

Gustavo Sancho Minister of Tourism, Press Conference on actions and attention against COVID19, Costa Rica, Presidential House, July 23, 2020. Photo: Roberto Carlos Sánchez @rosanchezphoto

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# OPENING OF COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO THE COUNTRY STARTS ON AUGUST 01 WITH LIMITED TRAJECTS FROM EUROPE

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- "We will carry out the recovery of the sector with the utmost prudence and in adherence to strict health protocols, always with the supreme conviction of ensuring the health and life of people" President Carlos Alvarado.
- Requirements: tourists must undergo a PCR test and obtain a negative result within 48 hours prior to the trip.
- Variety of outdoor tourist activities will be authorized from August 1.

A gradual reactivation of the tourism industry, safeguarding sanitary measures, is the objective of opening up to international commercial flights from the European Union from August 1. Travelers boarding in Frankfurt, Germany and Madrid, Spain, will be the first to be received at Juan Santamaría International Airport after meeting a series of requirements. Travel originating in the United Kingdom and Canada is also authorized in the coming months.

The authorization for the arrival of flights with passengers at the three international airports (Daniel Oduber Quirós, Juan Santamaría and Tobías Bolaños) from August 1, 2020, includes the Schengen area.

· EUROPEAN UNION, SCHENGEN AREA AND UNITED KINGDOM: for flights from the European Union, Schengen area and the United Kingdom for citizens and residents of the European Union, Schengen area and the United Kingdom.

· CANADA: for flights from Canada for citizens and residents of Canada and for citizens and residents of the European Union, Schengen area and the United Kingdom in transit.

Although the authorization includes the aforementioned regions and countries, in practice, it remains exactly as reported; that is, the reopening will begin with travelers boarding in Frankfurt, Germany and in Madrid, Spain. These flights will be the first to be received at Juan Santamaría International Airport after meeting the requirements already detailed in a press conference.

To allow tourists to enter national soil, a negative result of the PCR test will be mandatory in the 48 hours prior to the trip; complete the digital epidemiological form of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, which will be enabled in different languages and acquire travel insurance that covers accommodation in case of quarantine and medical expenses for acute illness.

In case a tourist does not meet these requirements, he will not be able to board national soil.

"We will carry out the recovery of the sector with great prudence and in adherence to strict health protocols, always with the supreme conviction of ensuring the health and life of people," said President Carlos Alvarado.

When landing on Costa Rican soil, travelers must wear facial protection and comply with the strict protocol of the air terminal respecting physical distance, disinfection on carpets, temperature measurement and the follow-up of any other sanitary instructions.

"This first stage of opening up to international flights contemplates less than 1% of the volume of flights that the country received before the COVID-19 pandemic (552 weekly)," highlighted the Minister of Health, Daniel Salas. The entry of foreign tourists was suspended on March 18.

"We are taking very gradual and analyzed steps in the direction of the economic revitalization that is much needed for the protection of the business fabric and employment. It is necessary to give this signal of reopening of commercial flights for the reactivation of the tourism sector and we insist, in order to continue working in this line, compliance with health protocols is important, a task that must be accompanied by the responsibility of entrepreneurs, collaborators, customers and tourists," said Gustavo Segura, Rector Minister of Tourism.

The inclusion of additional routes will be modified according to the development of the pandemic in our country and in the world. For now, all airport and migration protocols will be tested.

## More tourist activities allowed

Minister Segura said that from August 1 the visitation schedule of the beaches located in areas on yellow alert will be extended from 5:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., allowing surfing.

On August 1, the operation of tours with outdoor activities will be enabled, among which are hiking, hiking, canopy, cable cars, raft rides, aquatic recreational activities and aerial recreational activities, all under strict compliance with sanitary protocols.

To confirm that health measures are respected, the ICT created the Institutional Brigade for the Verification of COVID-19 Protocols with the collaboration of its regional headquarters.

In addition to the above, to promote national tourism, this Thursday the first phase of the Let's Tourism (VAT) strategy is launched, using the motivation message Ready to meet again!

This material seeks to visualize the responsible way in which ICT and the private sector have worked in recent months in the drafting of 16 health protocols to guarantee a safe trip for national tourists, who represent 20% of the total tourism of the country.

In addition, the first special offers will be included on the website www.vamosaturistear.com with promotions, added values and rate reductions of at least 25%, by participating companies throughout the country.

The Let's Tourism campaign goes hand in hand with two participation agreements between the ICT and the Costa Rican Banking Association (ABC) and the ICT and the Chamber of Banks and Financial Institutions of Costa Rica so that their affiliated banks can offer their customers discounts, redemption of points or differentiated payments, so that the final consumer has economic options to vacation, as well as different financial instruments and service platforms at their fingertips.

"The financial system is key to overcoming the crisis by COVID-19. On the one hand, we have worked credit readjustments of more than 8 trillion, which is equivalent to 22% of national production and 35% of total credit; the activities of hotels and restaurants, transport, linked to the tourism sector have received readjustments of more than 50% of the portfolio. Working capital and financial products tailored to specific sectors have also been available. Now, ABC together with the Economic Council have outlined an interest-free financing of up to 12 months term for consumption in national tourism with credit cards from all issuers," explained María del Pilar Garrido Gonzalo, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy and coordinator of the Government's Economic Council.

The announcement was made in the company of the ABC, Álvaro Saborío.

## International recognition

The country managed to receive the Safe Travels seal from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC), thanks to the implementation of the 16 health protocols for tourism activities.

"To get the seal we had to send the protocols for review to the WTTTC, they approved them and now comes a third stage with the process to sub-license Costa Rican tourism companies and promote the use of the seal. The success of the seal requires that all small, medium and large companies, as well as collaborators and tourists, comply with health measures against the pandemic," said Segura.

Costa Rica joins Aruba, Portugal, Dubai, Turkey, Egypt, Ukraine and the Spanish cities of Seville and Benidorm, as Safe Travels-labeled sites.

#DANIEL\_ODUBER QUIROS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT #JUAN SANTAMARIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
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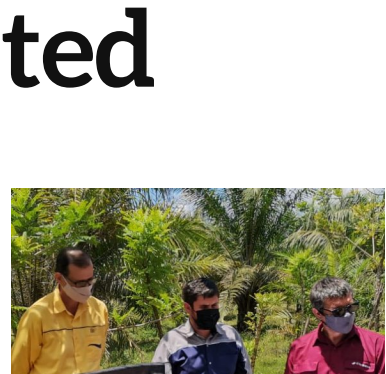
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