



Destination Updates as on 18 January 2022

INDIA

India has welcomed its first snowfall of 2022 last week. The hill states in the Himalayan region received fresh snowfall making the visitors cheerful. Shimla, one of the most-loved hill stations in India, has turned into pearl white resulting in a rise in the number of domestic tourists.

In the wake of a surge in the COVID-19 cases, including the contagious Omicron variant, the Government of India began administering third precautionary doses of vaccines to healthcare, frontline workers and senior citizens with co-morbidities starting 10th January. More than four million people have received their third jab till now.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has released the new international arrival guidelines w.e.f. 11th January 2022.

Here are the key points from the Guidelines:

- i. All travellers are requested to upload a negative COVID-19 RTPCR report conducted within 72 hours on the Air Suvidha portal and submit travel details of the last 14 days before the journey.
- ii. Each passenger must submit a declaration concerning the report's authenticity.
- iii. Mandatory seven-day home quarantine for all travellers on arrival and shall undertake RT-PCR test on the 8th day of arrival in India
- iv. Continuing with the earlier approach, travellers from certain countries would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing ([Countries at-risk](#)).
- v. A random sample of 2% of travellers arriving from 'not at risk' countries would undergo RT-PCR testing on arrival.

Please [click here](#) for the updated algorithm based on the revised [Guidelines for International Arrival](#) issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India on 07th January.

With the administration of over 8 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in the last 24 hours, India's vaccination coverage has reached over 1.58 billion. There is a robust approach of the Indian Government to vaccination with more than 90% of the country's adult population being covered with at least one dose and over 62% of the adult population with both doses.

Indian flagship carrier Air India has started operating additional flights between India and Australia under the air bubble agreement to further enhance the relations between the two countries.

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

BHUTAN

Bhutan has vaccinated more than 93% of people aged over 12 with a second vaccine dose and provided booster shots to more than 98% of the priority group, including frontline workers, people with medical conditions and senior citizens.

Bhutanese borders remain closed for international tourism until further notice.

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

NEPAL

The Nepal Government has expedited the COVID-19 vaccination process to control the gradual spread of the new variant of COVID-19 (Omicron). The vaccination drive has also started for children aged 12 – 17 years. The district health offices have started conducting free antigen tests for symptomatic patients of Covid-19.

Travel restrictions for persons arriving from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, Malawi, and Hong Kong are in place to mitigate the spreading of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

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

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka has largely contained the spread of the COVID-19 virus, including the new Omicron variant. There has been an improvement with the vaccinations being administered. As per the recent UK travel advisory, Sri Lanka is now on the Green list of destinations.

Travellers who are fully vaccinated can travel seamlessly to Sri Lanka with no PCR test on arrival. All cultural sites and National Parks are open to tourists.

Despite its borders being shut to foreign travelers for several months, the island nation received the highest number of foreign tourists in December 2021. This news comes as a positive sign at a time when the entire world has been gripped by the fear of the Omicron variant.

India and Sri Lanka crossed another significant landmark in bilateral ties as the island country launched a luxury train service with Line of Credit by India. The luxury train service connects the country's Jaffna district to the capital city, Colombo covering a distance of 386 kilometres.

To know the detailed travel requirements, you can [click here](#).

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