

INDIA

In the past weeks, India has achieved the remarkable milestone of administering 1 billion Covid-19 vaccinations to her citizens. It became the second nation to administer as many doses and the drive is still going strong with an average of over 6.4 million people being vaccinated on a single day.

The health officials are also hopeful of starting vaccination of children between the age of two and twelve years at the earliest to return the country to normalcy and ready to welcome international guests.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (MoHFW) has released the international arrival guidelines for travellers wishing to visit India on e-Tourist Visa when the country reopens the borders for scheduled international flights and visitors from 15 November.

Here are the key takeaways from the Visa Related Guidelines:

- (1). Foreign nationals intending to visit India for Tourism are allowed to enter into India on e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa through chartered flights (for group tourism) from 15 October 2021 and as individual tourist from 15 November 2021.
- (2). In no case the foreign nationals will be allowed to enter into India through Land ICPs on e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa.
- (3). They may apply fresh 30 days single entry to be utilised within 120 days of issuance of e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa on indianvisaonline.gov.in.
- (4). Existing e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa issued prior to October 06, 2021 shall remain suspended.
- (5). Countries have been divided into two categories
 - (i) Countries from where travellers would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing (Countries at-risk)
 - (ii) Category A: Countries with which Government of India has agreement for mutual recognition vaccination certificate for individuals fully vaccinated with Nationally recognized or WHO recognized COVID-19 vaccine and ones exempting Indian citizens fully vaccinated with Nationally recognized or WHO recognised vaccines

As on date, United Kingdom appears on both lists and we will keep you updated on the latest developments once the government releases the details.

[Click here](#) to read more on our updated health and safety protocols and visa guidelines for tourists prepared by us based on the [guidelines](#) released by the MoHFW.

This announcement comes at an auspicious time as India is gearing up to celebrate Diwali or the Festival of Lights, often associated with renewal, growth, and prosperity. In the eastern parts of the country, Goddess Kali is worshipped to mark the victory of the forces of good. While the festivities bring with them happiness, we must also be cautious and follow social distancing and hygiene protocols to ensure that we do not slip up.

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

Nepal re-opened their international borders for fully vaccinated travellers in end Sep (without quarantine for all nationalities) and our colleague Karan Varma recently had the good fortune of welcoming our first guest to the country in over one and a half years. He has reported that Nepal has made excellent strides and optimally utilised the time during the lockdown to give themselves an overhaul and prepare for international tourism with new vigour.

Here are some of the first-hand observations made by Karan on the field during his trip to help you get an idea of the efforts that Nepal has put in.

1. Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu has seen a face lift - from the entrance into the terminal on arrival, the immigration area and the exit to the arrival hall through a newly built tunnel to a swanky new airport lounge in the departure section - a large part of the airport has been completely renovated that gives it a very fresh look!
2. Important roads connecting the Kathmandu Valley with the surrounding hill destinations have been re-done and improved upon.
3. Hotels and restaurants have reopened and ready to welcome the slow but steady trickle of tourists arriving into the country.
4. The overall condition of the country with regards to Covid cases has also greatly improved case are down to approximately 500-600 a day, vaccinations are going at a good pace and life is moving on well in the new normal.
5. Even though masks are not mandatory in Nepal, people are still cautious enough to wear them on their own accord in public places.

We also happily announce that all our staff in the Nepal office, drivers, and guides are fully vaccinated and ready to welcome you with warm smiles and open arms. With these latest on-field reports from Karan, we are excited to plan your guests' vacations to Nepal now!

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](#).

In a bid to boost the Covid-affected tourism industry, the Sri Lankan Tourism Ministry is all set to launch special tourism promotion programmes in five countries including India, Britain, France, Russia, and Germany.

They are also looking to intensify promotions in the Middle East and Central Asia to help revive the tourism industry in the island country. As a country, that has successfully administered Covid-19 vaccinations Sri Lanka is looking to capitalise on its 'Safe and Secure' status to bring back international tourists to its beautiful beaches and lush forests and tea gardens.

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

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