



Why You Should Check Your Passport's Expiration Date Right Now

Before you even think about booking that bucket-list vacation, there is one thing you need to do right now: Double check the expiration date on your passport.

It is vital to make sure your travel documents are valid for at least six months past the dates of any planned international trips. Since passports are valid for up to 10 years, it is understandably easy to forget when exactly it needs to be renewed (especially if you don't use it all that often). This seemingly small detail could result in a travel disaster.

While the U.S. allows travelers to use a passport until the exact date listed on the front page, that is not the case for many other countries. For example, if you want to check out the natural beauty of New Zealand, your passport needs to be valid for another three months past your trip. Want to spend a week on the beach in Thailand? Six months. (You can check the [State Department's website](#) for the specific requirements for different countries.) Even though some countries have more lenient requirements, it is better to play it safe.

Here is how long it takes to renew a passport. If your passport's time is almost up, do not wait — start the process now. Passport processing times vary — currently, you can expect to wait between 10 to 12 weeks for routine processing and four to six weeks if you go the expedited route, according to the [State Department website](#). You will have to pay an additional \$60 fee if you don't want to wait for routine processing. If you have an urgent situation (like a [life or death emergency](#)) that requires an immediate renewal for international travel within 72 hours, you can make an [in-person appointment](#).

You can also pay extra for one- to two-day delivery, which means that your passport will be shipped to you within one to two days after it is printed.

We have the renewal applications at the office. You will need two new pictures to send with your paperwork.

Current Caribbean COVID-19 Rules, Regulations and Advisories

St. Lucia - All arrivals over age 5 must have a negative PCR test within seven days of arrival. You must also complete a travel authorization form and submit to screening, which includes temperature checks.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic - No PCR test is required to enter the Dominican Republic. Between 3-10% of passengers will receive a quick, aleatory breath test, as will anyone displaying symptoms. You will also need to fill out a health affidavit upon arrival.

Jamaica - U.S. residents — along with several other countries — are required to submit a negative PCR or Antigen test within 10 days of travel to Jamaica.

Turks and Caicos - Travelers to Turks and Caicos must show a negative PCR test at most five days prior to arrival.

Bahamas - The Bahamas requires a negative PCR test within five days of traveling to the islands. Those staying beyond five days must get a rapid antigen test on day five of their visit.

Antigua - The Bahamas requires a negative PCR test within five days of traveling to the islands. Those staying beyond five days must get a rapid antigen test on day five of their visit.

NEW

Operational Updates

Effective January 6, 2021

Extension of pause of global ship operations

- Ships sailing through May 14, 2021
- Cancellations: Caribbean & California Coast, early season Alaska & Europe
- Due to:
 - Preparation to meet CDC "Framework for Conditional Sailing Order"
 - Uncertainty about international travel restrictions



This covers all Carnival Corporation companies: Carnival, Holland America, Princess, Cunard, Costa and Seabourn.



Due to ongoing travel limitations through the Summer, Celebrity Cruises will be suspending global operations for Europe and Transatlantic sailings, departing May through October 2021, aboard Celebrity Constellation and Celebrity Edge, as well as the Celebrity Apex Transatlantic sailing of May 1, 2021.

If the cruise you are booked on is not specifically mentioned (Summit group to Greenland/Iceland on August 1, 2021) it is currently still scheduled to sail.

OPTION #1

REBOOK

Rebook on any other Europe or Transatlantic sailing of the same ship class, departing between May and October 2021, based on the per day price and promotion of the original booking or at prevailing rate, whichever is lower. Plus receive an onboard credit of \$100 per stateroom.

Take advantage of this offer before it expires on January 26, 2021.

OPTION #2

BEST VALUE

125% Future Cruise Credit (FCC) for use by April 30, 2022 on sailings departing on-or-before **September 30, 2022.**

OPTION #3

LOWER VALUE

100% Refund of amount paid, option open through **March 31, 2021.**

According to the CDC, air passengers entering the U.S. will be required to present documentation of a negative COVID-19 viral test conducted within three days before their flight to the U.S. departs.

Documentation maybe paper or electronic and must include the name and contact information for the laboratory or healthcare personnel who performed the test.

Test results may be required to be shown again upon landing.

Most Caribbean and Mexico hotels have announced the inclusion of COVID-19 antigen testing on-property at no cost to guests traveling to the U.S., as accepted per CDC U.S. travel regulations beginning on January 26, 2021. On-site property testing will be administered by Hospiten, an international private hospital network committed to providing a first-rate health care service for travelers, across most destinations.

Test results will be received the same day in written format as required by the CDC. Guests should contact the concierge at each resort upon arrival to schedule departure testing.

For guests traveling to countries that do not accept the antigen test and require PCR testing, concierges at each resort will help coordinate and facilitate testing with off-property.

If a guest receives a positive test while on property that prevents departure, the cost of quarantine at the property will be covered for up to 14 days. Extended stay due to quarantine includes the guest plus one travel companion sharing the same room. This policy is valid for travel through March 31, 2021.



Royal Caribbean to Make Barbados Homeport Debut Later this Year

Royal Caribbean International on Wednesday announced that Grandeur of the Seas will sail some Southern Caribbean itineraries starting at the end of 2021.

While the Southern Caribbean is nothing new to Royal, the itineraries will mark the first time Royal Caribbean has homeported out of Barbados.

Grandeur will offer three different itineraries out of the Port of Bridgetown starting in December 2021—Grandeur will sail seven-night Southern Caribbean Explorer itineraries that call on Castries, Port of Spain, Scarborough, Kingstown, Roseau, and St. George's; seven-night ABC Caribbean Adventure itineraries that include calls at Kralendijk, Willemstad, Oranjestad, and Port of Spain; and a 14-night Ultimate Caribbean itineraries that includes calls at Colon and Puerto Limon.



**Please
wear a mask.**

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy.

A PRIVATE JOURNEY TO
BELFAST AND GIANTS
CAUSEWAY

OCTOBER 21-29, 2021



COME JOIN US AND FATHER KEVIN

INFORMATION NIGHT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AT 400PM

RSVP REQUIRED

THAT MOMENT WHEN YOU'RE
ON VACATION AND LIFE IS
WONDERFUL, EVERYONE IS HAPPY
AND ALL YOUR STRESS
HAS DISSOLVED.

LIE BACK AND THINK OF
YOUR TRAVEL AGENT :)

American Airlines Launches Health Passport to Help Passengers with COVID Test Requirements

American Airlines this week announced that it would become the first U.S. airline to introduce a health passport for inbound travel to the United States, a move it says will help international travelers comply with the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) testing requirements.

American is making the VeriFLY app available for all of its passengers starting on Jan. 23. The app allows users to upload the requirement documentation, including proof of a negative COVID-19 test, they need to enter a destination.

VeriFLY is already using the app for inbound travelers to Jamaica, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

The test requirement for inbound international travelers was announced this week—on Tuesday, the CDC announced that starting on Jan. 26, all air passengers will have to get a viral test within three days of their flight to the U.S. and bring documentation of either the test (can be electronic) or documentation that they were infected and recovered, to their airline.

Airlines, according to the CDC rules, must then confirm the negative test for all passengers before boarding, and any passenger without the documentation must be denied boarding.

While American is the first airline to adopt the app for its passengers, destinations and resorts in the Caribbean have already started adding COVID-19 testing on-site to accommodate U.S. guests.

I honestly do not remember where I saw this but considering what a horrible year 2020 was for me personally and for many of you, I am sure, I thought this was apropos and certainly made me think...

AND THEN IT WAS WINTER (OR THE BACK NINE)

You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and all my hopes and dreams.

But here it is...the back nine of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first hole and the back nine was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But here it is... my friends are retiring and getting gray...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some are in worse shape than me, but I see the great change. Not like the ones I remember who were young and vibrant but, like me, their age is beginning to show, and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we had become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore...it is mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will...I will fall asleep where I sit.

And so...now as I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and the ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! Yes, I have regrets. The are things I wish I had not done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you are not on the back nine yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, do it when you can. Don't put things off too long! Life goes by quickly. So do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the back nine or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

Life is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY! Remember, it is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver. LIVE HAPPY IN 2021!

2022 ICELAND - We are hoping to do an Iceland package for February 2022. The package will include flights, hotel accommodations, daily breakfast, Northern Light Adventure, a visit to the Blue Lagoon, optional additional tours, all current taxes. Final pricing should be available in March. Please let us know if you are interested and we will let you know the details as soon as they are available.