

# TRAVEL & TOURISM NEWS



## Mauritius removes “Day 5 antigen test” and “PCR test on arrival” travel

Thanks to the global resilience in the face of COVID 19 and a highly successful vaccination campaign, Mauritius has alleviated its travel restrictions. As from 12 March 2022, incoming visitors will not have to present a negative PCR test conducted at least 72 hours before arrival. This removal coincides with the removal of the Day 5 antigen test rule and hence visitors who are staying at a hotel or other accommodation in Mauritius will not have to conduct an antigen test on day 5 of their stay, unless symptomatic (Axis, 15-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Mauritius aims to attract one million tourists this year

With post-Covid tourists spending more and staying longer in Mauritius, the island destination seems quite happy. However, it has the self-imposed objective to attract one million tourists this year (Travel Daily, 31-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)



## Maldives removes PCR test requirement for vaccinated travellers

The Maldives has become the latest country to relax its Covid-19-related entry restrictions. As of March 5th, fully vaccinated foreign travellers are no longer required to provide a negative PCR test upon arrival in the destination (Breaking Travel News, 08-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Maldives receives more tourists so far this year

Over 359,000 tourists have visited Maldives by March 17 this year, compared to 241,407 arrivals in the same period in 2021, statistics released by the Maldivian Ministry of Tourism over the weekend has shown (Xinhuanet, 21-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)



## Seychelles drops PCR test requirement for vaccinated travellers

Seychelles has shifted gear in its reopening and will no longer require visitors to present a negative PCR test. Effective immediately, visitors over 18 years, having received the first two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine including a booster dose after six months since completing the primary series, will be considered fully immunised (Breaking Travel News, 16-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Sri Lanka president instructs tourism regulator to work towards target of 1.3 million tourists

Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has instructed the country’s tourism regulation authority to focus on global promotions, skills development and infrastructure development while increasing the number flights to achieve a 1.3 million tourist target in 2022 (Economy Next, 26-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)



## The latest on travel to the Caribbean: Requirements for U.S. travellers

Caribbean islands have reopened to international tourism. But many islands have adopted different restrictions and requirements for vaccinated and unvaccinated travellers; some have begun easing travel restrictions (Travel Weekly, 01-Apr-2022). [Read More](#)

## Mauritius Tourism launches campaign for Indian travellers

Mauritius has unveiled a new advertising campaign in India. The campaign 'Where Else but Mauritius' has different facets covering various target groups and is designed to attract more Indian visitors to explore the wide variety of offerings that makes Mauritius one of the most popular travel destinations for Indians (Travel Daily Media, 31-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Mauritius luring more travellers from South Africa

The Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) has embarked on a mission to attract South Africans to the island nation. MTPA recently led a delegation of stakeholders in the industry to South Africa where it met some 250 heads of travel agencies and tour operators (CAJ News Africa, 28-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## Mauritius: a culinary festival named Constance

After two years of fasting due to Covid, the Bernard Loiseau culinary festival, now renamed "Constance Culinary Festival", created in tribute to the late chef, is back in service in Mauritius with the collaboration of Bernard Loiseau and Pierre Hermé. The common thread of this major gastronomic week in the Indian Ocean is the sharing, transmission and exchange with competitions that combine starred chefs and pastry chefs Relais Desserts with cooks and pastry chefs from the hotels of the Constance hotel group in Mauritius, the Seychelles, and the Maldives (Gilles Pudlowski, 18-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Mauritius Tourism partners with dnata Travel as UAE traveller bookings to the island nation soar in 2022

As demand for travel continues to increase, representatives from the official tourism authority of the Republic of Mauritius are identifying the UAE as an important growth market for tourism and revealing plans to attract even more travellers from the emirates this year (Zawya, 08-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## International flights: Air Mauritius announces 5 weekly flights from Mumbai from March 27

Air Mauritius, the flag carrier of Mauritius, on Thursday made an announcement that it will operate 5 weekly flights between Mumbai and Mauritius from March 27. The airline said it is increasing the frequency of flights between the two cities (India.com, 18-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## FlySafair launches Mauritius route

Low-cost carrier FlySafair's inaugural flight from Johannesburg to Mauritius landed on 8 March 2022 (MyBroadBand, 08-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Tourism industry updates from the Maldives- February 2022

The Maldives welcomed over 149,008 tourists in February 2022, totalling this year's arrival to 280, 772 tourists. There were thirty-six international airlines operating to the country and more than 81 per cent of the registered tourist facilities are in operation (Hotelier Maldives, 21-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Revival of tourism contributes to higher dollar revenue for Maldives

Revival of tourism in the Maldives has contributed to higher revenue for the archipelagic country in the first two months this year compared to the same period in 2021 (Xinhuanet, 12-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## 966 tourist facilities currently operational across Maldives

Three guesthouses and one resort resumed services over the past week. The number of operational beds increased to 54,478. Maldives currently has a capacity of 1,169 tourist facilities (Raajje.mv, 19-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Ukraine war impacts Maldives, with Russians as main tourist market

The Maldives is suffering the impact of Russia's invasion in Ukraine, seeing a significant decrease in the arrival of Russian tourists, its main market, though the country may now become a getaway destination for the country's oligarchs on their yachts (La Prensa Latina, 03-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Maldives promoted in Qatar Business and Luxury Travel Congress

The QBLT Congress was held on 28th March, in Qatar. MMPRC promoted Maldives as the world's leading destination. MMPRC promoted Maldives as an up-and-coming MICE destination (Raajje.mv, 29-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **MMPRC holds a webinar to familiarize the Nordic market with local tourism products and experiences**

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC / Visit Maldives) has held a webinar to familiarize the Nordic market with local tourism products and experiences. The 1-hour webinar, held on 29th March 2022, was titled “Maldives – Local Islands, Local Experiences” and targeted the travel trade from Sweden, Denmark, and Norway (Visit Maldives, 30-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **MMPRC and Tripzilla initiate joint campaign to promote the Maldives in Southeast Asia**

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC / Visit Maldives) has initiated a joint campaign with Tripzilla, to position Maldives as a leading destination in the Southeast Asian market. Held from March until June this year, this Business-to-Consumer (B2C) campaign is part of Tripzilla’s series titled ‘Travelling Again’. Under this campaign, the Maldives will be promoted as one of the safest destinations to travel to for Southeast Asian (SEA) travellers (Visit Maldives, 28-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **MMPRC kicks off advertising campaign with Malaysia’s MyBump media**

MyBump Media is the leading crowdsourced ad tech platform for transit outdoor media advertising in Malaysia. They regularly have ads endorsed on cars by genuine consumer-matching and using demographic, geo-location and consumer behavior data (Visit Maldives, 17-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **MMPRC further strengthen the Maldives’s brand visibility in India**

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC/Visit Maldives) has initiated exhibiting the Maldives at the biggest travel trade event held in India, OTM Mumbai, as the partner country, to further strengthen the Maldives’ brand visibility in this market. The fair is being held in Mumbai, India, from the 14th to 16th of March 2022, at the Bombay Exhibition Center (Visit Maldives, 14-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **MMPRC markets the Maldives at international media marketplace in Germany**

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC/Visit Maldives) has participated in leading Global media platform Travmedia’s International Media Marketplace (IMM), held in Germany. The Maldives is being represented at the fair on behalf of MMPRC by the PR agency designated for the German market, Kaus Media Services. This B2B event took place on 8th March 2022 (Visit Maldives, 09-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Visit Maldives begins ambitious marketing campaign with renowned travel group from US**

Visit Maldives begins an ambitious marketing campaign with the renowned ID Travel Group from the US. The campaign will be held from February 2022- April 2022 (Visit Maldives, 07-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **MMPRC invites writers and editors from the Middle East for a familiarization trip**

The Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC / Visit Maldives) has invited a team of writers and editors from prominent publications from the Middle East for a familiarization trip. The writers and editors visiting Maldives on this trip are from major luxury and lifestyle publications of the Middle East, particularly from Saudi Arabia, which are highly popular among affluent audiences (Visit Maldives, 05-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Seychelles and Club Med unite in successful seduction operation Italy**

The Tourism Seychelles representative office in Italy partnered with an all-inclusive travel specialist, Club Med, through their representative office based in Milan, in a series of networking events dedicated to the trade across Italy (date) (eTurboNews, 15-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Milan promotes Seychelles tourism through its taxis**

Tourism Seychelles and taxis in the Italian city of Milan are promoting the island archipelago by branding 100 taxis to ply their trade in one of the greatest cities of Italy and an icon in the fashion world (Travel and Tour World, 02-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Seychelles minister for tourism meets with general managers**

Reiterating his unwavering commitment to establish new and lasting relationships with key players in the tourism industry, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde, met with several General Managers (GMs) on Wednesday March 23, 2022, at Botanical House (eTurboNews, 28-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Sri Lanka welcomes 96,000 tourists in Feb 2022 led by Russia**

Sri Lanka has welcomed 96,507 tourists in February 2022, up from 82,327 in January as the country re-opens for tourism, led by Russia, data from the state debt office showed (EconomyNext, 03-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **SriLankan Airlines hosts influencers from South India**

SriLankan Airlines hosts a group of Indian celebrities and influencers as part of its continued efforts to revive tourism in Sri Lanka and fortify connectivity in its single largest market - India. The comprised of social media influencers including YouTubers and actors from Southern India (Travel Trends Today, 30-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Sri Lanka signs with Emirates to boost tourism**

Emirates has signed a memorandum of understanding with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau at the Emirates Group headquarters in Dubai. The agreement reaffirms a commitment to Sri Lanka and outlines mutually beneficial initiatives that will help revive the local tourism industry (Breaking Travel News, 07-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Wizz Air Abu Dhabi adds new Sri Lanka connection**

Wizz Air Abu Dhabi has launched a new route from Abu Dhabi to Mattala, Sri Lanka. The airline introduces a new segment of travel by adding its first destination to south Asia which will allow customers from across the broader Wizz Air network to travel via Abu Dhabi to the exotic destination (Breaking Travel News, 09-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Long term visa option for tourists investing in Sri Lanka**

A long term visa option for tourists investing in Sri Lanka has been approved by the Cabinet on the request of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Youth and Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa said (Daily News, 09-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **In Sri Lanka, the government resigns after the failure of the curfew**

All 26 ministers of Sri Lanka's government submitted their resignations to the president and prime minister on Sunday evening. The country is the scene of protests against power and the high cost of living, which persisted over the weekend despite the imposition of a curfew and the blocking of social networks (France 24, 04-Apr-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Dominican Republic – private airport acts as a catalyst for more investment in the country**

Of all the many examples of airport privatisation in the world, several stand out for their originality, and one of them is the Punta Cana International Airport in the Dominican Republic. Ostensibly built to service a resort area and extensive real estate development, it also acts as a gateway to the eastern end of the island of Hispaniola, which the Dominican Republic shares with Haiti (CAPA, 17-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Caribbean travel marketplace is coming to Puerto Rico**

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's Caribbean Travel Marketplace is making a comeback. The popular industry event is set to return in October in San Juan, Puerto Rico, after having been cancelled last year amid the pandemic (Caribbean Journal, Mar 2022). [Read More](#)

### **American airlines is adding another new route to Jamaica**

The new flights will run weekly on Saturdays between Austin and Montego Bay's Sangster International Airport. American will operating the service on 76-seat Embraer ERJ-175 aircraft with 12 first class, 20 main cabin extra and 44 main cabin seats (Caribbean Journal, 12-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **American airlines just launched a new Dominican Republic route**

American Airlines has launched a new route to the Caribbean's most popular tourism destination, the Dominican Republic. This weekend, the world's largest airline kicked off its first-ever route from Miami and Samaná (Caribbean Journal, 06-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Abu Dhabi begins tourism reopening as recovery continues**

Abu Dhabi has revised its Covid-19 travel restrictions and protocols following positive indicators that signal the emirate has entered the "recovery phase" of the pandemic (Breaking Travel News, 14-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Michelin Guide to explore Dubai culinary scene

Dubai has been added to the Michelin Guide, becoming the 35th destination covered by the prestigious culinary institution (Breaking Travel News, 30-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## South Africa loosens Covid-19 travel restrictions

South Africa president, Cyril Ramaphosa, has announced changes to entry regulations for international travellers to South Africa. With immediate effect, fully vaccinated travellers are no longer required to produce a negative PCR test. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers may still enter South Africa with a negative PCR test, to be taken no more than 72 hours before arrival in the country (Breaking Travel News, 24-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Qatar opens accommodation booking portal for FIFA World Cup

Qatar has announced that the accommodation booking website for fans attending the FIFA World Cup has opened. The event will take place from November 21st to December 18th this year, with a total of 64 matches to be held in eight venues (Breaking Travel News, 24-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Qatar Airways celebrates 25 Years of flying to the UK with special retro livery aircraft

Yesterday, passengers and aviation fans were taken down a nostalgic journey when the airline flew its retro livery Boeing 777-300 aircraft to commemorate that very first flight. Qatar Airways Flight 007 was welcomed into London Heathrow with a traditional water cannon salute and a special celebration event for passengers (Breaking Travel News, 04-Apr-2022). [Read More](#)

## Etihad Airways launches new summer flights to Nice

Etihad Airways has announced a new European destination this summer with the introduction of flights to the French city of Nice from June 15<sup>th</sup> (Breaking Travel News, 08-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## India Resumes All International Flights, Move May Bring Airfare Relief

Sixty foreign airlines of 40 countries including Mauritius, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey, the US and Iraq, among others, can fly to India (NDTV.com, 27-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Hotelbeds partners with tourism authority of Thailand to attract US travellers

Hotelbeds is joining forces with the Tourism Authority of Thailand on a campaign to promote the destination to US travel agents, one of its most important outbound markets (Rus Tourism News, 23-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

## Vietnam reopens borders but leaves testing in place

Vietnam has announced that it has re-opened its borders to international visitors with immediate effect. All travellers will, however, be required to show proof of a negative PCR test taken up to 72 hours before their flight departure to Vietnam. A negative antigen test taken up to 24 hours before departure will also be accepted (Breaking Travel News, 17-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)



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