

TRAVEL & TOURISM NEWS



Mauritius lifts Southern Africa travel ban

Mauritius has lifted a ban it imposed on some Southern African countries in late November after the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. The ban imposed on Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe will be lifted on Friday (January 7). Commercial passenger flights from these countries to Mauritius can resume (CAJ News Africa, 07-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Mauritius delegation woos Middle East visitors in Dubai

A high-level government and tourism delegation from Mauritius has visited the United Arab Emirates in order to develop connections between the two countries. The trip took the form of a week-long promotional and business development mission (Breaking Travel News, 13-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)



Maldives welcomes first tourist of 2022, aims for 2 million visitors

Maldives aims for 2 million tourists in 2022, starts off the year with tourists from UK on Saturday. The first tourist to Maldives this year was Georgina Canning, who had visited Maldives previously as well. She had received a special welcome, celebrated as the first tourist to Maldives this year. The first tourist to arrive in Maldives is celebrated every year (The edition, 02-Jan-2022). [Read](#)

Over 55,000 tourists visited Maldives in the first two weeks of 2022

Statistics released by the Tourism Ministry show that this is an increase of 52.9 percent compared to the first two weeks of last year. A total of 36,003 tourists arrived in the Maldives during the same period last year. Even though tourist arrivals show an increase when compared to 2021, it is still lower than the total number of arrivals Maldives welcomed in the first two weeks of 2019 and 2020 (Edition.mv, 16-Jan-2021). [Read More](#)



Seychelles: more than 200,000 visitors expected in 2022

This year, the Seychelles expect to welcome more than 200,000 visitors, knowing that the so-called 'traditional' tourist markets are showing excellent signs of rebound (Linfo.re, 31-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

January tourist arrivals top 75,000 in Sri Lanka

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga stated that the number of tourists who arrived in the country in January exceeded 75,000. The minister said tourist arrivals from January 1 to January 29 was 76,538. The majority of the foreigners are from Russia (Daily News, 31-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)



The Bahamas has updated its entry rules with more flexible options for travellers

Visitors to The Bahamas will not be required to take a PCR test before visiting as previously proposed in December. Instead, vaccinated visitors to the popular Caribbean getaway have the option to take either a PCR or antigen test, but the entry rules are slightly stricter for unvaccinated people (Lonely Planet, 07-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Air Mauritius resumes flights to Johannesburg

The airline will now serve five weekly flights scheduled for January 2022, operated on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. Flights will be operated by both the Airbus A350-900 and the A330-900neo (Airline Greeks, 11-Jan-2022).

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Island connections: Mauritius & Seychelles links restored with South Africa

South Africans looking for a well-earned getaway can rejoice in the restoration of connectivity and new route launches connecting them to some of the most desirable island destinations in the world. Thanks to the relaxation of travel restrictions, airlines are returning to provide connectivity to Seychelles and Mauritius, providing more options for a tropical break (Simple Flying, 14-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Maldives welcomes more than 20,000 tourists from Russia

109,842 tourists were welcomed into the Maldives between January 1 – 26. 20,244 arrivals have been recorded from Russia so far. India ranks third contributing 8.2 percent with 9,044 arrivals (Raajje.mw, 28-Jan-2022). [Read more](#)

Operational tourist facilities across Maldives top 930

The total operational capacity of tourist accommodation establishments across Maldives has topped 930. Latest weekly statistics publicized by the Ministry of Tourism revealed that the total operational capacity of tourist facilities included 161 resorts, 613 guesthouses, 11 hotels and 145 liveaboard vessels (Raajje.mv, 07-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

MMPRC kicks off campaign with news UK to strengthen the Maldives' brand awareness as a destination

The Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC / Visit Maldives) has kicked off a campaign with News UK to strengthen brand awareness for the Maldives as a holiday destination. The campaign is conducted for one month, starting January and ending February (Visit Maldives, 21 Jan 2022). [Read More](#)

MMPRC & industry partners take part in one of the biggest global trade fairs in Spain, Fitur 2022

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC/Visit Maldives) and industry partners are marketing the destination at one of the biggest global trade fairs in Spain, FITUR 2022, held in Madrid. FITUR 2022, conducted from the 19th to the 23rd of January 2022, is the global meeting point for tourism professionals and the leading trade fair for inbound and outbound markets globally (Visit Maldives, 19-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

MMPRC begins joint advertising campaign with ITAKA targeting the Polish market

With over 30 years of experience, ITAKA is one of the most popular tour operators in Poland. ITAKA offers holidays to over 100 locations worldwide and served an impressive 915,000 clients in 2018. With over a 30% market share, ITAKA holds a spot as a proficient and experienced tour operator in the Polish market. The campaign with ITAKA will strongly increase Maldives' visibility in the Polish market (Visit Maldives, 13-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Joint campaign kicked off with Italy's Sporting Vacanze

One of the top 10 tour operators in Italy, Sporting Vacanze is a member of ASTOI, the Italian Association for Tour Operators. Over the past 20 years, Sporting Vacanze played an important role in the Maldives' endeavor to become one of the top destinations for Italian travellers, with over 8000 pax sold each year. In 2020, they created one of the first travel communities on social media with more than 1000 travel agencies. The campaign will be held from January to February 2022 (Visit Maldives, 12-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Dubai: Emirates to double daily Seychelles flights during holiday season

Emirates will operate double daily flights to Seychelles from December 24, 2021, until January 9, 2022 to serve market demand during the busy holiday season (Khaleej Times, 16-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

MMPRC signs global advertising agreement with BBC Global News

The Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC / Visit Maldives) has signed a global advertising agreement with BBC Global News, incorporating their in-house commercial content studio, BBC Story works (Visit Maldives, 12-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

MMPRC invites Journalists from Japan for familiarization trip in the Maldives

The Japanese journalists arrived in the Maldives today for the event, which will be conducted from 11th - 17th January 2022. This is the first FAM trip organized by MMPRC this year. The journalists from Japan consist of writers from publications and magazines which are highly popular among affluent audiences in the Japanese market, with a combined reach of millions (Visit Maldives, 11-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

MMPRC begins month-long marketing campaign with Kuoni France

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation, (MMPRC/Visit Maldives) has initiated a month-long marketing campaign with Kuoni France. The campaign will be held from 06th January 2022 till 06th February 2022 (Visit Maldives, 06-Jan-2022).

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Etihad Airways: special prices from Paris for 2022

The airline Etihad Airways launches in Paris exclusive deals for travellers looking to explore new destinations or to visit friends and family in 2022 (Air Journal, 11-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Seychelles reopens to South African visitors – who are ‘strongly’ urged to be vaccinated

South Africans can now travel freely to the Seychelles, following the reversal of an Omicron-induced ban imposed at the end of November. South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe were removed from the Seychelles’ list of restricted countries on Thursday (Business Insider, 06-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Tourism Seychelles amongst first to conduct workshops across key Indian cities

Tourism Seychelles is geared up to make the most of the lost months of 2021 by promoting the destination across key cities in India. The India office successfully completed workshops with the foremost agents in Ahmedabad and Nagpur in December 2021 as well as a week-long visit to New Delhi to conduct dedicated meetings with active and potential travel agents (eTurbo News, 11-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

"Spasiba, Russia!": Record arrivals from Moscow to Seychelles in 2021

Russia led the tourism market for 2021 with 32,000 Russian visitors arriving in Seychelles, breaking the eastern European country's 2017 record of 13,191 according to the latest figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics (Seychelles News Agency, 10-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Abu Dhabi removes UK, Qatar, Russia, others, from green list

The UK, Turkey, Jordan, Qatar, Russia and Lebanon are among the countries which have been removed from the green list published by the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi). Meanwhile, countries including Algeria, Morocco, Seychelles and Tunisia have been added to it (Gulf Business, 03-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

The first direct flight from Bulgaria to Seychelles landed in the Capital Victoria

175 passengers are already enjoying the beauty of the islands. The second charter flight to the main island of Mahe in February is already full (Novinite, 29-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Sri Lanka ambitiously aims for 2.3m tourists this year

Sri Lanka has revised its initial forecast of inbound tourist arrivals for this year, setting a new highly ambitious target of attracting 2.3 million tourists, with special focus on the Indian, Middle Eastern and Russian markets (TTG Asia, 05-Jan-2021).

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Sri Lanka day at EXPO 2020 Dubai

Dubai: Buoyed on by a steady increase in tourist arrivals, destination Sri Lanka with confidence presents the country’s Tourism offer, in full force, at the EXPO 2020 Dubai on ‘Sri Lanka Day’ today Monday, January 3 at 9 PM local time (Daily Times, 03-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Sri Lanka sees a tourism boom with highest holidaymakers from India

Although the Sri Lankan tourism sector is still struggling due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the island nation received the highest number of foreign tourists in December 2021 (Business Standard, 04-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Sri Lanka issues rules on dollarized payments to tourist hotels

Sri Lanka’s central bank has issued rules requiring hotels to only accept payments in foreign currency, as a peg with the US dollar is under pressure due to low fixed overnight rates enforced with printed money (Economy Next, 25-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

[More](#)

Dubai’s Emirates signs MoU to promote tourism to The Bahamas

Dubai carrier Emirates has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Public Service of The Bahamas to explore joint initiatives to promote tourism to the island nation. The carrier will develop initiatives to promote the island nation as a tourism spot (Gulf Business, 21-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Barbados to accept one-day rapid PCR tests from travellers

Barbados has updated its entry protocols for travellers, announcing that the country will allow visitors to enter Barbados with a valid negative rapid PCR test done within one day prior to arrival. Barbados will also be accepting negative RT-PCR test results done within three days prior to arrival in Barbados (Caribbean Journal, 06-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

St Barth loosens travel testing requirements

Effective this week, St Barth will now accept either PCR or antigen tests taken within 48 hours before the departure flight to St Barth. That's a loosening of what had been a recent change to a 24-hour testing requirement (Caribbean Journal, 21-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Cuba tightens entry policies, restricts unvaccinated travellers

Travellers to Cuba must now be vaccinated to enter, under new entry requirements now in effect. In addition, all travellers 13 and older traveling to Cuba by air must present proof of a negative RT-PCR test taken no more than 72 hours prior to arrival. Previously, the island did not require tests for vaccinated travellers (Travel Weekly, 10-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Iberia expands flights to the Dominican Republic

Spanish carrier Iberia has expanded its service to the Dominican Republic this winter. The airline has added two more flights each week between Madrid and the Dominican Republic, meaning a total of 13 weekly frequencies (Caribbean Journal, 21-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Thailand is reintroducing Quarantine-free travel to tourists next month

Starting Feb. 1, Thailand will allow fully vaccinated travellers from any country to apply for its "Test and Go" program up to 60 days before their trip (Travel & Leisure, 21-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

600,000 travellers cancelled their flights from Heathrow in December

At least 600,000 passengers cancelled travel plans from Heathrow in December due to Omicron and the uncertainty caused by swiftly imposed government travel restrictions (eTurbo News, 12-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Air France first airline to introduce new biofuel surcharge

In today's message to customers, Air France announced that the new sustainable aviation fuel surcharge of up to €12 (\$13.50) per ticket will be added from January 10 (eTurbo News, 11-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

3 digital transformation strategies for travel's recovery

Traveller sentiment has fundamentally changed following the pandemic, and the industry needs to stay in sync with these shifts. Travel companies with a digital-first mindset are best placed to recognize, address, and profit from the opportunities emerging from whatever the new normal turns out to be (Skift, 23-Nov-2021). [Read More](#)



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