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TRAVEL & TOURISM NEWS

Mauritius reaches vaccination target

The Republic of Mauritius has reached its vaccination target of 60 percent of the total population, one month ahead of schedule (MTPA, 31-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Mauritius eases travel protocol for vaccinated travellers as from 1st September

With the successful vaccination rollout in Mauritius, travel protocols for vaccinated travellers are being further relaxed. As from 1 September, vaccinated guests will spend only 7 days in a special 'resort bubble' hotel before going out to discover more of the Indian Ocean paradise (Travel daily, 25-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)



Maldives' August tourist arrivals surpass pre-pandemic levels

Tourist arrivals to the Maldives in August have surpassed pre-pandemic figures for the same month in 2019, local media citing data from the Ministry of Tourism reported Saturday (MALE, Xinhua, 28-Aug-2021). Tourism Ministry data showed that the Maldives received 120,529 tourists from Aug. 1 to Aug. 25 compared to 120,341 tourist arrivals in August 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. [Read More](#)

Seychelles records excellent visitor arrival numbers

Marking another milestone for the year, the island destination officially hit the bar of 80,000 visitors, a further positive sign of recovery for the tourism industry in Seychelles (eTN, 24-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)



Sri Lanka reopens borders with India, starts regular flights from 9 Indian

Sri Lankan Airlines will operate four weekly flights to Chennai, three to Mumbai, and one to Bengaluru under its new schedule, and is expected to introduce significant frequency enhancements (India.com news, 28-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Along with Barbados and St. Lucia, the British Virgin Islands allow unvaccinated travellers to enter only if they quarantine for a duration. Data shows few are willing to do so, especially when they have other options in the Caribbean that don't require quarantines or vaccine certificates (CNBC Travel, 31-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)



OTHER TOP NEWS

Mauritius tourist arrivals declines 99% in Jul-2021, compared to Jul-2019

Air Mauritius expects to hold watershed meeting by 01-Oct-2021: report

Air Mauritius reportedly plans to hold its watershed meeting by 01-Oct-2021 in line with Mauritius' scheduled border reopening (Le Défi Plus, 24-Aug-2021). As previously reported by CAPA, the company postponed obligations to present its financial restructuring strategy in Jun-2021 and cannot delay the meeting further than 31-Jan-2022. (Source CAPA)

Comair restarts Kulula and BA flights in South Africa – including new fares and routes

British Airways (operated by Comair) will re-launch its Johannesburg/ Mauritius route operating two flights a week from 30 November. A third flight is planned (BusinessTech, 25-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Where Was Resort To Love Filmed? All About The Newest Netflix Flick!

The movie is filled with picturesque moments as viewers are subjected to some beautiful scenery in the romantic flick. Wondering where the movie was filmed? Resort to Love was filmed on location in the Republic of Mauritius, an island nation that is situated about 1,200 miles southeast of Madagascar. As fans saw in the movie, Mauritius is considered to be one of the world's most popular tropical vacation hot spots. [Read More](#)

Maldives: a seaplane airport was inaugurated

Rising waters threaten the existence of the Maldives. The summit of the archipelago is 2m30 above the Indian Ocean. To resist an inevitable disappearance, the country of 1,199 islands has just acquired an airport for seaplanes. It was inaugurated at the beginning of August 2021 (Franceinfo, 16-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives collabs with “TEZ Tour” to maintain momentum in the Russian Market

Visit Maldives collaborates with Russian tour operator, TEZ Tour, as part of the effort to maintain momentum and increase arrivals from the Russian market, specifically during the coming peak season (Visit Maldives, 31-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives collaborates with TABI MUSE for an exciting interactive live session to promote Maldives in Japan

Visit Maldives collaborates with one of Japan's top travel social media platforms, Tabi Muse, as part of an effort to make Maldives the top of the mind destination in the Japanese market and to increase engagements with tourists. The interactive 30-minute live session was broadcast on Tabi Muse on 25th August 2021 (Visit Maldives, 25-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives conducts special destination webinar for the Thailand Market

Visit Maldives conducts a virtual webinar for the Thailand travel trade on 3rd August 2021 in order to promote Maldives as a safe haven for travelers as Maldives prepares to welcome travelers from the Thailand market with the gradual re-opening of Thailand's borders for international leisure travel (Visit Maldives, 05-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives conducts joint marketing promotion with Qatar Airways to promote Maldives as a safe haven across the globe

Visit Maldives commences a joint marketing campaign with Qatar Airways to promote the Maldives in Europe, The Middle East, and the American market. Commenced in July 2021 until June 2022, the exciting year-long campaign aims to strengthen brand visibility and promote Maldives as a safe haven for all travelers targeting the global market. The campaign will consist of a combination of both digital and offline activities (Visit Maldives, 04-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives conducts joint marketing promotion with Iberia Airline to promote Maldives in the Spanish Market

Visit Maldives conducts a joint marketing promotion with one of the leading Airline in Spain Market, Iberia Airlines to promote Maldives as the top of the mind destination and a safe haven for Spanish travellers. A combination of onboard, online, social media and external actions will be conducted as part of this exciting campaign during July and August 2021 (Visit Maldives, 03-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Emirates resumes flights to Newcastle, adds services to Germany, the Maldives and more

The Dubai airline will fly to the English city for the first time since the route was cancelled owing to the Covid-19 pandemic (The National News, 24-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Go First to increase frequency from Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore to Male from Sep-2021

Go First, via its official website, announced (Aug-2021) plans to increase frequency on services from Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore to Male to daily, commencing 03-Sep-2021. The LCC resumed service on all three routes on 15-Jul-2021. (Source CAPA)

Abu Dhabi Green List: Maldives and US removed as Ireland, Malta and Sweden added

Abu Dhabi has extended its green list of countries and destinations from which travellers can enter the emirate without needing to quarantine on arrival (The National News, 17-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Health declaration forms can now be submitted through IMUGA portal

Maldives Immigration has stated (01-Aug-2021) that the upgrade work of their online portal, IMUGA is now complete. IMUGA is an online application created by the immigration department to provide online services. The app was being upgraded from 31st July till 1st August. [Read More](#)

Arriving in Seychelles will soon be a paper-less process

In a first step that will lead to Seychelles' airport arrival process going completely digital, the island nation's Ministry of Transport said on Wednesday it has started a trial that will begin the phase-out of paper arrival forms (IOL, 19-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Seychelles to Reopen for Cruise Industry in November

The Seychelles, which was one of the first nations to announce a total ban on cruise ships in 2020, now intends to reopen in time for the lucrative winter 2021 cruise season. Authorities in the Indian Ocean archipelago reversed their May 2020 decision banning all cruise ships till 2022 saying that cruise ships with a maximum of 300 passengers will be permitted starting in mid-November to dock in Port Victoria and cruise in the country's waters (The Maritime Executive, 15-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Emirates launches special offer for Seychelles flights

Emirates is offering UAE nationals and residents a chance to plan that perfect escape to the Seychelles (Khaleej Times, 25-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Threat of closure for Air Seychelles

Bondholders will demand the liquidation of airline Air Seychelles, unable to repay more than \$ 71 million owed to them (Air Journal, 27-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Seychelles: Lagoon-Style Swimming Pool Coming to Upgraded Avani Barbarons Seychelles Resort

Avani Barbarons Seychelles Resort will be transformed into a bigger and more luxurious establishment after undergoing a multi-million-dollar makeover when it receives clients in 2023, the Avani group announced during the weekend (11-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Seychelles tourist arrivals declined 31% in Jul-2021 compared to Jul-2019

Seychelles National Bureau of Statistics reported (Aug-2021) the following tourism highlights for Jul-2021:

- Tourist arrivals: 20,162, -31.2% compared to Jul-2019;
 - UAE: 4531, +87%;
 - Russia: 3558, +454%;
 - Germany: 1348, -69%;
 - Saudi Arabia: 1338, +742%. (Source CAPA)

Visitor arrivals to Dominican Republic down 4.6% in Jul-2021, compared to Jul-2019

Central Bank of the Dominican Republic reported (11-Aug-2021) visitor arrivals to the Dominican Republic for Jul-2021. Details include:

- Visitor arrivals: 563,987, -4.6% compared to Jul-2019;
- US: 286,650, +31.5%;
- Spain: 18,457, -6.6%;
- Puerto Rico: 13,038, -35.0%;
- France: 12,178, -26.1%;
- Colombia: 12,165, +45.2%;
- Venezuela: 6889, -10.9%. (Source CAPA)

Sri Lanka received 2429 tourists in Jul-2021

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority reported (04-Aug-2021) the following tourism highlights for Jul-2021:

- Tourist arrivals: 2429;
- UK: 342;
- Maldives: 249;
- US: 242;
- Germany: 215 (Source CAPA)

Sri Lanka to issue 6-month tourist visas for those applying through electronic system

The Sri Lankan government has decided to issue six-month visas for tourists applying through the electronic system, local media reported Wednesday (COLOMBO Xinhua, 25-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Emirates & flydubai to resume suspended services from 05-Aug-2021

Emirates Airline, via its official website, announced (03-Aug-2021) the resumption of passenger services from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Uganda effective 05-Aug-2021 in line with UAE Government directives. The updated guidelines also allow resumption of services from Nepal, operated by flydubai under the partners' codeshare agreement, as well as transiting services from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, South Africa, Vietnam and Zambia. (Source CAPA)

Etihad Airways 'working to resume' flights from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh

Etihad Airways, via its official website, announced (03-Aug-2021) it is "working to resume" a number of frequencies cancelled until 15-Aug-2021, following the UAE Government's lifting of entry restrictions effective 05-Aug-2021. The adjusted guidelines impact cancelled flights from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as transit flights from Bangladesh. (Source CAPA)

Heathrow and Gatwick: All the countries on the UK travel red list

Countries that are currently on the red list: Maldives, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Tanzania... [Read More](#)

Heathrow and Gatwick: Full list of the TUI holidays cancelled including in Europe, Egypt and USA amid latest travel update

Travel giant TUI have been forced to cancel holidays to dozens of popular destinations due to 'ongoing' coronavirus uncertainty. [Read More](#)

COVID-19 travel: Full list of updated green, amber and red countries - and the rules when you go abroad

The government lists countries and territories as red, amber or green - with different rules for each of the three lists. There is also a green watchlist (Sky News, 27-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Top 10 Busiest Airports by Seats - August 2021

2021 Ranking	Airport Code	Airport Name	Seats	2019 Ranking
1	ATL	Atlanta	4,664,777	1
2	DFW	Dallas/Fort Worth	3,839,131	11
3	DEN	Denver	3,746,287	17
4	ORD	Chicago O'Hare	3,743,754	6
5	LAX	Los Angeles	3,317,253	5
6	CAN	Guangzhou	3,140,957	13
7	IST	Istanbul Ataturk	2,938,322	14
8	PEK	Beijing	2,760,172	2
9	SZX	Shenzhen	2,580,766	31
10	PVG	Shanghai Pudong	2,566,526	10

Top 10 Busiest International Airports by Seats - August 2021

2021 Ranking	Airport Code	Airport Name	Seats (Total)	2019 Ranking
1	AMS	Amsterdam	2,511,321	5
2	DXB	Dubai	2,312,281	1
3	FRA	Frankfurt	2,143,956	7
4	CDG	Paris CDG	2,085,585	4
5	IST	Istanbul Ataturk	2,082,178	9
6	DOH	Doha	1,652,993	15
7	LHR	London Heathrow	1,632,210	2
8	MAD	Madrid	1,301,934	13
9	PMI	Palma	1,289,296	25
10	AYT	Antalya	1,236,513	30

United Arab Emirates to open tourist visas for vaccinated travellers from 30-Aug-2021

United Arab Emirates' National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority, via its official Twitter account, announced (29-Aug-2021) applications for tourist visas will open to fully vaccinated citizens of all countries from 30-Aug-2021. Passengers will be required to take rapid PCR tests upon arrival. (Source CAPA)

IATA urges states to make EU DCC their global standard for digital vaccine certificates

IATA commended (26-Aug-2021) the European Commission for its leadership and speed in delivering the EU Digital COVID Certificate (DCC) and urged states to make it their global standard for digital vaccine certificates. IATA stated the EU DCC meets several key criteria which have been identified as important if a digital vaccination certificate is to be effective:

- **Format:** the DCC has the flexibility to be used in both paper and digital format;
- **QR code:** The DCC QR code can be included in both digital and paper format. It contains essential information as well as a digital signature to make sure the certificate is authentic;
- **Verification and authentication:** The European Commission has built a gateway through which the encrypted data used to sign DCCs and required to authenticate certificate signatures can be distributed across the EU. The gateway can be also used to distribute encrypted data of non-EU certificate issuers other issuers. The EU has also developed a specification for machine readable Validation Rules for cross-country travel.

IATA reported it wishes to offer its collaboration to EU Commission and any other interested state to further integrate the DCC into airline processes for a secure and seamless passenger experience, such as support for selective disclosure of personal data. (Source CAPA)

IATA urges WHO to revisit its work to develop a global digital vaccine standard

IATA stated (19-Aug-2021) the harmonisation of digital vaccine standards is "essential to support the safe and scalable restart of aviation, avoid unnecessary airport queues and ensure a smooth passenger experience". The airline association welcomed the work done by the European Commission in developing the EU Digital COVID Certificate (DCC) system and thereby standardising digital vaccine certificates across Europe. Building on the success of the EU DCC, IATA has urged the World Health Organization (WHO) to revisit its work to develop a global digital vaccine standard. IATA SVP for operations safety and security Nick Careen said the "absence of a global standard makes it much harder for airlines, border authorities and governments to recognise and verify a traveller's digital vaccination certificate" and urged the WHO to look closely at the EU DCC as a "proven solution that meets WHO guidance and can help to reconnect the world". (Source CAPA)

EU and UK digital COVID certificates recognised by IATA Travel Pass

IATA announced (19-Aug-2021) the EU Digital COVID Certificate (DCC) and UK National Health Service (NHS) COVID Pass can now be uploaded into IATA Travel Pass as verified proof of vaccination for travel. Travelers holding an EU DCC or UK NHS COVID Pass can now use the IATA Travel Pass to access accurate COVID-19 travel information for their journey, create an electronic version of their passport and import their vaccination certificate in one place. This information can be shared with airlines and border control authorities, offering them the assurance a certificate presented is genuine and belongs to the person presenting it. (Source CAPA)

National Aviation Services to implement Abbott rapid COVID-19 test devices at airports

National Aviation Services (NAS) signed (10-Aug-2021) an agreement with Abbott to implement Abbott's Panbio COVID-19 Ag rapid test devices and ID NOW COVID-19 rapid molecular test instruments at NAS airports in Africa and the Middle East. The portable test devices provide results within 15-20 minutes. (Source CAPA)

WTTC calls on US Govt to speed up approval of AstraZeneca for vital travel

World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) called (24-Aug-2021) on the US government to urgently speed up approval of the UK's AstraZeneca vaccine to help restore vital trans-Atlantic travel. WTTC said if the US Government allows borders to reopen, the CDC's non-recognition of AstraZeneca will be a significant barrier to trans-Atlantic travel between the UK and US, and continue to seriously depress consumer demand and prevent any meaningful revival of trans-Atlantic travel from the UK to the US. WTTC noted it will also continue the serious knock-on effects throughout the travel & tourism sector on both sides of the Atlantic. WTTC senior vice president Virginia Messina stated: "Unless it gives it the green light, then the US will effectively remain closed to the vast majority of UK visitors and the many millions around the world who are double-jabbed with the AstraZeneca vaccine". (Source CAPA)

Air France extends fully-flexible ticket measures out to the end of 1st Quarter 2022

Air France announced (24-Aug-2021) the extension of the deadline for its fully flexible ticket measures. Previously valid for travel up to 31-Dec-2021, these commercial measures have now been extended to 31-Mar-2022. The measures allow Air France customers to change their booking or receive a refund at no cost and without proof up to the day of departure, or request a full refund. If the fare conditions of the ticket do not allow a refund, a credit voucher valid for one year will be issued, the refund of which can be requested at any time. (Source CAPA)

Emirates extends booking waiver for travel through 31-May-2022

Emirates Airline extended (23-Aug-2021) its booking waiver for travel through 31-May-2022, increasing security and flexibility for passengers amid the impacts of COVID-19. Since Mar-2020 the carrier reports over two million booking changes made under its flexible booking policies, with 92,000 customers having exchanged tickets for travel vouchers and 38,000 having flown or planning to fly using redeemed vouchers. As previously reported by CAPA, the carrier also extended Silver, Gold and Platinum Skywards memberships due to expire since Apr-2020 until 2022, and has served 7.2 million passengers under its multi risk travel insurance offer launched in Dec-2020. (Source CAPA)

10 Top Tips for Improving Your Tripadvisor Ranking

With nearly 8 million listings across 190 countries, it is no doubt that Tripadvisor is one of the most popular platforms for guest reviews. As so many guests are booking their hotel directly on Tripadvisor these days, your hotel needs to do everything in its power to rank higher and stand out from your competition (ReviewPro, 25-Aug-2021). [Read More](#)

Automation in Hospitality – What You Need to Know

Although hospitality has always been a more traditional industry, the pandemic has accelerated tech adoption and the conversation about digital transformation, specifically automation, has heated up. Let's look at all you need to know about automation, and why it could be a great addition to your business (ReviewPro, 22-Jul-2021). [Read More](#)



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