

# CORONAVIRUS: DESTINATION RESTRICTIONS

Updated May 6, 2020

Countries around the globe have imposed various travel and in-country restrictions in an attempt to halt the spread of coronavirus. Many have essentially closed their borders except to citizens returning home and enforced strict controls on everyday life. Naturally, this poses obstacles when relocating employees; and as a relocation company, we have a duty to understand the current restrictions taking place. In the table below, we have provided travel and in-country restrictions for the top 10 countries by total move activity in 2019.

Additional resources for more locations can be found below the table.

COUNTRY	CURRENT SITUATION
1. United States	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b></p> <p>The U.S. has imposed a travel ban for all of Europe and has banned the entry of all foreign nationals who have been to China, Iran, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK or Ireland 14 days before their arrival in the U.S.</p> <p>On March 18, the U.S. closed its northern border with Canada to non-essential traffic such as tourists; and on March 20, the U.S. and Mexico agreed to restrict non-essential travel over their shared border.</p> <p>On April 23, legal immigration into the United States was suspended for 60 days for migrants seeking permanent residency.</p> <p><b>In-Country Restrictions:</b></p> <p>At least 42 U.S. states have now ordered residents to stay at home, affecting at least 316 million people. People are being encouraged to follow the below advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid gatherings of more than 10 people</li> <li>• Schooling should be at home and discretionary travel and social visits should be avoided</li> <li>• If anyone in a household tests positive for the virus, everyone who lives there should stay home</li> <li>• Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts – use drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options</li> <li>• Do not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance</li> </ul> <p>Advice and restrictions differ by state. Please see the Lonely Planet (US states by state restrictions) link in the 'Additional Resources' section.</p> <p><b>Time Limit:</b></p> <p>The travel restriction for all non-essential travel over the U.S. and Mexico border will be in place until at least May 20. There is no disclosed time limit on international travel.</p>
2. United Kingdom	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b></p> <p>UK Officials are carrying out enhanced monitoring of direct flights. The UK is not currently banning international arrivals; however, since the COVID-19 pandemic started, the Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office has issued two global travel advisory notices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Return to the UK now if you're travelling abroad</li> <li>2. Do not travel abroad unless it's essential</li> </ol>

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	<p><b>In-Country Restrictions:</b> As of March 23, the following restrictions have been announced by the Government of the United Kingdom. People will only be allowed to leave their home for the following very limited purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shopping for basic necessities</li> <li>• One form of exercise a day alone or with members of your household</li> <li>• Any medical need or to provide care to a vulnerable person</li> <li>• Travelling to and from work when absolutely necessary</li> </ul> <p>To ensure compliance with the Government’s instruction to stay at home, the UK has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed all shops selling non-essential goods, including clothing and electronic stores</li> <li>• Closed other recreational premises, including libraries, playgrounds and outdoor gyms, and places of worship</li> <li>• Stopped all gatherings of more than two people in public – excluding people you live with</li> <li>• Stopped all social events, including weddings, baptisms and other ceremonies, but excluding funerals</li> <li>• Closed all schools and further educational institutions</li> <li>• Reduction of public transport</li> </ul> <p><b>Time Limit:</b> The restrictions have been in place for seven weeks and will be re-examined by the Government May 10.</p>
<p><b>3. India</b></p>	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b> The Government of India has suspended all international flights arriving and departing from India until May 17. India have also suspended all domestic travel (road, air and rail) until May 17.</p> <p><b>In-Country Restrictions:</b> The restrictions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public transport services, including buses, taxis, and trains</li> <li>• Closure of non-essential shops, commercial establishments, factories, offices</li> <li>• Construction suspended</li> <li>• Instructions to stay at home and leave only for basic services (to acquire consumables or for health care services) within the vicinity of their residencies, while strictly following social distancing guidelines</li> </ul> <p><b>Time Limit:</b> Prime Minister Modi announced a public curfew on March 22. On May 1, the curfew was extended for another two weeks (May 28). India has relaxed restrictions on farming, banking and public works, but transport services and most businesses remain closed.</p>
<p><b>4. Switzerland</b></p>	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b> As of March 26, the Swiss banned all international travel except Liechtenstein. It also applies to air and land entry points. Any foreign nationals who wish to enter Switzerland and do not hold a valid residence or work permit will be refused entry.</p> <p><b>In-Country Restrictions:</b> People are being encouraged to only leave the home if necessary. That means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have to purchase groceries</li> <li>• If you have to go to the doctor or the pharmacy</li> <li>• If you have to help someone</li> <li>• If you are unable to work from home and you have to go to work</li> </ul>

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	<p>Other restrictions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gatherings of more than 5 people are prohibited. If five or fewer people meet, they must maintain a distance of 2 meters from one another</li> <li>• Ban on all public and private events</li> <li>• Schools Closures</li> <li>• Public transport reduced</li> </ul> <p>A failure to adhere to the enacted bans is punishable by a custodial sentence of up to three years or by a fine.</p> <p><b>Time Limit:</b> Restrictions will be gradually eased in three stages: on April 27, May 11 and finally on June 8.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>April 27:</b> Hospitals are now allowed to perform all procedures. Hairdressers, massage parlors and beauty salons have been allowed to reopen.</li> <li>2. <b>May 11:</b> The ban on schools will apply until May 11 for primary schools. Applications to work in Switzerland submitted before March 25 by citizens of the EU or EFTA Member States will be processed as of May 11.</li> <li>3. <b>June 8:</b> The ban on meeting in groups larger than five outside the house is due to end on June 8. Secondary Schools are due to open.</li> </ol> <p>There is no set date for borders to reopen.</p>
<p>5. <b>Canada</b></p>	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b> On March 16, Canada closed its borders to non-citizens and non-residents, which was extended to land borders with the US on March 18. Everyone traveling by plane or train to Canada will be medically pre-screened and required to answer a set of health-related questions. From 20 April, non-medical facemasks or face coverings are required for all flights to and from Canadian airports.</p> <p><b>In-Country Restrictions:</b> Each province and territory also has its own emergency measures to detect cases and prevent spread of the virus. People throughout Canada are being encouraged to follow the below advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay at home unless you have to go to work. Working from home is encouraged</li> <li>• Avoid all non-essential trips in your community</li> <li>• Do not gather in groups</li> <li>• Limit contact with people at higher risk (e.g. older adults and those in poor health)</li> <li>• Go outside to exercise but stay close to home</li> <li>• If you leave your home, always keep a distance of at least 2 meters from others</li> </ul> <p><b>Schools have been closed throughout the country.</b></p> <p><b>Time Limit:</b> There are no disclosed time limits.</p>
<p>6. <b>Singapore</b></p>	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b> On March 23, the Singapore government announced that all short-term visitors arriving from anywhere in the world would not be permitted entry into Singapore or international transit through Singapore. Additionally, any other traveler permitted entry into Singapore will be issued a 14-day “stay-home” notice and required to show proof of access to a single dwelling during that period.</p> <p>Since Jan 29, all arriving passengers at Changi Airport have been subject to temperature screening. Travelers identified as suspect cases are being referred to hospitals for further assessment.</p>

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	<p><b>In-Country Restrictions:</b></p> <p>On April 14<sup>th</sup>, Singapore made it mandatory to wear masks in public. First-time offenders caught without a mask will be fined S\$300 (\$212).</p> <p>On April 14<sup>th</sup>, new Safe-Distancing Regulations were implemented to minimize the spread of COVID-19. These measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid gathering with others not from your household, either at home or outside</li> <li>• Elderly to stay home</li> <li>• Instead of peak hours, visit markets at non-peak hours on weekends or weekdays</li> <li>• Social contact should be limited to household members</li> <li>• Takeout or get your food delivered – no dining-in is allowed at restaurants</li> <li>• No group recreational activities are allowed in public spaces. Individuals and members of the same household are allowed to exercise by walking, jogging and cycling</li> <li>• No loitering at public spaces</li> </ul> <p>Violations of Safe-Distancing Regulations could be liable on conviction to fines and even imprisonment. First offence: \$300. Repeat offenders: Higher fines, or prosecution in court for egregious cases.</p> <p><b>Time Limit:</b></p> <p>Singapore's measures will remain in place until May 12, with businesses like barbers, bakers and laundry services allowed to reopen on May 12. Schools will start reopening for small groups of students from May 19.</p>
7. China	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b></p> <p>Entry is only allowed for Chinese citizens, permanent residents of Mainland China, and residents of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. All travelers will be screened upon arrival and be subject to a 14-day quarantine. Local quarantine requirements can vary significantly between cities.</p> <p><b>In-Country Restrictions:</b></p> <p>On May 6, China has allowed thousands of students to return to school, including in Wuhan and Shanghai.</p> <p>China announced on March 24 that the lockdown would be lifted on more than 50 million people in central Hubei province where the coronavirus first emerged late last year. Hubei province ordered a shutdown in January but has been gradually easing the rules and permitting people to move about within Hubei and return to work.</p> <p>On April 8, China officially lifted its 76-day lockdown on Wuhan, the epicenter of the Coronavirus pandemic; and on April 11, China shut the last of their 16 temporary coronavirus hospitals.</p> <p><b>Time Limit:</b></p> <p>None disclosed but lockdown is being lifted in some areas.</p>
8. Germany	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b></p> <p>Germany, along with other EU member states, is limiting entry to EU citizens and residents only until May 15. Citizens who are not residents of the EU and do not fall into one of several narrow exceptions will be denied entry.</p> <p>Germany has implemented temporary border closures along its borders with Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, and Denmark until May 15. Deliveries of goods, as well as the crossing of registered commuters will be allowed to continue.</p> <p><b>In-Country Restrictions:</b></p>

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	<p>Germany is slowly reopening their economy, however social distancing will remain in place until June 5.</p> <p><b>Time Limit:</b> Small shops, museums, galleries and gardens have been allowed to open as long as they follow social distancing. Germany is set to open schools in May with further details being published in the coming days. Social distancing will remain in place until June 5.</p>
<p><b>9. France</b></p>	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b> On March 17, the Government of France announced that the European Union external borders would close for 30 days. This was renewed for a further 30 days on April 11. This does not apply to foreign nationals departing France to return home.</p> <p>Flights from China, Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore, South Korea, Iran, and affected regions in Italy arriving at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris are met by medical professionals to answer questions and take into care any person presenting symptoms.</p> <p><b>In-Country Restrictions:</b> Restrictions include strict social distancing measures which were issued on March 17:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All non-essential public services in France remain closed, including open-air markets</li> <li>• All public gatherings are banned and residents are required to stay inside except for grocery shopping and other essential tasks</li> <li>• Outdoor exercise is only permitted once a day and must be done alone and not exceed one hour</li> <li>• Families are allowed to take walks, but must remain within 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) of their homes</li> </ul> <p>If necessary, travel is permitted in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between home and work when remote work is not possible</li> <li>• To make essential purchases in authorized local shops</li> <li>• For health reasons</li> <li>• To care for children or help vulnerable people</li> <li>• Brief movements near or around the home for individual exercise or pet care and without public gathering. All exercise is limited to within one kilometer of each person's residence and can only be for one hour per day, and alone</li> <li>• To respond to a judicial or administrative matter</li> <li>• To participate in an activity at the request of an administrative authority</li> </ul> <p>If you must travel for one of these reasons, you must carry an attestation. For travel to work, you will need an employer certificate. Unnecessary travel may be fined between 135 to 375 euros, with an increase to 1,500 euros for two violations within 15 days, and 3,750 euros and imprisonment for three violations within 30 days.</p> <p><b>Time Limit:</b> The lockdown was extended from April 1 to May 11.</p>
<p><b>10. Netherlands</b></p>	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b> Non-EU nationals are banned from travelling to the Netherlands until May 15. From April 17, travelers to the Netherlands from high-risk areas are required by airlines to fill in a 'fit-to-fly' health declaration form. All travelers from high-risk areas are advised to quarantine for 14 days.</p> <p><b>In-Country Restrictions:</b> Restrictions include:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All schools and preschools are closed, but will remain open for children whose parents work in vital sectors (i.e. healthcare, emergency services)</li> <li>• All cafés, bars, beauty salons, barbershops, and clubs will also remain closed. Most restaurants are allowed to provide delivery and take-away orders only</li> <li>• All gatherings have been banned through the end of May. Any group of more than two people who do not maintain 1.5 meter (5 feet) separation and who are not from the same family will face fines up to 400 euros</li> <li>• Anyone with a fever must stay at home along with all members of that household</li> </ul> <p><b>Time Limit:</b> Social distancing restrictions are in place until at least May 11. Schools are set to reopen on May 11.</p>

## Additional Resources

- Fragomen: <https://www.fragomen.com/about/news/immigration-update-coronavirus>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- Coronavirus: Travel restrictions, border shutdowns by country: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/coronavirus-travel-restrictions-border-shutdowns-country-200318091505922.html>
- Lonely Planet: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/coronavirus-travel-bans>
- Lonely Planet (US states by state restrictions): <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/us-coronavirus-closures-by-state>
- US Department of State: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/COVID-19-Country-Specific-Information.html>
- Newland Chase Blog: [https://blog.newlandchase.com/hubfs/CIBTvisas\\_Coronavirus\\_Global\\_Information%20SS%20UPDATES%201%20APRIL%20PM.pdf?hsCtaTracking=1c377eda-b501-47b7-ac9d-cda41fdc960d%7C261d73aa-0565-4f85-94b5-e94191126093](https://blog.newlandchase.com/hubfs/CIBTvisas_Coronavirus_Global_Information%20SS%20UPDATES%201%20APRIL%20PM.pdf?hsCtaTracking=1c377eda-b501-47b7-ac9d-cda41fdc960d%7C261d73aa-0565-4f85-94b5-e94191126093)