

TRAVEL & TOURISM NEWS

CORONAVIRUS/COVID 19

Mauritius to begin phased reopening next month

Mauritius announced (11-Jun-2021) to **reopen** to international travellers as from July 15th. The island will be opening in phases during 2021 and the first phase will enable vaccinated travellers to enjoy a resort holiday. [Read More](#)

Over half a million travellers arrive in Maldives so far in 2021

The Ministry of Tourism announced (29-Jun-2021) the news via a tweet on Saturday afternoon, congratulating the industries, volunteers and the Maldivian people for helping achieve this wonderful milestone during this challenging period. [Read More](#)



Visit Maldives carries out several marketing activities in the last two months

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) is the National Tourism promotion body mandated to carry out the marketing and promotions of Maldives as a tourist destination. During the last two months MMPRC carried out over 58 marketing activities. [Read More](#)

Seychelles expands border reopening to visitors regardless of vaccination status

Seychelles' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism confirmed (03-Jun-2021) the country reopened its borders to all visitors, regardless of vaccination status, who provide a negative COVID-19 test 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers will not be subject to post-arrival COVID-19 testing or quarantine. The country will remain restricted to visitors who have visited Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Nepal, Pakistan and South Africa within 14 days of arrival to Seychelles.



Visitor arrivals to Sri Lanka down 97% in first five months of 2021

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority reported (05-Jun-2021) 1497 visitor arrivals were recorded for May-2021. Visitor arrivals to Sri Lanka declined by 97.0% year-on-year to 15,294 in the five months ended May-2021.

Caribbean islands are open for travel: A guide to travel restrictions

Most Caribbean islands have reopened (22-Jun-2021) to international tourism, with protocols in place to protect visitors and residents against Covid-19, but the entry requirements for several islands have been changing as Covid cases rise or fall. [Read More](#)



OTHER TOP NEWS

Visit Maldives commences E-Learning programme in the German Market

Visit Maldives has commenced an e-learning programme with FVW Akademie targeting the travel trade of the German speaking markets today. [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives Launches Campaign with Bentley Owners Club Magazine Targeting the German Market

Visit Maldives launches a campaign with Bentley Owners Club Magazine to promote Maldives as the most preferred tourist destination targeting the luxury segment of the German market. The magazine will feature Maldives in the June and September 2021 print issues. The content will advertise Maldives as a safe haven and highlight the unique products and experiences offered in the destination. [Read More](#)

Maldivian extends suspension of Male-Dhaka service until 15-Jul-2021

Maldivian, via its official Twitter account, announced (28-Jun-2021) plans to extend its suspension of Male-Dhaka service until 15-Jul-2021, due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions implemented by Bangladesh's Government (*Corporate Maldives/SunOnline Maldives*, 28-Jun-2021). The airline is the sole scheduled operator on the route, according to OAG.

Visitor arrivals to Seychelles down 29.6% in May-2021, compared to May-2019

Seychelles' National Bureau of Statistics reported (07-Jun-2021) visitor arrivals to Seychelles in May-2021, as follows: Visitor arrivals: 16,001, -29.6% compared to May-2019; Russia: 3949, +339.3%; France: 517, -83.4%; Poland: 430, +16.2%; United Arab Emirates: 2972, +121.3%; Romania: 415, +327.8%; Israel: 2004, +335.7%; US: 401, -51.1%; Germany: 805, -74.5%; Saudi Arabia: 277, +443.1%; Ukraine: 718, +213.5%; Czech Republic: 214, -4.9%; Qatar: 608, +104.0%

FlyNAS launches direct flights between Saudi and Seychelles from July 2021

Starting July 1, 2021, the Seychelles islands will be more accessible for travellers from the Saudi Arabia as the Saudi Arabian based airline, FlyNAS announced direct flights from Jeddah to Mahé.

SriLankan Airlines increases Colombo-Tokyo frequency

SriLankan Airlines, via its official Twitter account, announced (04-Jun-2021) it increased Colombo Bandaranaike-Tokyo Narita frequency from three to four times weekly. The airline is the sole scheduled operator on the route, according to OAG.

Sri Lanka Government to infuse USD500m into SriLankan Airlines over five years

Sri Lanka's Government reportedly plans to inject up to USD500 million into SriLankan Airlines over the next five years (*Daily Mirror*, 04-Jun-2021). The aim is to enable the airline to return to profitability.

EU Digital COVID Certificate legislation officially signed

European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission announced (16-Jun-2021) the official signing of the Regulation on the EU Digital COVID Certificate, marking the end of the legislative process. The aim is to facilitate safe and free movement inside the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic. All Europeans have the right to free movement, also without the certificate, but the certificate will facilitate travel, exempting holders from restrictions like quarantine. [Read More](#) The EU Digital COVID Certificate will be accessible to all EU nationals and will:

- Cover COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery
- Be free of charge and available in all EU languages
- Be available in a digital and paper-based format
- Be secure and include a digitally signed QR code

UK Government announces additions to travel green list

UK Department for Transport announced (24-Jun-2021) the following additions to its travel lists, effective 30-Jun-2021:

- Green list: Malta, Madeira, Balearic Islands, Barbados and "several" UK overseas territories and Caribbean islands
- Green Watchlist (at risk of moving to Amber): Israel and Jerusalem, and all additions above to the green list except Malta
- Amber list: Recently added Portugal
- Red list: Eritrea, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Mongolia, Tunisia and Uganda, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Costa Rica, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Dubai Summer Surprises to launch next month

Dubai Summer Surprises, the annual celebration of red-hot retail offers, exciting events and fun for the whole family, is set to return for its 24th edition. [Read More](#)

Abu Dhabi updates travel 'green list' with six new European countries

Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism, via the official Visit Abu Dhabi website, updated (24-Jun-2021) its travel 'green list' to include Austria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway and Sweden, removing Cuba, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. Under the revised guidelines passengers travelling from 31 countries and territories are exempt from coronavirus quarantine requirements. As previously reported by CAPA, Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism plans to lift quarantine requirements for all countries excluding India effective 01-Jul-2021.

Emirates to resume Nice and Lyon services in Jul-2021

Emirates Airline announced (08-Jun-2021) plans to resume the following routes in line with France's lifting of entry requirements effective 09-Jun-2021:

- Dubai-Nice: Four times weekly with Boeing 777-300ER aircraft from 02-Jul-2021
- Dubai-Lyon: Four times weekly with 777-300ER from 09-Jul-2021

The carrier will be the sole scheduled operator on each route, according to OAG.

US and UK aviation CEOs call for safe reopening of trans-Atlantic travel

American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, JetBlue Airways, United Airlines, British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, the US Travel Association and London Heathrow Airport held (07-Jun-2021) a joint meeting to call for the reopening of trans-Atlantic travel. The group encouraged the US Government to consider lifting entry requirements for UK travellers who have provided a negative COVID-19 test ahead of arriving in the US, or who are fully vaccinated. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was asked to consider removing a requirement for travellers returning to the UK from 'green list' countries to complete a PCR test on arrival, instead calling for lateral flow tests, with only positive tests requiring a PCR test. In the US, 63.5% of adults have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Around 68 million people in the UK have received vaccine shots, representing over 75% of the country's adult population.

Emirates to launch Dubai-Miami service in Jul-2021

Emirates Airline announced (03-Jun-2021) plans to launch four times weekly Dubai-Miami service with Boeing 777-300ER aircraft effective 22-Jul-2021. The introduction of Miami service will expand Emirates' US network to 12 destinations with over 70 weekly frequencies. The carrier will be the sole scheduled operator on the route, according to OAG.

Emirates to resume Dubai-Phuket service on 02-Jul-2021

Emirates Airline announced (02-Jun-2021) plans to resume four times weekly Dubai-Phuket service with Boeing 777-300ER aircraft effective 02-Jul-2021, in line with Thailand's move to reopen the region to vaccinated travellers. The carrier is the sole scheduled operator on the route, according to OAG.

Thai Airways opens ticket sales from Phuket to Paris, Frankfurt, London and Copenhagen

Thai Airways, via its official website, commenced (May-2021), ticket sales for nonstop services to Phuket from Paris, Frankfurt, London and Copenhagen, in preparation for a planned tourism reopening in the region from Jul-2021 (Bangkok Post, 27-May-2021). The opening of ticket sales aims to test travel demand as part of a collaboration with Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Amadeus: More than 90% of travellers would be comfortable with using a digital health passport

Amadeus reported (01-Jun-2021) data from a recent study conducted by the company found that more than 90% of travellers would be comfortable using a digital health passport for future trips. The company reported its data indicates that people are researching their trips 27% earlier than before they did in the same period in 2019.

Amadeus reports 41% increase in searches for 30-day stays

Amadeus reported (01-Jun-2021) it has seen a 41% increase in the number of searches for 'workcations' and 30 day stays since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, though the increase between regions varied significantly. In the US, Amadeus data showed only a 2% increase for trips over 14 days. In Europe, there has been greater increases in France (+75%) and Spain (+52%) in searches for 30-day stays. The pandemic has accelerated changes in the way people work, particularly for "the new generation of digital nomads who have left the office behind for a work-from-anywhere model".

Hong Kong tightens quarantine requirements for arrivals from the UK

Hong Kong Government announced (24-Jun-2021) that quarantine requirements for person arriving from the UK will be tightened from 28-Jun-2021, while testing requirement for boarding services from high-risk places will be adjusted from 26-Jun-2021. The UK will be moved from a Group B specified place to a Group A2 specified place, which means arrivals will be subject to 21 days compulsory quarantine at designated quarantine hotels, with four tests to be conducted during the period, followed by a seven day self-monitoring period as well as compulsory testing on the 26th day of arrival.

How the Apple iOS 14 Release May Affect Your Ads and Reporting

Apple has announced (Jun-2021) changes to apps pertaining to the privacy which boosts the control of users over what is tracked on all the social media platforms. The recent changes with iOS 14 can impact the current tracking in place for your marketing campaigns and can prevent hotels from assessing how well their marketing dollars are working. [Read More](#)

Blockchain App Factory develops blockchain-based COVID-19 test and vaccination tracking application

Blockchain App Factory announced (24-Jun-2021) it has developed a blockchain-based COVID-19 test and vaccination tracking application to support a seamless travel experience through. The application works as a digital store for personal records, using QR technology to allow sharing of travellers' documents with embassies, airlines, and other related organisations for verification. The platform was developed for an organisation in Africa and is already accredited by five Central and East African countries with more than 150,000 users. The platform is now considered as the 'Africa CDC Health Pass' allowing users to cross borders.

IATA launches self-registration portal for labs to join Travel Pass network

IATA launched (28-Jun-2021) a self-registration portal to help COVID-19 testing labs join the IATA Travel Pass Lab Network. The network provides travellers with a global list of eligible lab locations to complete COVID-19 testing prior to travel. IATA SVP for operations, safety and security Nick Careen commented: "COVID-19 testing will be critical to a prolonged recovery to international travel for the foreseeable future".



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