



15 January, 2021

Dear partners,

Cyprus lifts travel bans for 56 countries

Happy New Year! Hopefully you all enjoyed some downtime during the holiday season!

In mid-December you were informed about our updated protocol for travel and tourism, which comes into effect soon in order to stabilize our skies, and maintain a constant flow of air connectivity to the island, whilst at the same time safeguarding public health.

Its two main principles are as follows.

1. Firstly, it includes a list of 56 countries which are given relaxations for travel to Cyprus:
 - EU member states
 - European Economic Area states (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Lichtenstein)
 - Third countries featured on the EU Council Recommendation document (EU 2020/912 of 30 June 2020, on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction)
 - United Kingdom, Russia, Israel, Ukraine, Belarus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, UAE, and Saudi Arabia.
2. Secondly, it includes a new categorization system, which is harmonized in accordance to ECDC standards, both in color-marking of categories as well as country evaluation. Countries will move between categories based on their epidemiological state, and entry requirements to Cyprus for each category are shown below.

Entry requirement	Green	Orange	Red	Grey
Cyprus Flight Pass completion 24h prior to departure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PCR test 72h prior to departure (traveler-paid)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
PCR test upon arrival to Cyprus (traveler-paid)	No	No	Yes	No
Mandatory 14-day self-isolation upon arrival	No	No	No	Yes
Random test upon arrival (government-paid)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

It was previously indicated that all of the above comes into effect on January 15th, marking the beginning of a transitional period which extends up to and including February 28th. The starting date of this transitional period has now been revised due to concerns regarding the new strain of the virus, and pushed back to February 1st. This new date also remains provisional, until more information about the new strain is provided by the World Health Organization.

In any case, what remains unchanged is our commitment that from 1st March onwards, the 56 countries mentioned above will be exempt from Category Grey, and will thus only move between categories Green, Orange and Red. Their categorization will be done based on ECDC advice, and only in the case where a country is absent from ECDC lists, will it need to be evaluated separately by the Cyprus government.


Also unchanged is our commitment to the safety of everybody who chooses Cyprus as their destination of choice. As announced a few months ago, we will continue to take care of all travelers who test positive for coronavirus during their stay, as well as their close contacts. Specifically, the government will transfer these persons to separate facilities, covering the cost of lodging, food, drink, and medication.

In conclusion, thank you once again for your ongoing support, and rest assured that we will remain in close contact with you as the situation evolves.



Nikos Christodoulides
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Cyprus

Sincerely yours,



Yiannis Karousos
Minister of Transport,
Communications and Works
Republic of Cyprus



Savvas Perdios
Deputy Minister of Tourism
Republic of Cyprus