

Masks Are Now Optional in Las Vegas — What to Know

Nevada has lifted its statewide indoor mask mandate, making face coverings optional in casinos and other popular Las Vegas hotspots.

The new policy, which went into effect on Feb. 10, reversed an earlier decision to require masks on casino floors.

"Just like vaccines, masks are still a great tool we have to slow the spread of the virus. I expect going forward to still see Nevadans and visitors occasionally utilizing masks when they are out in public," the state's Gov. Steve Sisolak said in a statement. "The State will no longer require masks in public places, but employers and organizations, including school districts, may set their own policies, and I encourage them to work with their employees and communities to ensure that policies are in place."

Following the governor's order, the Nevada Gaming Control Board issued its own directive also lifting mask requirements "unless a local jurisdiction still imposes such a requirement."

Sisolak noted the new policy does not apply to airports, on planes, or on public transportation where face coverings are required by the federal transportation mask mandate, which has been extended until at least March 18.

Nevada's new mask policy follows similar decisions to make masks optional by governors across the country, including California and New York.

US airline passenger counts 27% below pre-pandemic levels

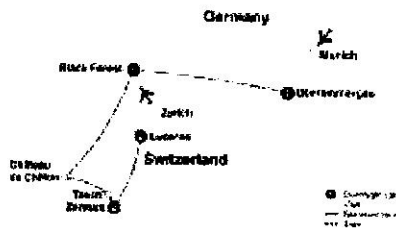


(Bruce Bennett/Getty Images)

US airlines flew 670.4 million passengers in 2021, up 83% from 2020 but still 27% lower than pre-pandemic levels in 2019, the Transportation Department reported. Domestic flights accounted for 91% of passengers, up from 88% in 2019, as domestic travel has rebounded faster than international flights.

Switzerland and Germany with Oberammergau Passion Play

September 20 - 28, 2022



Per Person Rates*:

Double \$5,499; Single \$7,499

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Newark Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

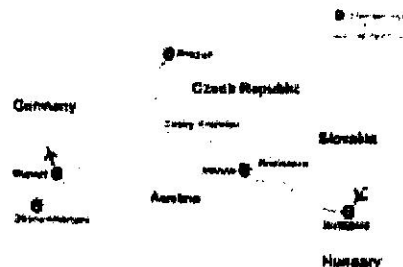
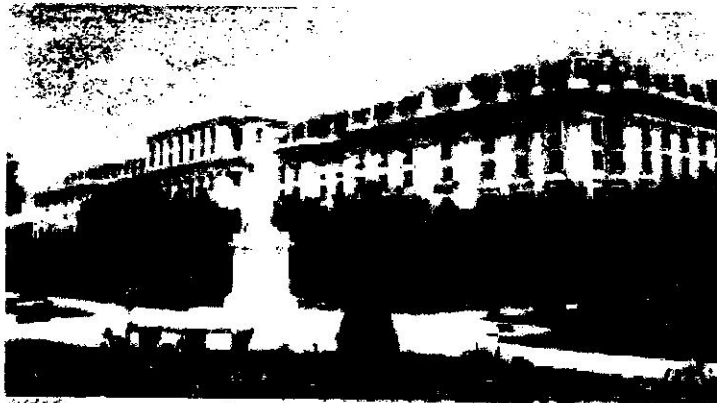
Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$500 per person

* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change

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Imperial Cities with Oberammergau Passion Play

September 19 - 29, 2022



Double \$6,099; Single \$6,999

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Newark Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$500 per person

* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Your price is not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Once deposited, you have 7 days to send us written consumer consent or withdraw consent and receive a full refund. (See registration form for consent.)

CDC Lowers Travel Health Notice Threat Level for Cruising

The **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) said on its website that it has lowered its **Travel Health Notice** level for cruise ship travel—from the highest threat level of 4 to a bit lower level of 3.

Why the move? The CDC said that it lowers a Travel Health Notice when the cumulative **COVID-19** case count among crew members meets the threshold for a lower level and remains at that level for 14 consecutive days. For example, a Level 4 Travel Health Notice or “very high” threat level is based on cumulative COVID-19 crew case counts (from all ships) of more than 2,000. In turn, the Level 3 is based on case counts between 1,000 and 2,000 crew. In turn, a Level 2 is reached when there are 500 to 999 cases, while a Level 1 signifies fewer than 500 cases.

The CDC also said the total number of vaccinated crew on ships and vaccine effectiveness against the circulating variant will be considered when determining if the Travel Health Notice level can be lowered before 14 days.

Canada to Ease Travel Requirements Starting February 28

Given the latest data showing that the **Omicron COVID-19** variant has passed its peak in **Canada**, its government announced plans to begin easing border measures starting February 28, 2022. “It is now time to move towards a more sustainable approach to long-term management of COVID-19,” the **Public Health Agency of Canada** said in a press statement on Tuesday.

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. ET on February 28, on-arrival testing for fully vaccinated travelers will be eased (although random travelers will continue to be selected for testing; however, they will no longer be required to quarantine while awaiting their test result). Children under 12 years old will continue to be exempt from quarantine, so long as they are traveling with a fully vaccinated adult. Unvaccinated travelers will continue to be required to test upon arrival, on Day 8 and quarantine for 14 days. Further, unvaccinated foreign nationals will not be permitted to enter Canada unless they meet one of the few exemptions.

Travelers also now have the option of using a rapid antigen test result (taken the day prior to their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry) or a molecular test result (taken no more than 72 hours before their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry) to meet pre-entry requirements. Note: Taking a rapid antigen test at home is not sufficient to meet the pre-entry requirement; it must be authorized by the country in which it was purchased and must be administered by a laboratory, healthcare entity or telehealth service.

Orange Chicken

Level: Intermediate

Total: 45 min

Active: 30 min

Yield: 4 to 6 servings

Ingredients:

Sauce:

- 1/2 cup (118 ml) oyster sauce
- 1/2 cup (95 g) sugar
- 3 ounces (85 ml) orange juice
- 3 ounces (85 ml) white wine vinegar (unseasoned)
- 1 tablespoon (7 g) cornstarch, mixed into the wine vinegar or a slurry
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) hoisin sauce
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sweet paprika
- 1 dropped food coloring, optional

Broccoli:

- 3 cups broccoli florets
- Kosher salt

Chicken:

- 1 1/2 quarts (1.8 L) vegetable oil, for deep frying
- 2 pounds (900 g) boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes
- 2 1/2 cups (320 g) tempura flour

Assembly:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, such as canola or grapeseed
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped garlic
- 1 1/2 teaspoons minced, peeled fresh ginger
- Fried chicken pieces, from above
- 2 to 3 scallions, cut on the bias into 2-inch lengths
- 1/2 yellow onion, cut into large dice
- Orange Chicken Sauce, from above
- Fried Rice, recipe follows, or steamed rice, for serving

Fried Rice:

- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil, such as canola or grapeseed
- 3 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 4 cups dry (450 g) long-grain or jasmine rice
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon powdered chicken bouillon
- 2 to 3 scallions, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoons white pepper, optional

Directions:

1 For the sauce: Add the oyster sauce, sugar, orange juice, vinegar and cornstarch slurry to a sauce, hoisin sauce, paprika and food coloring into a 1-quart saucepan, bring the heat up to medium. Whisk gently as it comes to a simmer. Allow to simmer, keep whisking for about 5 minutes until the sauce thickens. Remove from heat and reserve.

2 For the broccoli: Place the broccoli florets in a microwave-safe bowl with 1 1/4 cup water. Season with kosher salt and cover with plastic wrap. Microwave on high for 3 minutes. Cool for assembly.

3 For the chicken: Heat the oil in a 4-quart Dutch oven to 375 degrees. Frying a deep fry thermometer. Rinse the chicken in cold water and pat dry. Sprinkle 1 cup tempura flour over the chicken cubes and toss to lightly dredge. Shake off the excess. Mix the remaining 1 1/2 cups of tempura flour with 1 cup cold water to make a thin batter. It should look like pancake batter. Fry in batches until golden brown and crisp, 6 to 8 minutes. Drain on paper towels or a rack.

4 To assemble: Heat a large skillet to high and add the vegetable oil. When you see the first wisps of white smoke, stir in the garlic, ginger and fried chicken pieces and cook, stirring, for about 30 seconds. Add the scallions, onion and Orange Chicken Sauce and allow to cook and simmer. Cook, folding all the ingredients until they are well-mixed, about 2 minutes. Serve over fried rice or steamed rice, with the steamed broccoli.

Fried Rice:

5 In a large skillet, heat the oil until a wisp of white smoke appears. Pour in the eggs and add the rice immediately. Using a wide silicone spatula, work the rice into the egg in circular motions, making sure not to break the grains. After about 30 seconds, the egg will start to coagulate and surround the rice, the rice will start to dry. Keep scraping the pan and folding the rice back into the middle.

6 Add the soy sauce, sugar and chicken bouillon. Continue to cook for about a minute. Don't be afraid to scrape up the rice stuck to the bottom of the pan. Cook until the rice absorbs the liquid and egg but is still fluffy. Fold in the scallions and white pepper and cook for an additional minute. Serve immediately.

This recipe has been updated and may differ from what was originally published or broadcast.

Adapted from "101 Asian Dishes You Need to Cook Before You Die: Discover a New World of Flavors in Authentic Recipes" by Jillie T. Page Street Publishing, 2017. All rights reserved.



SECOND CHANCE INFO NIGHT FOR ITALY PILGRIMAGE WITH FATHER STEVE

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022 AT 5:00 PM AT ST. FRANCIS CENTER

PLEASE CALL TARA TO R.S.V.P.

WE ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULING ICELAND PHOTO REUNION

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022 AT 2:00 PM

DOWNSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM AT OUR OFFICE, 128 BARTLETT AVENUE, WEST CREEK

PLEASE CALL NANCY TO R.S.V.P.

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U.S. Citizens Will Need to Register to Travel to Europe in 2023

The launch of the ETIAS travel authorization is currently slated for January 1, 2023.

Prior to the pandemic, Europe was the most-visited region in the world and has always been a very popular destination for U.S. travelers. As COVID restrictions begin to relax again in parts of Europe and as Americans begin to plot their future journeys to the continent once again, they should be aware that the rules for entry into the European Schengen Zone will soon change.

Initially meant to come into effect on January 1, 2021, the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) is now slated to launch on January 1, 2023. At that point, all U.S. citizens who want to travel to the 26 members of Europe's Schengen Zone will need to register with the ETIAS or risk being turned away at the border.

The European Union decided to implement this new travel authorization program to protect and strengthen its borders amid mounting terror threats in Europe. By requiring visitors to register, the EU will be able to identify any possible threats or risks associated with travelers coming into these countries before they arrive.

This is not a visa. ETIAS is a travel authorization for visa-free visitors, similar to the U.S. Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

"ETIAS is not a visa, it is a visa waiver. Travelers currently visiting European member countries visa-free, will require an ETIAS from 2023 onwards. Passport holders of the EU single market are exempt from ETIAS," states ETIAS.com, the landing page for news and information regarding the new travel authorization process.

In other words, ETIAS will only prescreen travelers who do *not* need a Schengen visa.

According to a fact sheet the European Commission released in July 2018, "Nationals of visa liberalization countries will continue to travel the EU without a visa but will simply be required to obtain a travel authorization via ETIAS prior to their travel.

"An ETIAS travel authorization does not reintroduce visa-like obligations," it continues. "There is no need to go to a consulate to make an application, no biometric data is collected and significantly less information is gathered than during a visa application procedure."

The new travel authorization applies to those entering any member country of Europe's Schengen Zone. Currently, that includes 22 countries that are also members of the EU, four non-EU countries, plus three European micro-states. That means that you'll need to register to enter Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. The micro-states of San Marino, Vatican City, and Monaco will also require the registering.