

# TRAVEL & TOURISM NEWS



## France lifts travel bans against Mauritius

France's lifting of travel restrictions against Mauritius is a major boost to tourism revival in the island nation. France has moved Mauritius to its "green list" after the latter implemented a comprehensive health protocol to safely welcome vaccinated travellers in the country (CAJ News Africa, 18-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## Mauritius: Easing of travel restrictions between Mauritius and Reunion

In a news release issued on Monday 14 February 2022, the Prefecture of Reunion Island has announced that "the special provisions made by ministerial decree to restrict travel between Reunion, Mauritius and South Africa have been repealed. Travel to these two destinations is subject to the general principle provided for their colour zone: orange for Mauritius and South Africa" (allAfrica.com, 17-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)



## Maldives records 131,764 tourist arrivals in first month of Golden Jubilee year

The country saw 139,555 arrivals between January 1 – February 2. February's arrivals so far are an increase of 56.3 percent in comparison to the 4,986 arrivals recorded in the same period in 2021. January's arrivals are a 43.1 percent increase from the previous year (Raajje.mv, 04-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## New airport opens in Maldives

Accessibility to resorts in the Maldives' Lhaviyani Atoll will be significantly improved with the opening of Madivaru Airport in early February. Flights to and from Male's Velana International Airport to Madivaru Airport will take just 25 minutes and operate throughout the night – until now Lhaviyani has been serviced only by seaplanes, where operation is limited to daylight as well as flying from a different terminal at Velana (eTurboNews, 01-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

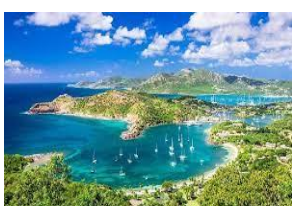


## Seychelles starts 2022 with Russian tourists as the top tourism market, again!

The Department of Tourism's marketing arm – said in a press release recently that Russian visitors remain the top market in terms of arrival numbers, followed by France and Germany, after having hit a record high in 2021 (Seychelles News Agency, 24-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## Sri Lanka injects USD 56 million into tourism promotion

Sri Lanka on Wednesday announced an investment of \$56 million in tourism promotion activities in major tourist source countries in the second quarter of 2022. The main targets for promoting tourism are Britain, India, Russia and China, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said at a press conference (Sputnik France, 23-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)



## Latest Covid-19 travel restrictions for the Caribbean's Top Islands

The Caribbean will be a top target for spring break travellers in 2022 as the vast majority of the region's islands have reopened to international visitors. Still, restrictions vary from destination to destination, with some countries opening their borders to travellers regardless of COVID-19 vaccination or testing status and others implementing more stringent protocols requiring travellers to take extra steps ahead of their trip (TravelPulse, 16-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## Mauritius skips the test at D+5

Mauritius is relaxing its protocol for vaccinated travellers. From now on, it will no longer be necessary to perform a test at d+5. On the other hand, the tests before boarding and on arrival in Mauritius are maintained (Tourmag, 25-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## Mauritius named one of the best places for remote working in 2022

Following the unprecedented crisis brought forward by COVID 19, industries around the world adapted to the new normal with the growing popularity of remote working. The resilience showcased by Mauritius in adapting to the challenges of the pandemic and the introduction of the free 12 months Premium Visa in 2020 were globally lauded and Mauritius has been named as one of the best places for remote working in 2022 (Mondaq, 22-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## Mauritius keen to welcome digital nomads

Travellers these days go on shorter trips but spend longer periods at their destination. This is what Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority's chairperson Nilen Vencadasmy said data showed since the island country opened to tourism for vaccinated visitors after being closed because of Covid (IOL, 26-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## From November, Germans will be able to bypass Joburg and Cape Town, fly straight to Kruger

Eurowings Discover is the new leisure arm of Lufthansa, focusing entirely on tourist travel to destinations like Zanzibar, Mauritius, the Canary Islands, and Caribbean. The airline, which operates a fleet of Airbus A330 and A320 planes, will add its first South African destination in November, coinciding with its winter schedule (Business Insider, 11-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## Operational tourist facilities across Maldives rise to 952

Two more tourist facilities that reopened doors to tourists across the Maldives this week. One guesthouse in Thoddoo island of Alif Alif resumed services to tourists with one reopening anew in Buruni island of Thaa atoll. The number of operational beds increased to 54,154 as well (Raajje.mv, 19-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## Destination marketing campaign kicked off with Kuoni UK

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC/Visit Maldives) has kicked off a destination marketing campaign with Kuoni UK, taking place from 28th February for a duration of one month (Visit Maldives, 28-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## MMPRC launches a campaign with leading German Tour Operator FTI

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC / Visit Maldives) has launched a digital marketing campaign with FTI targeting the German market. Initiated in February, the month-long campaign aims to digitally promote the Maldives as a leading 'safe haven' destination and increase arrivals from the German market (Visit Maldives, 28-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## MMPRC begins marketing campaign with Seera Group

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC/Visit Maldives) has initiated a marketing campaign with Seera Group's flagship consumer travel brand Almosafer - a leading travel service provider from the Middle East (Visit Maldives, 25-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## MMPRC and JTB media retailing hold webinar to revitalize & maintain brand presence in the Japanese market

JTB Media Retailing is one of the biggest tour operators in Japan and also one of the key players for Japanese travellers to the Maldives. This Webinar focused on Japanese consumers to promote the Maldives as a safe haven in partnership with industry partner Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island, who hosted the live event on their property (Visit Maldives, 22-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## MMPRC begins a destination online training targeting the Indian market

MMPRC (Visit Maldives) begins an Destination Online Training targeting the Indian Market with 2HUB. The program will be conducted from 16th February to 16th May 2022. 2HUB is an online B2B reseller platform that aggregates Asia's largest portfolio of travel experiences for Travel Agents to discover, compare and book tours around the world with offerings of 40,000+ tours in 60+ countries (Visit Maldives, 16-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Qatar Airways Holidays promotes travel packages to Maldives, Rwanda, Spain and Turkey**

Qatar Airways Holidays (QRH) has launched a “multichannel campaign” to showcase tailor-made holiday options to popular destinations such as the Maldives, Rwanda, Spain, and Turkey, inspiring customers to plan their next travel adventure (Gulf Times, 14-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Emirates explores codeshare deal with Maldives' national carrier**

Dubai: Emirates has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maldivian to explore codeshare, interline, and joint holiday package opportunities. The two carriers are reviewing a codeshare agreement that will enable Emirates’ customers to book and connect from Male’ to more than 15 domestic destinations and the international destinations served by Maldivian (Gulf news, 10-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Air India flight gets water salute in Maldives**

When Air India flight AI-267 landed in Male on Monday, the flight was saluted with water cannons in honour of 46 years of air service between India and the Maldives. Air India's first flight between Trivandrum and Male was conducted in the month of February 1976 (Zee News, 21-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Ukraine tourists stuck in the Maldives amid war**

The Minister of Tourism Dr. Abdulla Mausoom confirms several Ukrainian tourists are currently stranded in the Maldives due to Russian military invasion into Ukraine (Edition.mv, 27-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Seychelles re-launches tourism clubs**

Seychelles’ Tourism Department has joined forces with the Ministry for Education to revamp the school tourism clubs in a live-streamed ceremony held at the Seychelles Tourism Academy at La Misère (Travel Daily, 23-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Seychelles: the international airport will expand to accommodate more planes**

According to the Seychelles News Agency, the Seychelles cabinet of ministers has approved a major expansion of the international airport. Inaugurated by Queen Elizabeth II on March 20, 1972, it is now 50 years old. If it has undergone a lot of transformations with the development of tourism, it has become too small compared to the tourist ambitions of the paradisiacal atoll (L’echo Touristique, 11-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Air Seychelles: 4 destinations in February, the Maldives in March**

Air Seychelles has resumed flights to Johannesburg, Mumbai, Tel Aviv and Mauritius, with a return to the Maldives scheduled for early next month (Air Journal, 07-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Seychelles: the consequences of the Ukrainian crisis on the Seychellois economy**

The Ukrainian crisis could have repercussions as far as Seychelles. It is President Seychellois himself who says so. He expressed his fears before parliament. During the Covid crisis, when Europeans no longer came to Seychelles, Russian tourists became the first visitors, opening an era of diversification (Franceinfo, 24-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Sri Lanka travel: vaccinated travellers exempt from PCR testing**

Travel to Sri Lanka is simplified. The country is relaxing its access conditions and health protocol. It will no longer ask vaccinated travellers for a negative PCR test result prior to boarding as of March 1, 2022 (Tourmag.com, 28-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Sri Lanka Tourism to kick-off global promotional campaign later this year**

Sri Lanka Tourism is on track to notch 50 percent of the 2018 tourist arrivals figure by end this year and end 2022 with around 1.1 million travellers, according to a Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) senior official (Sunday Observer, 27-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## **Promoting Sri Lanka as a 'wedding destination'**

The Brides of Sri Lanka magazine together with the Galle Face Hotel presented the most exclusive wedding expo of the year – Wedding Week 2022 – with exciting activities and series of bridal shows on the 19th and 20th of February at the Galle Face Hotel here (newsin.asia, 22-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

### **EU supports Sri Lanka Tourism to develop wellness tourism**

Supporting the speedy revival of the tourism industry in Sri Lanka, the European Union (EU) Delegation to Sri Lanka, has allocated funds to help strengthen the local wellness tourism capacity for Sri Lanka to transform into an attractive destination for wellness tourism (ColomboPage, 16-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Sri Lanka tourism sector sees cancellations, extensions as Russia-Ukraine conflict intensifies**

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has affected the tourism industry in Sri Lanka over the 24 hours since President Vladimir Putin's deceleration of war. According to sources, a majority of new arrivals to Sri Lanka from different countries have been cancelled or postponed. Meanwhile, stays have been extended as air spaces go through disruptions (Economy Next, 25-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Jamaica loosens Covid-19-restrictions as pandemic recedes**

From today, international visitors to Jamaica will no longer be required to obtain travel authorisation to enter the island. Travellers 12 years of age and older will only need to provide a negative result from a Covid-19 antigen or PCR test conducted within 72 hours prior to their travel (Breaking Travel News, 01-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Bali left behind as the rest of Asia reopens for Tourism**

Bali—a hugely popular destination for backpackers, digital nomads, and tourists before the pandemic—reopened to all international tourists last week (Travel Off Path, 07-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

### **India lifts quarantine for vaccinated travellers**

With the weakening of the covid pandemic, India has relaxed its conditions of stay for fully vaccinated travellers, lifting the mandatory quarantine, since February 14, 2022. Passengers coming from France and many European countries, will still have to provide the negative result of a PCR test carried out within 72 hours before their flight (Tourmag.com, 02-Mar-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Spain loosens rules for younger UK travellers**

Spain has updated its Covid-19 entry requirements after seemingly being caught out by a rapid reopening elsewhere. From February 14th, UK children and teenagers aged between 12 and 17 can present a negative Covid-19 PCR test, taken within 72 hours of arrival to Spain, as an alternative to having been fully vaccinated (Breaking Travel News, 11-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Greece: testing is no longer mandatory for vaccinated travellers**

Greece no longer requires coronavirus testing for holders of a European vaccination certificate, wishing to enter its territory from Monday, 7th February 2022 (L'echo Touristique, 05-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Dubai removes PCR test requirement for tourists**

Fully vaccinated tourists arriving in Dubai will no-longer need to show a negative PCR test as the emirate loosens Covid-19 travel restrictions. Instead, passengers will only be required to present an approved vaccination certificate, complete with QR code (Breaking Travel News, 28-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Museum of the Future opens in Dubai**

The Museum of the Future has opened in Dubai, welcoming guests to what promises to be one of the most exiting attractions in the destination. Located next to the Emirates Towers on Sheikh Zayed Road, it opens on the historically significant 22/02/2022 (Breaking Travel News, 22-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

### **Australia opens borders for first time in two years**

Australia has rolled out a red-carpet welcome to British travellers as the country reopens its borders for the first time in nearly two years. Australians and some others were allowed to return from late last year, but most foreigners have had to wait (Breaking Travel News, 21-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

### **These six destinations that have done well during the pandemic**

Over the past two years, Dubai, Tanzania, Maldives and Costa Rica have continued to attract tourists. Since the easing of restrictions, Egypt and Greece are experiencing a rapid recovery (Letemps, 26-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## Busiest airports in the world

In February 2022, Atlanta and Dubai keep their positions as the global top two busiest airports in the world, however, with Tokyo dropping out of the Top 10, we now see Guangzhou move into third place. Shanghai, which used to be number seven before the pandemic, makes it back into the Top 10 Busiest Global Airports list, increasing China's presence now with two airports on the list (OAG, Feb-2022). [Read More](#)

## More than 40 countries are calling for anti-covid insurance for travellers

Almost all borders have reopened around the world. However, the rules for entering the territories still vary depending on the country. Vaccination pass, test, quarantine ... and now even insurance. Indeed, more than 40 countries require tourists to take out travel insurance specific to Covid-19 (BFMTV, 12-Feb-2022). [Read More](#)



Digital House, Calebasses Branch Road, Calebasses, Mauritius



Contact@hospitality-plus.travel



Tel: +230 209 3800