020, ending a lockdown and curfew introduced in April.<sup>222</sup>

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<sup>215</sup> [Travel off path](#), August 7, 2020

<sup>216</sup> U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Belize](#)

<sup>217</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Dec. 14, 2020

<sup>218</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Dec. 14, 2020

<sup>219</sup> [WorldAware](#), April 2, 2020

<sup>220</sup> [Axios](#), July 30, 2020

<sup>221</sup> U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Brazil](#)

<sup>222</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), September 24, 2020

## Chile

*Chile entered a 90-day National State of Catastrophe on March 18.<sup>223</sup> 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.<sup>224</sup> People were allowed to leave home on a weekday without police permission and meet in small groups, while businesses gradually reopened.*

Santiago Airport reopened to international travel on November 23, 2020. To board a flight, passengers must fill in a *Pasaporte Sanitario*, detailing recently visited countries and coronavirus-related health. Within Chile, quarantine orders and cordons are in place in Santiago and other parts of the country.

## 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 banned international passenger flights.<sup>225</sup>*

*Colombia entered a strict quarantine from March 25, 2020, subject to a series of extension.*

Domestic flights resumed on September 1, with international flights resuming three weeks later. Colombia's sea borders reopened on December 1, 2020, Land and river borders remain closed until January 16, 2021.

International travelers must self-isolate for 14 days after arriving in Colombia.<sup>226</sup> They are currently not required to present a negative PCR test result. Between 24 hours and 1 hour before departure, travelers must complete a "Check-Mig" form to present upon arrival in Colombia.

On December 22, local authorities announced new restrictions to combat a rise in cases.<sup>227</sup> These included *pico y placa*, which allows people to leave their homes only for essential purposes depending on whether their identity card ends in an odd or even number.

## Costa Rica

*The country reopened its borders for tourism on August 1, 2020, allowing arrivals from select low-risk countries. This list initially included the EU, Canada and the UK. On arrival, travelers had to present a negative PCR coronavirus result received within the 48 hours before departure to Costa Rica.<sup>228</sup>*

On November 1, 2020, Costa Rica fully reopened its borders, no longer requiring travelers to provide a negative test result.<sup>229</sup> This decision, however, may be reviewed, depending on what happens to infection rates. Visitors must still complete an electronic health form before arriving and have health insurance or

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<sup>223</sup> [Gov.UK](#), foreign travel advice

<sup>224</sup> [Al Jazeera](#), August 12, 2020

<sup>225</sup> Cirium, March 20, 2020

<sup>226</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>227</sup> [Anadolu Agency](#), Dec. 23, 2020

<sup>228</sup> [Travel off path](#), August 7, 2020

<sup>229</sup> [Travel Weekly](#), Oct. 23, 2020

buy it locally through the National Insurance Institute or insurance company Sagicor. Some travelers may be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

### Dominican Republic

*On July 8, 2020, the Dominican Republic reopened its borders to international travelers.<sup>230</sup> This coincided with phase four of the de-escalation of COVID-19 measures.<sup>231</sup> A special Travel Resource Center platform delivers accurate, up to date information for visitors and answer frequently asked travel questions.*

Extra measures have been introduced at airports, including a temperature check for all arriving passengers. Anyone with a high temperature or other symptoms must 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.

Since the end of September, rapid tests (diagnostic breath test) have been randomly performed on arriving travelers, reducing the need for a negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival.<sup>232</sup>

To encourage visits to the country, until March 31, 2021, the Dominican government is offering free health coverage.<sup>233</sup> It's effective once a traveler checks in at their hotel and covers medical emergencies relating to COVID-19.

### Ecuador

*Ecuador initially required visitors arriving from certain countries to self-isolate for 14 days.*

*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.<sup>234</sup>*

*In mid-June, Ecuador extended its state of exception for two months until August 13.<sup>235</sup> While some lockdown measures have been eased since mid-May, Ecuador's land borders with Colombia and Peru remained closed.<sup>236</sup>*

International commercial flights resumed 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

*El Salvador imposed controls to curb the spread of the virus, banning all foreign visitors arriving via all ports.<sup>237</sup> Border closures remained in place until at least August 18.*

*The government reopened San Salvador airport on September 19.*

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<sup>230</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), July 8, 2020

<sup>231</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), June 19, 2020

<sup>232</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), Aug. 27, 2020

<sup>233</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), Jan. 4, 2021

<sup>234</sup> [GardaWorld](#), March 15, 2020

<sup>235</sup> [Yahoo1 News](#), June 16, 2020

<sup>236</sup> [UK Gov](#), FCO, Ecuador

<sup>237</sup> [Bloomberg](#), March 11, 2020

While many business and services have resumed, some have still not been allowed to reopen, including some hotels.<sup>238</sup>

### 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 was extended further, with the resumption of international flights delayed to September 18.*

All international arriving passengers must present a negative COVID-19 PCR or Antigen test, dated no more than 72 hours before arrival. They must also complete, in advance, a Health Pass.<sup>239</sup>

### Honduras

*Domestic flights 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 visitors to the island.<sup>240</sup> All must complete an online travel authorization, while arrivals from certain U.S. states 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 negative PCR test. Testing must be performed by an accredited lab, with results presented to the airline on departure and on arrival in Jamaica.<sup>241</sup>

In November 2020, Jamaica launched a mandatory travel protection and emergency services program, known as Jamaica Cares.<sup>242</sup> 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 is 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.

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<sup>238</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>239</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>240</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), July 20, 2020

<sup>241</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), October 12, 2020

<sup>242</sup> [Travel Weekly](#), October 26, 2020

## Nicaragua

*The government aimed to resume international air travel during August.<sup>243</sup>*

There are currently no travel restrictions currently in force in Nicaragua.<sup>244</sup> However, land borders may be closed at short notice and arriving travelers must present a negative COVID-19 certificate.

## Paraguay

*From March 2020, Paraguay declared a nationwide health-related State of Emergency, putting in place restrictions, which were relaxed in phases.*

From October 5, the government ended the social and smart quarantine phases. Wearing a face mask is still mandatory and an overnight curfew remains in place.

Travelers arriving in Paraguay must present a negative PCR result issued not more than 72 hours before entering the country. Otherwise they must isolate for 14 days.

## Peru

*All international passenger traffic by air, road, sea and river transportation was prohibited during the second half of March 2020.*

*Peru then entered a state of emergency lasting during April.<sup>245</sup>*

*Facing a surge of infections, in mid-August, the government banned family gatherings, reinstated a Sunday curfew and extended lockdowns to five more regions.<sup>246</sup>*

Peru reopened its borders to international travel at the beginning of October 2020, accepting flights from countries including Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay, but not from Europe or the U.S.<sup>247</sup> One month later, restrictions were lifted for U.S. travelers, although they must arrive in Lima on a non-stop flight from the U.S. and present a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of departure.<sup>248</sup> All flights originating in Europe are currently suspended.

## St. Lucia

*From July 9, the government of St. Lucia introduced new and updated protocols for arrivals.<sup>249</sup> Travelers must obtain a negative PCR test within seven days of travel, unless arriving from designated travel bubble countries and territories across the Caribbean.*

*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.<sup>250</sup>*

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<sup>243</sup> [La Agencia de Viajes Colombia](#), Aug. 12, 2020

<sup>244</sup> [Gov. UK](#), FCO

<sup>245</sup> [Republic World](#), Apr. 9, 2020

<sup>246</sup> [MercoPress](#), Aug. 14, 2020

<sup>247</sup> [VOA News](#), Oct. 6, 2020

<sup>248</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), Nov. 3, 2020

<sup>249</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), July 8, 2020

<sup>250</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), Aug. 27, 2020



### Turks & Caicos

*The Turks & Caicos Islands reopened its borders on July 22.<sup>251</sup> This was accompanied by a series of new protocols addressing standards, training and personal protective equipment. Providenciales International Airport reopened on July 22.*

Anyone travelling to the islands must get pre-travel authorization via the Turks and Caicos Islands Assured Portal. This requires evidence of a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken within five days of arrival.

### Uruguay

*Air services were grounded on March 25, 2020.*

*On August 6, the National Civil Aviation and Airport Infrastructure Directorate (DINACIA) aimed to resume commercial aviation.*

Only Uruguayan nationals and legal residents may presently enter the country. Foreigners needing to enter the country under exceptional circumstances require pre-authorization from the National Immigration Department and a negative result from a test done not more than 72 hours before departure.

### U.S. Virgin Islands

*U.S. Virgin Islands reclosed its borders to international arrivals, suspending flights for at least one month from August 19, 2020.<sup>252</sup> The territory also reverted back to its “stay-at-home” phase of its COVID-19 response for a two-week period. With immediate effect, all forms of accommodation were ordered not to accept or book any reservations for 30 days.*

## Middle East [back to top](#)

### Iran

*Iranian authorities introduced a ban on intercity travel from March 26.<sup>253</sup>*

*To prevent a second outbreak in Iran, the closure of schools, universities, public spaces and sports centers was extended.*

All passengers arriving in Iran by air must hold a valid health certificate, issued by the health authorities of the country of departure. This must contain a COVID-19 molecular test performed by an approved center, carried out within 96 hours of entry into Iran. Non-Iranian nationals will not be permitted entry without such a certificate. Iranian nationals without a certificate must quarantine for 14 days and will incur associated medical and accommodation costs.

### Israel

*By March 9, all arrivals from abroad had to self-isolate for 14 days. Visitors already in the country on that date were given 72 hours to leave.<sup>254</sup>*

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<sup>251</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), May 31, 2020

<sup>252</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), August 17, 2020

<sup>253</sup> [GardaWorld](#), March 26, 2020

<sup>254</sup> UK Government, Foreign Travel Advice, [Israel](#), March 12, 2020

*On April 7, the Israeli government locked the country down until June. Passenger rail services resumed on June 22, with capacity limited to prevent crowding.<sup>255</sup> Israel continued to ban almost all non-Israelis from entering the country and required returning nationals to self-quarantine for two weeks after arrival.*

*In mid-August, Israel agreed a strict travel corridor with Greek authorities. Travelers had to submit a COVID-19 test on departure from Israel and on arrival in Greece, followed by a two-day quarantine.<sup>256</sup>*

*From September 18, Israel entered its second national lockdown, initially for three weeks.<sup>257</sup>*

A limited number of international commercial flights are now operating. From December 23, 2020, all arriving passengers must complete a 14-day quarantine in a designated, state-sponsored coronavirus hotel. This may be shortened to 10 days on completion of two negative tests: on days one and nine of quarantine. Foreign nationals without Israeli citizenship are not allowed to enter the country.<sup>258</sup>

### 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.<sup>259</sup> Commercial flights in and out of Jordan were suspended until at least August 18.<sup>260</sup>*

*Jordan renewed some restrictions from September 17, 2020, closing schools, mosques, public markets and restaurants for two weeks.<sup>261</sup> The government implemented a 48-hour nationwide lockdown from October 9.<sup>262</sup> A second 48-hour lockdown followed from October 16, although it did not apply to travelers arriving from abroad.<sup>263</sup>*

Travelers to Jordan must take a PCR test on arrival (on their own cost). Anyone testing positive must go to a designated hospital for isolation and treatment. Anyone with a negative result must quarantine for seven days.<sup>264</sup>

### Kuwait

*From March 13, the government suspended all air services to and from the emirate “until further notice.” Only Kuwaiti citizens and their immediate relatives were permitted to fly into the Gulf state.*

On December 21, 2020, the Government of Kuwait closed land, seas and air borders with immediate effect until January 1, 2021, subject to review.

### Lebanon

*Beirut airport reopened on July 1.*

*On July 30, the Lebanese government reinforced lockdown measures after a spike in new cases.<sup>265</sup>*

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<sup>255</sup> [The Times of Israel](#), June 19, 2020

<sup>256</sup> [Haaretz](#), August 13, 2020

<sup>257</sup> [BBC](#), September 14, 2020

<sup>258</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>259</sup> [Gulf News](#), April 9, 2020

<sup>260</sup> [Gov.UK, FCO](#), August 14, 2020

<sup>261</sup> [Reuters](#), September 14, 2020

<sup>262</sup> [Al Jazeera](#), October 9, 2020

<sup>263</sup> [BBC](#), October 15, 2020

<sup>264</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>265</sup> [Arab News](#), July 28, 2020

On December 21, 2020, the government adjusted restrictive measures. Movement is prohibited between 3 am and 5 am. Restaurants, bars and nightclubs can remain open only under certain conditions and at 50% capacity.

Beirut airport and sea and land borders remain open. All arriving passengers are required by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to complete a health declaration before departure.<sup>266</sup> Travelers must take a PCR test 96 hours before travel and possess an insurance policy valid for the duration of their stay.

#### Palestinian Authority

*The Palestinian Authority introduced a five-day lockdown in the West Bank from July 3, 2020.<sup>267</sup> All businesses closed except for pharmacies and supermarkets. Travel and movement for non-essential reasons was prohibited.*

#### Saudi Arabia

*On March 12, the Saudi government suspended flights and travel by its citizens and expatriates to a number of markets.<sup>268</sup>*

*Saudi Arabia started easing lockdown measures from May 28 in a three-phase return to normality.<sup>269</sup> 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 curfew reduced further. As part of this easing of lockdown measures, domestic flights resumed from May 31.<sup>270</sup>*

There are no restrictions on travel to and from airports and ports. Preventative measures are in force. All arriving international travelers must show a negative coronavirus PCR test within 48 hours of departure.<sup>271</sup> They will also have their temperature checked and be tested on arrival in Saudi Arabia.

Since December 8, 2020, anyone arriving from Europe or from a country where the new strain of COVID-19 has appeared, must self-quarantine for 14 days, take a COVID-19 test, and retest every five days during quarantine.

#### Turkey

*Turkey reopened its international land, sea and air borders on June 12.<sup>272</sup>*

*From September 13, the government restored some restrictions, including a limit on passenger numbers on public transportation.<sup>273</sup>*

To travel on domestic and international flights, trains and ferries, and to check into accommodation, Turkish citizens and residents must request a HES (Hayat Eve Sığar) Code, which may also be required to gain entry to some public buildings and shopping malls.

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<sup>266</sup> [Gov.UK](#), FCO

<sup>267</sup> [The Times of Israel](#), July 1, 2020

<sup>268</sup> [Gulf News](#), March 12, 2020

<sup>269</sup> [Arab News](#), May 27

<sup>270</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), May 27, 2020

<sup>271</sup> [FCO](#), July 29, 2020

<sup>272</sup> [FCO](#), July 29, 2020

<sup>273</sup> [Reuters](#), September 13, 2020

All international 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.

Since December 30, 2020, Turkey has required all air, land and sea passengers arriving in the country to submit a negative PCR test result from a sample taken a maximum of 72 hours prior to travel. Turkey has also tightened national restrictions, introducing weeknight curfews and a full lockdown at weekends.<sup>274</sup>

### United Arab Emirates (UAE)

*From March 17, the UAE 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.<sup>275</sup> Travelers in this group were subject to additional medical checks on arrival.*

*The government subsequently suspended passenger flights to, from and through the country from March, until further notice.*

*Dubai allowed in foreign tourists and business travelers from July 7.<sup>276</sup> Before arriving, visitors had to take a PCR test up to four days (96 hours) prior to their date of travel.<sup>277</sup> Otherwise, a PCR test is carried out at Dubai's airports. All travelers must also complete a health declaration form.*

Since August 1, arrivals in the UAE must have a negative COVID-19 result from a test taken within 72 hours of departure.<sup>278</sup> This applies to tourists, transit passengers, residents and UAE citizens. On August 27, Abu Dhabi tightened travel restrictions within the UAE. 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.<sup>279</sup> The PCR test typically costs Dh370 and the DPI test Dh50.

From December 24, 2020, Abu Dhabi relaxed its entry restrictions, with tourists and residents flying with Etihad Airways from selected destinations to enter the emirate without the need to self-isolate for 14 days, as long as they receive a negative result from an on-arrival COVID-19 test (costing AED 85).<sup>280</sup> The list of "green" countries will be reviewed on a two-week rolling basis and initially comprised Australia, Brunei, China, Greece, Greenland, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

## North America [back to top](#)

### Bermuda

*As part of its fourth phase of reopening the country's economy, the Bermuda government allowed international air services to resume on July 1.<sup>281</sup>*

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<sup>274</sup> [Hurriyet Daily News](#), Jan. 3, 2021

<sup>275</sup> [Which School Advisor](#), March 15, 2020

<sup>276</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), June 23, 2020

<sup>277</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), July 7, 2020

<sup>278</sup> [The National](#), July 23, 2020

<sup>279</sup> [The National](#), August 25, 2020

<sup>280</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), Dec. 24, 2020

<sup>281</sup> [Travel Agent Central](#), June 22, 2020

Travelers who test negative for COVID-19 72 hours before arrival, and who also test negative upon arrival in Bermuda, enjoy freedom of movement within Bermuda, subject to local health guidelines.

### 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.*

A ban on most international arrivals from any country other than the US remains until January 21, 2021. Separate restrictions on US citizens and foreign nationals arriving from the US remain in place until January 21, 2021.<sup>282</sup> Any traveler entering Canada for essential purposes must self-isolate for 14 days.

Anyone arriving in Canada must use ArriveCAN before checking in at the airport or crossing the border to submit travel and contact information, 14-day quarantine plan and COVID-19 symptom self-assessment.<sup>283</sup> From January 7, 2021, air travelers (aged 5 years or older) must present a negative COVID-19 test result to the airline prior to boarding international flights bound for Canada.<sup>284</sup> The result must be from a PCR test conducted within the 72 hours before departure. Everyone entering Canada must still follow the mandatory 14-day quarantine. Quarantine plans are reviewed by a government unofficial and, if not suitable, travelers may be required to quarantine in a federal facility.

Some international passengers arriving in Calgary, Alberta, have been 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 exempts 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 was initially available on a trial basis over a 26 week period. Participants (Alberta residents and international passengers arriving on non-stop flights) must also 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, 2020, Mexico began to gradually ease its lockdown originally introduced on March 23.<sup>285</sup> In red zones, only essential activities are possible. In green zones, most activities can resume.*

The land border between Mexico and the US is closed to all non-essential traffic. The closure is reviewed on a monthly basis.

### United States

*On March 13, the US banned all travel from Europe. It did not apply to US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives of citizens. Having visited a Schengen country within the previous 14 days, these travelers had to arrive through an approved airport.<sup>286</sup>*

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<sup>282</sup> [CIC News](#), Dec. 21, 2020

<sup>283</sup> [Government of Canada](#)

<sup>284</sup> [Government of Canada](#), Dec. 31, 2020

<sup>285</sup> [Medical Express](#), June 1, 2020

<sup>286</sup> [American Airlines](#), March 14, 2020

*On March 19, the US Department of State raised its travel warning to Level 4, its highest possible level.<sup>287</sup> The advisory carried a “Do Not Travel” recommendation and urged U.S. citizens living abroad to return home. Those remaining abroad had to prepare to remain outside the U.S. for an indefinite period.*

*Since March, the US-Canada and US-Mexico borders have been closed to non-essential traffic<sup>288</sup> The restrictions have been extended into 2021.*

*On September 11, the US announced plans to end enhanced health screening of travelers from certain countries.<sup>289</sup> These visitors would 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, had limited effectiveness.*

Some states have adopted rules requiring travelers from other states, where rates of COVID-19 are high, to quarantine for 14 days on arrival or provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Further information may be found on the [CDC website](#).

From December 24, 2020, New York city has required all arriving international travelers to self-isolate for 14 days. Failure to comply risks a fine of \$1,000 per day.<sup>290</sup>

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### Australia

*By March 20, 2020, Australia had banned all foreign travelers.<sup>291</sup> Australians could still return from overseas but had to self-isolate for 14 days. Soon after, Australia tightened restrictions on domestic travel, immediately recommending against all non-essential travel.<sup>292</sup>*

Australia has set out a three-stage plan to end the lockdown and restart its economy.<sup>293</sup> When implemented, stage three would allow all interstate travel and some limited international travel, including trans-Tasman flights. In mid-June 2020, Australia’s Tourism Minister announced that the country’s border would stay closed until 2021.

The easing of the domestic lockdown was derailed by a COVID-19 outbreak in Melbourne, which was forced into a 112-day lockdown, which only ended on October 27, 2020.<sup>294</sup> The lockdown forced the closure of the border between Victoria, Melbourne’s home state, and New South Wales.

### New Zealand

*New Zealand introduced a ban on all overseas arrivals by non-citizens and non-residents from March 19, 2020. The country entered lockdown on March 25.<sup>295</sup> Air travel was only available to people undertaking essential services or for carrying freight.*

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<sup>287</sup> Cirium, March, 19, 2020

<sup>288</sup> [BBC](#), March 19, 2020

<sup>289</sup> [AP News](#), September 11, 2020

<sup>290</sup> [Breaking Travel News](#), Dec. 24, 2020

<sup>291</sup> [ABC](#), March 19, 2020

<sup>292</sup> [The Chronicle](#), March 22, 2020

<sup>293</sup> [Sky News](#), May 8, 2020

<sup>294</sup> [BBC](#), October 27, 2020

<sup>295</sup> Cirium, March 23, 2020

*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.<sup>296</sup> The country's international borders have remained closed, with any New Zealanders returning to the country required to enter a 14-day quarantine.*

*On August 11, New Zealand returned Auckland to strict lockdown, placing it into Level Three restrictions.<sup>297</sup> Travel in/out of the city was restricted to people returning home. The restrictions remained until October 7.<sup>298</sup> The rest of New Zealand was also moved to Level Two restriction until September 6.*

The country's return to alert level 1 in October allows the return to workplaces, schools, sports and unrestricted domestic travel. While wearing masks on public transport is no longer required, it is encouraged, as is recording visits to shops and businesses. People must still isolate and be tested from COVID-19 if unwell.

### Australia and New Zealand travel bubble

*During October 2020, Australia had been due to open a Safe Travel Zone with New Zealand, paving the way for the resumption of travel between the two countries.<sup>299</sup> However, the plans were suspended following a COVID-19 outbreak in Victoria state.*

Australia and New Zealand may launch their travel bubble in 2021, allowing for the relaunch of quarantine-free trans-Tasman air travel. Fearing another spike in COVID-19 cases in Australia, the New Zealand government wants to be sure it can repatriate its travelers safely in such an event.

### 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 January 8, 2021. 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.

Do you have questions or comments regarding this report? Please email [sales@adelmantravel.com](mailto:sales@adelmantravel.com) to share your thoughts.

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<sup>296</sup> [BBC](#), June 8, 2020

<sup>297</sup> [Sky News](#), August 11, 2020

<sup>298</sup> [The Guardian](#), October 8, 2020

<sup>299</sup> [Prime Minister of Australia](#), October 2, 2020