



Destination Updates as on 6 August 2021

INDIA

As on date, India has doled out an impressive 489 million+ doses of vaccines to its adult population of over 18 years. About 7.9 per cent of the total population has been fully vaccinated with more an average of above 375000 doses being administered daily. India is also looking to begin vaccination for children to help immunise them against the virus soon. Trials for Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Zydus Cadila's DNA vaccines for the 12-18 age groups are in process and final trial results are awaited. The vaccines will be administered only after all due scrutiny have been conducted.

100 per cent of the total adult population (above 18 years) of prominent tourism destinations Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh and Vythiri in Kerala have been fully vaccinated. This comes as great news for the tourism industry and more tourist destinations are following suit to get their population vaccinated. With the increase in the number of fully vaccinated tourist sites, recovery of the sector will become smoother and faster.

The Indian Parliamentary Standing Committee on transport, tourism, and culture has also suggested resuming scheduled international flights. The committee is advocating for scheduled international flights to restart to places where the COVID cases are low. The announcement comes as a ray of optimism for the tourism industry that is working hard to recover since international travel was indefinitely suspended in March of last year.

The hospitality industry is preparing itself in hopes of tourism resuming at the earliest. Many new properties have opened its doors for visitors, domestic now, and hopefully international guests soon. Some of the new hotels that you can include in your next visit to India, include the Jungle House, Shimla perched at over 7700 ft in the mighty Middle Himalayas and The Outhouse @ Aramgarh Orchards, Raison nestled amidst a sprawling apple orchard with a panoramic view of the Himalayan Ranges. Raffles, Udaipur a 101-room resort will be easily accessible from the main sites of Udaipur and offer a unique experience of staying on an island in the Udai Sagar Lake.

India has recorded a 97.4 per cent recovery rate and the country is preparing itself well to face a possible third wave with better infrastructure and healthcare facilities.

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

NEPAL

The Government of Nepal has decided to extend the lockdown with restrictions on public gatherings, movie theatres, dine-in restaurants, and other sectors with possibility of human congregation till 11 August 2021. The country is also preparing itself to combat a possible third wave with increase in healthcare infrastructure and procurement of vaccines. Nepal has initiated the procurement of 4 million doses of Moderna vaccine for children, 5 million Johnson & Johnson vaccines, 4 million Pfizer vaccines and two million AstraZeneca vaccines. Nepal's vaccination drive is progressing with over 7.3 per cent of the total adult population being fully immunized.

Foreigners travelling in to Nepal are required to have a medical certificate with a negative RT-PCR or equivalent report with photo identification bar/QR code issued by registered Covid-19 labs tested 72 hours before the date of departure with exemption of children below 5 years. They must possess the printed barcode obtained after filling ARMS (Abroad Returnee Management System) forms available at website of CCMC, Nepal and have to show minimum 7 days hotel booking for quarantine even if they are fully vaccinated and have go for a RT-PCR test on 7th day of quarantine.

The two districts of Mustang and Manang were recently declared as fully vaccinated districts against Covid-19 above age 18, which is a great sign for tourism in the region. Gautam Buddha International Airport in Bhairahawa, in south central Nepal is at the final stages of completion, and is slated to be ready for commercial operation by early 2022. It will be Nepal's second air gateway after Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu.

With a recovery rate of over 94 per cent, Nepal hopes to be able to have a better chance at combating the third wave and to return to normalcy soon.

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

SRI LANKA

Over 12.7 million doses of vaccines have been administered in the Emerald Isles with over 90% of the total population above 30 years having received at least a single dose. The country aims to administer the first dose of vaccine to all above the age of 30 years by the end of August 2021 and to all adults above the age of 18 years by the end of October 2021.

With the approval of five vaccines for use in Sri Lanka, the target set by the government seems to be well within reach. The vaccines being administered include Covishield, Pfizer/BioNTech manufactured BNT162b2, Sputnik V, CoronaVac, and Sinopharm manufactured BBIBP-CoV. There has also been a move towards immunising the tourism industry frontline staff to boost the recovery of tourism in the island.

International travel continues in Sri Lanka under different protocols. While fully vaccinated travellers are allowed to leave the 'bio bubble' upon providing a negative PCR test on arrival, non-vaccinated travellers are required to stay at any number of Certified Safe & Secure L1 hotels and are allowed to visit a number of attractions adhering to health and safety protocols issued by the Ministry of Health.

However, travellers with a travel history (including transit) in the past 14 days to India, South American countries and South African countries (South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe) will not be permitted to disembark in Sri Lanka until further notice.

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

BHUTAN

In an exciting development, Bhutan is all set to welcome its first tourist next week after more than a year of suspending international travel. As per the recent notification from the Tourism Council of Bhutan, international visitors wanting to visit Bhutan will have to apply through a licensed Bhutanese tour operator and they will have to undergo mandatory 21-day institutional quarantine. Guests will also have to pay a mandatory sum of USD 65 per day as sustainable development fee for the period. All costs for quarantine and Covid tests to be borne by the guests.

Bhutan has yet again achieved the remarkable feat of having immunised 90.2 per cent of the total eligible population within a week of receiving the various consignments sent to them by USA, Denmark, China, and other countries under the COVAX arrangement. As on date, 62 per cent of the total population of Bhutan has received both doses of vaccination.

Bhutan has re-emerged as having one of the fastest vaccination campaigns during the pandemic. The success of Bhutan's immunisation drive can be attributed to several factors including low population, home visits for the elderly and people with disabilities. Healthcare workers even trekked up mountains to deliver vaccines to nomadic herders to ensure their health and safety.

The healthcare professionals were joined in their efforts by a large group of civil volunteers who had also played a pivotal role in Bhutan's fast-paced first round of vaccination. Bhutan's King Jigme Namgyel Wangchuk had travelled across the country on foot, horse, and car to raise awareness about the benefits of being vaccinated and to dispel fears and myths. Prime Minister, Lotay Tshering, had also been a vocal advocator of the efficacy of mixing vaccines citing different researches conducted across the world.

There is definitely a lot that we can learn from how Bhutan has successfully run its vaccination campaign despite setbacks that lead to delay in arrival of vaccines. It also shows us the spirit of human kindness in times of need as countries across the world pitched in to help the tiny nation in whichever capacity possible.

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

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