



# Travel Deals Worldwide

## Where can I go on holiday this summer?

Things are getting better, overall. Vaccination numbers are going up and, despite some areas of concern, UK Covid numbers are coming down. In fact, for many of us it's starting to feel more normal, and summer is coming. Does that mean we can go abroad on holiday this year and if so, where?

The government has implemented a traffic light system that categorises countries into green, amber, and red. The category impacts the requirements for testing, isolation and quarantine rules when you **come back** from your travels. For countries on the green list, all you need is a negative PCR Covid test no more than three days before your return flight and another test two days after you've arrived back. And unless that day two test is negative, there's no need to isolate. For amber countries, the same pre-departure PCR test is needed, as well as tests on days two and eight after your arrival home, plus 10 days' isolation (although there is an optional day five test that will release you from isolation if it's negative). Red countries require an expensive hotel-based quarantine on your return.

So where **can** you go on holiday? It's still complicated and constantly changing!

### England's green list

The current green list consists of 12 countries or overseas territories that the government believes pose little risk based on the level of vaccinations and COVID-19 situation in the country, including variants of concern.

Within five hours' flying time, we have Portugal, Gibraltar, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and Israel. In Asia, just Singapore and Brunei are green listed, around 15 hours away. Everywhere else on the green list is most definitely long-haul. New Zealand and Australia are dream destinations for many of us, but with more than 24 hours' travel involved. If you've always wanted to go to the southern Atlantic, you're almost spoilt for choice, but only if you have the time and money to visit them. The [Falkland Islands](#), South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands and St Helena ([only accessible by sea](#)), Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island (only [accessible by ship](#) from Cape Town) are all on the green list.

### But it's about more than the green listing

The problem with the green list is that we can't actually visit most of the countries on it or will have to quarantine on arrival for long periods if we do so.

## STILL CLOSED TO UK TOURISTS

**Australia** and **New Zealand** are closed to UK tourists, with some reports suggesting these restrictions may extend into the middle of 2022. Entry to both **Singapore** and **Brunei** is severely restricted, with permission to enter required for both destinations. If you do get the necessary consent, though, you will need to adhere to stay-at-home notices or quarantine periods. To travel to the [Faroe Islands](#), you need to meet the worthy-purpose requirements set by the Danish government, and, no, holidays don't count. In addition, the Faroe Islands are only accessible via amber-list countries, which means isolation and tests on return to England. The south Atlantic territories are either closed to visitors at the moment or are far too difficult to reach.

## ISRAEL

There may be other non-Covid-related reasons to avoid Israel at the moment, but from 23 May, Israel will allow limited numbers of tourist groups to enter from the UK and five other countries. In addition to a pre-departure PCR test, all travellers must be fully vaccinated, proved by a serology test on arrival at the airport. The Israeli government will use this first stage of opening up as a test, allowing individual travellers to visit Israel in the future.

## ICELAND

Iceland also allows fully vaccinated travellers from the UK, or anyone with proof of previous Covid infection, without any testing or quarantine requirements. You will need to make sure you have [valid certification](#) with all the required information in the mandated languages.

## PORTUGAL

Portugal is now open to British tourists who have a negative PCR test taken less than 72 hours before departure. The first of the traditional summer holiday destinations to open up to Brits, airlines and tour operators are scrambling to add more flights and holidays. Brittany ferries are also exploring opportunities for a [new ferry service](#) to Porto by the end of May. This would allow people to take their own vehicles without the need to travel through amber countries, with the associated additional testing and quarantine requirements on return to the UK.

For all travellers thinking of taking advantage of some holiday sunshine, Portugal still has a 'Situation of Calamity' in place until at least 30 May. This means there are still some Covid [restrictions in Portugal](#). Nothing too demanding, but face coverings are needed inside, and where 2m distance can't be maintained outdoors, including on promenades and when getting onto and leaving beaches (according to some reports, until your towel is actually placed on the beach). There's also a requirement to keep 3m from other groups on the beach. Restrictions impact trading hours for restaurants, and some tourist attractions are limiting numbers if they're open. There are also some localised restrictions, including curfews in Porto Santo and Madeira.

## GIBRALTAR

Gibraltar is [open to British tourists](#) without the need for testing or quarantine. Although you will need to complete a passenger locator form before arrival in Gibraltar.

## When will more countries be added to the green list?

As the list is reviewed every three weeks, you should always check the [government web site](#) for the most up-to-date information. The next review is at the beginning of June, with the changes being put into effect from sometime in the following couple of weeks. Given the level of caution demonstrated by the limited numbers on the first green list, it's difficult to believe that the

government will add loads of new countries to the list soon. Especially given the Covid-19 numbers around the world and the variants that are of concern.

### **CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA**

Central and South American countries (currently on the red list) are unlikely to be included in the next few months.

### **USA**

The United States may well make the list in the next couple of months, especially given its high vaccination levels. However, if it does make the list, the USA will need to reciprocate as the country is currently closed to British tourists.

### **CANADA**

Canada is also closed to Britons, and their low levels of vaccination may delay their addition to the UK's green list.

### **CARIBBEAN**

On the amber list, Caribbean islands were disappointed that they weren't included on the first green list. Given their low levels of Covid and the preparations they've put into place, there's a strong possibility they will join the green list at some point soon. Maybe in June? Are you willing to risk having to isolate on return? If so, several islands accept travellers from the UK without quarantine, including Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Dominican Republic. Rules are a little tougher for Barbados and Bermuda, which require vaccination and/or short quarantine periods with testing. Saint Lucia requires UK tourists to use certified accommodation and tours.

### **EUROPE**

Many of our traditional holiday destinations in Europe are currently on England's amber list. Spain, along with the likes of France and Greece, is hopeful they'll be added to the green list soon and have announced plans to lift restrictions on British travellers from [around 20 May](#). Along with six other countries outside of the EU, British tourists can [now visit France](#) without a compelling reason. You will need to show a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours before departure and self-isolate for seven days. A PCR test needs to be taken on day seven. It's now possible to [visit Greece](#) without quarantining if you are fully vaccinated and have had a negative test within 72 hours of travel. You are not able to travel to Turkey as it is on England's red list. Other European countries are likely to be allowing British tourists to visit soon. The [Schengen visa info site](#) is being kept up-to-date with the latest border restrictions within the bloc.

### **AFRICA AND ASIA**

Most of Africa and Asia isn't open for us Brits to holiday to, yet. This is because they're on the red travel list, or they don't allow tourists from the UK at all, or they require a period in quarantine on arrival.

### **Travelling to amber list countries**

Even though many amber-listed countries are hopeful that British tourists will soon be able to visit, it's possible that even our favourite destinations won't be moved to the green list until well into the summer season or beyond.

In publishing the green, amber, and red lists, the Department for Transport recommends where we should and should not travel, implementing testing, isolating and quarantine rules for our return.

It's not actually illegal to travel to amber list countries for a holiday. Indeed, tour companies are already set to operate holidays to amber-classified countries if the Foreign Office advice allows travel. If you do decide to travel outside of the green list, you will need to research entry requirements, look into the availability of appropriate insurance cover, plus consider whether you're comfortable with the risks you're facing from higher Covid rates.

### **One last note**

For any destination – in whichever category – you will need to make sure that you understand the current requirements for visitors regarding access, testing, vaccination, and isolation. There are some great resources out there, including the [UK government](#) and other [reference](#) sites. Even then, we'd suggest you do some additional research before you book to understand any future changes that may be planned. You should also find out what the country's rules are for such things as mask-wearing, restaurant and site opening, and make sure you're happy with them.

**If you need any latest and up-to-date information, just call our expert travel consultants on 0287 944 2000**