



Destination Updates as on 17 September 2021

INDIA

With a downward trend in the number of Covid-19 cases reported in India, the Union home ministry is now considering reviewing its decision to suspend tourist visas to India. After over 18 months' of suspension of scheduled international arrivals, hope is on the horizon with a meeting of the top brass of the Ministry of Home Affairs later in the week.

The tourism industry is hopeful that with the reinstating of the tourist visas and arrival of foreign tourists, the sector is sure to witness further revival. Whether visa will be open for all tourists or only fully vaccinated persons remains unknown. Domestic tourism and weddings have been playing important roles in keeping India's hospitality and tourism industry afloat, however, most industry partners are looking forward to the arrival of foreign guests as well.

New properties are also opening their gates or are getting ready to welcome guests once international travel resumes. The Postcard, Gir, a 15-room luxury boutique hotel is now operational for guests who want to experience the wilderness of Gir, home of the Asiatic lions, in style. Johad, Mandawa, the latest offering from the Mandawa family of Shekhawati is a charming farm-stay choice with seven rooms. The property is an ideal rural getaway for the nature and peace loving soul.

For those looking for a stay within the bustling Pink City, The Johri, Jaipur an intimate 05-suite boutique haveli is the perfect choice. Lovingly restored and serving an array of traditional Indian vegetarian fare cooked with fresh organic produce, the property is ideal for vegetarians and vegans.

As on date, India has administered over 765 million doses of vaccines and has recorded a 97.64 per cent recovery rate. The number of active cases has also gone down by a substantial margin.

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

SRI LANKA

International travel requirements and protocols for foreign tourists remain unchanged for fully, partially, and non-vaccinated persons. Since the Emerald Isle opened its borders, it has received in excess of 4000 to 6000 tourist per month. Guidelines for children travelling are also unchanged. Should you wish to know the detailed requirements, you can [click here](#).

73 per cent of the adult population (20 years and above) being fully vaccinated and 92 per cent of the population receiving at least a single dose. With more vaccines now being available, the Sri Lankan government has set a target to fully vaccinate the entire adult population by end of September 2021.

On the account of rising cases of the Delta variant Sri Lanka's on-going lockdown in effect since 20 August, has been extended until 21 September. However, tourism is possible in the non-lockdown areas and restaurants and cafes that are not in such areas can operate with proper safety protocols. Cultural sites and national parks are also open to visitors.

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

NEPAL

In a welcome update, the monuments of major cities including Kathmandu, Lumbini, Pokhara, Chitwan, and others have now opened for visitors. This move comes as a great boost to the tourism industry that can now expect an increase in the arrival of foreign visitors.

Another important development that is conducive to the revival of the tourism sector is the announcement by Nepal Airlines to operate one daily flight between Kathmandu and Delhi from 1 October 2021. Indigo Airlines will operate three daily flights between the two capitals from November and Vistara, too, will operate one flight between Kathmandu and Delhi daily from October.

Malindo Air to operate four flights in week to Nepal instead of the earlier three flights. Singapore Airlines to fly thrice in a week from October, previously, it was twice in a week. Sri Lankan Airlines will add two more flights in a week from October to its current quota of two flights. Air India is set to withdraw all flights to Nepal from November.

Quarantine and protocols for foreign visitors remain unchanged. Out of a total 30 million population, 11 million people have received Covid-19 vaccines across the country of which 18 per cent are fully vaccinated and 19 per cent partially vaccinated.

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

BHUTAN

The country has set an incredible precedence of being the first in South Asia to begin immunising the children between the ages of 12 and 19 years. The programme is well under way and the tiny nation is being hailed as having one of the most successful vaccination campaigns across the world.

The country has also reported no new cases in the recent past or any fatalities.

Bhutanese borders remain closed for international tourism until further notice.

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

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