

TRAVEL & TOURISM NEWS



Mauritius reopens its borders on the 1st of October 2021, with one of the highest full vaccination rate in Africa

The Indian Ocean country of Mauritius continues with its proactive and transparent response to the global COVID crisis, as it prepares to complete the reopening of its borders to fully vaccinated visitors, but in a safe and secure manner, on the 1st of October 2021(MTPA, 14-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Mauritius reopens its paradise beaches for South Africans

South Africans who are fully vaccinated can once again fly off to the paradise beaches, lagoons, and luxury hotels of Mauritius (jacarandafm, 11-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)



Maldives tourist arrivals figure so far in September sees 4.6 percent increase from 2019

The country has welcomed a total of 840,095 tourists by Tuesday. A total of 84,129 tourists had arrived in the Maldives between September 1 – 21. Maldives broke its monthly tourist arrivals records with figures topping 143,599 in August (Raajje.mv, 22-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Seychelles on track to reach visitor arrivals target for 2021

Seychelles Tourism Board director for destination marketing Bernadette Willemin reported visitor arrivals to the Seychelles for 2021 reached 100,000 on 19-Sep-2021 (*Seychelles News Agency*, 20-Sep-2021). Ms Willemin said visitor arrivals are on track to reach targets set in Jan-2021. The Seychelles recorded 114,229 visitor arrivals in 2020 and is expected to record 150,000 in 2021. The country achieved a record 428,000 arrivals in 2019. (Source CAPA)



Sri Lanka received 5,040 tourists in Aug-2021

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority reported (09-Sep-2021) the following tourism highlights for Aug-2021:

- Tourist arrivals: 5,040, -96.5% compared to Aug-2019
- Canada: 594, -85.3%; Germany: 515, -93.2%; UK: 489, -96.5%; Pakistan: 456, -83.9%; India: 405, -98.9%. (Source CAPA)

Caribbean Island Montserrat is Currently Open Only to the Rich

Montserrat is open to only those travellers who can afford the entry fee and a minimum of two months to stay on the island (News 18, 29-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)



OTHER TOP NEWS

FlySafair starts flights to Mauritius in December

South African low-cost carrier FlySafair will start flying to Mauritius in December, following a long wait for the island nation to ease travel restrictions (Business Insider SA, 28-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

TUI cancels more flights to green and amber countries

Popular holiday destinations that have had their flights cancelled include Sardinia, Sicily, Turkey, Girona, Austria and Malta. Those looking to fly out to places Mauritius, Jamaica and Maldives to escape the Scottish autumn will have to wait until at least early October, as all flights before then scrapped (Glasgow Live, 12-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Mauritius on the UK's 'Clarity for Travel' list

The Mauritius Tourism Development Authority (MDPA) welcomes the decision to add Mauritius to the UK 'Clear for Travel' list, thus ensuring that fully vaccinated travellers from the UK continue to travel without travel restrictions. Isolation when they return (YDN, 18-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Air Mauritius may resume services to nine international destinations

Air Mauritius is expected to resume services to Antananarivo, Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Kuala Lumpur, London, Mumbai, Paris, Perth, Rodrigues and Saint Denis after Mauritius' Government reopens borders for international travel on 01-Oct-2021 (lexpress.mu/zinfos-moris.com, 27-Sep-2021). The airline closed its offices in Germany, Italy, Kenya, the Netherlands and Switzerland and is in the process of closing facilities in China and Spain. Offices in Madagascar, Reunion, Singapore and South Africa were restructured with a reduced representation to cut costs. Similar restructuring is underway for offices in Australia, France, India, Malaysia and the UK. (Source CAPA)

Visitor arrivals to the Maldives up 3% in Aug-2021, compared to Aug-2019

Maldives' Ministry of Tourism reported (22-Sep-2021) the following tourism highlights for Aug-2021:

- Tourist arrivals: 143,599, +3.1% compared to Aug-2019;
 - India: 54,094, +389%;
 - Russia: 17,069, +230%;
 - Germany: 9916, +36.9%;
 - Spain: 8338, +27.2%;
 - Saudi Arabia: 7448, +97.7%;
 - US: 5064, +44.2%;
 - Portugal: 2481, +84.7%. (Source CAPA)

Visit Maldives signs a global partnership agreement with CNN International Commercial

Visit Maldives has signed an advertising and branded content partnership agreement with CNN International Commercial to position Maldives as the ideal destination for international travellers (Visit Maldives, 23-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

UK lifts Covid-19 travel advisory for Maldives

The travel advisory issued by the United Kingdom against all but essential travel to Maldives due to the looming threats of Covid-19, has been lifted. The change was not immediate when Maldives moved up to Amber list. UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office issued the travel advisory due to the worsening situation of Covid-19 in the Maldives. Maldives was removed from UK's red list from September 22 (Raajje.mv, 28-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Demand from UK travellers increased after Maldives removed from red list

UK newspapers have reported that travel websites in the nation has received increased traffic after the changes they brought to their travel list on Friday. Maldives was moved from their red list to their amber list that day (The edition, 20-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

India remains top source market for Maldives

September's arrivals are a 10.4 percent increase from the same period of 2019. So far in September, 87,586 visitors have been welcomed. 191,824 arrivals have been recorded from India (Raajje.mv, 25-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives, along with industry partners, has begun marketing the destination in India with two major events. This includes a one-day roadshow organized by Visit Maldives, which began today (27th September 2021) at Novotel Ahmedabad (Ahmedabad, India). Later on from 29th September till 1st October, Visit Maldives will also participate in one of the biggest tourism fairs in India, Travel and Tourism Fair (TTF), to be held in Physical Fair (Nehru Centre, Worli) Mumbai (Visit Maldives, 27-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Top journalists from South Africa arrive in Maldives for media Fam trip

A media team from leading magazines and publications circulated in the South African market arrive in the Maldives for a familiarization trip. The media team, which includes journalists from Independent, Getaway Magazine, and Sunday Times will be in the country from 25th September to 2nd October (Visit Maldives, 26-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Team from leading Spanish magazines arrives in Maldives for Fam trip

A media team from world renowned magazines and publications from the Spanish market arrive in the Maldives for a familiarization trip. The team will be staying in the Maldives from 24th to 29th September (Visit Maldives, 24-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Maldives promoted in deluxe travel market targeting luxury travellers from Russia & CIS region

Visit Maldives promotes the destination at the Deluxe Travel Market - Oriental Edition targeting Russia and CIS region. The one day event held on 16th September 2021 at UAE's Medinat Jumeirah, was aimed at promoting Maldives as a top of the mind destination to travel trade agents involved in promoting destinations to luxury travelers from Russia and CIS region (Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan). Exhibitors at this event included 5 star hotels, hotel chains and resorts, DMCs, tourism offices from the Middle East and Indian Ocean (Visit Maldives, 16-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives launches joint campaign with Easy Market targeting Italian travellers

Visit Maldives launches a joint marketing campaign with Easy Market targeting travel trade consumers in Italy. The month-long campaign aims to market the destination as a top of the mind destination, increase engagement with tourists and promote the destination as a safe haven for travellers (Visit Maldives, 06-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives collaborates with French tour operator Amplitudes

Visit Maldives launches a social and digital media campaign with Tour Operators Amplitudes targeting the France market. Starting in August, the one-month long campaign will promote Maldives as a safe haven and top of the mind destination in the French market (Visit Maldives, 06-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Two Luxury Resort Hotels open in Maldives

Le Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa opened earlier this month on Thilamaafushi, the southern pocket of Lhaviyani Atoll of the Indian Ocean nation of Maldives. Meanwhile the Jumeirah Maldives resort on North Malé Atoll is set to welcome guests beginning Oct. 1 (Business Traveller USA, 20-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Maldives moves up to Italy's travel green list

Maldives is among seven countries that made Italy's green list. Maldives was removed from the red list and bumped up to the green list on September 22 (Raajje.mv, 29-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Air Seychelles partners with Visit Maldives, extends Maldives service into

Air Seychelles announced (13-Sep-2021) a partnership with Visit Maldives, following the resumption of weekly Johannesburg-Seychelles-Malé service in Jul-2021. Air Seychelles will also extend its Maldives operations into 2022. The airline operates the service with 168 seat A320neo equipment. (Source CAPA)

Thrilling as Seychelles Records More than 100,000 Visitors

Passengers traveling from Israel disembarked to the joyous beats of the local moutya drums and to the sight of traditional dancers on Sunday, September 19, 2021, in the afternoon as the destination of Seychelles records over 100,000 visitors on this day (eTurboNews, 21-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Air Seychelles to resume Seychelles-Johannesburg service in Sep-2021

Air Seychelles announced (14-Sep-2021) plans to resume twice weekly Seychelles-Johannesburg service on 24-Sep-2021. Seychelles' Ministry of Health reopened travel between Seychelles and South Africa from 13-Sep-2021. Travellers from South Africa to Seychelles must provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test result and complete online health travel authorisation. Travellers to South Africa must provide a negative PCR test, download the COVID Alert South Africa app and complete a health questionnaire. (Source CAPA)

Etihad Airways to add more flights to Seychelles

Etihad Airways will be operating more flights to Seychelles from October. It provides leisure holidaymakers and families with convenient travel options to the tropical paradise (Daily Times, 27-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)

Emirates and Tourism Seychelles launch marketing partnership

Emirates and Tourism Seychelles launched (02-Sep-2021) a strategic partnership, which will include a series of campaigns aiming to provide the Seychelles with "maximum visibility as the ultimate leisure destination" throughout the GCC market. The campaigns will involve content across Emirates' social media platforms, email marketing and joint radio advertisements. The campaigns will also strengthen travel trade relations and enhance product knowledge through online training, workshops and familiarisation trips. The UAE is the Seychelles' second largest tourist source market for 2021, as of 29-Aug-2021. Emirates operates seven times weekly Dubai-Seychelles service. (Source CAPA)

SriLankan Airlines to resume service to Paris from start of Nov-2021

SriLankan Airlines announced plans to resume Colombo-Paris CDG service from 01-Nov-2021, operating three times weekly with A330-300 aircraft (Daily Mirror, 07-Sep-2021). The carrier suspended operations on the route in Nov-2016 but had operated a number of ad hoc passenger and cargo flights in Jul-2020 and Sep-2020. (Source CAPA)

London Gatwick Airport CEO urges removal of COVID-19 testing requirement for vaccinated passengers

London Gatwick Airport CEO Stewart Wingate urged (06-Sep-2021) the UK Government to remove COVID-19 testing requirements for double vaccinated passengers, in line with European countries including France, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Germany. Mr Wingate said aviation sectors in European countries which have removed testing requirements are recovering "twice as fast" as the UK industry, adding that passenger confidence in the UK has been "shattered" as a result of travel restrictions. (Source CAPA)

Lufthansa, Amadeus and Centogene launch digital verification app 'Traveller ID for Safe Travel'

Lufthansa, Amadeus and Centogene partnered (22-Sep-2021) to implement 'Traveller ID for Safe Travel' for travel to non risk Schengen areas. The partnership will initially allow travellers to check-in online for around 2000 weekly flights. Passengers are able to scan proof of vaccination or required test results via QR codes from the EU Digital COVID Certificate, and are subsequently automatically issued a boarding pass with no further physical checks required. Amadeus' 'Traveller ID for Safe Travel' solution then checks the requirements for that particular trip with country regulations. The solution is already live with 11 airlines. The partnership also gives Lufthansa airport staff access to the Airport Companion App, allowing them to scan passenger's boarding passes through an iPad. (Source CAPA)

India announces 'Air Bubble' arrangements with 18 countries for Sep-2021

India's Ministry of Civil Aviation, via an advisory notification, announced 'Air Bubble' arrangements with 18 countries will commence during Sep-2021, permitting the resumption of wider international operations (Livemint/Times of India/First Post, 06-Sep-2021). India resumed travel with Bangladesh (Dhaka) on 03-Sep-2021 and also announced the following list of international destinations available for travel:

- Afghanistan: Kabul;
- Bahrain;
- Bhutan: Thimpu;
- Canada: Toronto and Vancouver;
- France: Paris;
- Germany:- Frankfurt;
- Japan: Tokyo Narita;
- Kenya; Nairobi;
- Kuwait;
- Maldives: Male;
- Nepal: Kathmandu;
- Oman: Muscat;
- Russia: Moscow;
- Sri Lanka: Colombo;
- UAE: Abu Dhabi and Dubai;
- UK: London and Birmingham;
- US: Chicago, Washington, Newark, and San Francisco (Source CAPA)

Visitor arrivals to Thailand down 99.6% in Aug-2021, compared to Aug-2019

Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports reported (23-Sep-2021) 15,105 visitor arrivals to Thailand for Aug-2021, a decline of 99.6% compared to Aug-2019. (Source CAPA)

L'actualité régionale 30 Septembre

Des migrants africains en route vers Mayotte interpellés à Anjouan, la réouverture de Maurice aux touristes, la fin du confinement au Sri Lanka, et la lutte contre la criminalité au Sri Lanka sont au menu de l'actualité régionale (Mayotte 1ere, 30-Sep-2021). [Read More](#)



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