

Report: COVID-19 and travel bans

What you need to know

May 5, 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.¹ Arriving passengers must present a negative result from a PCR test taken within 72 hours of arrival, 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.²

From September 1, 2020, Egypt required all arriving passengers (including transit passengers) above the age of 6 years to produce a negative PCR test to confirm they are free of COVID-19.³ 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.⁴ Negative tests had previously only been required for non-Egyptian passengers; Egyptian citizens are now included.

Travelers to Egypt must also complete a health declaration form and a monitoring card detailing personal information. They must also demonstrate to airport authorities that they have adequate health insurance.

¹ [Gov.UK](#), FCO, August 20, 2020

² [Egypt Independent](#), June 27, 2020

³ [The National](#), August 26, 2020

⁴ [Egyptair](#), September 16, 2020

Ethiopia

Ethiopia introduced travel restrictions in March 2020. On April 8, the Government of Ethiopia declared a five-month State of Emergency.

Ethiopia has reopened its land and air borders. 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 the country. They may also have their temperatures checked, complete health screening questionnaires and answer questions from health officials.⁵ Arrivals must then complete a mandatory 7-day quarantine. Passengers without a negative test result must quarantine for 14 days.

Gabon

A State of Emergency was lifted on May 11, 2020.

Commercial flights are limited to three international services per week per airline.⁶ Land and sea borders remain closed. To travel to Gabon, a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken within five days of departure is required. 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.

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 government announced easing, including the lifting of some restrictions on public transport and domestic flights. However, the country's borders remained closed to international travel.⁷

Ghana reopened its borders to international air travel on September 1, 2020. Its land and sea borders remain closed.⁸ 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 taken within 72 hours of travel 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.⁹ 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

⁵ [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Ethiopia

⁶ [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Gabon

⁷ [AS News](#), July 27, 2020

⁸ [UK GOV](#), FCO, Nov 12, 2020

⁹ [Al Jazeera](#), July 6, 2020

curfews have been extended into 2021.¹⁰ Travelers arriving in the country between 22:00 and 04:00 must be escorted to their accommodation.

Visitors arriving in Kenya from 128 countries and territories are exempt from quarantine.¹¹ Such passengers are still required to present a negative certificate for a COVID-19 test carried out within 96 hours before departure.¹²

Near the end of March 2021, Kenya's government introduced a ban on all inland travel to/from five countries, including capital city Nairobi. In-person meetings were banned; indoor dining prohibited; and a curfew introduced between 20:00 and 04:00.

Mali

To enter Mali, international travelers must present a negative COVID-19 test certificate less than 72 hours old. Otherwise, they will be quarantined until tested at the airport at their own expense.¹³

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.*¹⁴

Anyone travelling to Mauritius must possess a certificate of a negative PCR test administered between 5 and 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. They must also complete a Public Health COVID-19 Self-Declaration Form and Passenger Locator Form.¹⁵ Non-Mauritians must pay Rs13,500 per person to their quarantine hotel cover Ministry of Health costs, including the three PCR tests.

On March 10, 2021, Mauritius returned to lockdown, initially for 2 weeks until March 25.¹⁶ Only essential businesses could stay open.

Morocco

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

Morocco's borders reopened to international visitors in October 2020.¹⁹ Anyone eligible to travel to the country must fill in a passenger locator form and 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

¹⁰ [VOA News](#), Nov. 4, 2020

¹¹ [Kenya Airport Authority](#), Dec. 14, 2020

¹² [Kenya Airport Authority](#)

¹³ [Gov.UK](#), Mali

¹⁴ [Air Mauritius](#), September 28, 2020

¹⁵ [My Mauritius Travel](#), Latest information on COVID-19

¹⁶ [Anadolu Agency](#), March 10, 2021

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

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

¹⁹ [Breaking Travel News](#), October 2, 2020

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.²⁰

Nigeria

At the end of June 2020, Nigeria lifted a ban on interstate travel and allowed domestic flights to resume.²¹ 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.²² They must also have tested negative for COVID-19 within 120 hours of their departure and 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. On arrival, passengers will be screened for health issues.

Rwanda

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

All arriving passengers must complete a health locator form and 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.

A national curfew is in place between 22:00 and 04:00.

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 15.²³ 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.²⁴

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.²⁵ 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

Seychelles

The Seychelles will reopen to tourists from March 25, 2021, although arrivals from South Africa will still not be allowed.²⁶ Visitors must present a negative result from a PCR test taken within 72 hours of

²⁰ [UK Gov](#), FCO

²¹ [Anadolu Agency](#), June 30, 2020

²² [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Dec. 16, 2020

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

²⁴ [Africa News](#), July 3, 2020

²⁵ [U.K. FCO](#), Entry into Senegal

²⁶ [Breaking Travel News](#), March 5, 2021

departure. There will be no quarantine requirement. Visitors must still adhere to public health measures, including the wearing of face masks, social distancing and hand sanitizing.

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 online 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.²⁷ If testing positive on arrival, travelers are transferred to a government isolation facility.

South Africa

South Africa declared a state of national disaster in March 2020.²⁸ It partly lifted a two-month lockdown on June 1.²⁹ 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, 2020.³⁰

On November 11, 2020, the government reopened international borders for air travel from all countries.³¹ 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 download the COVID-alert app and 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.

On February 15, 2021, the government reopened land borders with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.³² Anyone wishing to cross the border must still provide a negative result from a recent COVID-19 test. Travelers can also expect queue limits, while a ticket system will ease the pressure on border COVID-19 testing facilities, where National Health Laboratory Services offers tests for R170.³³

Tanzania

Effective May 4, 2021, the Government of Tanzania adjusted travel restrictions to reduce the risk of importing COVID-19 infections.³⁴ Travelers must complete an online Traveler’s Surveillance Form within the 24 hours before arrival in Tanzania. All arriving travelers, including returning residents, must present a negative result from an RT-PCR test conducted within 72 hours before arrival. All travelers entering

²⁷ [U.K. FCO](#), Sierra Leone entry rules

²⁸ [Comair](#), March 24, 2020

²⁹ [AlJazeera](#), June 1, 2020

³⁰ [Business Travel News](#), September 18, 2020

³¹ [South African Government](#), Travel – Coronavirus COVID-19

³² [BBC](#), Feb. 14, 2021

³³ [Business Insider South Africa](#), Feb. 9, 2021

³⁴ Government of Tanzania

Tanzania from a country with a “high number of COVID-19 cases” must submit to a rapid test at a cost of US\$25. And if the country from which they are traveling (or have traveled through in the last 14 days) is acknowledged by the World Health Organization to be affected by new variants of COVID-19, travelers also face 14 days mandatory quarantine at their own cost. Returning residents may isolate at home; all other travelers must quarantine in a government-designated location.

Travelers transiting in a third country for more than 72 hours must be retested by a rapid test on arrival in Tanzania.

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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. 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.³⁵

Any foreign national wishing to travel to Cambodia must first obtain a visa from a Cambodian mission abroad.³⁶ All travelers are tested on arrival and must quarantine at a government-designated location for 14 days, which could be a hotel (at the traveler’s expense) or at a government facility, where conditions may be basic. From December 12, 2020, the following entry requirements applied:

- Foreign nationals
 - Proof of a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken not more than 72 hours before departure
 - Payment of a US\$2,000 deposit to cover the costs of testing and quarantine, with unused funds returned within three days of quarantine completion
 - Purchase online US\$50,000 health insurance coverage for 20 days’ duration from FORTE Insurance Company at a cost of US\$90
- Cambodian passport holders
 - Pay for their stay if choosing to quarantine in a hotel
 - Take a second COVID-19 test on the 13th day of quarantine

On April 21, 2021, capital city Phnom Penh and Krong Ta Khamu, the largest city in Kandal Province, were placed into a lockdown running until at least May 5.

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.

³⁵ [Agence Kampuchea Presse](#), May 20, 2020

³⁶ [Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation](#)

Visas are now issued for entry into China but under strict conditions.³⁷ 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 a designated facility in their arrival city. Follow-up swab tests may be taken during quarantine. Anyone traveling to another Chinese city after completing the initial quarantine may need to self-isolate for a further one-three weeks at their final destination. Travelers should confirm local quarantine requirements prior to their trip.

Certain cities allow travelers who have tested pre-departure to apply for a “seven-day concentrated + seven-day at home” quarantine.

- Inbound travelers are subject to a seven-day concentrated quarantine at a designated facility. Residents may apply for home quarantine for the second week.
- Some cities may continue to implement the 14-day concentrated quarantine measures for all travelers.

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.

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.³⁸

Most travelers arriving from overseas, who are not Hong Kong residents, will be denied entry.³⁹ Effective December 25, 2020, Hong Kong banned all arrivals from the UK and South Africa.

All inbound passengers must submit online a Health & Quarantine Information Declaration before boarding their flight.⁴⁰ This produces a QR code – valid for 48 hours – which must be presented to Department of Health staff on arrival in Hong Kong. Anyone having stayed in a high-risk country in the past

³⁷ [Gov.UK](#), China

³⁸ [The Guardian](#), July 27, 2020

³⁹ [Gov.UK](#), Dec. 16, 2020

⁴⁰ [Government](#) of Hong Kong SAR

21 days must present a negative result from a PCR test conducted within 72 hours of departure.⁴¹ They must also confirm a hotel room reservation in Hong Kong for not less than 21 nights. All other travelers arriving from other destinations outside of China do not need a PCR test result, but they must have a 21-night hotel reservation in Hong Kong.

On arrival, passengers must supply a deep throat saliva sample for COVID-19 testing at the Temporary Specimen Collection Centre (TSCC) of the Department of Health, located in a restricted area of Hong Kong Airport. Because of the time taken for results (typically 12 hours or more), passengers arriving after noon are held overnight in the Holding Centre for Test Result. Even with a negative result, visitors must quarantine for 21 days in a hotel. The government uses spot checks, telephone calls and monitoring of electronic wristbands to ensure quarantine is being followed. Any quarantined traveler who leaves their designated hotel room may be subject to six months imprisonment and a \$25,000 fine. Anyone with a positive result will be transferred to a hospital for isolation and treatment and must bear the cost of any cancelled hotel reservation.

From April 2021, Hong Kong introduced a “place-specific flight suspension mechanism.” If within a seven-day period, five or more passengers across all flights from the same country test positive on arrival for the N501Y (South African) strain of COVID-19, the government will ban all flights from that country for 14 days. India, Pakistan and the Philippines were the first countries to be affected by the ban starting from April 20.

Hong Kong will launch a quarantine-free air travel bubble with Singapore from May 26, 2021. The Air Travel Bubble (ATB) will operate under strict conditions:

- Hong Kong residents may not travel until at least 14 days after receiving their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. There is no mention of a similar condition applying to Singaporeans.
- Both Hong Kong and Singapore residents must not have travelled anywhere else in the 14 days prior to their trip under the ATB.
- On arrival in either destination, travelers must download, register and use Singapore’s TraceTogether mobile app and Hong Kong’s LeaveHomeSafe app as appropriate.
- All travelers must test negative for COVID-19 before departure and on arrival, and travel on designated flights. They will not be required to quarantine.

COVID-19 case numbers in either Hong Kong or Singapore could lead to the suspension of the ATB and will determine when travel can resume.

India

From March 22, 2020, the Indian government banned all international flights.⁴² 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..⁴³

⁴¹ [Hong Kong Center for Health Protection](#), Conditions imposed on inbound travellers

⁴² [Channel News Asia](#), March 20, 2020

⁴³ Ministry of Civil Aviation, May 21, 2020

All regularly scheduled international flights remain suspended.⁴⁴ 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.⁴⁵ ⁴⁶ 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.⁴⁷ 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-19.⁴⁸ 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 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 state of emergency,⁴⁹ which ended on May 25.⁵⁰ 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.

⁴⁴ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

⁴⁵ [Ministry of Health and Family Welfare](#), Nov. 5, 2020

⁴⁶ [Live Mint](#), August 2, 2020

⁴⁷ [Directorate General of Immigration](#), March 31, 2020

⁴⁸ [The Jakarta Post](#), June 30, 2020

⁴⁹ [The Guardian](#), Apr. 7, 2020

⁵⁰ [Kyodo News](#), May 26, 2020

Measures encouraging social distancing, wearing masks in public, avoiding closed spaces and exercising other basic precautions remain in place. These may be strengthened in the event of renewed outbreaks.⁵¹

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.

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.

Japan declared a state of emergency on Jan. 8, 2021, initially covering Tokyo and the neighboring prefectures of Chiba, Kanagawa and Saitama. It was extended until March 7 and applied to ten prefectures, with Aichi, Fukuoka, Gifu, Hyogo, Kyoto and Osaka added earlier.^{52 53} Companies had to encourage staff to work from home, while office occupancy was reduced by 70%. Non-essential travel was discouraged, and restaurants had to close at 8 pm.

On April 23, a new state of emergency was declared in Tokyo and the western prefectures of Osaka, Kyoto and Hyogo, covering roughly one quarter of Japan's population. Until May 11, department stores and shopping malls must close, spectators are banned from large events, and rail and bus operators will end operations earlier on weeknights.⁵⁴

Malaysia

From March 18, 2020, the government placed the country on a movement control order, beginning a three-month lockdown.⁵⁵ 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.⁵⁶ 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.⁵⁷ 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.

⁵¹ [U.K. FCO](#), Japan

⁵² [Reuters](#), Jan. 12, 2021

⁵³ [The Japan News](#), Feb. 2, 2021

⁵⁴ [Japan Today](#), Apr. 23, 2021

⁵⁵ [Business Traveller](#), March 17, 2020

⁵⁶ [The Hindu](#), June 10, 2020

⁵⁷ [Jakarta Post](#), Sept. 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, 2020.⁵⁸ The CMCO effectively amounted to a lockdown on movement except for essential purposes, including commuting for work.

On January 1, 2021, the Government of Malaysia extended its Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) to the end of March. Under the RMCO, entry to Malaysia by foreign nationals is prohibited, except for those holding certain categories of residence visas and employment passes. 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.

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

Maldives

The Maldives reopened its borders to international tourists on July 15, with guest houses and hotels located on inhabited islands reopening on August 1.⁵⁹

A Public Health Emergency, initially in place until January 4, 2021,⁶⁰ has been extended to February 3. Travel is 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).

Since December 16, 2020, on arrival, all international visitors must present a negative result for COVID-19 from a test taken no more than 96 hours prior to departure. All visitors must also fill in a Traveller Health Declaration form 24 hours before departure to the Maldives.

Myanmar

Myanmar's response to COVID-19 began on February 28 with a ban on mass gatherings.⁶¹ 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.⁶²

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.⁶³

Domestic flights resumed on December 16, 2020. 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.

Myanmar nationals returning to the country must complete a 21-day quarantine, comprising 14 days in a quarantine center and seven days at home. Foreign nationals allowed to enter for business purposes must complete a seven-day quarantine in their home country before departure. On arrival in Myanmar, they

⁵⁸ [Malay Mail](#), October 26, 2020

⁵⁹ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 25, 2020

⁶⁰ [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Maldives, Dec. 15, 2020

⁶¹ [Ministry of Health & Sports](#), COVID-19 Situation Report 54

⁶² [The Irrawaddy](#), May 13, 2020

⁶³ [Gov.UK](#), Myanmar

must complete a 14-day quarantine, with at least seven days spent in a government facility. When taking a domestic flight, they must also present a health certificate dated no more than 72 hours prior to travel.

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 31.⁶⁴ 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 every two weeks.⁶⁵ Visitors must also provide their contact details online or via the PassTrack mobile app and be screened by a health official.

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 15.⁶⁶

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 15.⁶⁷ 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.

All arriving passengers face health screening and a mandatory COVID-19 test. They may also need to download the Traze Contact Tracing app. Any foreign nationals visiting a high-risk country with the past 14 days are barred from entering the Philippines. Those transiting through these countries must quarantine for 14 days after arrival. Philippine nationals may arrive from high-risk countries, but they must take a RT-PCR test and quarantine for 14 days. Overseas Philippines working nationals (OFWs) will be allowed to enter the country, but they must quarantine for 14 days even if testing negative for COVID-19.

⁶⁴ [Economic Times](#), May 16, 2020

⁶⁵ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

⁶⁶ [The Thaiger](#), April 28, 2020

⁶⁷ [The Diplomat](#), August 7, 2020

Singapore

From March 20, all arriving travelers were issued a 14-day Stay Home Notice (SHN),⁶⁸ often served in government-designated facilities, with costs paid for by the Government of Singapore.⁶⁹

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.⁷⁰

On June 2, Singapore embarked on Phase One of its re-opening, with more than three-quarters of the economy resuming.^{71,72} 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.⁷³ The wearing of face masks is compulsory for everyone when outside their place of residence.⁷⁴ Visits to any shops and services must be recorded through a Safe Entry app or by signing in on entry.

Singapore 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. Anyone quarantining at home must wear an electronic monitoring device.

From September 8, 2020, Singapore allowed entry from Brunei and New Zealand without a 14-day quarantine, although travelers must take a COVID-19 test on arrival. 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.

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.

As part of its efforts to re-open borders in a controlled and safe manner, with the necessary public health safeguards in place, Singapore launched a pilot of the Connect@Singapore scheme.⁷⁵ It allows a limited number of business, official and high economic value travelers to enter Singapore for short-term stays of

⁶⁸ [Singapore Tourism Board](#), March 18, 2020

⁶⁹ [Immigration and Checkpoints Authority](#), Singapore,

⁷⁰ [Ministry of Health](#), Singapore, April 3, 2020

⁷¹ [Ministry of Health](#), Singapore, May 19, 2020

⁷² [Ministry of Health](#), Singapore, May 28, 2020

⁷³ [Straits Times](#), June 18, 2020

⁷⁴ [U.K. FCO](#), Singapore

⁷⁵ [Singapore Tourism Board](#), Mar. 17, 2021

up to 14 days. Travelers from all countries, from which Singapore currently allows entry, are eligible. For the entire duration of their stay, travelers are housed in Appointed Facilities, undergo regular testing, and must strictly observe all Safe Management Measures (SMMs). Travelers may meet with locals and other traveler groups while in the Appointed Facility.

Singapore will launch a quarantine-free air travel bubble with Hong Kong from May 26, 2021. The Air Travel Bubble (ATB) will operate under strict conditions:

- Hong Kong residents may not travel until at least 14 days after receiving their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. There is no mention of a similar condition applying to Singaporeans.
- Both Singapore and Hong Kong residents must not have travelled anywhere else in the 14 days prior to their trip under the ATB.
- On arrival in either destination, travelers must download, register and use Singapore's TraceTogether mobile app and Hong Kong's LeaveHomeSafe app as appropriate.
- All travelers must test negative for COVID-19 before departure and on arrival, and travel on designated flights. They will not be required to quarantine.

Changes to COVID-19 case numbers in either Singapore or Hong Kong could lead to the suspension of the ATB and will determine when travel can resume.

Singapore is also planning a quarantine-free travel bubble with Australia, which would require the mutual recognition of vaccination certificates. Students and business travelers would be prioritized when resuming travel. No launch date has been set.

South Korea

On April 8, 2020, the government temporarily suspended visa waivers for citizens of countries that imposed travel bans on South Koreans.⁷⁶ 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 within 72 hours of departure and undergo a 14-day quarantine at a government facility.⁷⁷ Transit passengers have their temperatures checked, while those with symptoms are subject to a COVID-19 test and hospitalization if found to be positive. Residents are encouraged to download the Self-Quarantine Protection App, while short term visitors are referred to the Self-Diagnosis App.

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%.⁷⁸

⁷⁶ [Jakarta Post](#), April 8, 2020

⁷⁷ [Gov UK](#), South Korea

⁷⁸ [The Guardian](#), Dec. 15, 2020

Sri Lanka

On March 19, 2020, the Sri Lankan Government extended banned all travelers from entering the country.⁷⁹ The ban was extended until further notice.⁸⁰ 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 28.⁸¹ 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.⁸²

The reopening of Colombo's international airport, originally planned for December 26, 2020, has been delayed.⁸³ Trial international flights have been allowed to the southern city of Mattala. All visa types are suspended, and transiting passengers are restricted to connections of less than 12 hours. Arriving travelers are tested at the airport and transferred to a government facility to await the results. They must then quarantine for 14 days.

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 30.⁸⁴

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.⁸⁵

On arrival, international passengers must quarantine at a designated center for 14 days. This may be reduced to five days 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.⁸⁶

Entry restrictions and quarantine regulations for foreign nationals have been tightened. Only foreign nationals meeting certain criteria may enter the country:

- Alien Resident Certificate holders, including spouses and children
- People on diplomatic or official business, or able to prove they are fulfilling commercial or contractual obligations or for humanitarian reasons
- Those with special permission, including white-collar workers, migrant workers and foreign students

⁷⁹ [Malaysia Airlines](#), March 18, 2020

⁸⁰ [SriLankan Airlines](#), March 29, 2020

⁸¹ [The Hindu](#), June 28, 2020

⁸² [TTG Asia](#), July 14, 2020

⁸³ [New Indian Express](#), Dec. 26, 2020

⁸⁴ [Business Traveller](#), April 2, 2020

⁸⁵ [The Diplomat](#), June 5, 2020

⁸⁶ [Gov.uk](#), FCO

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.⁸⁷ At the end of June, Thailand extended its national state of emergency by a further month to July 31.

Since March 2020, Thailand has been under a nationwide Emergency Decree, which remains in place at least until the end of February.⁸⁸ The decree gives the government the authority to impose restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Thailand finally eased its ban on international passenger flights from July 1.⁸⁹ Flights operated to Thailand carry 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 2020.⁹⁰ 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. Travelers may also need to complete a T.8 health questionnaire.

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.⁹¹ 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 63.⁹² The easing enabled local airlines VietJet and Vietnam Airlines to resume some domestic flights.⁹³

In July, Vietnam re-imposed a number of restrictions, largely to deal with an outbreak in the city of Da Nang.^{94 95} 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.

From September 18, Vietnam restored international air services to several Asian destinations.⁹⁶ 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

⁸⁷ [ABC News](#), March 24

⁸⁸ [The Thaiger](#), Jan. 9, 2021

⁸⁹ [Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand](#), June 30, 2020

⁹⁰ [Breaking Travel News](#), Dec. 17, 2020

⁹¹ [VN Express](#), March 17, 2020

⁹² [Straits Times](#), April 17, 2020

⁹³ [Reuters](#), April 16, 2020

⁹⁴ [Vietnam Briefing](#), August 7, 2020

⁹⁵ [The Guardian](#), July 27, 2020

⁹⁶ [AP News](#), September 16, 2020

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 is not allowed. Borders with China, Cambodia and Laos remain closed. All flights from the UK and South Africa are suspended.

An ATP (air travel pass) with Singapore is available if certain conditions are met. All international passengers must present a negative result from a test taken within 3-5 days of travel, quarantine on arrival for 14 days, and submit to two mandatory swabs during quarantine. Foreign travelers also require health insurance.

Vietnam is preparing to resume international flights. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAAV) has proposed a three-phase resumption:

- Bundled flight and hotel travel packages for Vietnamese citizens serving 14-day quarantines.
- From July, four weekly return flights for each airline in each destination country, including Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.
- From September, daily flights to each destination country. Foreigners will be allowed to enter Vietnam if they have a negative COVID-19 test result or a vaccine certificate, shortening their quarantine period to seven days.

The implementation of the international flights will depend on the progress Vietnam makes with its vaccination program. Flights will only be restored to countries adopting similar vaccination standards and protocols to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Europe [back to top](#)

On March 18, 2020, the EU banned travelers from outside the bloc for 30 days.⁹⁷ 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.⁹⁸

A relaxation of all border restrictions within the EU/Schengen Area came into effect from mid-June 2020.⁹⁹

The EU has separately created a list of epidemiologically safe non-member countries, from which residents can travel, even for non-essential purposes.¹⁰⁰ 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. As at the end of April 2021, the list now comprises just seven countries: Australia, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand, with China still subject to confirmation.¹⁰¹

⁹⁷ [BBC](#), March 18, 2020

⁹⁸ [Breaking Travel News](#), Mar. 18, 2020

⁹⁹ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 5, 2020

¹⁰⁰ [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 29, 2020

¹⁰¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Jan. 29, 2021

At the start of May 2021, the European Commission (EC) proposed Member States gradually start reopening their borders for non-essential travel by vaccinated travelers from third countries.¹⁰² Arrivals must have received the recommended dose of an EU-authorized vaccine. The EC has also recommended increasing the COVID-19 case threshold used to classify countries as safe. However, it will also permit Member States to urgently suspend inbound travel for non-EU travelers should cases rise or new variants in any non-EU country. Once the latest EC proposals are adopted, it will be up to each individual Member State to implement them.

EU adopts Common Approach to travel restrictions

In October 2020, the EU Council moved to coordinate measures restricting free movement in the EU.^{103 104} 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:

- *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.¹⁰⁵

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

- 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

¹⁰² [Schengen Visa Info](#), May 4, 2021

¹⁰³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Oct. 13, 2020

¹⁰⁴ [European Commission](#), A common approach to travel measures in the EU

¹⁰⁵ [Re-open EU](#)

Austria

During May 2020, Austria entered a period of gradual and monitored reopening.¹⁰⁶ Cross-border travel resumed on June 15, when the borders with Germany, Liechtenstein and Switzerland reopened. By mid-July, Austria had re-tightened some travel restrictions.

On November 3, 2020, Austria entered a second lockdown, lasting until December 7. A third lockdown followed from December 26, ending on February 8.

Austria is currently under lockdown. Anyone traveling to the country must pre-register digitally to obtain a “pre-travel clearance” form. Most arrivals must self-isolate for ten days, which may be shortened with a negative PCR test result on day five. Business travelers need not quarantine if they can provide a medical certificate showing a negative result from a PCR test taken in the 72 hours before departure.

Austria plans to reopen and ease COVID-19 restrictions starting from May 19, 2021.¹⁰⁷ Anyone arriving from Australia, Iceland, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea will be allowed to enter Austria without the need for quarantine or a negative COVID-19 test result. All other arrivals will be subject to restrictions, depending on the country from which they’re traveling.

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 8.¹⁰⁸ 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.

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.¹⁰⁹ 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, 48 hours before arrival. 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 be tested on days one and seven.¹¹⁰ 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.

Between January 27, 2021, and April 19, the Belgian government banned non-essential foreign travel to and from the country. All arrivals and trips by road, air, sea and rail are affected. Only essential travel

¹⁰⁶ [Austria Info](#), Current Situation

¹⁰⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Apr. 28, 2021

¹⁰⁸ [Politico.eu](#), May 6, 2020

¹⁰⁹ [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

¹¹⁰ [Info Coronavirus.be](#)

could continue for family reunification, humanitarian reasons, study purposes, residents of border areas.¹¹¹ From April 19, the government changed its stance to strongly discouraging non-essential travel.

Bulgaria

In June 2020, Bulgaria abolished a mandatory quarantine for arrivals from EU member states, except Portugal and Sweden.¹¹² 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 COVID-19 test result not older than 72 hours.¹¹³ At the start of August, Bulgaria also permitted arrivals from Jordan and Ukraine without the need to take a PCR test.¹¹⁴

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.

Cyprus

On Jan. 10, 2021, Cyprus returned to lockdown for the remainder of the month, including daytime restrictions on movement.¹¹⁵ People may only go out twice a day, and need approval to do so. Public and private gatherings are banned, and the country is under a 9 pm-5 am curfew. While civil servants must work from home, up to 20 employees may work at the premises of private companies.

From May 10, 2021, tourists from 65 countries may visit Cyprus without quarantine, if they hold a Digital Green Passport (proof of vaccination) or present a negative result from a COVID-19 PCR test not older than three days.¹¹⁶ The list includes all Schengen Zone countries, as well as the UK, UAE, Canada, Israel, Qatar, Egypt, Switzerland, New Zealand, the US and Australia.

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 UK.¹¹⁷ 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.¹¹⁸ A ten-day quarantine may also be required,

¹¹¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Jan. 25, 2021

¹¹² [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 19, 2020

¹¹³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 30, 2020

¹¹⁴ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 3, 2020

¹¹⁵ [Ekathimerrinj](#), Jan. 9, 2021

¹¹⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Apr. 27, 2021

¹¹⁷ [Independent](#), March 15, 2020

¹¹⁸ [Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic](#)

with PCR tests conducted on days five and seven, with a negative result from the latter enabling quarantine to end.

Denmark

On March 13, 2020, Denmark's Foreign Ministry advised Danes to avoid all unnecessary travel abroad.¹¹⁹

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.¹²⁰

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.¹²¹

On July 4, Denmark also allowed travel to resume from Norway.

In December 2020, Denmark introduced a new regional approach for classifying EU and Schengen Zone countries and the UK. This had no initial impact as all countries were considered high risk and Danes were highly discouraged from traveling.¹²²

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.

On January 9, 2021, Denmark banned citizens from all countries from crossing its borders.¹²³ From April 21, it began an easing process, adopting a three-color risk-based system.¹²⁴ Travelers arriving from countries or regions rated yellow may enter Denmark without an essential reason for travel, will not need to self-isolate of arrival, but must still take pre-departure and post-entry COVID-19 tests. Restrictions on entry will remain in place until further notice.

The Danish government advises against all travel to countries classified as red, and it denies entry to anyone arriving from them, unless they are on a very short list of exemptions. All other countries are classified orange, with only essential travel permitted. Arrivals from orange and red countries must quarantine for ten days. This restriction may not apply to certain business travelers.

Estonia

Estonia introduced a travel ban on March 17, 2020. From May 16, it created a "travel bubble," reopening its borders with Latvia and Lithuania.¹²⁵ From July 6, Estonia opened its borders to residents of 14 low-infection countries outside the EU.

From September, Estonia required quarantine only for arrivals from countries with 25 cases per 100,000 inhabitants on average over the past 14 days.¹²⁶ As a result, travelers arriving from 29 European countries had to follow a 14-day compulsory quarantine.

¹¹⁹ [Bloomberg](#), March 13, 2020

¹²⁰ [Reuters](#), May 18, 2020

¹²¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 6, 2020

¹²² [Schengen Visa Info](#), Dec. 14, 2020

¹²³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Jan. 12, 2021

¹²⁴ [BTN Europe](#), Apr. 21, 2021

¹²⁵ [BBC](#), May 15, 2020

¹²⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), September 14, 2020

All travelers arriving in Estonia must submit a customer locator form at the port of entry of electronically via the country's Health Board portal before arrival. Anyone needing to quarantine can reduce the ten-day period by providing a negative result from a PCR test up to 72 hours before arrival and a second test from day six of quarantine.

During March 2021, Estonia restricted entry for citizens arriving from 26 EU and Schengen Area countries.¹²⁷ Until April 25, anyone entering Estonia from a country with a high infection rate of COVID-19 must quarantine for ten days.¹²⁸ Within Europe, this means only citizens of Finland, Ireland, Malta, Portugal and the UK are exempt.

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.¹²⁹

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.

From January 27, 2021, the Government tightened entry restrictions, initially until February 25,¹³⁰ but subsequently extended until the end of April and then to May 25. Only essential travel for work is now permitted between Finland and other Schengen countries. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment maintains a list of essential activities. Employers must then submit a form justifying the travel. Entry is still permitted for healthcare and rescue service personnel and for certain other purposes. Travelers must self-isolate for 10 days, a period that can be shortened after taking two COVID-19 tests.

Visitors from the following countries are allowed to travel on direct flights to Finland for non-essential purposes without the need for testing or quarantine: Australia, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vatican City.¹³¹

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 May 11. If new daily COVID-19 cases stayed below 3,000, a gradual easing of restrictions could start.¹³² 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.¹³³

On October 30, 2020, France started a second national lockdown, albeit with less severe restrictions than before. People could only leave home for essential, work or medical reasons. In mid-December, the

¹²⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), March 7, 2021

¹²⁸ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Apr. 17, 2021

¹²⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 22, 2020

¹³⁰ [Ministry of the Interiors](#), Jan. 22, 2021

¹³¹ [VisitFinland](#), Traveling to Finland, Apr. 23, 2021

¹³² [BBC](#), April 28, 2020

¹³³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 15, 2020

*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.*¹³⁴

From January 16, 2021, France tightened its curfew, starting it at 18:00, extending it from the previous 20:00-06:00.¹³⁵ The extension initially ran for 15 days.

Travelers arriving from outside the EU (as well as those arriving from France's overseas territories) must test negative for COVID-19 in the 72 hours before departure for France, isolate for seven days after arrival, and then test again. All travelers must also complete an exempted international certificate and a sworn declaration that they do not have COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with it. From January 24, the need for a pre-departure test was extended to arrivals from EU countries.

From January 31, France banned all travel to/from countries outside the EU for purposes not considered compelling by French authorities.¹³⁶ The ban also applies to France's overseas territories. Anyone demonstrating compelling reasons for travel must take a COVID-19 test on arrival in France, isolate for seven days at a location approved by the authorities, and take another RT-PCR test at the end of isolation. The travel ban has yet to apply to arrivals from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea or Thailand, because of low infection rates in these countries.

At the start of April 2021, France entered its third national lockdown, which includes a ban on traveling more than 10km (six miles) from home without a good reason.¹³⁷

France is preparing to ease travel restrictions for vaccinated travelers and for anyone who has tested negative for COVID-19.¹³⁸ The easing will apply to European Union (EU) and third country travelers, and in particular the US. From the beginning of May, France aims to offer a vaccination certificate to enable safe, restriction-free travel.

At the same time, the country will impose stricter restrictions on travelers arriving from countries where COVID-19 variants are widespread. The list is likely to include Argentina, Brazil, Chile and South Africa. Arrivals from these countries will need to provide a negative result from a PCR test taken within 36 hours before departure (instead of 72 hours) or from an antigen test not older than 24 hours. They will also need to self-isolate for ten days and inform the authorities of their location during this period.

Germany

*Germany closed its borders with neighboring countries on March 16. Commuters and returning Germans and residents could continue to cross the borders.*¹³⁹ *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.*

¹³⁴ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Dec. 15, 2020

¹³⁵ [BBC](#), Jan. 15, 2021

¹³⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Feb. 1, 2021

¹³⁷ [BBC](#), March 31, 2021

¹³⁸ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Apr. 19, 2021

¹³⁹ [DW.com](#), March 16, 2020

- *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.¹⁴⁰ 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.¹⁴¹ Under a government plan, all shops could reopen and some sports restart under certain conditions.¹⁴²

On June 15, Germany lifted all border controls on arrivals from Austria, Denmark, France, Italy and Switzerland.¹⁴³ Among the 15 third-countries originally on the EU list, Germany allowed unrestricted entry to arrivals from just seven: Australia, Canada, Georgia, New Zealand, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. It reversed access to arrivals from Montenegro and Serbia.

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.¹⁴⁴ 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.¹⁴⁵ 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.¹⁴⁶ 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, 2020.¹⁴⁷ 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.¹⁴⁸ 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.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁰ [BBC](#), April 15, 2020

¹⁴¹ [AlJazeera](#), April 28, 2020

¹⁴² [Reuters](#), May 6, 2020

¹⁴³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 10, 2020

¹⁴⁴ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Sept. 10, 2020

¹⁴⁵ [DW](#), Oct. 16, 2020

¹⁴⁶ [BBC](#), Oct. 30, 2020

¹⁴⁷ [DW](#), Dec. 13, 2020

¹⁴⁸ [The Local.de](#), Oct. 15, 2020

¹⁴⁹ [Robert Koch Institut](#)

Stricter rules applied to international arrivals from Jan. 11, 2021.¹⁵⁰ 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. At the end of March, Germany extended the requirement for a negative result from a test no earlier than 48 hours before travel to travelers arriving by plane from any destination.¹⁵¹ This rule remains in place until May 12, but it may be extended. It is the responsibility of the airlines to verify a passenger's test results.

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 31.¹⁵² 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.

Restrictions on domestic flights are in place until March 16, 2021, and on international flights until March 22.¹⁵³ Citizens of the EU and Schengen Area are still allowed to enter Greece, as are arrivals from Australia, Israel, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea, Thailand, the U.A.E. and the U.K. Citizens from all other third countries are not allowed to travel to Greece.

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. All travelers must also present a negative result from a PCR test taken within 72 hours of departure. It should be in English and clearly denote the traveler's name and passport/national ID number. Issuing laboratories must be accredited.

From February 11, the Greek government reintroduced a stricter lockdown in Athens and the surrounding Attica region, an area accounting for nearly half the country's population.¹⁵⁴ The lockdown was expected to last for two months, but its exact nature may vary during this period.

From April 19, Greece lifted quarantine restrictions for arrivals from the EU, Israel, Serbia, the UAE, UK and US.¹⁵⁵ As long as travelers can provide a negative result from a PCR test carried out not more than 72 hours before arrival, or proof of having received two doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine, they will no longer be required to self-isolate. Citizens may only enter the country through one of nine airports: Athens, Chania, Corfu, Heraklion, Kos, Mykonos, Rhodes, Santorini or Thessaloniki. Greece plans to reopen tourism from May 14.

¹⁵⁰ [BTN, Europe](#), Jan. 7, 2021

¹⁵¹ [Schengen Visa Info.](#), March 31, 2021

¹⁵² [Schengen Visa Info.](#), Aug. 19, 2020

¹⁵³ [Schengen Visa Info.](#), March 8, 2021

¹⁵⁴ [Bloomberg](#), Feb. 9, 2021

¹⁵⁵ [Schengen Visa Info.](#), Apr 15, 2021

Hungary

Hungary did not support the EU Council's request to reopen its borders to 15 non-EU countries considered to be safe.¹⁵⁶ 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.¹⁵⁷ 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.¹⁵⁸ 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, 2020.¹⁵⁹

Hungary's borders remain largely closed to foreign travelers, and anyone trying to enter the country must obtain official approval.¹⁶⁰ Travelers must pre-register 24 hours before departure and are subject to a ten-day mandatory quarantine and medical examination.

Hungary is under curfew between 08:00 and 17:00. 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.¹⁶¹ 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. From August 2020, travelers could shorten the self-isolation period by testing for COVID-19 on arrival and then again after a quarantine period of five or six days.¹⁶² With two negative tests, 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 improved.¹⁶³

In March 2021, Iceland announced that anyone arriving from the EEA/EFTA area having been vaccinated with a vaccine authorized by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) would be allowed restriction-free entry to the country.¹⁶⁴ Travelers would need to present a certificate containing their name, date of birth, nationality, passport number and details of their vaccination.

¹⁵⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 3, 2020

¹⁵⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Aug. 25, 2020

¹⁵⁸ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Aug. 31, 2020

¹⁵⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Oct. 7, 2020

¹⁶⁰ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

¹⁶¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 20, 2020

¹⁶² [Business Travel News Europe](#), August 17, 2020

¹⁶³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), October 9, 2020

¹⁶⁴ [Schengen Visa Info](#), March 4, 2021

Ireland

Official government advice against all non-essential travel, first brought in during March 2020, remained until July 20,¹⁶⁵ requiring arrivals from overseas to quarantine for 14 days.

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 20.¹⁶⁶ Advice against all non-essential travel remained in place.

On August 18, the government reversed some lockdown relaxation measures.¹⁶⁷ 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, 2020, 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 moved progressively to Level 5, the top level of its restrictions. As a result, international travel was banned, restaurants and pubs were closed, and there should be no household mixing indoors.¹⁶⁸

Travelers must fill in the COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form in advance of arrival or risk a €2,500 or up to six months imprisonment.¹⁶⁹ From January 16, 2021, all arriving passengers (except those from Northern Ireland) must have a negative result from a PCR test carried out not more than 72 hours prior to arrival. Aviation, road haulage and maritime workers are exempt. From March 26, Ireland introduced a mandatory 12-night hotel quarantine for all travelers arriving from a list of 33 high-risk countries. The hotel stays must be pre-booked and can be reduced following a COVID-19 test on day 10 of quarantine. The 12-night stay costs €1,875 for one person, with adults sharing the room charged €625.

In April, Ireland added a further 43 countries to its high-risk list; a list that includes 17 EU countries.¹⁷⁰

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.¹⁷¹

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.¹⁷²

¹⁶⁵ [BBC](#), July 6, 2020

¹⁶⁶ [BBC](#), July 15, 2020

¹⁶⁷ [BBC](#), August 19, 2020

¹⁶⁸ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

¹⁶⁹ [Government of Ireland](#), COVID-19 locator form

¹⁷⁰ [Schengen Visa Info.](#), April 1, 2021

¹⁷¹ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 2, 2020

¹⁷² [BBC](#), Oct. 18, 2020

Italy is still in a state of emergency. All arriving travelers must complete a self-declaration form from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before departure. They must also call the COVID-19 helpline within 48 hours, to notify of their visit.

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.

From April 2021, Italy required arrivals from other EU states to provide a negative result from a test taken within the 48 hours before arrival. Travelers must quarantine for five days after arrival and may only then exit quarantine after a second negative test result.¹⁷³

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. They must confirm in writing that they will adhere to the country's safety measures. 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.¹⁷⁴

From December 21, 2020, the Latvian government introduced a number of restrictions including the closure of non-essential retail and beauty care services.¹⁷⁵ Until January 25, 2021, a curfew is in place between 22:00 and 05:00.

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.

Lithuania entered a national quarantine on November 7, escalated to a nationwide lockdown from December 16. This has since been extended until February 28, 2021.¹⁷⁶ Residents may not move outside their immediate municipality, unless for essential or work-related reasons, for which evidence could be required. People can only leave home to work, shop for essential products, exercise, for health reasons, or to travel to an airport or border crossing.¹⁷⁷

Anyone returning to Lithuania, whether by air, sea, or land, must submit their personal information on the National Center for Public Health (NVSC) website. From February 8, anyone wishing to enter Lithuania must present a negative result from a COVID-19 test not older than 48 hours.¹⁷⁸ Self-isolation for 14 days is also mandatory.

¹⁷³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), March 30, 2021

¹⁷⁴ [Latvian Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#), Dec. 18, 2020

¹⁷⁵ [COVID19.gov.lv](#)

¹⁷⁶ [Baltic News Network](#), Jan. 30, 2021

¹⁷⁷ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

¹⁷⁸ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Feb. 8, 2021

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.¹⁷⁹

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.¹⁸⁰

Between January 29 and February 28, 2021, anyone seeking to enter Luxembourg by air must present a negative result from a COVID-19 test not older than 72 hours.¹⁸¹ In addition, anyone arriving from a country that is not an EU or Schengen member must take a rapid antigen test upon arrival or face a 14-day compulsory quarantine.

Malta

During March 2020, Malta banned travelers from a number of European countries.¹⁸²

Malta reopened to international travel from July 1,¹⁸³ 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.¹⁸⁴ Arrivals from Green countries have their temperatures checked and must complete a health 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. All travelers must complete a passenger locator form.

Netherlands

On May 6, Dutch authorities outlined a four-month plan to phase out social restrictions.¹⁸⁵ 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.¹⁸⁶ 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, 2021.¹⁸⁷ These include the closure of entertainment venues, contact-based

¹⁷⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 19, 2020

¹⁸⁰ [The Luxembourg Government](#), Visiting Luxembourg

¹⁸¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Jan. 27, 2021

¹⁸² [Times of Malta](#), Mar. 11, 2020

¹⁸³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 15, 2020

¹⁸⁴ [Visit Malta](#), COVID-19 Info Page, Dec. 21, 2020

¹⁸⁵ [Reuters](#), May 6, 2020

¹⁸⁶ [Government of the Netherlands](#), Changes to coronavirus control measures from May 11, 2020

¹⁸⁷ [Government of the Netherlands](#), Dutch measures against coronavirus

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. On January 23, the government applied additional measures, including a curfew between 20:30 and 04:30, limits on household mixing and extra travel restrictions.¹⁸⁸ Until the end of March, the government advises against all travel abroad or booking trips abroad.

From December 29, 2020, the Dutch government required all travelers (including Dutch nationals) arriving from a high-risk area in 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.¹⁸⁹ 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. Arrivals from countries outside the EU/Schengen must present a negative test result and a printed declaration bearing their signature.¹⁹⁰ Prior to boarding a flight, all passengers must also submit a health screening form.¹⁹¹

A negative test result is not a substitute for self-quarantining. Everyone must quarantine for 10 days on arrival in the Netherlands. This may be reduced with a COVID-19 test on day five of quarantine.¹⁹²

From January 23, as part of the tightening of restrictions, travelers arriving from high-risk areas must produce a negative result from a PCR test taken within 72 hours of departure **and** one from a rapid COVID-19 test taken within four hours of boarding the aircraft or ship. The government has also removed the travel ban exemption for business travelers, students, highly-skilled migrants and professionals from the cultural and creative sectors arriving in the Netherlands from countries outside the EU.

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.¹⁹³ It continued to rely on social distancing rules to prevent a resurgence of infections. Travel between Norway and Denmark resumed on June 15.¹⁹⁴

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).¹⁹⁵ 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

¹⁸⁸ [Government of the Netherlands](#), Jan. 20, 2021

¹⁸⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Dec. 28, 2020

¹⁹⁰ [Government of the Netherlands](#), Arrivals from outside EU/Schengen

¹⁹¹ [Ministry of Health](#), Welfare and Sport, Health Screening Form

¹⁹² [Government of the Netherlands](#), Self-quarantine upon arrival

¹⁹³ [Reuters](#), June 5, 2020

¹⁹⁴ [The National](#), May 29, 2020

¹⁹⁵ [Norwegian Institute of Public Health](#), Dec. 22, 2020

charge of NOK 500 per night. Foreign citizens arriving from red countries must present a negative COVID-19 certificate from a test conducted during the 72 hours before arrival.

Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against non-essential travel to all countries. On April 22, 2021, this advice was extended for an unlimited period.¹⁹⁶ Exceptions have been made for Nordic, Schengen Area and EEA countries that meet infection level criteria set out by the NIPH. An entry ban on citizens of third countries remains in place until June 1, 2021 and may be extended until November 10.¹⁹⁷

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.¹⁹⁸ 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, with international flights resuming mid-June. From September 30, 2020, Poland allowed flights from the European Schengen area, after updating its no-fly list.¹⁹⁹

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. 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, 2021.²⁰⁰ 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.

Air travelers must fill in a health declaration form before boarding a flight for Poland.

Portugal

Portugal declared a state of emergency on March 18, 2020.²⁰¹ 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.²⁰² 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,

¹⁹⁶ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Apr. 22, 2021

¹⁹⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), March 29, 2021

¹⁹⁸ [Breaking Travel News](#), May 20, 2020

¹⁹⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Sept. 29, 2020

²⁰⁰ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

²⁰¹ [Bloomberg](#), Apr. 9, 2020

²⁰² [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.²⁰³

Since October 2020, international passengers have been required to digitally file a passenger locator form.²⁰⁴ This must be completed before travel, with a receipt verified by airlines at the departure gate.

From November 4, 70% of Portugal's population, including those in Lisbon and Porto, were placed back in lockdown.²⁰⁵ 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. 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 was due to last at least until January 1, 2021.

On January 15, Portugal entered a new national lockdown, with restrictions similar to those applied in the first lockdown, which was in place during March and April 2020.²⁰⁶ Working from home is mandatory whenever possible, although schools remained open. Hairdressers and gyms must close, while restaurants may only offer takeaway. Fines for breaking lockdown rules have been doubled. Until May 3, only people with a justified cause may enter the country across its land border with Spain.

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 25.²⁰⁷ People could only leave home to go to work, with a signed note from their employers, and to shop for food.

All inbound travelers must fill in an Online Coronavirus COVID-19 Statement.²⁰⁸ 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 government suspended international flights. 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.²⁰⁹ The measures also applied across most Russian provinces, and a holiday was declared across the entire country for April.

²⁰³ [Schengen Visa Info](#), August 3, 2020

²⁰⁴ [BTN Europe](#), Oct. 9, 2020

²⁰⁵ [The Portugal News](#), Nov. 2, 2020

²⁰⁶ [The Portugal News](#), Jan. 13, 2021

²⁰⁷ [Reuters](#), March 24, 2020

²⁰⁸ [Government of Romania](#)

²⁰⁹ [Hotel News Now](#), Apr. 8, 2020

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.²¹⁰

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.²¹¹ A curfew on restaurants and similar establishments between 23:00 and 06:00 was also introduced.

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.²¹²

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.²¹³ 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.

Entry into the country is subject to a negative result from a PCR test taken in the 48 hours prior to arrival. Individuals without a test will be subject to a ten-day home isolation and can take a test in Serbia. Self-isolation is not required in the event of a negative test.

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, EEA country, Switzerland or the UK, must present a negative result from an RT-PCR test no older than 72 hours. They must also register on the Slovak Government's website and isolate at home or in a quarantine facility for up to 14 days. Quarantine may be ended with a negative PCR or rapid antigen test, followed by a second negative PCR result on the 8th day of isolation.

From April 19, 2021, Slovakia's Ministry of Interior also required arriving travelers to meet the following criteria:²¹⁴

- Be fully vaccinated at least two weeks before travel if receiving an mRNA vaccine, or having received their first dose of a vector vaccine at least four weeks before travel.
- If recovering from COVID-19 within the last 180 days, travelers should have had their first dose of any vaccine at least two weeks before travel.

²¹⁰ [France 24](#), June 1, 2020

²¹¹ [The Moscow Times](#), Oct. 27, 2020

²¹² [Gov.UK](#), FCO

²¹³ [BBC](#), July 6, 2020

²¹⁴ Schengen Visa Info,

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.

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 11.²¹⁵

Even as Spain eased its lockdown, it increased restrictions on international travel, with visitors having to quarantine for 14 days. The quarantine measures ended on July 1, 2020, and soon after, Spain reopened its borders to arrivals for 12 third-countries.^{216 217}

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 06:00.²¹⁸ 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 from elsewhere, including the UK and US, until the end of May 2021.²¹⁹ However, travelers arriving from third-countries on the EU's epidemiologically-safe list are permitted entry.

Any passengers that do arrive 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, which must be submitted 48 hours before arrival.

Sweden

From December 21, 2020, Sweden banned arrivals from Denmark and the UK.²²⁰ Norway was added on January 15, and the ban itself was extended to February 14 and may be extended further.²²¹ Initially, only Swedish citizens or Danish citizens living or working in Sweden and people transporting goods were

²¹⁵ [Reuters](#), May 6, 2020

²¹⁶ [Breaking Travel News](#), May 26, 2020

²¹⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), July 6, 2020

²¹⁸ [BBC](#), Oct. 25, 2020

²¹⁹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), May 5, 2021

²²⁰ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Dec. 22, 2020

²²¹ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Feb. 2, 2021

exempt. From February 1, exemptions were expanded to include people traveling for defense cooperation and those seeking care in Sweden.²²²

From February 6 until at least March 31, foreign nationals arriving in Sweden from any destination must present a negative result from a COVID-19 test conducted not more than 48 hours before departure. Anyone under the age of 18, Swedish residents and transport workers are exempt.²²³

A general entry ban for all countries in the European Economic Area (EEA) remains in place until the end of May 2021.

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

Switzerland

A state of emergency, first declared on March 16, 2020, officially ended on June 19.²²⁴ Complete freedom of movement across Switzerland's borders was restored by July 6.

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.²²⁵

From October 19, 2020, Switzerland made mask wearing in indoor public spaces compulsory and banned gatherings of more than 15 people in public places.²²⁶

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 quarantine list. Business travelers and people traveling for medical reasons are exempt from any quarantine obligation for trips lasting not more than five days.²²⁷ Anyone facing quarantine must do so for 10 days. The Swiss Federal Office of Public Health maintains a list of approved countries.²²⁸

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.

Travelers arriving from a country with an increased risk of infection must enter a 10-day quarantine on arrival in Switzerland.²²⁹ Within two days, travelers must also report their arrival to the local cantonal authority and follow their specific instructions.

²²² [Government Offices of Sweden](#), Jan. 28, 2021

²²³ [Government Offices of Sweden](#), Feb. 3, 2021

²²⁴ [The Local](#), May 27, 2020

²²⁵ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Aug. 31, 2020

²²⁶ [BBC](#), Oct. 19, 2020

²²⁷ [Schengen Visa Info](#), Oct. 29, 2020

²²⁸ [Federal Office of Public Health](#)

²²⁹ [Federal Office of Public Health](#), Quarantine for persons arriving

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.”²³⁰

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.²³¹ 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:²³² A fourth tier was introduced during December 2020 and progressively extended across most of the country.

The FCO operates a travel corridor list of **safe countries**, arrival from which requires no period of quarantine.²³³ 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 and can be found [here](#). As countries are regularly being added or removed, often with little notice, travelers should consult the latest list when planning a trip. On January 18, 2021, the UK **suspended all travel corridors** until at least February 15, meaning that all international arrivals must quarantine on arrival.

On December 14, 2020, the UK government reduced the mandatory quarantine period for travelers arriving from high-risk countries from 14 to ten days.²³⁴ One day later, it introduced its “test to release” scheme to make international travel easier.²³⁵ Travelers arriving from a country not on the travel corridor list may use 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 £89.²³⁶ After receiving a negative result, travelers may end self-isolation.

From January 15, 2021, in response to concerns about a Brazilian variant of COVID-19, the UK applied an immediate ban to arrivals from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.²³⁷ British and Irish citizens and foreign nationals with residence rights may still travel but must quarantine on arrival.

Since January 18, 2021, all international passengers have been required to test negative for COVID-19 before traveling to the UK.²³⁸ All travelers, arriving by plane, boat or train (except those arriving from Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Ascension Islands and St Helena) need to test not more than 72 hours before departing for the UK. The requirement was phased in for some countries, due to testing availability and

²³⁰ [Breaking Travel News](#), April 4, 2020

²³¹ [Gov.UK](#), September 22, 2020

²³² [BBC](#), October 14, 2020

²³³ [Gov.UK](#), July 3, 2020

²³⁴ [Breaking Travel News](#), Dec. 14, 2020

²³⁵ [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Test to Release for international travel

²³⁶ [BTN Europe](#), Dec. 14, 2020

²³⁷ [BBC](#), Jan. 14, 2021

²³⁸ [BBC](#), Jan. 8, 2021

capacity. Even with a negative result, arrivals from countries not on a travel corridor list (currently suspended) must also quarantine for ten days.

Anyone making an international trip from England requires a valid reason for travel, or faces being sent home or fined. From March 8, 2021, UK residents must complete a Travel Declaration Form, in which they are legally obliged to provide their reason for travel.²³⁹ Travelers should bring a copy of the form with them (paper or digital) and any evidence to support their reason for travel. Arriving at the airport or port of departure without a completed form is a criminal offence. Some jobs are exempt and are listed [here](#).

From February 15, 2021, UK nationals returning from 30+ high-risk or “red list” countries must quarantine for 10 days in a government-appointed hotel after arrival, at a cost of £1,750.²⁴⁰ Only British and Irish nationals or people with UK residence rights may currently return from red list countries. During quarantine, all travelers must take a COVID-19 test on days two and eight.

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.

Should international travel be allowed to resume, as proposed, on May 17, 2021, then it will be subject to a traffic light system. Destination countries will be categorized according to a risk assessment, based on factors including the percentage of the population vaccinated, the rate of COVID-19 infection, the presence of variants of concern and access to reliable scientific data and genomic sequencing. Different restrictions will apply to each traffic light category:²⁴¹

- Green – travelers returning to the UK must take a pre-departure test plus a PCR test within two days of their return. Unless they receive a positive result, they will not need to quarantine.
- Amber – arriving travelers must quarantine for ten days, take a pre-departure test (at the destination), and take a PCR test on days two and eight, with an option for “Test to Release” on day five to end self-isolation early
- Red - arrivals must isolate for ten days in a managed quarantine hotel (booked before departure from the UK), take a pre-departure test and PCR tests on days two and eight.

Ukraine

On August 29, 2020, the government closed the borders to foreigners until September 28.²⁴² Exceptions included foreigners transiting Ukraine with documents confirming their departure within two days.

Travelers arriving from Green Zone countries must purchase an insurance policy covering COVID-19 treatment and quarantine issued by a Ukraine registered company.²⁴³ 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 or self-isolate for 14 days. Ukraine updates its list of green and red countries every 24 hours. All passengers must download the *Dii Vdomoa* app.

²³⁹ [Gov.UK](#), Declaration form for international travel

²⁴⁰ [BTN Europe](#), Feb. 9, 2021

²⁴¹ [Breaking Travel News](#), April 9, 2021

²⁴² [Ukrinform](#), August 28, 2020

²⁴³ [Visit Ukraine](#)

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Anguilla

*Anguilla reopened its borders to international travelers from August 21, 2020.*²⁴⁴

The Caribbean island has developed its own strict protocols. 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/quarantine. Anyone arriving from a country with high levels of COVID-19 must quarantine in a government-approved facility. 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.*²⁴⁵

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

*The government 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.*²⁴⁶ *The agency claimed this was aimed at preventing airlines from ticketing flights not approved by the Argentine authorities.*²⁴⁷

Until at least February 1, 2021, Argentina's air, land and sea borders are closed to non-resident foreign nationals.²⁴⁸ Land borders with neighboring countries Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay also remain closed to all foreign nationals. Exemptions may be granted for non-resident essential workers, family members of Argentine nationals or residents.

Anyone traveling to Argentina must complete an electronic "sworn statement" form within 48 hours of travel. They must also present a negative result from a coronavirus PCR test taken within the previous 72 hours or show a laboratory test confirmation of a coronavirus infection within 90 days of the trip. All travelers must also self-isolate for ten days.

²⁴⁴ [Breaking Travel News](#), August 17, 2020

²⁴⁵ [Travel Agent Central](#), June 4, 2020

²⁴⁶ [Breaking Travel News](#), April 28, 2020

²⁴⁷ [BBC](#), April 28, 2020

²⁴⁸ [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Argentina

Belize

Belize had planned to reopen its borders to international travel on August 15, 2020, but this was postponed until further notice.²⁴⁹ Belize City airport reopened on October 1, 2020, for restricted entry and with strict protocols in place.²⁵⁰

All land borders and sea ports remain closed for tourist travel with the exception of departures to Mexico by land with prior approval.²⁵¹ 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. This generates a QR code ID, which must be presented on arrival, and will help with contact tracing. 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. The test must be conducted within 72 hours for arrivals from neighboring countries; within seven days if arriving from elsewhere in South and Central America; and within ten days if arriving from Asia, Europe and North America.

All passengers must complete a health declaration form. There are currently no quarantine requirements. Land, river and lake border crossings remain closed.²⁵²

Brazil

During March 2020, the Brazilian authorities banned all foreign travelers from entering the country, initially until the end of April.²⁵³ It was not until July 30 that the ban on foreign visitors arriving by air was finally relaxed.²⁵⁴

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.²⁵⁵ 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.

Anyone seeking to enter Brazil must present a negative PCR test administered within 72 hours of arrival and complete the Traveller's Health Declaration 219.²⁵⁶ Transit passengers require a negative result if disembarking the aircraft and remaining in the airport.

²⁴⁹ [Travel off path](#), August 7, 2020

²⁵⁰ U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Belize](#)

²⁵¹ [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Dec. 14, 2020

²⁵² [Gov.UK](#), FCO, Dec. 14, 2020

²⁵³ [WorldAware](#), April 2, 2020

²⁵⁴ [Axios](#), July 30, 2020

²⁵⁵ [Gov.UK](#), Brazil

²⁵⁶ [Brazilian Health Declaration](#) form

There are no quarantine requirements in place, although anyone with symptoms should self-quarantine for 15 days.

British Virgin Islands

The British Virgin Islands reopened its borders on December 1, 2020, ending a lockdown and curfew introduced in April.²⁵⁷

Chile

Chile entered a 90-day National State of Catastrophe on March 18.²⁵⁸ The government 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.²⁵⁹ 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. Two days before the flight, travelers must complete the Affidavit of Travelers electronic form and have health insurance covering COVID-19 issues during their stay in Chile. During the first 14 days, anyone entering Chile will be under health monitoring and must report daily by email their location and health condition.

On arrival, travelers must present proof of a negative result from a PCR test taken within 72 hours of departure, before entering a mandatory 10-day quarantine. This may be shortened with a negative PCR test result on the 7th day.

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.²⁶⁰

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

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

International travelers must self-isolate for 14 days after arriving in Colombia.²⁶¹ They are currently not required to present a negative PCR test result. Between 24 hours and 1 hour before departure, travelers must complete Migracion Colombia's Check-Mig immigration form to present upon arrival.²⁶²

²⁵⁷ [Breaking Travel News](#), September 24, 2020

²⁵⁸ [Gov.UK](#), foreign travel advice

²⁵⁹ [AlJazeera](#), August 12, 2020

²⁶⁰ [Cirium](#), March 20, 2020

²⁶¹ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

²⁶² [Migracion Colombia](#), Check Mig

On December 22, local authorities announced new restrictions to combat a rise in cases.²⁶³ 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.*²⁶⁴

On November 1, 2020, Costa Rica fully reopened its borders, no longer requiring travelers to provide a negative test result.²⁶⁵ Symptomatic travelers will be tested on arrival. Visitors must still complete an electronic health form²⁶⁶ before arriving and have health insurance (covering \$50,000 for treatment and \$2,000 for quarantine) or buy it locally through the National Insurance Institute or insurance company Sagikor. 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.*²⁶⁷ *This coincided with phase four of the de-escalation of COVID-19 measures.*²⁶⁸ *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.²⁶⁹

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

Since the end of September 2020, rapid tests (diagnostic breath test) have been randomly performed on 3-15% of arriving travelers, reducing the need for a negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival.²⁷⁰ Symptomatic travelers and those testing positive are isolated at an authorized location.

To encourage visits to the country, until March 31, 2021, the Dominican government is offering free health coverage.²⁷¹ 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.

²⁶³ [Anadolu Agency](#), Dec. 23, 2020

²⁶⁴ [Travel off path](#), August 7, 2020

²⁶⁵ [Travel Weekly](#), Oct. 23, 2020

²⁶⁶ [Costa Rica health form](#)

²⁶⁷ [Breaking Travel News](#), July 8, 2020

²⁶⁸ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 19, 2020

²⁶⁹ [Dominican Republic](#), e-ticket portal

²⁷⁰ [Breaking Travel News](#), Aug. 27, 2020

²⁷¹ [Breaking Travel News](#), Jan. 4, 2021

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.²⁷²

In mid-June, Ecuador extended its state of exception for two months until August 13.²⁷³ While some lockdown measures have been eased since mid-May, Ecuador's land borders with Colombia and Peru remained closed.²⁷⁴

International commercial flights resumed on June 1, 2020. 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. Otherwise, they must take a test on arrival and self-quarantine for 10 days at their own expense in hotels or private accommodation.

Entry to the Galapagos (via mainland Ecuador) requires a negative PCR test taken within 96 hours prior to arrival, medical insurance and a 'salvoconducto' provided by a tour operator or accommodation. No quarantine is necessary upon arrival, nor for returning to the mainland.

El Salvador

El Salvador imposed controls to curb the spread of the virus, banning all foreign visitors arriving via all ports.²⁷⁵ Border closures remained in place until at least August 18.

The government reopened San Salvador airport on September 19.

While many business and services have resumed, some have still not been allowed to reopen, including some hotels.²⁷⁶

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.

Air, land and sea borders have reopened. 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.²⁷⁷

Honduras

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

International flights have now resumed. Travelers must have a negative COVID-19 test result conducted within 72 hours of arrival and complete an online form. Anyone suspected of having COVID-19 (or being in contact with someone) will be placed in a medical center for quarantine. All other travelers should self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival.²⁷⁸

²⁷² [GardaWorld](#), March 15, 2020

²⁷³ [Yahoo1 News](#), June 16, 2020

²⁷⁴ [UK Gov](#), FCO, Ecuador

²⁷⁵ [Bloomberg](#), March 11, 2020

²⁷⁶ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

²⁷⁷ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

²⁷⁸ [Honduras Travel Forum](#)

Jamaica

In July 2020, Jamaica revised its restrictions on visitors to the island.²⁷⁹ 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.

Travelers must complete an online form five days before arrival. 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. Travelers from Brazil, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and the US must provide a negative COVID-19 test result. 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.²⁸⁰

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

To make it easier for travelers to return home after their visit to Jamaica, local authorities have boosted the country's testing capabilities. Facilities have been set up at Kingston and Montego Bay airports and in many major hotels, with transportation arrangements in place to ensure tourists can access them.²⁸²

Nicaragua

The government aimed to resume international air travel during August.²⁸³

There are currently no travel restrictions currently in force in Nicaragua.²⁸⁴ 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, 2020, the government ended the social and smart quarantine phases. Wearing a face mask is still mandatory and an overnight curfew remains in place.

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

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

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

²⁸² [Breaking Travel News](#), Jan. 25, 2021

²⁸³ [La Agencia de Viajes Colombia](#), Aug. 12, 2020

²⁸⁴ [Gov. UK](#), FCO

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. An online health card must be completed on arrival or in the 24 hours prior to it. Proof of health insurance is also required for all foreigners.²⁸⁵

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.²⁸⁶

Facing a surge of infections, in mid-August, the government banned family gatherings, reinstated a Sunday curfew and extended lockdowns to five more regions.²⁸⁷

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.²⁸⁸ 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.²⁸⁹ All flights originating in Europe are currently suspended.

St. Lucia

From July 9, 2020, the government introduced new and updated protocols for arrivals.²⁹⁰ Travelers needed 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 eased some restrictions, allowing travelers to stay in up to two COVID-certified properties for the duration of their stay.²⁹¹

Arriving travelers must complete Health Screening and Pre-Arrival Travel Registration forms, at least seven days before travel. They must have a negative result from a COVID-19 test no older than five days and a travel authorization letter.²⁹² Travelers face health checks on arrival and throughout their stay. All arrivals must have confirmed reservations at a COVID-19 certified accommodation, confirmed pre-arranged stay at a government quarantine facility, or approval to quarantine in a household. They must use a certified taxi to reach their accommodation. Travelers may quarantine for 14 days in a COVID-19 certified property, of which there are more than 40 in St. Lucia.

Turks & Caicos

The Turks & Caicos Islands reopened its borders on July 22.²⁹³ 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.

²⁸⁵ [Paraguay Government](#)

²⁸⁶ [Republic World](#), Apr. 9, 2020

²⁸⁷ [MercoPress](#), Aug. 14, 2020

²⁸⁸ [VOA News](#), Oct. 6, 2020

²⁸⁹ [Breaking Travel News](#), Nov. 3, 2020

²⁹⁰ [Breaking Travel News](#), July 8, 2020

²⁹¹ [Breaking Travel News](#), Aug. 27, 2020

²⁹² [Breaking Travel News](#), Feb. 4, 2021

²⁹³ [Breaking Travel News](#), May 31, 2020

Travelers must also upload a health questionnaire and ensure they have medical insurance that includes emergency assistance and COVID-19 medical repatriation.²⁹⁴

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.²⁹⁵ 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, 2020.²⁹⁶ 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.

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Iran

Iranian authorities introduced a ban on intercity travel from March 26.²⁹⁷

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

All passengers arriving by air must hold a valid health certificate, issued by the health authorities of the country of departure. This must contain a negative result from 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, 2020, 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.²⁹⁸

On April 7, the government locked the country down until June. Passenger rail services resumed on June 22, with limited capacity.²⁹⁹ Israel continued to ban most non-Israelis from entering the country and required returning nationals to self-quarantine for two weeks after arrival.

²⁹⁴ [Turks & Caicos Tourism](#)

²⁹⁵ [Gov.UK](#), Uruguay

²⁹⁶ [Breaking Travel News](#), August, 17, 2020

²⁹⁷ [GardaWorld](#), March 26, 2020

²⁹⁸ UK Government, Foreign Travel Advice, [Israel](#), March 12, 2020

²⁹⁹ [The Times of Israel](#), June 19, 2020

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.³⁰⁰

From September 18, Israel entered its second national lockdown, initially for three weeks.³⁰¹

On December 27, 2020, Israel entered its third a general lockdown, which remained in place for almost two months. On January 25, Israel banned all international flights into and out of the country, initially until the end of the month.³⁰²

Once international flights resume, inbound passengers must complete a personal statement and a personal health declaration no more than 24 hours before entering Israel. Foreign nationals also need to obtain an entry clearance. Since December 23, 2020, all arriving passengers have been required to 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.³⁰³ From January 23, 2021, Israel has required travelers to present a negative result from a PCR test carried out during the 72 hours before departure. Alternatively, they may provide confirmation of vaccination or recovery from COVID-19.³⁰⁴ The rules apply to anyone spending 72 hours or more outside Israel, except for special permit holders.

On February 21, as the R-number (COVID-19 reproduction rate) fell below 0.8, the government started easing restrictions. Shops, malls, markets, museums and libraries reopened.³⁰⁵ The government also allowed flights to resume, initially enabling 2,000 Israelis per day to fly home, subject to permission from the special governmental committee.³⁰⁶

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.³⁰⁷ Commercial flights in and out of Jordan were suspended until at least August 18.³⁰⁸

Jordan renewed some restrictions on September 17, 2020, closing schools, mosques, markets and restaurants for two weeks. The government implemented a 48-hour nationwide lockdown from October 9, with a second following on October 16, but it did not apply to travelers arriving from abroad.

Travelers to Jordan must complete a health declaration form and take a PCR test within the 120 hours before departure. 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.³⁰⁹

³⁰⁰ [Haaretz](#), August 13, 2020

³⁰¹ [BBC](#), September 14, 2020

³⁰² [Breaking Travel News](#), Jan. 25, 2021

³⁰³ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

³⁰⁴ [BTN Europe](#), Jan. 20, 2021

³⁰⁵ [Times of Israel](#), Feb. 21, 2021

³⁰⁶ [Jerusalem Post](#), Feb. 22, 2021

³⁰⁷ [Gulf News](#), April 9, 2020

³⁰⁸ [Gov.UK, FCO](#), August 14, 2020

³⁰⁹ [Gov.UK](#), FCO

Kuwait

From March 13, 2020, 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, the government Kuwait closed land, seas and air borders with immediate effect until January 1, 2021, subject to review.

Kuwaiti nationals, their immediate family and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nationals (but not GCC residents) can enter Kuwait. Passengers must have a negative COVID PCR result from a test taken not more than 96 hours before departure and undergo a PCR test on arrival. Incoming passengers must quarantine for 14 days after completing a home quarantine consent form.

Lebanon

Beirut airport reopened on July 1, 2020. On July 30, however, the Lebanese government reinforced lockdown measures after a spike in new cases.³¹⁰

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.³¹¹ Travelers must take a PCR test 96 hours before travel and possess an insurance policy valid for the duration of their stay. Arrivals from certain countries, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq and Turkey, must quarantine in a hotel for a week at their own expense. All other passengers must quarantine only until receiving their test results. A five day quarantine is required upon receiving a positive result.

Oman

International travelers arriving in Oman must have a negative PCR result from a test conducted no more than 72 hours before arrival. They must complete an online registration form, possess travel/health insurance covering at least 30 days of COVID-19 treatment and have proof of hotel accommodation for a mandatory 7-day quarantine (booked through the HMushrif app), which must be paid for by the traveler. On landing in Oman, travelers must take another PCR test, which should be repeated on the day after quarantine has ended.

The sultanate is under curfew from 19:00 to 04:00, which remains in place until at least May 15, 2021.³¹² Non-essential commercial activity is suspended, and employees are advised to work from home as much as possible.

Palestinian Authority

The Palestinian Authority introduced a five-day lockdown in the West Bank from July 3, 2020.³¹³ All businesses closed except for pharmacies and supermarkets. Travel and movement for non-essential reasons was prohibited.

³¹⁰ [Arab News](#), July 28, 2020

³¹¹ [Gov.UK](#), Lebanon

³¹² [Arabian Business](#), May 3, 2021

³¹³ [The Times of Israel](#), July 1, 2020

Qatar

As at the end of April 2021, entry to the State of Qatar is only permitted to Qatari nationals, resident permit holders and GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) nationals.³¹⁴ Anyone whose journey terminates in Qatar must have a negative result from a PCR test conducted within 48 hours of departure. Otherwise they will need to test on arrival. All passengers arriving at Doha Airport undergo thermal screening, must present the Ehteraz app and submit a completed health assessment form.

After arrival, travelers must quarantine for one week.³¹⁵ This may be done at home for anyone arriving from a country on the Ministry of Public Health's Green List. As at December 18, 2021, this list comprised:³¹⁶

- Middle East: Oman
- Africa: Mauritius
- Asia Pacific: Australia, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Vietnam
- Europe: Iceland, Ireland
- North America: Mexico
- Latin America: Cuba

Arrivals from other destinations must quarantine in a hotel (at their own expense), which may be booked on the Discover Website. The isolation period is extended to two weeks where quarantine facilities are shared. Travelers must take a second PCR test six days after arrival in Doha. The status on the Ehteraz app remains yellow until the end of the seventh day.

Saudi Arabia

On March 12, 2020, the Saudi government suspended flights and travel by its citizens and expatriates to a number of markets.³¹⁷

Saudi Arabia started easing lockdown measures from May 28 in a three-phase return to normality.³¹⁸ 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 31.³¹⁹

There are no restrictions on travel to and from airports and ports. Preventative measures are in force. All arriving international travelers must fill in a health declaration form and show a negative result from a coronavirus PCR test taken in the 72 hours before departure.³²⁰ 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

³¹⁴ [Doha Hamad Airport](#), COVID-19 FAQs

³¹⁵ [State of Qatar](#), Nov. 26, 2020

³¹⁶ [Qatar Ministry of Health](#), COVID-19 Green List

³¹⁷ [Gulf News](#), Mar. 12, 2020

³¹⁸ [Arab News](#), May 27

³¹⁹ [Breaking Travel News](#), May 27, 2020

³²⁰ [Gov. UK](#), Saudi Arabia

quarantine. Travelers from all other countries must quarantine at home for 7 days, or 3 days followed by a negative PCR test.

All arriving travelers must download and register for the *Tetamann* and *Tawakkalna* daily health assessment apps.

From February 3, 2021, Saudi Arabia suspended entry to travelers from 20 countries: including Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the UAE, UK and US. The restrictions apply to people arriving from other countries, who've spent some time in one of the 20 countries in the previous 14 days. Saudi citizens, diplomats and health workers are exempt from the ban.

Turkey

Turkey reopened its international land, sea and air borders on June 12.³²¹ By September 13, the government had restored some restrictions, including limits on passengers using public transportation.³²²

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.

All international arrivals are subject to thermal scanning and 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.

From December 30, 2020, Turkey 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 also tightened national restrictions, introducing weeknight curfews and a full lockdown at weekends.³²³

At the end of April 2021, Turkey entered its first full lockdown, which will last at least until mid-May.³²⁴ People must remain at home except for essential reasons. All travel between cities requires official approval. Strict capacity limits have been imposed on public transportation.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

From March 17, 2020, 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.³²⁵ Travelers in this group were subject to additional medical checks on arrival.

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

³²¹ [FCO](#), July 29, 2020

³²² [Reuters](#), September 13, 2020

³²³ [Hurriyet Daily News](#), Jan. 3, 2021

³²⁴ [BBC](#), Apr. 30, 2021

³²⁵ [Which School Advisor](#), March 15, 2020

Dubai allowed in foreign tourists and business travelers from July 7.³²⁶ Before arriving, visitors had to take a PCR test up to four days (96 hours) prior to their date of travel.³²⁷ Otherwise, a PCR test is carried out at Dubai's airports. All travelers must also complete a health declaration form.

Since August 1, 2020, arrivals in the UAE must have a negative COVID-19 result from a test taken within 86 hours of departure for Dubai and 96 hours for Abu Dhabi. 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.³²⁸ 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 (green countries) 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).³²⁹ The list of "green" countries is 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. For arrivals from other countries, a 10-day quarantine applies.³³⁰

For the month of February 2021, Dubai has introduced new measures to slow the number of rising COVID-19 cases.³³¹ Seated capacity at indoor venues is capped at 50%, while hotels may only operate at 70% occupancy. Pubs and bars are closed, while restaurants must close by 01:00.

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The Bahamas

To enter The Bahamas, all travelers must present a certificate showing a negative result from a COVID-19 RT PCR test that is less than five days old.³³² The results must be uploaded when completing a mandatory Bahama Travel Health Visa application prior to arrival. Travelers must opt in to a health insurance covering the duration of their stay in The Bahamas. Applying for the visa usually takes 48 hours, and proof of confirmation must be presented upon arrival.

Anyone staying in The Bahamas more than four nights must take a rapid antigen test and complete daily health questionnaires.

Bermuda

As part of its fourth phase of reopening the country's economy, the Bermuda government allowed international air services to resume on July 1.³³³

³²⁶ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 23, 2020

³²⁷ [Breaking Travel News](#), July 7, 2020

³²⁸ [The National](#), August 25, 2020

³²⁹ [Breaking Travel News](#), Dec. 24, 2020

³³⁰ [Visit Abu Dhabi](#), Plan your trip

³³¹ [Breaking Travel News](#), Feb. 2, 2021

³³² [Bahamas.com](#), Tourism Reopening

³³³ [Travel Agent Central](#), June 22, 2020

For the first 14 days after arrival, all travelers must wear a Traveler Wristband as a reminder to minimize movement. A \$500 fine and home-quarantine with an electronic monitoring bracelet applies to anyone removing the wristband. Anyone not wearing a wristband must quarantine for 14 days.

To return to Bermuda, residents must apply for a Travel Authorization 1-3 days before departure. They should also take a PCR test no more than five days before arrival or quarantine for eight days, when they'll be required to wear a tracking bracelet for a US\$300 fee.³³⁴ All other arriving travelers must pay \$30 for Travel Authorization, have a negative COVID-19 test result, wear a traveler wristband for the first 14 days and take a COVID-19 test on arrival and on days four, eight and 14 of their visit.

Travelers are also encouraged to buy adequate health insurance. Without this, they are responsible for all health and accommodation costs related to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

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.

Foreign nationals, including US citizens, can only travel to Canada if they are an immediate or extended family member of a Canadian citizen, authorized to travel for compassionate reasons or traveling for a non-discretionary purpose.³³⁵

Anyone arriving in Canada must use ArriveCAN before checking in at the departure airport or crossing the border to submit travel and contact information, 14-day quarantine plan and COVID-19 symptom self-assessment.³³⁶ 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.³³⁷ The result must be from a PCR test conducted within the 72 hours before departure. Passengers will soon be required take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival at their own cost. 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.

From February 3, international flights to Canada have only been allowed to land at airports in Calgary, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver to make it easier to manage on-arrival testing. All flights are affected, including private business and charter flights.³³⁸ After being tested, arriving passengers will soon need to wait for up to three days for their results at a government-approved hotel at their own expense, which could cost more than \$2,000.

Mexico

From June 1, 2020, Mexico began to gradually ease its lockdown originally introduced on March 23.³³⁹ In red zones, only essential activities are possible. In green zones, most activities can resume.

³³⁴ [Government of Bermuda](#)

³³⁵ [Government of Canada](#), Who can travel to Canada

³³⁶ [Government of Canada](#)

³³⁷ [Government of Canada](#), Dec. 31, 2020

³³⁸ [Transport Canada](#), Jan. 29, 2021

³³⁹ [Medical Express](#), June 1, 2020

The land border between Mexico and the US is closed to all non-essential traffic, such as tourism and recreational activities. The closure is reviewed on a monthly basis. Essential travelers entering Mexico via land border crossings may be subject to temperature checks and additional health screening. They may experience delays and be denied entry or quarantined in Mexico. But there is no mandatory quarantine currently in effect for inbound travelers.

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.³⁴⁰

On March 19, the US Department of State raised its travel warning to Level 4, its highest possible level.³⁴¹ 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 traffic³⁴² The restrictions have been extended into 2021.

On September 11, the US announced plans to end enhanced health screening of travelers from certain countries.³⁴³ 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.³⁴⁴

Land border crossings between the US and Canada, and between the US and Mexico, remain closed to non-essential travel. Essential travel may continue, subject to certain guidelines.³⁴⁵

Travelers who have transited or been in one of most European countries in the previous 14 days may not enter the US, although there are a number of exceptions, including US nationals and permanent residents, members of US armed forces and their families, and certain students.

From January 26, 2021, inbound international air travelers must provide a negative COVID-19 result from a test less than 72 hours old. Airlines are responsible for checking passengers have paper or electronic proof prior to boarding. Otherwise, passengers will be denied boarding. Anyone eligible to enter the US must also self-isolate for at least seven days on arrival and take a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after arrival.³⁴⁶ Even if the result is negative, a seven-day quarantine should still be completed.

³⁴⁰ [American Airlines](#), March 14, 2020

³⁴¹ [Cirium](#), March, 19, 2020

³⁴² [BBC](#), March 19, 2020

³⁴³ [AP News](#), September 11, 2020

³⁴⁴ [Breaking Travel News](#), Dec. 24, 2020

³⁴⁵ [US Customs and Border Protection](#)

³⁴⁶ [Gov.UK](#), FCO, USA

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Australia

By March 20, 2020, Australia had banned all foreign travelers.³⁴⁷ 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.³⁴⁸

Australia has set out a three-stage plan to end the lockdown and restart its economy.³⁴⁹ 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, 2020.³⁵⁰ The lockdown forced the closure of the border between Victoria, Melbourne's home state, and New South Wales.

All non-resident travelers are banned from entering Australia. Foreign nationals, including immediate family members of Australian citizens or permanent residents without a valid Partner visa, must apply online for an exemption prior to entering the country. Exemptions are granted at the discretion of the Commissioner of the Australian Border Force.

Citizens, permanent residents, immediate family of Australian citizens or permanent residents, and New Zealand citizens residing in Australia can enter. Upon arrival, they must quarantine for 14 days in a designated facility in the city that their flight lands in.

Since January 8, 2021, all passengers have been required to present a negative COVID-19 PCR result from a test issued within 72 hours of departure.³⁵¹

Australian residents are banned from traveling overseas, except under exceptional circumstances. To secure an exemption, a traveler must meet one of the following conditions:

- Travel is in response to COVID-19
- Travel is for business
- Time outside Australia will be three months or longer
- Travel is to receive urgent medical treatment unavailable in Australia
- Travel is on compassionate or humanitarian grounds
- Travel is in the national interest

Australia is planning a quarantine-free travel bubble with Singapore, which would require the mutual recognition of vaccination certificates. Once travel resumes, priority would be given to students and business travelers. New Zealand could also be included as a partner in a three-way travel bubble.

³⁴⁷ [ABC](#), March 19, 2020

³⁴⁸ [The Chronicle](#), March 22, 2020

³⁴⁹ [Sky News](#), May 8, 2020

³⁵⁰ [BBC](#), October 27, 2020

³⁵¹ [Australian Government](#), Department of Health

French Polynesia

Tahiti is due to reopen to tourism on May 1, 2021.³⁵² French Polynesia believes it has brought the pandemic under control and a vaccination campaign is under way. Entry will be controlled using virological and serological testing, vaccinations and an electronic travel information system (ETIS).

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 25.³⁵³ Air travel was only available to people undertaking essential services or for carrying freight.

New Zealand lifted most COVID-19 restrictions on June 8, when the country moved to level one, the lowest of a four-tier alert system.³⁵⁴ 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.³⁵⁵ Travel in/out of the city was restricted to people returning home. The restrictions remained until October 7.³⁵⁶ 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 2020 allowed 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 for COVID-19 if unwell.

All travelers, except New Zealand citizens and family members, permanent residents, diplomats, and air and marine crew, are barred from entering the country. Immigration authorities may make exceptions for humanitarian reasons, healthcare, essential travel by Samoan and Tongan nationals and visitor visa holders normally living in New Zealand. At the end of January 2021, New Zealand prime minister Jacinda Ardern suggested the country's borders would be impacted for much of 2021. She suggested that people may only safely enter New Zealand once enough of its population has been vaccinated.

After arrival, all travelers must complete a 14-day quarantine or managed isolation at approved facilities. Those at high risk of COVID-19 are placed in quarantine facilities, while others may stay in managed isolation facilities. Visitors to New Zealand must register on the Managed Isolation Allocation System to reserve a place in managed isolation.³⁵⁷

Foreigners allowed entry and Returning New Zealand residents who left the country after 11 August or planning to stay in the country for less than 90 days are liable to pay quarantine fees of NZD3,100 for the first or only person in the room and \$950 for each additional adult (\$475 for each additional child).

³⁵² [Breaking Travel News](#), April 9, 2021

³⁵³ [Cirium](#), March 23, 2020

³⁵⁴ [BBC](#), June 8, 2020

³⁵⁵ [Sky News](#), August 11, 2020

³⁵⁶ [The Guardian](#), October 8, 2020

³⁵⁷ [Managed Isolation and Quarantine](#)

Australia and New Zealand safe travel zone

In October 2020, Australia opened a Safe Travel Zone with New Zealand, but it only allowed New Zealand-based travelers to enter most Australian states without quarantine.³⁵⁸ Plans to extend the scheme to Australia-based travelers were suspended following a COVID-19 outbreak in Victoria state.

On April 19, 2021, Australia and New Zealand extended the safe travel zone to allow two-way quarantine-free travel across the Tasman Sea. Travelers must not have visited a country outside Australia or New Zealand in the 14 days before departure. They must also meet the eligible criteria set out by the two countries' governments and completed all relevant pre-departure documentation.³⁵⁹

To be eligible to travel to New Zealand, passengers must meet the following criteria:

- In the 14 days before travel, reside in Australia or a country designated as a quarantine-free-place
- Not had a positive COVID-19 test result during the 14 days
- Not be awaiting a test result
- Complete a travel declaration at time of booking and a health declaration at check-in

To be eligible to travel to Australia, passengers must meet the following criteria:³⁶⁰

- In the 14 days before travel, reside in New Zealand or a country designated as a quarantine-free-place
- Complete the Australia Travel Declaration at least 72 hours before departure

New Zealand may also be invited to participate in a three-way quarantine-free travel bubble with Australia and Singapore.

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 May 5, 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 mike.eggleton@bcdtravel.co.uk to share your thoughts.

³⁵⁸ [Prime Minister of Australia](#), October 2, 2020

³⁵⁹ [Jetstar](#), Apr. 9, 2021, Travel Alerts

³⁶⁰ [Australian Government](#), New Zealand safe travel zone