

# SEYCHELLES

## VISITOR TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR COUNTRIES WITH SPECIAL STATUS



MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CIVIL AVIATION, PORTS AND MARINE

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## INTRODUCTION

COVID 19 has brought with it great uncertainties with profound impact on the tourism industry. In an effort to provide more confidence to tourism partners in key source market countries the authorities in Seychelles have decided to provide special Status to a group of 7 countries. These are the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and the United Arab Emirates.

The aim of this initiative is to provide more confidence to visitors coming from these countries and to reassure them that even when their particular country does not feature on the permitted list of countries they will still be able to travel to Seychelles. This is in particular when there is a spike or a rapid surge in the number of COVID -19 cases in their country of origin.

Under normal circumstances whenever this happens and the number of cases go beyond a particular threshold, visitors from these countries would not have been allowed to travel to Seychelles. Under this new initiative, if they are from any of the mentioned seven countries with Special Status, and if the country does not feature on the list of Permitted countries, they will still be allowed to travel but more stringent sanitary measures will apply as outlined in this advisory.

This new initiative will come into force as of October 1st, 2020 and will remain valid until such time that these countries are reintroduced on the list of [Permitted Countries](#)



## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Additional health safety measures that will permit visitors from the countries with Special Status to travel and stay in Seychelles are described in the sections below. In summary these measures are:

1. A PCR test for COVID-19 must be done not more than 48 hours prior to departure from the country of origin
2. After arrival into Seychelles, the visitor must stay in a designated establishment and may not leave the premises for 5 days.
3. A repeat PCR test will be performed on the 5<sup>th</sup> day. If the test result is negative, the visitor will be free to continue with his planned holiday. If the test result is positive, the visitor will be required to stay in a designated stay-safe hotel until cleared by the Public Health Authority.

It is important to note that these procedures are subject to change, and visitors are invited to check for the latest requirements on the Tourism and Health websites.

## PRE-TRAVEL PROCEDURES

A negative PCR test certificate from an accredited or Government certified laboratory within 48 hours prior to departure to Seychelles must be submitted.

All visitors must ensure that their accommodation is authorised to receive visitors from the countries with Special Status. Refer to the [List of Authorised Accommodation](#). Visitors must have a valid travel insurance with full medical coverage, including COVID-19 related medical care, for the duration of their entire stay in Seychelles.

Health Travel Authorisation is also required. Visitors must submit their application for approval through the designated platform at this link <https://seychelles.govtas.com/>. This can only be done after they have received their PCR test results.



## **DURING TRAVEL**

### *Ports of Transit and Entry*

Visitors must adhere to strict public health measures (hand and respiratory hygiene, social distancing, wearing of facemasks during travel and transit).

Visitors must have correct documents (Public Health Authority permits, printed PCR test results) for verification at ports of entry and transit.

## **DISEMBARKATION PROCEDURES**

### *Airport Arrival*

Visitors will go through the health desk manned by public health officials, with temperature screening, checks on symptoms, and review of test certificates and travel documents, if necessary.

Some visitors may be selected, on the basis of the health checks and review of documents, for additional testing on entry.

Visitors will be informed by the health officer of the health safety measures they have to follow and will be briefed on all terms and conditions to stay at their accommodation.

Visitors will also be registered and provided with details of follow up by health department officials.



## **TRANSFERS**

### *Transfers from the Airport to Accommodation*

Visitors must use authorised and certified transportation. All visitors must observe rules for physical distancing, avoiding close physical contact such as handshakes, and wear a facemask throughout the journey to the establishments.

## **ACCOMMODATION PROCEDURES**

Registration at the establishment will include signing an agreement to the terms and conditions of stay.

### ***Day 1 to Day 5***

All visitors must remain on the premises of their transit accommodation at all times. Visitors must adhere to all Public health guidance (hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, maintaining 1 metre distance or more and make consistent use of facemasks in enclosed settings). Daily temperature and health checks of visitors will be recorded.

Visitors will undergo a PCR test on the 5th day after arrival at the transit accommodation. This PCR test will be at no cost to the visitor.

### ***Day 5 onwards***

If the PCR test is negative, visitors will be free to continue with their planned holiday. If the PCR test done is positive, the visitor will immediately be isolated. If visitors are tested positive and asymptomatic (not showing any sign of respiratory infection i.e. Fever, cough, shortness of breath etc.) they will be either isolated in their rooms or transferred to the Stay- safe hotels.



If visitors are tested positive but symptomatic (visitor is showing signs of respiratory infection i.e. fever, cough, shortness of breath etc.) the Public Health Authority requires that the person is isolated in a medical facility until recovery from the infection. Seychelles has extensive and modern health care services and visitors can expect quality care.

Once visitors are allowed free movement, they must adhere to all Public Health measures and guidance being given to visitors on the [Visitor Travel Advisory](#) (including wearing of face masks in public places) and only use certified transport and service providers. Visitors are not permitted to use public buses. They must follow all procedures put in place for the use of ferries and domestic flights.

## **PCR TESTING IN SEYCHELLES FOR DEPARTING VISITORS**

The Seychelles authorities do not require PCR testing for anyone departing Seychelles. However, airlines or final destinations may require it. PCR test facilities are available on the 3 main islands namely Mahe, Praslin and La Digue and some island resorts, to visitors prior to departure. Visitors requiring the test should contact the Public Health Authority well in advance on the email address [covid19test@health.gov.sc](mailto:covid19test@health.gov.sc) or telephone +248 4388410 to make the necessary arrangements. The PCR test currently costs SCR2, 500.00. Children below the age of 12 years and persons of 65 years and above are exempted from the fee. All PCR tests administered in Seychelles are certified by the Department of Health.

