



Destination Updates as on 1 October 2021

INDIA

As part of the graded opening of the international borders, the Indian government may allow charter flights to and from foreign countries from 15 October, as a prelude to allowing commercial flights after mid-November. The charter flights will not be limited to the 28 countries that India is currently under travel bubble arrangement. It will extend to other countries as well as per the report available as on date.

Only full-vaccinated tourists or those having a negative RT-PCR report 72 hours prior to the departure would be allowed at Indian airports. Those without a negative RT-PCR test report would be tested on arrival to ensure genome sequencing in case a Covid-19 variant or mutant enters the country.

The same protocol is likely to be followed for commercial flights, which could resume after mid-November. However, as of now, as per a circular issued by the aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on 28 September, the ban on scheduled international flights has been extended till the end of October.

However, with international airlines gearing up and increasing their reach in the Indian market, the hopes of the industry are on a high. The latest statement comes from American Airlines that has announced a codeshare agreement with IndiGo, India's largest airline in terms of the number of passengers carried. This announcement will give travellers access to 29 new routes from Bangalore and Delhi.

American's code will be placed on 29 of IndiGo's domestic routes in India and the move will provide a convenient option for travellers of American Airlines arriving on the carrier's new Bengaluru-Seattle and Delhi-JFK flights.

India's vaccination drive is continuing to provide doses of Covid-19 antibodies to her citizens and over 883 million doses have been doled out as on date. As we near a whopping 1 billion doses, we would also like to announce that most of our staff is also fully vaccinated and we have fully sanitised our offices across India and Nepal. We are considering reopening the offices across India and Nepal for fully vaccinated staff soon.

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

SRI LANKA

Fully vaccinated tourists and business travellers will now be allowed to enter Sri Lanka without any RT-PCR test on arrival provided they have a negative RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours prior to departure.

However, children of fully vaccinated travellers between the ages of 12 - 18 will require a PCR test on the day of arrival at the dedicated PCR laboratory at the Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake (soon to resume) or at the Level 1 hotel.

For non-vaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers arriving in Sri Lanka, the on-arrival PCR testing will be conducted at the time of check-in at the Level 1 hotel and then they can continue travelling within the bio-bubble. To know the detailed requirements, you can [click here](#).

The country has also launched an online travel portal visitsrilanka.gov.lk. Travellers can now use this portal to pay for their PCR tests and travel insurance directly, and receive their unique Travel Reference Number (TRN) that they will require at the time of applying for visa online.

Travellers will need to include this unique TRN in the visa form in "Contact Details" under the section "Address in Sri Lanka". This space will now include space to fill in

- Safe & Secure Hotel Address
- Unique Traveller Registration Number issued

The Department of Immigrations and Emigrations will evaluate these details to grant tourism visa to the applicants.

For latest statistics on new reported cases and vaccination status, Please [click here](#).

NEPAL

Nepal is now open for tourism!

Even better news is that fully vaccinated travellers (at least 14 days before arrival) can arrive by both air and land and do not have to quarantine upon arrival and can begin their journey immediately. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers can only arrive by air and follow mandatory quarantine for 10 days. Land entry for unvaccinated travellers is not permitted.

Fully vaccinated travellers can obtain visa from their home countries from the Nepalese Embassy or Consulate. They can also apply for visa on arrival that will be granted at land or air entry points provided the travellers can provide the required documents.

Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated travellers can also obtain visa prior to arrival from the Nepalese Embassy or Consulate. In case they want to apply for visa on arrival, they will require an additional letter of recommendation from their travel agent in Nepal. Additionally, they will be required to undergo mandatory 10-day quarantine on their own cost.

On the 11th day, the travellers will have to undergo another RT-PCR test, and if the report is negative, they can continue their journey, else they will need to go into hospital isolation until they test negative. The stay cost will be borne by the traveller.

Essential documents for travel in Nepal

- Vaccination Certificate (In English)
- Hotel Booking Confirmation
- Visa
- 72 hours RT-PCR negative report
- CCMC Form (ccmc.gov.np)
- Travel Insurance
- Recommendation letter from Department of Tourism or Nepal Tourism Board for those who are planning for trekking in Himalayan ranges (if necessary)
- Valid Passport

Upon arrival, all travellers need to undergo a rapid antigen test at the port of entry or at the hotel before continuing with the tour (only if the result is negative). While in Nepal, travellers need to be mindful of the local Covid guidelines and protocols and adhere to them.

A foreign national transiting via Nepal from the airport, departing to a third country or departing after staying in Nepal for a period needs to comply with the following departure protocol:

- Covid-19 negative report tested within 48 hours before departure from the authorized labs of Nepal,
- Fill up the International Online Departure Form in website of CCMC Nepal.

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

BHUTAN

Bhutanese borders remain closed for international tourism until further notice.

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

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