



## Destination Updates as on 14 October 2021

### INDIA

India is now open for tourism!

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will begin granting fresh tourist visas to foreigners coming to India through chartered flights with effect from 15 October, whereas travellers coming by regular scheduled flights will be allowed entry in India from 15 November on fresh tourist visa.

This is a major decision taken by the government and it is sure to bolster inbound tourism into India in the coming months. We have been preparing hard for this day and are now fully ready to welcome guests into the country. With a host of excellent new properties, exciting destinations, and exclusive itineraries and experiences, we promise to show you India like never before.

We are awaiting detailed directives from the government, and we will keep you updated on the vaccination, quarantine, and testing requirements as soon as they are issued.

In a landmark event, Tata Sons emerged as the winners of the bid to buy Air India. The airline was once before also under the able leadership and vision of JRD Tata and had then gained the reputation of being one of the most premium and prestigious airlines of the time.

With only .61 per cent active cases and over 964 million doses having being administered, India is once more on the way to achieving normalcy soon. In a recent development, the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) has cleared Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin (BBV152) for emergency use authorisation (EUA) for two to eighteen-year-olds. If it is given the o ahead, Covaxin will become the first vaccine globally to be used for vaccinating children as young as two years old.

With the festive season now in full swing, the country is moving forward, but with caution. We are celebrating Navratri and Durga Puja in different parts of India but following all safety guidelines and protocols.

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

### BHUTAN

Bhutanese borders remain closed for international tourism until further notice.

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

### NEPAL

India's northern neighbour too is busy celebrating Dasain, a major festival in the country that is celebrated with great pomp and splendour in Nepal and by the Nepalese diaspora across the world. This is the longest and the most auspicious festival in the Nepali calendar and people return home from all over to be with their families at this time.

Each day has different rituals and festivities and it celebrates the victory of good over evil and for some, the defeat of the buffalo demon Mahishasura at the hands of Goddess Durga. All government offices, educational institutions, and other offices remain closed during the festival period.

Tourism guidelines including quarantine and testing for foreigners remain same as before. Over 22.2 per cent of the total adult population of the country has been fully vaccinated as on date.

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

### SRI LANKA

Tourism guidelines and protocols for travelling to Sri Lanka remains the same as before. To know the detailed requirements, you can [click here](#).

From the figures released by the Sri Lankan tourism authorities, the island received 13547 foreign tourists in September 2021 of which 8528, almost 63 per cent, were Indians. With the easing of border restrictions, deals in airline tickets, and gradual but steady containment of the pandemic, Indians were top in the list to help boost inbound tourism to the Emerald Isle.

On 1 October, Sri Lanka lifted the nationwide lockdown that was imposed 40 days ago to arrest the rising number of COVID-19 cases but restricted the non-essential travel as a precautionary measure.

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

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

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