

TRAVEL & TOURISM NEWS

Mauritius welcomes global travellers again

Mauritius has opened its borders to international travellers, both vaccinated and non-vaccinated, from July 15 under a two-phase reopening plan. [Read More](#)

The Maldives has received more tourist arrivals between January and July 2021 than that for the whole year of 2020

The Maldives has received more tourist arrivals between January and July 2021 than that for the whole year of 2020, according to data from the Ministry of Tourism quoted by local media. [Read More](#)



Maldives Government to introduce departure tax for international pax in 2022

Maldives' Government announced (11-Jul-2021) plans to charge a departure tax on all departing international passengers at Maldivian airports from 01-Jan-2022. The existing airport service charge will be suspended from 31-Dec-2021. The Government also plans to introduce an airport development fee for all international passengers at Malé Velana International Airport. [Read More](#)

Seychelles records rebound in visitor arrivals for Quarter two 2021

Seychelles' National Bureau of Statistics reported (07-Jul-2021) 43,659 visitor arrivals for Quarter two 2021, an increase of 543.5% compared to quarter one 2021. Visitors from Europe comprised 57% of the total in quarter two 2021 and visitors from Asia made up 37%. 99.8% of visitors arrived by air, of which 97% arrived on regular commercial services and 3% arrived on chartered aircraft. (Source CAPA)



Sri Lanka revises PCR testing & quarantine requirements for international arrivals

Civil Aviation Authority Sri Lanka (CAASL) revised PCR testing and quarantine requirements for international arrivals to Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka Mirror/Economy Next/Aviation Voice, 16/17-Jul-2021). Fully vaccinated international arrivals from countries not temporarily banned by CAASL now only require to undergo one PCR test for COVID-19 immediately upon arrival in Sri Lanka, and no longer require to quarantine for seven days and undergo a second test on the seventh day after arrival. (Source CAPA)

Here's what you should know if travelling to The Caribbean this Summer

As per News Americas, New York (30-Jul-2021), most Caribbean islands have reopened to international tourism, and several islands have begun adopting two-track entry regulations for vaccinated and unvaccinated travellers. [Read More](#)



OTHER TOP NEWS

Visit Maldives and Tripzilla collaborates to make Maldives the top choice destination in the sea market

Visit Maldives (23-Jul-2021) starts a joint campaign with TripZilla aiming to promote Maldives as the most desired destination and a safe haven targeting the Southeast Asian market. The 5 month-long branding campaign, starting from July till December, will make use of a variety of digital marketing components to promote Maldives as one of the most preferred haven destinations in the world. [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives launches a campaign with Leverage Media to promote Maldives in Indonesia

Visit Maldives (23-Jul-2021) conducts a joint campaign with Leverage Media to promote Maldives as the most desired destination and as a safe haven targeting the Indonesian market. Starting in July, the one-month long campaign will promote Maldives utilizing Google and Youtube advertising. [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives conducts a honeymoon campaign with Palm Tour-The Top honeymoon Agency in South Korea

Visit Maldives (15-Jul-2021) has launched a month-long joint campaign with Palm Tour starting July 2021 to strengthen brand presence and boost the honeymoon segment in the South Korean market. The campaign consists of online promotional activities and promotion of Maldives in a physical honeymoon event. [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives starts Global Marketing Campaign with InsideFlyer magazine

Visit Maldives (13-Jul-2021) starts a week-long global marketing campaign with InsideFlyer. Starting on 12th July 2021, the campaign will feature Maldives as a safe haven highlighting the unique geography of natural socially distanced islands and stringent measures in place. Additionally, the unique experiences of the destination will also be promoted for the luxury segment of travellers. [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives hosts a series of FAM trips targeting the Brazil Market

Visit Maldives (11-Jul-2021) has commenced a series of familiarization (FAM) trips targeting the Brazilian market to promote the Maldives as a safe haven for travellers. The first two influencers arrived in the Maldives on Saturday, July 10 and the remaining influencers will arrive in the coming weeks within July 2021. This is notably the first FAM trip and the first activity by Visit Maldives specifically for the Brazilian market, this year. [Read More](#)

Greece, Maldives, Italy: The French want to make up for lost time

According to travel comparator Kayak (26-Jul-2021), the French want to make the trip of their dreams, as soon as the pandemic is over. [Read More](#)

Anyone with negative COVID-19 PCR test can visit Maldives, says UNGA President-elect Abdullah Shahid

President-elect of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and current Maldives Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid, who is on a visit to India, on (22-Jul- 2021) said that any tourist with a negative COVID-19 PCR test can visit the Maldives. [Read More](#)

FlyNAS launches direct flights to Seychelles

The Seychelles islands will be more accessible for travellers from Saudi Arabia as FlyNAS announced direct flights from Jeddah to Mahé starting this July 1. [Read More](#)

Air Seychelles to begin Maldives service from August

Starting this August (27-Jul 2021), Air Seychelles will continue their weekly direct flights to the Maldives to provide travellers looking for a vacation at a nearby destination. Flying directly to Velana International Airport in Male within just 3 hours, the scheduled flights will be operated year-round by the airline's A320neo jetliner. (Source CAPA)

Qatar Airways partners with Tourism Seychelles, increases Doha-Seychelles frequency

Qatar Airways launched (12-Jul-2021) a strategic marketing partnership with Tourism Seychelles to support recovery of the country's tourism sector. Under the agreement Qatar Airways increased Doha-Seychelles frequency from three times weekly to daily with Boeing 787 aircraft. Seychelles Principal Secretary for Tourism Sherin Francis commented: "We are anticipating a rise in demand for our destination in 3Q2021 and it is reassuring for us to note that flight availability is not going to be an issue for travellers". (Source CAPA)

Emirates: Flights from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan & Sri Lanka suspended until 07-Aug-2021

Emirates Airline, via its official website, announced (23-Jul-2021) passenger services from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to Dubai will remain suspended until 07-Aug-2021, in line with UAE Government directives. (Source CAPA)

Emirates resumes Dubai-Mauritius service

Emirates Airline resumed twice weekly Dubai-Mauritius service on 15-Jul-2021 (TTR Weekly, 19-Jul-2021). Emirates is the sole scheduled operator on the route, according to OAG. (Source CAPA)

Air Seychelles to operate ad hoc charters to Mauritius

Air Seychelles announced (21-Jul-2021) plans to operate ad hoc charter services to Mauritius, following Mauritius' partial reopening to international visitors from 15-Jul-2021. Air Seychelles will serve Mauritius based on demand, as the airline noted the Mauritius market is dependent on connecting traffic, mainly from India, and entry measures require visitors to spend 14 days at an approved facility on arrival. Air Seychelles will monitor the Mauritius market up until the full reopening planned for 01-Oct-2021, with the aim to resume regular twice weekly service. (Source CAPA)

Air Mauritius aiming to resume Mauritius-London service in early Oct-2021

Air Mauritius, via its official website, stated (Jul-2021) it plans to resume weekly Mauritius-London Heathrow service on 02-Oct-2021. According to OAG, the carrier is scheduled to operate the service three times weekly with A350-900 equipment. (Source CAPA)

Covid-19. Where can the French travel this summer?

England and Scotland have chosen to maintain mandatory quarantine for the French - unlike other Europeans - while the United States is still closing its borders to protect itself from Covid-19. What destinations are open to travellers from France and under what conditions? [Read More](#)

Visitor arrivals to Thailand down 99.8% in Jun-2021, compared to Jun-2019

Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports reported (21-Jul-2021) 5694 visitor arrivals to Thailand for Jun-2021, a decline of 99.8% compared to Jun-2019. (Source CAPA)

Thailand restricts night time flight hours to contain COVID cases

Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) ordered carriers in the country to suspend domestic flights between 21:00 and 04:00 as part of efforts to contain a rise in COVID cases (*Chiang Rai Times*, 11-Jul-2021). CAAT added the suspension order does not apply to international flights under the recently launched 'Phuket Sandbox' scheme. (Source CAPA)

Phuket records over 1300 travellers in first few days of 'Sandbox' scheme

Tourism Authority of Thailand director Nanthasiri Ronnasiri reported over 1300 international travellers arrived in Phuket under the quarantine free '[Sandbox](#)' scheme between 01-Jul-2021 and 03-Jul-2021 (Bangkok Post, 04-Jul-2021). Thailand's government expects over 100,000 international visitors will travel to Phuket in 3Q2021 under the scheme, which launched on 01-Jul-2021.

WTTC welcomes the launch of the EU Digital COVID Certificate

World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) welcomed (01-Jul-2021) the launch of the EU Digital COVID Certificate. WTTC SVP Virginia Messina said: "WTTC is confident the EU Digital COVID Certificate will boost consumer confidence and the wider Travel & Tourism sector across Europe, which has been in a fight for survival for over a year". (Source CAPA)

Accor signs up to create SO/ Maldives

Scheduled to open to the public in 2023, the French hotel group's luxurious new resort will encompass 80 villas and overlook the crystal-clear waters of the Emboodhoo Lagoon. [Read More](#)

Kuoni unveils 2022 Indian Ocean programme

Kuoni has launched (Jul-2021) an expanded Indian Ocean programme for 2022, with the addition of 13 new resorts across the region. [Read More](#)

IATA calls for governments to follow WHO travel guidance

IATA called (14-Jul-2021) on governments to follow new travel guidance from the World Health Organisation (WHO), which recommends a "risk-based approach" to implementing measures related to COVID-19 and international travel. WHO recommends that governments:

- Do not require proof of COVID-19 vaccination as a mandatory condition for entry or exit;
- May relax measures, such as testing and/or quarantine requirements, for travellers who are fully vaccinated or who have had a confirmed COVID-19 infection within the past six months and are no longer infectious;
- Ensure alternative pathways for unvaccinated individuals through testing so they are able to travel internationally;
- Implement test and/or quarantine measures for international travellers in "a risk-based manner", with regular reviews of policies on testing and quarantine to ensure they are lifted when no longer necessary;
- Communicate any changes to international health related measures and requirements "in a timely and adequate manner";
- Consider bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements, particularly among neighbouring countries, "with the aim of facilitating the recovery of key socioeconomic activities", including tourism.

IATA director general Willie Walsh commented: "These common sense, risk-based recommendations from WHO, if followed by states, will allow for international air travel to resume while minimising the chance of importing COVID-19". Mr Walsh added: "It's long past time for governments to incorporate data into risk-based decision-making process for re-opening borders". (Source CAPA)

IATA calls on governments to take action to address the high cost of COVID-19 tests

IATA issued (22-Jul-2021) a call on governments to take action to address the high cost of COVID-19 tests in many jurisdictions and urged flexibility in permitting the use of cost-effective antigen tests as an alternative to more expensive PCR tests. IATA also recommended governments adopt recent World Health Organization (WHO) guidance to consider exempting vaccinated travellers from testing requirements. IATA also stated that testing also needs to be appropriate to the threat level. (Source CAPA)

Air France to launch digital pre travel COVID-19 document verification solution in Jul-2021

Air France announced (15-Jul-2021) plans to launch "Ready to Fly", its digital pre travel COVID-19 document verification solution, on services connecting Paris to Corsica and French overseas destinations on 17-Jul-2021. The solution enables passengers to have COVID-19 travel documents checked online prior to departure, via a portal on the carrier's website, and receive an email confirming they are "Ready to Fly". Air France plans to gradually expand the availability of the solution to additional destinations over summer 2021. (Source CAPA)

UNWTO and MUST Travel & Tech partner on digital tourism tool

UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) announced (09-Jul-2021) an agreement with MUST Travel & Tech, effective until the end of 2024, to provide a digital tool for users to share tourism experiences to promote the reactivation of the sector with a view to sustainability. MUST operates in 60 countries and aggregates information of interest to travellers. (Source CAPA)



Digital House, Calebasses Branch Road, Calebasses, Mauritius



contact@hospitality-plus.travel



Tel: +230 209 3800

