

CROSS-BORDER TRAVEL WILL NEVER BE THE SAME



When the coronavirus pandemic is over, the travel world will come to life again but probably with substantial changes. While nobody knows for sure what the everyday travel will look like, a Swiss company Viselio suggests what may be expected as to the cross-border travel procedures.

The borders will only be opened again slowly and gradually: Of course, borders cannot and must not remain closed forever. But the fear of new infections will slow down the opening of borders. Smaller countries, already closely connected to each other, are likely to relax their mutual borders or border regulations sooner, while overseas destinations should wait longer before opening them completely.

Immigration authorities now also focus on health: Until now, the basic function of immigration authorities has been the fight against crime, illegal immigration and terrorism, but now also the health aspects. The resulting new rules and procedures for entry vary, are in part still unclear/undefined and may change even further, creating uncertainty among travelers.

Air travel will become more expensive and complicated: Airlines will always have to monitor the health of their crews very closely, which may increasingly involve intervention in flight operations. Possible measures include dual-cockpit crews or less interaction between flight attendants and passengers during service (which is already being practiced to some extent). Free middle seats as a new, safe standard are also conceivable. Airports, in turn, must also implement new health standards, such as temperature measurements for arriving passengers or medical control zones, or separation of passengers from risk or non-risk countries. This results in expenses that are cushioned by higher airport taxes. The limited supply of airlines is also likely to cause an increase in airfares.

Business travel will be resumed first: Business trips will soon be "necessary" again, in the form of visits to suppliers and producers, etc. However, the volume will clearly be lower than before, especially as MICE trips will hardly be possible at first. In addition, video conferences, which people have become accustomed to in the meantime, will at least partially replace conventional business interactions. It can also be assumed that business trips will become increasingly standardized, i.e. it will take much more in the future before a business trip is even approved. For the traveler and the company, it is essential that a trip is planned precisely and that the necessary documentation is available in a clean form.

Slowly from domestic to international travel: Although the hospitality industry is suffering in many countries, international tourism will not have the highest priority there. To prevent the spread of the virus, mass tourism is unlikely to resurface in 2020. The focus will, therefore, be primarily on domestic tourism, i.e. travel within one's own country, primarily with earthbound means of transport and less urban character. Subsequently, cross-border travel to other countries could resurface. Mass tourism by air is unlikely to be an issue again until 2021 - or as soon as a generally recognized vaccine is available.

Excessive paperwork: Open borders and visa-free travel are on hold for the time being. It is to be

expected that persons entering the country will have to comply with special health requirements and, for example, present negative corona tests, vaccination certificates or the like. Here too, there is confusion because the requirements will vary from country to country and certain certificates may be accepted in one country but not in another. It will probably take a long time for international organizations such as the WHO (World Health Organization), ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) or even the Schengen states to present clear, cross-border travel standards with regard to health regulations and the documents required for this.

Is the "immunity pass" coming? According to experts, many countries are considering the introduction of an "immunity certificate" for individuals who test positive for the presence of COVID-19 antibodies. However, there is still uncertainty, as various antibody tests have proven unreliable and further studies are needed to have generally accepted test methods and products.

Date: 2020-04-20

Article link: <https://www.tourism-review.com/cross-border-travel-will-be-changed-much-news11492>