Get ready for travel

ABTA Travel with confidence

Customer tips and information for going on holiday or travelling abroad

INTRODUCTION

As travel restarts and destinations recovering from the pandemic are looking forward to welcoming people again, it is quite possible that your visit might look or be different to previous experiences. For example, there might be changes to food service such as buffet options; the hotels might operate self check-in or there may be additional health screening at terminal check-in or security; there might be fewer restaurants open; as well as changes to entertainment available in resort.

To help you get ready for travel, here are some useful tips as you prepare for your trip and to assist when travelling abroad. Please be sure to read the information carefully and share it with other members in your party.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL – **DO YOUR RESEARCH**

FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (FCDO)

- Read the FCDO travel advice for the country that you are visiting. It provides essential information including entry requirements, advice on health, safety, security, local laws and customs, medication restrictions and much more.
- In the country advice you will find details of any mandatory requirements in relation to COVID-19 including whether you are required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result, travel insurance requirements, any health checks that will be conducted on arrival, self-isolation measures or other quarantine requirements upon entering your chosen destination.
- As the FCDO travel advice can change, check it regularly before you travel. You can sign up to receive FCDO email alerts for your destination: **www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/email-signup**
- The FCDO has published travel information for anyone travelling overseas during the pandemic: **www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus**. Read the advice carefully.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Never travel without insurance.
- Make sure you have valid travel insurance with sufficient cover for your holiday and check that your cover includes illness, repatriation and that you are covered for any activities before participating.
- Take a copy of your travel insurance policy and the emergency assistance contact number with you.
- Leave a copy of your travel details with your next of kin or an emergency contact.

PASSPORT AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Check the expiry date on your passport to ensure it will be valid when you plan to travel and make sure you give yourself plenty of time to renew it if necessary.
- For certain destinations, you will need at least six months validity on your passport when you enter the country.
- Apply for visas in sufficient time.
- Check the ***Entry Requirements*** section of the **FCDO travel advice** for the country you are travelling to for more information.

HEALTH ADVICE AND VACCINATIONS

- Read the health advice and check the health and vaccination requirements on **TravelHealthPro** before you go. If vaccinations are required speak to your GP or travel health clinic.
- Keep up to date with the local laws and public health requirements relating to your destination and consider what you will need to take with you to comply with local country requirements when you're away, such as face coverings.
- Pack a sufficient supply of face coverings and hand sanitiser for your trip. You will need to wear a face covering at the airport, on your flight, on the transfer to your hotel and in some destinations in public areas, shops and inside the hotel itself.
- Ensure you take an adequate supply of medication, should you have to stay longer than your normal holiday duration.

DESTINATION REQUIREMENTS

- Make sure you are aware of any local COVID-19 measures that should be followed.
- Check whether your accommodation has any specific COVID-19 measures in place that you will need to follow.
- Check whether you need to self-isolate on your return to the UK: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors.
- If you are required to self-isolate upon your return, you may be able to reduce your self-isolation period as part of the test to release for international travel scheme: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-test-to-release-for-international-travel.

PLAN AND PACK FOR A SAFE JOURNEY

Before you travel, download a copy of ABTA's **Safe Holidays in the Sun** or **Safe Holidays in the Snow** for more tips to keep you safe on your holiday.

- If you have accessibility requirements discuss them with your travel provider as it may be necessary to modify certain services to comply with COVID-19 measures.
- Check with your airline or transport provider for any specific requirements for travel, for example luggage policy and changes to check-in procedures and find out whether meal services are available onboard, as you may need to make alternative arrangements.
- Plan your journey in advance, check the airport website for details of any measures they have introduced to aid a safe check-in and movement through the terminal. Airport facilities such as shops and restaurants may be closed or have a reduced capacity.
- If using terminal lounges, check they are open and operational, and what requirements may be in place. It may be necessary to book in advance.
- Pack sufficient face coverings for your trip. Remember that you will need to replace face coverings regularly or wash reusable masks after each use. European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) recommend that all air passengers wear medical face coverings on flights. Check with your airline for further details.
- Carry a copy of your holiday booking confirmation and contact details of your travel provider in your hand luggage.
- Follow the luggage policy of your transport provider, including any weight or carriage restrictions, keep hand luggage to a minimum. Check your airline policy for what you can and cannot take on board.
  - Carry a supply of medication in your hand luggage, check if there are restrictions on non-prescription medication.
  - Pack a supply of face coverings and hand sanitiser in your hand luggage.
  - If travelling with children, carry baby formula, nappies and items such as books or a game in your hand luggage, to keep them occupied.
- Keep a copy of the ID pages of your passport somewhere safe throughout your holiday.
- On arrival, cash might not be accepted. Some outlets will ask for card payments only, so speak to your card provider before you go to make sure your cards are set up to be used abroad and, wherever possible, are contactless.
- Ensure you have the correct documents for travel eg medical certificate, visa.

DURING TRAVEL – **FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE**

TRAVEL TO THE AIRPORT/ TRAIN STATION/PORT

- Plan your route in advance and if using public transport or private transfers, check their policy regarding social distancing and face coverings.
- Allow sufficient time to get to the terminal building.
- If self-driving, check what the COVID-19 management procedures are for parking and travelling to the terminals.

AT THE TERMINAL BUILDING

- Arrive early as everything will take a little longer.
- Social distancing measures could mean that it takes longer to get through security and immigration checks so leave plenty of time.
- Some airlines and transport providers have increased the check-in time, but boarding gates may close earlier.
- Observe terminal rules including social distancing measures such as floor markings and directions of flow when moving around the building.
- Follow security instructions and social distancing requirements in queues.
- Observe strict hygiene measures such as handwashing and the use of hand sanitiser.
- Face coverings should be worn throughout your travel journey, only removing them if asked to do so by airport staff.

WHEN YOU'RE AWAY

Different countries might have different rules, so make sure to follow the advice of the local and public health authority in destination. Measures in place are designed to keep you and the local people safe.

Speak to your travel provider or accommodation staff if you are unsure of any of the local requirements or measures you may need to follow. For example, there may be changes to:

- Reception and concierge services
- Dining room and meal plan arrangements
- Use of pool, beach and leisure facilities
- Entertainment and animation programmes
- Childcare, children's clubs and babysitting services
- Housekeeping and cleaning regimes
- Medical services
- Social distancing and face covering requirements.

- Accommodation and transportation providers will have enhanced cleaning regimes, and illness and hygiene monitoring procedures in place which should be followed.
- If you or any of your party feel unwell at any time during your stay, notify your travel provider and accommodation staff. Follow any advice provided to you, this may include self-isolation, seeing a doctor and having meals delivered to your room.
- If during your visit you are contacted by the NHS test and trace service, you should follow their advice and advise your accommodation provider, travel provider and insurance company.
- Follow any local requirements such as wearing face coverings and social distancing rules when using public transport, visiting local attractions or shops and visiting hospitality venues such as pubs, bars and restaurants.
- Some facilities, including shops and restaurants may be closed, or operating with different opening times. It may be necessary to book attractions and restaurants in advance, and there may be additional health screening measures in place.
- Discard of disposable face coverings and other non-reusable products safely after use.
- In the 48 hours prior to returning to the UK, make sure you complete and submit the Passenger Locator form (PLF) https://www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk as required by UK Border Force (each person in your party will need to do this).

  You need to provide:
  - Your passport details
  - The name of the airline, train or ferry company you are travelling with
  - The name of the company organising your tour group, if you are travelling as part of a tour group
  - Your booking reference
  - The name of the airport, port or station you will be arriving into
  - The date you will be arriving
  - Your flight, train, bus or ferry number
  - The address you will be staying in the UK
  - Details of someone who can be contacted if you get ill while you are in the UK.
  - **If you are travelling by Eurostar or Eurotunnel:** Put '*Eurostar*' or '*Eurotunnel*' when the form asks, '*What is the flight number, train service or ship name that you will arrive on?*'
    > Provide your scheduled time of departure.

Note: If using the test to release scheme, you will need to provide a booking reference number and the name of the test provider: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-test-to-release-for-international-travel#how-to-take-part-in-the-scheme.

JOURNEY HOME

- Allow sufficient time to get to the airport/port/station.
- Plan your route in advance and if using public transport or private transfers check their policy regarding social distancing and face coverings.
- If you have a hire car, check with the company concerned for any special requirements regarding returning the vehicle.
- Arrive early as everything might take a little longer.
- Social distancing measures could mean that it takes longer to get through security and immigration checks so allow plenty of time.
- Some airlines and transport providers have increased the check-in time, but boarding gates may close earlier.
- Observe terminal rules including social distancing measures and floor markings and directions of flow when moving around the building.
- Follow security instructions and social distance requirements in queues.
- Observe strict hygiene measures such as handwashing and the use of hand sanitiser.
- If using terminal lounges, check they are open and operational, and what requirements may be in place.
- Follow local rules regarding face coverings throughout your travel journey.

ON ARRIVAL IN THE UK

- Make sure you have either a paper or electronic copy of the Public Health Passenger Locator form ready for inspection as required by the UK Border Force.
- If returning from a country where self-isolation is a mandatory requirement, you should return to your home by private transport and follow the government guidance.
- If you choose to opt into the test to release scheme, you will need to indicate this on your Passenger Locator form. If you decide to take part in the scheme after you have arrived in England, you will need to complete and submit another Passenger Locator form.
- If you feel unwell, contact NHS 111 and advise them of your travel history, and follow any advice given.
- If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, notify your tour operator or travel provider.

ABTA – THE TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

ABTA has been a trusted travel brand for 70 years, offering advice and guidance to the travelling public, as well as leading the travel industry in supporting high service standards, working with our Members on health, safety, security and crisis management and promoting responsible tourism at home and abroad.

For more information visit **abta.com**

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