India

Beginning on March 22, 2020, India will close all international flights for seven days. For Americans choosing to stay past Sunday, there is no guarantee that airports will reopen to international flights in the coming weeks.

- As of 16:30, March 19, 2020, India reported 166 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus COVID-19, across 18 States and Union Territories in India (the highest numbers of cases being reported in Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, and the Delhi/Uttar Pradesh/Haryana region). Of these 166 cases, 141 cases are Indian nationals and 25 are foreign nationals. Fifteen patients have recovered, and there have been three deaths so far.

- Following a high level meeting of Indian ministers on March 16, the government proposed extensive social distancing measures, including closure of all schools, museums, and cultural and social centers; prohibiting gatherings of more than 50 people; and calling on the public to avoid all non-essential travel. The complete list of measures can be found here.

- On March 16, 2020 the Government of India expanded compulsory quarantine for passengers coming from or transiting through UAE, Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait. Fourteen-day mandatory quarantine also applies to passengers from China, Italy, Iran, Republic of Korea, France, Spain, and Germany.

- On March 16, 2020 the Government of India prohibited the entry of passengers from the European Union, the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), Turkey, and the UK. On March 17, the government also prohibited the entry of passengers from Afghanistan, Philippines, and Malaysia.

- In addition to the restrictions put in place by the central government, on March 16, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced mandatory quarantine for travelers from the United States, Dubai, and Saudi Arabia. Other states have announced disparate restrictions as well, including the prohibition of entry of foreigners.

- All existing visas [except diplomatic, official, United Nations or International Organizations, employment, and project visas] are suspended until April 15, 2020. This measure went into effect at 12:00 GMT on March 13, 2020 at all ports of entry.
The Ministry of Shipping issued extensive **Standard Operating Procedures** on March 11 to handle COVID-19 for international cruise ships at major ports in India.

**Entry and Exit Requirements:**

(begin Government of India travel advisory, dated March 17, 2020)

**ADVISORY: TRAVEL AND VISA RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO COVID-19**

In addition to the Visa restrictions already in place, the following travel restriction shall also come into effect from 1200 GMT on March 18, 2020:

All passengers coming from European Union (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden), European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), Turkey and United Kingdom have been prohibited from entering India from any of the Land/Air/Seaport ICPs. This restriction shall come into effect from 1200 hrs GMT on March 18, 2020 at the port of first departure and shall remain till March 31, 2020 and is a temporary measure.

**The earlier visa restrictions, as mentioned below, shall also remain in force:**

- All existing visas issued to nationals of any country except those issued to Diplomats, Official passport holders, those in UN/International organizations, those on Employment, Project visas and those who are operating aircrew of scheduled commercial airlines, and who had not yet entered India, stand suspended effective 1200 GMT on March 13, 2020 till April 15, 2020.

- Visas of all foreign nationals already in India remain valid. They may contact the nearest FRRO/FRO through e-FRRO module for extension/ conversion etc. of their visa or other consular service.

- The validity of OCI card of foreigners presently in India shall remain.

- Visa free travel facility granted to OCI card holders who are not in India presently, has been kept in abeyance till April 15, 2020. This came into effect at 1200 GMT on March 13, 2020 at the port of departure of any foreigner for onward journey to India.

- Any foreign national (including OCI cardholder) who intends to travel to India for compelling reasons may contact the nearest Indian Mission for a new visa.
Mandatory compliance of travel advisory issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

- Passengers travelling from/having visited Italy or Republic of Korea and desirous of entering India will need certificate of having tested negative from COVID-19 from the designated laboratories authorized by Health Authority of these countries. This is enforcement since 0000 hrs. of March 10, 2020 and is a temporary measure till cases of COVID-19 subside.

- All incoming travelers, including Indian nationals, arriving from or having visited China, Italy, Iran, Republic of Korea, France, Spain, and Germany after Feb. 15, 2020 shall be quarantined for a minimum period of 14 days. This came into effect from 1200 GMT on March 13, 2020 at the port of departure.

- All passengers coming from UAE, Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait will be placed under compulsory quarantine for a minimum period of 14 days which shall come into effect from 1200 hrs GMT on March 18, 2020 at the port of first departure.

- Incoming travelers including Indian nationals are advised to avoid non-essential travel and are informed that they can be quarantined for a minimum period of 14 days on their arrival in India.

- Indian nationals are further strongly advised to refrain from travel to China, Italy, Iran, Republic of Korea, Japan, France, Spain & Germany.

- All incoming international passengers returning to India should self-monitor their health and follow required do’s and don’ts as detailed by the Government.

- International traffic through land borders will be restricted to designated check posts with robust screening facilities. For a full list of restrictions at land borders, please see the link here.

- All international passengers entering into India are required to furnish duly filled self-declaration form in duplicate (including personal particulars i.e. phone no. and address in India) (as annexed) to Health Officials and Immigration officials and undergo Universal Health Screening at the designated health counters at all Points of Entry.

- For any queries related to health, people may contact Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 24*7 helpline number (+91-11-3978046) or email at (ncov2019@gmail.com). Please also consult: FAQs on new visa restrictions COVID-19.
For more information about coronavirus related entry and exit requirements, please follow:  [https://boi.gov.in/content/coronavirus-related-visa-restrictions-and-conditions-entry-india](https://boi.gov.in/content/coronavirus-related-visa-restrictions-and-conditions-entry-india)

**Airport Screening, Testing, and Quarantine Information:**

- Thermal (fever) screening, along with inflight completion of a self-declaration form (including personal particulars, i.e., phone number and address in India) and travel history is now being implemented upon arrival in India for all international passengers at airports and seaports.

- Passengers who are symptomatic or screened positive for fever by automated fever scanners will be taken to designated isolation facilities for further evaluation and testing for the virus that causes COVID-19.
  - If the laboratory test is confirmed positive for the virus, they will be held at the isolation facility for further management.
  - If two consecutive laboratory tests of samples collected 24-48 hours apart are negative, they will be discharged after the symptoms resolve. They will be provided COVID-19 information material encouraging them to self-report if symptoms recur in next 28 days.
  - The information on these passengers will be shared with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare staff for further follow-up of these passengers at their homes for next 28 days.

- In addition to thermal screening for most arriving international passengers, the Government of India has implemented a new self-declaration health form that is required of **all** international passengers. Some domestic travelers have also been required to complete the form for flights within India. The form is in addition to the immigration forms previously required. Not all airlines or airports have stock of the forms on hand.

- To assist you with travel preparations, a copy of the form is attached to this notice and [it is linked here](https://boi.gov.in/content/coronavirus-related-visa-restrictions-and-conditions-entry-india).

- The form asks for travel history of COVID-19-affected countries. India bases its list of COVID-19-affected countries off the current list of World Health Organization’s COVID-19 Situation Reports which outlines countries with known community transmission, available at this website (Table 2 in the report):  [https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports). The list now includes the United States as well as India.

**Local Resources:**
• Indian Bureau of Immigration: https://boi.gov.in/content/coronavirus-related-visa-restrictions-and-conditions-entry-india.