



Destination Updates as on 25 June 2021

INDIA

India administered a record 8.6 million doses of vaccine on 21 June, which was the first day of the new policy offering free vaccines to all adults. As on date, over 301 million people in the country have received at least one dose of vaccine and over 3.8% of the total adult population have been fully vaccinated. Vaccination drives have been ramped up across the country with the goal of moving forward and being prepared for the future. The number of cases reported daily has also gone down dramatically and states have started to slowly ease lockdown restrictions and restarting economic activities.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced the opening of all centrally protected monuments, museums, and sites effective 16 June. However, the reopening of the monuments will be subject to the guidelines issued by individual states. Following the announcement and easing of lockdown restrictions, states like Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh have definitely experienced a boost in tourism particularly short weekend trips and queries for destination weddings. Agra too has witnessed a significant footfall following the reopening of the Taj Mahal and other monuments.

On 21 June, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Government of India organised a unique event to observe the International Day of Yoga. The Ministry conducted yoga and cultural programmes at 75 heritage sites across the country including Ellora Caves (Aurangabad), Nalanda (Bihar), Sabarmati Ashram (Gujarat), Hampi (Karnataka), Ladakh Shanti Stupa (Leh), Sanchi Stupa (Vidisha), Sheesh Mahal (Patiala), Rajiv Lochan temple (Chhattisgarh) and Bomdila (Arunachal Pradesh), among others. The Union Culture & Tourism Minister, Prahlad Singh Patel was the Guest of Honour at main event, held at the Red Fort (Delhi).

While international tourism remains banned, the hospitality industry is busy preparing itself to be ready to welcome guests once more. The Six Senses Fort Barwara, located about 30 minutes from Ranthambore National Park is set to open its doors to guests in September 2021. The RAAS Hotels also recently added a new member to their family. The iconic pastel pink Raj Mahal Palace of Jaipur is the newest addition to RAAS's repertoire of unique boutique properties.

With international travel starting in many European and Asian countries, we are optimistic about the future for India as well. India's recovery rate is also on the rise, which coupled with the scaled up inoculation drive points to a possible recovery of the industry soon.

For detailed and latest updates on vaccination and number of cases, please [click here](#).

BHUTAN

The Bhutanese borders remain closed for international tourism.

With over 90 percent of the Bhutanese adult population having received the first dose of the Indian manufactured AstraZeneca vaccine, the country has reached out to 17 nations to provide the vaccines for the second dose. However, due to delays in procurement and shortage of fresh vaccines has made the government consider securing a second dose of any of the WHO approved vaccines. Several countries including Canada, Bahrain, South Korea, and Spain have approved mixing vaccines.

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

The Government of Nepal has decided to reopen international flights for more foreign destinations from 24 June. Flights to and from Japan, Korea, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Oman, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia will operate as per the safety guidelines developed earlier by the government. Nepal had earlier opened flights to and from Delhi, Qatar, China, and Turkey. Domestic flights can operate at 50 percent capacity from 1 July.

This announcement comes at the heels of the health authorities' relaxation of prohibitory orders in Kathmandu valley since 23 June with the decline in COVID-19 cases for the past two weeks. The authorities have extended the prohibitory orders in three districts of Kathmandu till 28 June with certain relaxations. The government will implement odd-even number rule for vehicular movement while shops can operate business on alternate days following the safety protocols.

At present Nepal has administered over 3.23 million doses to its adult population. Only about 2.6 percent of the population has been fully inoculated. The Government of India is likely to resume supply of vaccines to Nepal once a significant number of India's population has been immunised and there is adequate stockpile from different sources.

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

SRI LANKA

On 21 June, Sri Lanka had temporarily lifted the countrywide restrictions for three days to allow people to leave their homes to take care of essential activities. The country is back under lockdown from 23 June 10pm and they will lift it again on 25 June at 4am. Restaurants will remain closed for dine-in while all public gatherings and weddings will continue to be suspended.

While the island remains under lockdown, international travellers can continue to visit the approved sites in a bio-bubble.

The country is presently facing a third wave of the pandemic with the new variants causing a rapid spread with an average of about 2550 new infections every day. As on 22 June, 3.9 percent of the total adult population of Sri Lanka is fully immunised. During the last week, Sri Lanka averaged about 77,985 doses administered daily.

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

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

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