



Destination Updates as on 30 April 2021

INDIA

Over the past few weeks, the country has been subject to saddening times with the second wave of the pandemic hitting us hard. We were caught unawares and it has resulted in an unprecedented state of affairs that the whole country is reeling from.

With several states imposing containment measures and lockdown, travel too has taken a backseat in everyone's minds. However, communities have shown remarkable resilience, with people pooling in to help in whatever way they can. International media coverage of the situation has also led to many countries sending emergency use equipment to India.

Aid has started to pour in from around fifteen countries including the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Russia. Countries across the world including Australia, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Canada have also announced that they will be sending protective and emergency items like ventilators, masks, cryogenic oxygen cylinders, and others. The campaign is gaining momentum with more countries pledging to help India overcome this crisis.

We are now more vigilant and while we are taking a step back at this time, we are confident of bouncing back stronger than before. We would also like to take this moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to our international kin for your support and good wishes.

For latest statistics and vaccination status, please [click here](#).

BHUTAN

Since the lifting of the second nationwide lockdown in late January, Bhutan did not have a community transmission. However, earlier this week, authorities detected a community transmission in the border town of Phuntsholing and the town is now under lockdown. The capital Thimphu also saw several positive cases from frontline workers this week. However, since the frontline workers are in contained zones and facilities, a community transmission has not happened in the capital yet.

The Government successfully executed the first dose of vaccination to all eligible Bhutanese (approximately 495,000 / 63% of the population) in early April. The country expects to deliver the second dose by June-July as per current schedule.

The King's Relief Fund, initiated in March 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic, has been extended until June 2022. This will help support continue to provide income and interest payment support to people who face economic difficulties due to the pandemic. Until now, The King's Relief fund had supplemented the government's fund in fighting the pandemic. However, this time, The King's Relief Fund will finance the cost of the pandemic in its entirety. During this difficult time, this move comes as a great relief for the Bhutanese people.

The Bhutanese borders, however, remain monitored and closed to tourists until further notice.

Please [click here](#) for the latest updates.

[Click here](#) to read more on our proposed post-Covid preparations.

NEPAL

This week the Government of Nepal announced a lock down of Kathmandu valley as a public health measure to help slow the spread of COVID-19. All lock down restrictions will remain in place for 15 days, until 15 May 2021.

Essential services and grocery shops will remain open for limited time and only emergency vehicles will be permitted to travel. International aviation will continue to operate with testing and quarantine protocols as announced by the Nepal Government.

The country has also issued a statement restricting transit travel by Indians through Nepal to other countries after 28 April 2021. However, Indian nationals can still travel to Nepal provided it is their final destination.

For latest figures and detailed statistics, please [click here](#).

SRI LANKA

International arrivals continue in Sri Lanka with all guidelines and protocols established under the safety travel bubble. As per the guidelines issued by the Tourism Authority on the 7th of April, fully vaccinated travellers have the flexibility on choices of hotels and experiences after Day 2. Unvaccinated travellers can still enjoy their holidays booking Level 1 accommodation and visits to sites that will have specific time pockets.

The country has decided to postpone the launch of travel bubble arrangement with India with the rise of cases in India. However, Sri Lankan officials have assured that it is merely a delay and not a cancellation. Once the situation improves, the arrangement will proceed as planned.

India is one of the top contributors for tourism to Sri Lanka and both countries have been in talks to improve connectivity between different cities. Plans are also on to improve connectivity to Indian airports with significance to Buddhist pilgrimage. As of now, these plans are on hold.

There has been a spike in Covid cases in the past few days following the Tamil New Year period and the holiday period. The government was swift to impose restrictions in the developing clusters and they have advised locals to adhere to strict protocols and avoid unnecessary travel and gatherings until the situation is under control. This strict restriction is temporary and is valid only until the 31 May 2021 during which the government feels that the authorities can manage the situation well.

For latest statistics, please [click here](#).