

Europe Unveils Plans to Open to Vaccinated Americans



Italy which became a symbol of the early tolls of the pandemic, is among the European countries vaccinated Americans may soon visit.

The wait is over: American travelers who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 may soon enter the European Union, the head of the European Commission said.

The European Union “will accept, unconditionally, all those who are vaccinated with vaccines that are approved by EMA [the European Medicines Agency],” Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, told the *New York Times*. The three vaccines that have been approved for use in the United States—Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson—have all been approved for use in Europe.

“This will enable free movement and the travel to the European Union,” she said.

Von der Leyen did not say exactly when the European Commission would formalize its recommendations to allow vaccinated Americans to bypass the current ban on travel to Europe. But other European leaders have indicated that this summer, if not sooner, is the goal.

France recently announced its intentions to open to Americans by summer and a handful of European countries have already started opening up to travelers who are either vaccinated or present negative COVID-19 test results, including Greece and Iceland.

Macron said that French officials are “finalizing” the discussions and that the country plans to begin “progressively” lifting restrictions in May, with the aim of having a plan in place by summertime.

On April 19, the Greek government began a phased reopening of its borders, marking the first time international travelers could visit the Mediterranean country since Europe’s borders closed in March 2020.

Iceland relaxed its border restrictions for vaccinated travelers in late March, which followed similar moves by Croatia, Estonia, and Georgia (Montenegro has since joined the pack as well).

The goal is to have that system up and running by the summer..

For transatlantic travel to be able to resume, the epidemiological situation will need to continue to improve in the United States and in Europe, she added. So far, the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the United States has been more rapid than most of the campaigns in Europe, where many countries have also been battling a recent wave of coronavirus cases amid the emergence of more transmissible coronavirus variants.

Travel between the United States and Europe has been off-limits to many international travelers since March 17, 2020, when European Union leaders agreed to impose travel restrictions on most foreigners entering Europe to limit the spread of COVID-19. Those restrictions were ultimately extended until July 1, 2020, when the European Union began welcoming back travelers from a short list of countries that had been approved by its leaders.

The United States has never been on the list. Conversely, the United States still has a ban in place on travelers from the European Schengen Area, the United Kingdom, and Ireland, with the exception of U.S. citizens and permanent residents. From the original 14 approved countries, the list has shrunk to just 6, according to the latest version on the European Union’s [Re-Open EU site](#).

It appears that being vaccinated for COVID-19 will soon be considered an exception as well.

SPECIAL GROUP DEPARTURES

American Queen Charms of the South

October 3-11, 2021

This nine day itinerary starts in New Orleans with a pre-night hotel stay and ends in Memphis visiting New Orleans for two days, Nottoway Plantation, St. Francisville, LA, Natchez, MS, Vicksburg, MS, and one full day of river cruising. Outside staterooms with verandah starts at \$3,599 per person double and includes pre-cruise hotel, beer and wine with lunch and dinner, hop-on hop-off shore excursions, internet service and 24 hour room service. **PROOF OF VACCINATION WILL BE REQUIRED.**

St. Francis with Father Kevin

October 21-29, 2021

Father Kevin will escort a private journey to Ireland with Belfast and Giants Causeway. Round trip air, seven first class hotel nights with private facilities and a full Irish breakfast daily. Six dinners including a dinner show at Taylors Three Rock. Highlights include: Cliffs of Moher, Achill Island, Mass at Knock, Giants Causeway, Guinness Brewery and more. **DOUBLES: \$3,499.00 plus insurance. Singles are waitlisted.**

Royal Caribbean's Anthem of the Seas Thanksgiving Cruise

November 21-28, 2021

Sail on a seven night Thanksgiving cruise from Cape Liberty with a full day visit to Perfect Day at CoCo Cay. Conquer the tallest waterslide in North America or rise to a height of 450 ft. in a helium balloon. Grab a drink at the swim up bar or a bite at one of five different venues throughout the island. Other ports include Orlando (Port Canaveral) and Nassau. A rate of \$1,179.00 per person double includes current taxes/fees and an on board credit of \$50/cabin. Additional room categories are available. [Vaccination requirements will be available closer to sailing.](#)

Iceland Getaway—The Land of Fire and Ice

February 1-6, 2022

A bucket list trip, for sure. Fly from Newark on a flight about the same length as Las Vegas. Because of the jet stream, the weather at that time averages above 32 degrees with sunrise about 10 AM and sunset about 5:30 PM. Upon arrival we will visit the Viking World Museum for a continental breakfast before heading to the warm, thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. Cover yourself with the healing mud and leave looking years younger. Not to be missed is a full day Golden Circle tour where you will visit magnificent waterfalls and geysers along with a stop at Thingvillar National Park; Iceland's Grand Canyon and the home to the oldest parliament in Europe. We will also attempt to see the Northern Lights (never guaranteed) and if nothing is spotted one night, we will try again the next night. There is a free day for your own experiences and sightseeing. Tour the inside of a glacier or the black sand beaches of the south coast. Our package includes round trip air from Newark, four nights hotel accommodations at the FossHotel Reykjavik, four full Icelandic breakfasts and a continental breakfast on arrival. Enjoy a tomato soup lunch at a greenhouse and find out about what is so special about the Icelandic horses. A double Northern Lights tour and admission to the Blue Lagoon. Rate is \$1,699.00 per person double and a limited number of singles are available at an upcharge of \$350.00 Insurance is recommended and a valid passport is required. Price is based on a minimum of 20 people.

**ICELAND IS CURRENTLY SOLD OUT. WE ARE TRYING TO GET ADDITIONAL SPACE
SO PLEASE CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO BE PUT ON A WAIT LIST.
WE WILL BE CONFIRMING AS MORE SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE.**

Framework for Conditional Sailing Order: Phased Approach



PHASE 1: Mass testing and lab capacity building



- Conduct screening testing of all crew onboard
- Develop onboard lab capacity for testing symptomatic crew, close contacts, and future passengers
- Conduct embarkation testing of all crew

PHASE 2A: Voyage preparation



- Implement routine screening testing of all crew
- Develop port, medical, and housing agreements approved by port and local health authorities
- After agreements are approved, embark nonessential crew with testing and 14-day quarantine

PHASE 2B: Simulated (trial) passenger voyages



Volunteers

- Request approval from CDC to conduct simulated (trial) voyage
- Conduct simulated voyage*
- Complete after-action report

*Subject to in-person and virtual CDC inspections

PHASE 3: Conditional Sailing Certification



- Meet CDC's standards for protection of crew in U.S. waters
- Fulfill requirements for simulated voyage(s)
- Apply for COVID-19 Conditional Sailing Certificate

PHASE 4: Restricted passenger voyages



Passengers

- Obtain and retain a COVID-19 Conditional Sailing Certificate
- Resume passenger operations with restrictions, such as voyage length and testing requirements



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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Walt Disney World Phases Out Temperature Screening Beginning May 16th



Big news today out of Walt Disney World as they have announced the removal of temperature screenings which have been in place since the phased reopening of the parks in summer 2020. Following CDC guidelines and local health officials, Disney will be phasing out temperature screenings for guests beginning May 16.

As updated on the Walt Disney World **website**: "*Temperature Screenings*: Since reopening, we have considered guidance from public health authorities, government agencies, and our own team of health and safety experts as we assess and update health and safety measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. As this guidance continues to evolve, and with the support of local health and government officials, we are making some additional adjustments. Following the advice of the CDC and our local health officials, we will phase out onsite temperature screenings at Walt Disney World Resort for Cast Members beginning May 8 and Guests on May 16. We will continue to follow the guidance of health and safety leaders going forward and most importantly encourage people to get vaccinated."

ASO 7 REASONS

WHY YOU NEED A TRAVEL ADVISOR
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Expert help for specialized itineraries



Up-to-date knowledge on the safest destinations



Vacation experiences that you just can't find on Google



Hands-on assistance with travel disruptions (Pandemic Panic)



Special travel amenities and deals not available to the public (Insider Knowledge)



Avoid surprises that you may not catch in the "fine print"



You have a friend who has your back before, during and after your trip!

BOOK NOW. BOARD SOON!

Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser Experience Coming To Walt Disney World in 2022

[Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser](#) will bring a brand new all-immersive two-day, two-night vacation experience to Florida's Walt Disney World Resort when it debuts in 2022.

Announced Tuesday in celebration of Star Wars Day on May the 4th, the first-of-its-kind experience will include accommodations in themed cabins with views of the galaxy beyond, unique dining and one-of-a-kind entertainment.

It begins at check-in at the Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser terminal. From there, guests will enter a Launch Pod to begin their own personal Star Wars story, making their way toward the Halcyon starcruiser.

Inside, guests will dive into a multi-day, interactive story featuring members of the crew, other passengers and familiar Star Wars characters.

Other onboard highlights will include a supper club called the Crown of Corellia Dining Room, which will serve breakfast and lunch daily before transitioning into a lavish multi-course menu for dinner each evening.

Guests will also embark on an excursion to the planet Batuu, where they'll explore the winding pathways of Black Spire Outpost and uncover a hidden Resistance base.

Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser guests will be the first to see their favorite characters like Rey using a new lightsaber designed by Walt Disney Imagineering Research and Development designed to be more realistic.

Hurricane season isn't deterring bookings

A new analysis by ForwardKeys is finding more enthusiasm than usual from US travelers for destinations in the Caribbean and Cancun at the height of hurricane season. Puerto Rico and Cancun are the most popular destinations.



Breakfast Tart With Pancetta and Green Onions



- Butter, for the pan
- Flour, for the pan
- 1 9-inch unroll-and-bake refrigerated pie crust
- 1 large egg white, lightly beaten
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 3 ounces pancetta, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
- 5 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup (4 ounces) mascarpone cheese, at room temperature
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded gruyere cheese
- 3 scallions, white and pale green parts, thinly sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Place an oven rack in the center of the oven. Preheat to 400 degrees. Butter and flour the bottom and sides of a 9-inch tart pan with removable bottom. Unroll pie crust and gently press into the bottom and sides of pan. Trim any excess from the top. Prick the bottom of the pastry with fork. Using a pastry brush, brush the crust with the beaten egg white. Put the pan on a baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes until egg white has set. Let cool for 10 minutes. In a medium skillet, heat the oil over medium high heat. Add the pancetta and cook, stirring frequently, for 6-8 minutes until brown and crispy. Drain on paper towel. In a medium bowl, beat eggs, whisk in mascarpone, gruyere, scallions, salt, pepper and pancetta. Pour into cooled crust and bake for about 18 minutes until set and top is golden brown. Cool and remove from pan. Cut and serve warm or at room temperature.

Celebrity Set to Resume 2021 Summer Sailings to Galapagos Islands in July

All ships will sail with vaccinated crew and will be available only to vaccinated adult guests and children under the age of 18 with a negative PCR test result. In addition, all guests should review and comply with local requirements for entry to Ecuador and the Galapagos.

For a limited time, Celebrity also is including airfare in the purchase of a Galapagos vacation package, a curated seven-night Celebrity itinerary combined with all-inclusive land-based accommodations and activities to create 10- to 16-night vacation experiences. The offer is valid for round-trip economy or business class airfares departing from U.S. and valued at up to \$750 per person, including air taxes and fees on applicable vacation packages on sail dates departing between July 3, 2021-December 31, 2023. Flights must be booked via Flights by Celebrity by June 30, 2021..