



UNWTO
World Tourism Organization

COVID – 19 RELATED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS A GLOBAL REVIEW FOR TOURISM

FOURTH REPORT AS OF 29 MAY 2020





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Prepared by
UNWTO
Sustainable Development of Tourism Department



Acknowledgments

This fourth report COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions – A Global Review for Tourism was developed by the World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) Sustainable Development of Tourism Department. The report was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Dirk Glaesser with lead contributions from Lorna Hartantyo, Marianna Stori and Cordula Wohlmuther. Virginia Fernández-Trapa reviewed and provided thorough feedback to the report.

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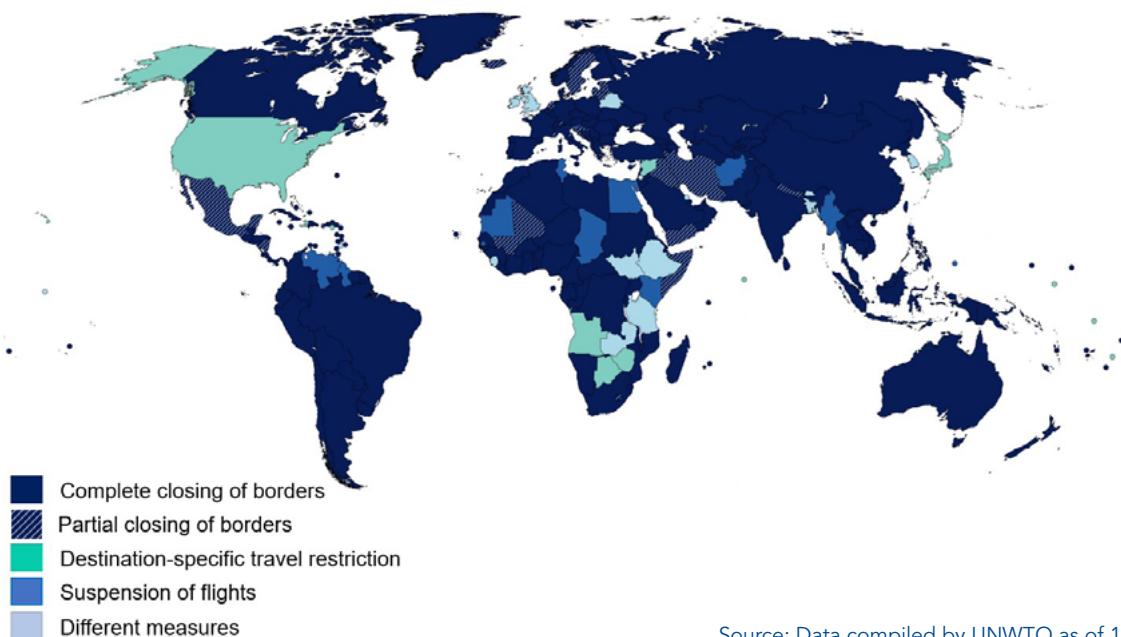
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1. Key Facts

As of 18 May 2020

- 7 destinations (3% of all destinations worldwide) have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions for international tourism purposes. Significant discussions and indications on the opening of additional borders are taking place.
- Nevertheless, 100% of all destinations worldwide (217 destinations) continue to have COVID-19 related travel restrictions in place.
- Currently, 75% of all destinations worldwide (163 destinations) have borders completely closed for international tourism.
- The higher the importance of tourism is for the economies of destinations, the more frequently the complete closure of borders is observed as a travel restriction.
- SIDS destinations, where tourism is of high and very high economic importance in the majority of cases, have their borders completely closed in 85% of cases.
- 24% of all destinations worldwide (51 destinations) have travel restrictions in place for 14 weeks and 37% (80 destinations) for 10 weeks.

Figure A – Type of travel restriction by destination with COVID-19 travel restrictions



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 18 May¹.

¹ The maps elaborated by UNWTO are for reference only and do not imply any judgement on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.

- From a regional point of view, the destinations that have completely closed their border represent:
 - o 74% of destinations in Africa
 - o 86% of destinations in the Americas
 - o 67% of destinations in Asia and the Pacific
 - o 74% of destinations in Europe
 - o 69% of destinations in the Middle East
- The following categories of COVID-19 related travel restrictions are being applied across destinations worldwide (total destinations are 217):
 - o Complete or partial closure of borders:

185 destinations (85%) have completely or partially closed their borders (increase from 166 destinations on 27 April 2020).
 - Out of these, 163 destinations have completely closed their borders (increase from 156 destinations) for international tourists including air, sea and land border. Some exemptions are usually made for nationals, residents, commuters, diplomats and for essential travel purposes.
 - The remaining 22 destinations have partially closed their borders (increase from 10 destinations), resulting in a significant reduction of the entry points to access their destinations.
 - o Suspension of flights:

11 destinations (5%) have suspended completely or partially international flights (decrease from 26 destinations).
 - o Destination-specific travel restriction:

10 destinations (5%) are implementing the closing of borders in a more differentiated manner by banning the entry for passengers from specific countries of origin (increase from 9 destinations).
 - o Different measures:

The remaining 12 destinations (5%) are applying different measures, such as quarantine or self-isolation for 14 days, visa measures, or requesting medical screenings and/or medical certificate before or after arrival (decrease from 16 destinations).

2. Introduction

This is the fourth issue of a series of reports on COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions – A Global Review for Tourism, aimed at providing an overview and analysis on the implementation of travel restrictions by governments as one of the means to address the global health crisis of COVID-19.

These reports are updated on a regular basis to support mitigation and recovery efforts of the tourism sector, providing a global overview of the measures in place and analysing them from a tourism perspective.

With a view to supporting the responsible and successful implementation of exit strategies through which countries are managing the recovery of their tourism sector, the reports also aim at identifying critical issues and best practices of COVID-19 related travel measures and their implications on tourism.

The monitoring of travel restrictions is carried out only from the standpoint of travel facilitation for tourism purposes (i.e. focusing on temporary visitors/tourists) and therefore does not take into account any measures that are directed to residents, diplomats and other categories of travellers nor consider travel advisories issued by governments for their respective citizens/residents.

This work is carried out by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Sustainable Development of Tourism Department (SDT) that, inter alia, monitors visa policies around the world since 2008 and produces the Visa Openness Reports, which focus on entry requirements for tourism purposes.²

3. Rationale and focus of the analysis

In line with the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, many destinations are currently preparing proactively for the opening of international borders and a few destinations have already lifted travel restrictions for international tourism.

This fourth report focuses on enhancing the understanding of the context of travel restrictions and their lifting. For this purpose, the analysis of travel restrictions was conducted taking into account the economic importance of tourism for 181 destinations.³ The destinations were divided into four clusters according to the relevance of tourism for their economies. These clusters were subsequently linked to the corresponding travel restrictions with the aim to identify potential commonalities or similar patterns within each cluster. In addition, the analysis of travel restrictions has been carried out focusing on some selected economic and political blocs, in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS)⁴ and the Schengen area.

² World Tourism Organization, Travel Facilitation reports, available online at: www.unwto.org/sustainable-development/travel-facilitation.

³ World Travel & Tourism Council (2019), Economic Impact 2019, May 2019, available online at: <https://wtcc.org/Research/Economic-Impact>.

⁴ Concerning SIDS, the analysis is based on 54 out of the total 58 SIDS (38 UN Members and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of Regional Commissions) which are all the SIDS destinations included in the report: For more information on SIDS please visit: <http://unohrrls.org/>.

4. Introduction

All reports in this series are based on desk research carried out since the end of January 2020. They contain the results of monitoring travel restrictions that have been implemented during this period by destinations worldwide.

For the first two reports in this series, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Travel Centre was the main source of information. In addition, websites such as International SOS and the World Health Organization (WHO) Extranet were consulted for destinations that were not featured on IATA website.

For the third report, in order to gain a better understanding of the different categories of travel restrictions, and further insights on the distinction between complete and partial closure of borders, the information from IATA and International SOS were analysed, compared and validated for all destinations.

This fourth report builds on data of the UN World Food Programme (WFP). Information collected by WFP is based on SOS International and various governmental websites, including information deriving from leading news channels. The information received from WFP was analysed and validated by UNWTO using additional sources and allowed to gain a comprehensive view of travel restrictions in place for international tourism in destinations worldwide as of 18 May 2020.

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- 5 Disclaimer about Information Accuracy: Although every effort has been made to provide complete and accurate information, UNWTO cannot make warranties as to the accuracy of content. If inaccuracies are observed, please revert to sdt@unwto.org. As changes in travel restrictions are occurring very fast, changes after the time of this publication may also impact on the accuracy of the information.
 - 6 For more information on the previous three editions of the Report COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions – A Global Review for Tourism, visit: <https://www.unwto.org/covid-19-resources>
 - 7 IATA Travel Centre, available online at: <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/>.
 - 8 International SOS is a medical and travel security services company, for more info on Travel restrictions, flight operations and screening see: <https://pandemic.internationalsos.com/2019-ncov/ncov-travel-restrictions-flight-operations-and-screening>.
 - 9 World Travel Restrictions - UN World Food Programme, available online at: <https://unwfp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/db5b5df309ac4f10bfd36145a6f8880e>

5. Overview on COVID-19 related Travel Restrictions as of 18 May 2020

5.1 Volume, severity and impacts of travel restrictions on international tourism

As of 18 May 2020, a total of 7 destinations¹⁰ (3% of all destinations worldwide) have eased travel restrictions for international tourism purposes. Nevertheless, all destinations worldwide (100%) continue to have COVID-19 related travel restrictions in place.

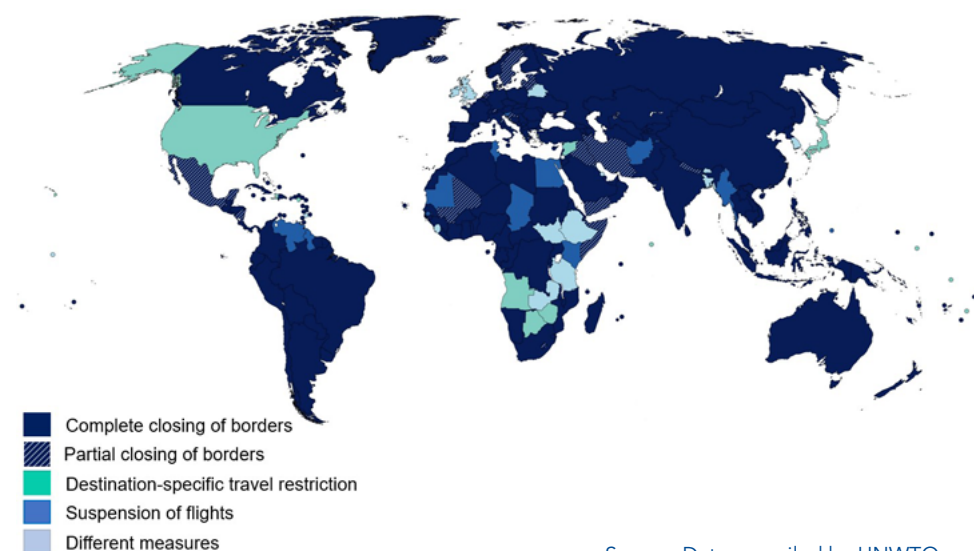
Travel restrictions including the complete or partial closure of borders, destination-specific travel restrictions, suspension of flights and other measures have been in place for ten weeks in 37% of destinations worldwide (80 destinations) and during the past 14 weeks in 24% of destinations worldwide (51 destinations).

In fact, most destinations worldwide (75%) continue to have their borders completely closed to international tourists (163 destinations out of 217 in total).

During the last fortnight, the gradual lifting of national lockdown and quarantine measures has started in some countries bringing some first promising signs for international tourism to recover. Yet, travel advisories, limited flight connections, health concerns as well as potential travel restrictions upon return are still making international travel for tourism purposes very challenging.

The impact of travel restrictions on international tourism due to COVID-19 is reflected in the available data on international arrivals for the first quarter of 2020 which shows a decrease of 22%, while international arrivals in the month of March have been down by 57%. The latest scenarios point at possible declines in international arrivals for 2020 to range from 58% to 78% over 2019 data. These scenarios depend on the speed of containment of the virus, the duration of travel restrictions and shutdown of borders and the confidence of the international traveller to resume travel.¹¹

Figure 1 – Destinations with travel restrictions, including complete closure of borders to international tourism as of 18 May 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 18 May 2020.

10 The following destinations have introduced measures facilitating international tourism: Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, South Sudan, Tanzania and Tunisia.

11 World Tourism Organization, World Tourism Barometer, Volume 18, Issues 2, May 2020, Special focus on the Impact of COVID-19, available online at: <https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-05/Barometer%20-%20May%202020%20-%20Short.pdf>

The opening of borders for international tourists is of particular relevance for the recovery of the tourism sector in all destinations and even more for those with a high dependence on international tourism. In view of the upcoming holiday season in the Northern Hemisphere, tourism is becoming an increasingly crucial factor in decision making processes for easing travel restrictions. Significant discussions on opening borders for international tourism are underway, including negotiations on different approaches such as the complete opening of borders, bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries, as well as the creation of so called “bubbles” or “tourism corridors”.

5.2 Regional analysis of travel restrictions

The complete or partial closure of borders continue to be the most dominant type of travel restriction across regions. This measure is applied in 93% of destinations in Europe, 92% of destinations in both the Americas and Middle East, 79% of destinations in Africa and

72% of destinations in Asia and the Pacific (Figure 2).

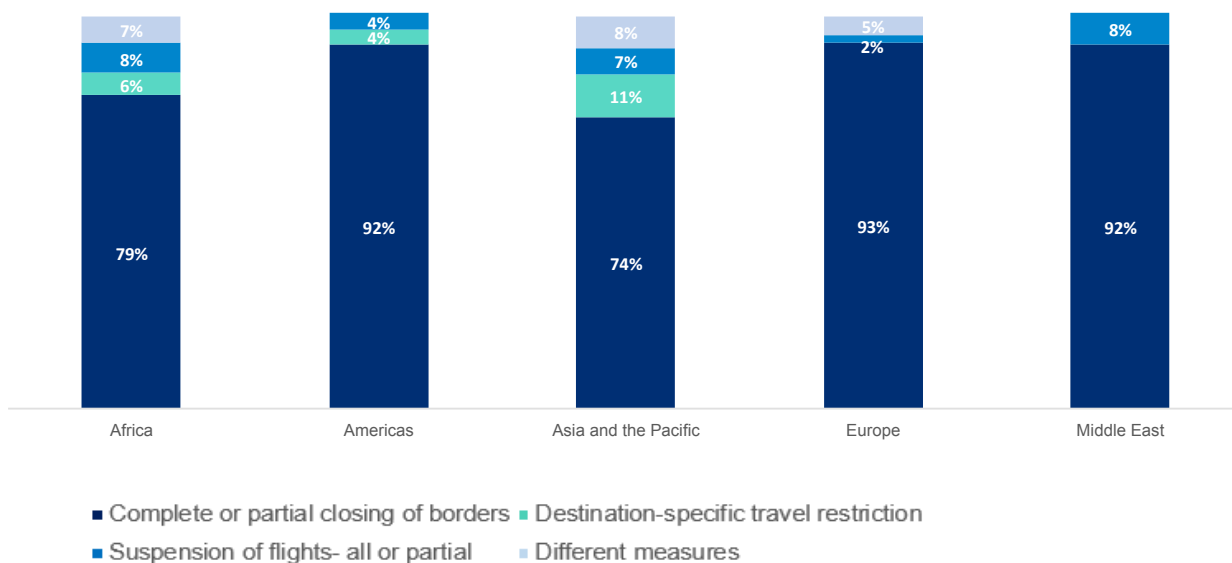
Complete closure of borders is observed in 86% of destinations in the Americas, 74% of destinations in both Africa and Europe, 69% of destinations in the Middle East and 67% of destinations in Asia and the Pacific.

Destination-specific travel restrictions are applied only by very few destinations, most of them in Asia and the Pacific (11%), Africa (6%) and the Americas (4%). No destination in Europe nor in the Middle East is applying this type of measure anymore.

The suspension of flights is used in a limited number of destinations in Africa and the Middle East (8%), Asia and the Pacific (7%), Americas (4%), and Europe (2%).

Different measures like suspension of visa, requesting medical certificates or self-quarantine upon arrival are used in a small number of destinations in Asia and the Pacific (8%), Africa (7%) and Europe (5%).

Figure 2 - Regional breakdown of travel restrictions as of 18 May 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 18 May 2020.

5.3 Further analysis of travel restrictions

Travel restrictions in relation to the economic importance of tourism

The following analysis focuses on the relations between travel restrictions and the importance of tourism for the economy of destinations. For this purpose, destinations were grouped in four clusters of economic importance, namely, low, moderate, considerable and high (Table 1).¹²

The analysis shows an inverse relationship between the economic importance of tourism for the economy of destinations and the variety of measures applied. In fact, the

variety of measures applied by destinations decreases with an increasing economic importance of tourism (Figure 3).

In destinations where tourism is of low economic importance, additional measures to the complete closure of borders were applied in 32% of cases, while for the rest of clusters, the application of additional measures to the complete closure of borders continuously decreases to reach 14% in the case of destinations where tourism is of high economic importance.

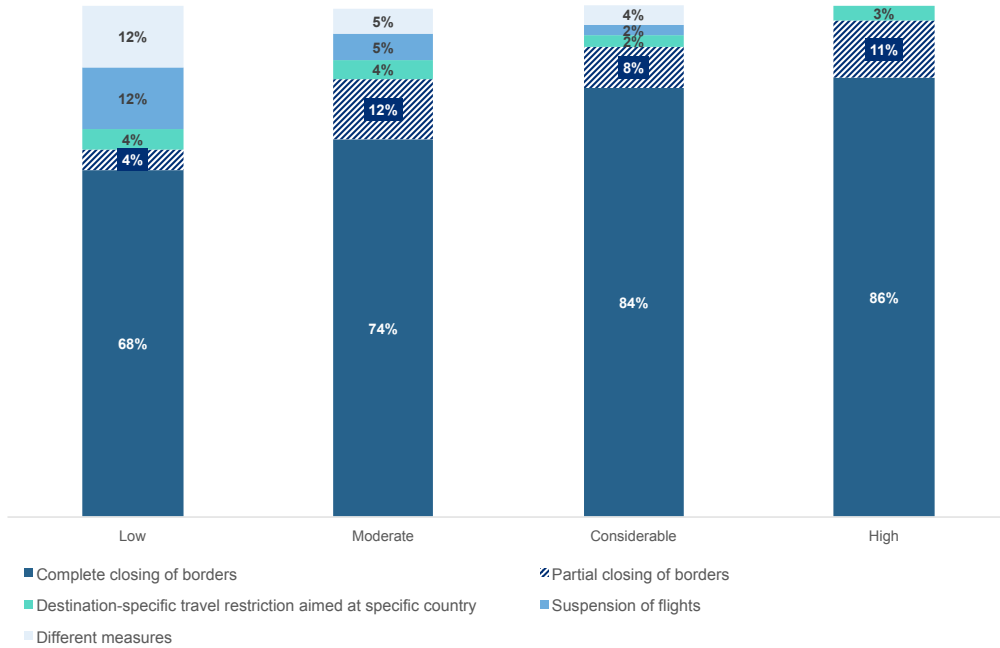
It can also be observed that with an increasing importance of tourism for the economy, the complete closure of borders is the measure more frequently applied.

Table 1 - Destination clusters by economic importance of tourism

	Number of destinations and regional breakdown
Low: T-GDP <=5%	25 destinations: 10 in Africa, 5 in the Americas, 4 in Asia and the Pacific, 5 in Europe, 1 in the Middle East
Moderate: T-GDP >5% and <= 10%	80 destinations: 19 in Africa, 14 in the Americas, 11 in Asia and the Pacific, 28 in Europe and 8 in the Middle East.
Considerable: T-GDP >10% and <=20%	47 destinations: 12 in Africa, 10 in the Americas, 11 in Asia and the Pacific, 10 in Europe, 4 in the Middle East
High: T-GDP >20%	29 destinations: 3 in Africa, 14 in the Americas, 6 in Asia and the Pacific, 6 in Europe.

¹² Clusters are aligned with World Bank: Covid-19 Markets COVID-19 Guidance Note. Impact and Policy response in the tourism sector. Under preparation and World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) Economic Impact 2019, available online at: <https://wttc.org/Research/Economic-Impact>.

Figure 3 – Travel restrictions by economic importance of tourism



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 18 May 2020.

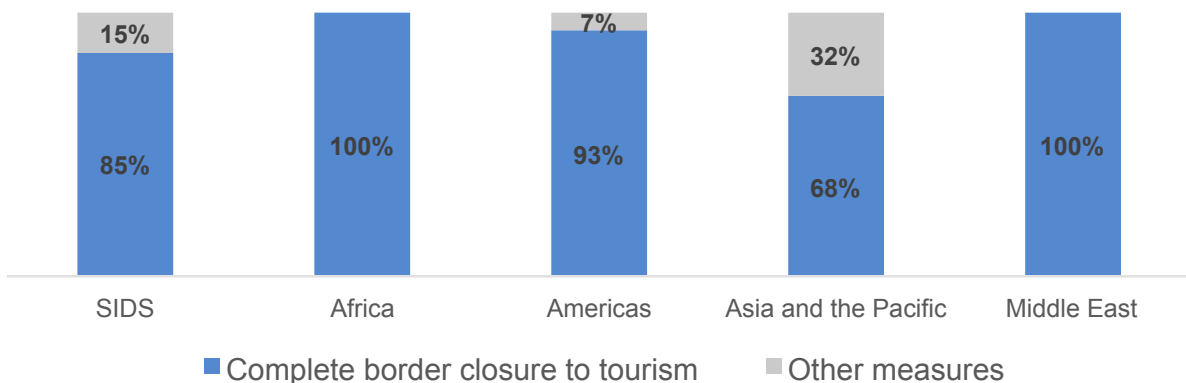
Travel restrictions in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

As of 18 May 2020, 46 SIDS representing 85% of the total 54 SIDS destinations have completely closed their borders.

Looking at the regional breakdown of SIDS, all SIDS in the African region (6 destinations) and in the Middle East (1 destination) are

completely closed. In the Americas, almost all SIDS (93%) have applied these same measures (26 destinations). In Asia and the Pacific only 68% of SIDS (13 destinations) have completely closed their borders, while the remaining SIDS in this region have opted for destination-specific travel restrictions banning the entry only for passengers coming from countries significantly affected by COVID-19 (Figure 4).

Figure 4 - Global and regional breakdown of complete border closure applied by SIDS



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 18 May 2020.

Many SIDS (41% of all SIDS) were among the first destinations that introduced travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 outbreak and so far, no SIDS has lifted the travel restrictions introduced.

On 7 February 2020, one week after COVID-19 was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), out of the 51 destinations that already had implemented travel restrictions, 22 destinations were SIDS, mostly from Asia and the Pacific (27% of the total 51 destinations). At present (14 weeks later), these 22 SIDS still have travel restrictions in place, with 18 of them having their borders completely closed.

In line with the previously noted trend that the variety of measures reduces with an increasing economic importance of tourism, the same trend can be observed for SIDS, which in their

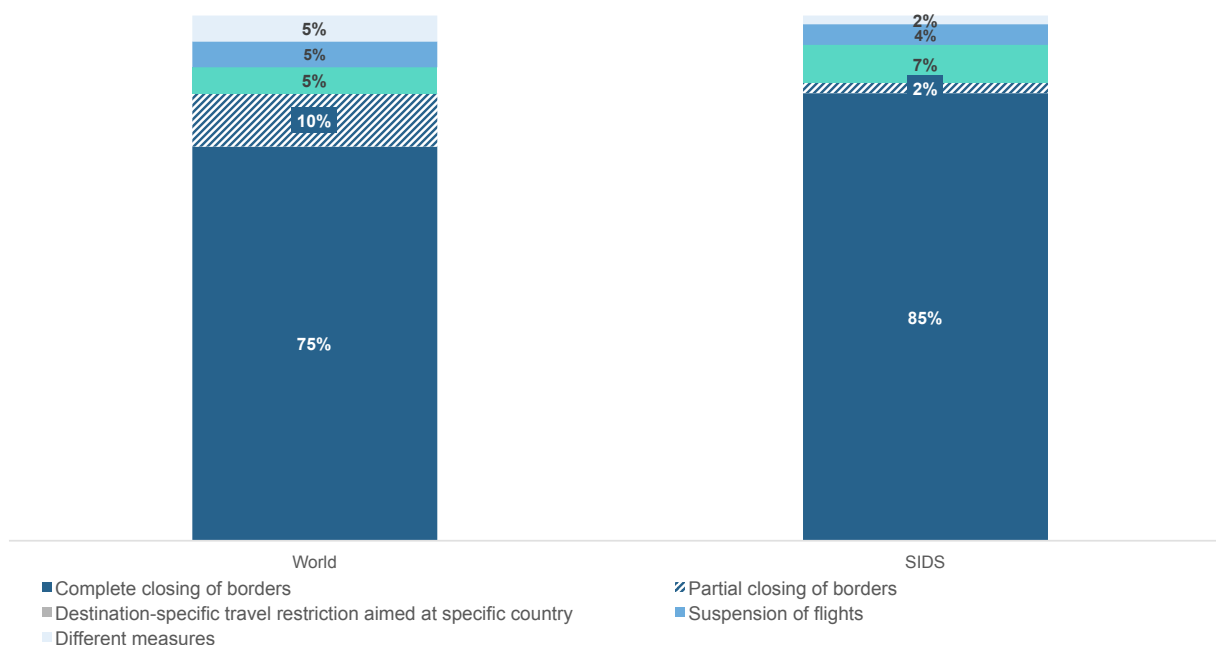
majority have a moderate to high importance of tourism in their economies. Also notable, that complete border closures are more common among SIDS in comparison to global averages.

Travel restrictions in the Schengen Area

The external borders of the European Union (EU) have been closed to non-EU citizens for more than two months.¹³

The internal borders in the Schengen area¹⁴ are being managed in accordance with various restrictive measures that limit the movement of tourists between destinations of the region (intraregional tourism¹⁵). The complete closure of borders for international tourism is the most common type of measure, applied in 69% of destinations (18 destinations).

Figure 5 - Overview of SIDS by travel restriction in place as of 18 May 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 18 May 2020.

13 On 16 March 2020 the European Commission proposed the temporary restriction of all non-essential travel from third countries to the EU+ area for 30 days. For more information see: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0115&from=EN>
 This restriction was extended by another 30 days on 8 May 2020. See at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_823

14 The Schengen area covers 26 countries (“Schengen States”) without border controls between them, for more information see: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/schengen_visa_en.

15 Intraregional tourism refers to tourist movements from one country to another country within the same region.

On 15 April 2020, the European Commission (EC) issued a Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures¹⁶ which proposes a “phased approach for the opening of internal and external borders”¹⁷. For the lifting of internal borders, the Roadmap points at three main elements to be considered when assessing the readiness to gradually lift the travel restrictions and the controls at internal borders, namely i) epidemiological criteria, ii) health system capacity and iii) appropriate monitoring capacity. It also highlights that restrictions “should first be eased between areas with comparably low reported circulation of the virus”. The reopening of external borders and access of non-EU residents to the EU should happen in a second stage and “should take into account the spread of the virus outside the EU”¹⁸.

On 13 May 2020, the EC presented guidelines on the future of Tourism and Transport for 2020 and beyond¹⁹, in which a set of recommendations are provided, including the gradual lifting of internal travel restrictions with all necessary safety and precautionary measures in place.²⁰ For this purpose, criteria have been elaborated that Member States shall take into account for the lifting of restrictions to free movement and internal border controls, highlighting that travel should first be lifted in areas “with a comparable epidemiological situation based on guidance issued by the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC), and where sufficient capabilities are in place in terms of hospitals, testing, surveillance and contact tracing”²¹.

The guidelines also highlight the necessity to continuously update communications on this matter, as to ensure that “people crossing borders can plan and act on the basis of transparent information and full awareness of the situation”²². In this context the creation of a single website for travellers is proposed. Another precondition listed is the ability to ensure that containment measures, such as physical distancing, can be followed throughout the traveller’s journey. The lifting shall take place in three phases: Phase 0 being the current situation where internal borders are closed; Phase 1 indicates that, if complete opening of national borders is not possible due to the epidemiological developments, connections could be established across regions of Member States with a sufficiently similar epidemiological situation; and Phase 2 which consists in lifting all COVID-19 related restrictions and controls of internal borders, while keeping the necessary health measures in place.

With the upcoming summer season in the Northern Hemisphere, the opening of borders for international tourists has become a much debated topic among the Member States of the Schengen area. A number of destinations have already announced concrete days for opening borders for tourists.

5.4 Evolution of travel restrictions over time

With the spread of COVID-19 cases in an increasing number of countries, the number

16 European Commission, Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures, available online at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication_-_a_european_roadmap_to_lifting_coronavirus_containment_measures_0.pdf

17 Ibid., p.11

18 Ibid.

19 European Commission, Communication From The Commission To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond, available online at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-commission-tourism-transport-2020-and-beyond_en.pdf

20 European Commission Communication: COVID-19 Towards a phased and coordinated approach for restoring freedom of movement and lifting internal border controls, available online at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication_freemovement.pdf

21 Ibid. p.5

22 Ibid.

of travel restrictions has also grown (Figure 6). When on 30 January 2020 the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a PHEIC, 11 destinations had already implemented travel restrictions directed at travellers coming from China and prohibiting their entry into the destination. One week later, on 7 February 2020, this number had grown to 51 destinations. By then, 24 destinations worldwide had reported confirmed cases of COVID-19.

On 11 March 2020, when WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, a total of 85 destinations had travel restrictions in place. After the declaration of the pandemic, a new wave of restrictions to entry was triggered, this time mainly in Europe. As a result, between 9 and 16 March 2020, an additional 38 destinations introduced travel restrictions, out of which 20 were from Europe, bringing the total to 119 destinations worldwide.

Two weeks after the declaration of the PHEIC, the number of destinations with restrictions more than doubled, from 85 to 181 destinations.

Between 24 March and 20 April 2020, all remaining destinations introduced travel restrictions bringing the total to 217 destinations which represent 100% of destinations worldwide, a situation never seen before.

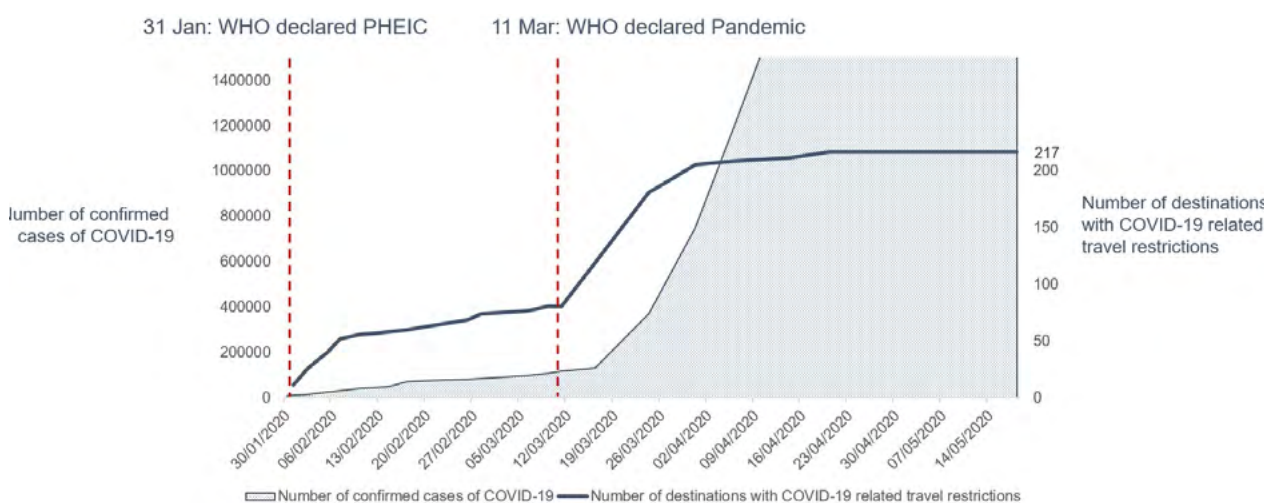
It is now for more than five weeks that 100% of all destinations worldwide are having currently COVID-19 related travel restrictions in place.

5.5 Categories of travel restrictions affecting international tourists

At the beginning of the crisis two main categories of travel restrictions were observed, one directed at passengers coming from a country that had confirmed COVID-19 cases (destination-specific travel restriction) and the other one being the restrictions of visa.

Over time additional measures were observed, such as the request for medical certificates upon arrival at a destination or the request for self-isolation or quarantine.

Figure 6 - Number of confirmed cases and destinations with COVID-19-related travel restrictions



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 18 May 2020.

Once WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, two new, more extreme categories of travel restrictions started to be applied, namely the complete and partial closure of borders and suspension of flights by governments.

These two categories are, at the current date, used by the majority of destinations worldwide (88%).

The following categories of COVID-19 related travel restrictions are being applied across destinations worldwide (total destinations = 217) (Figure 7):

- **Complete or partial closure of borders:**

- o As of 18 May 2020, 185 destinations (85%) have completely or partially closed borders (increase from 166 destinations on 27 April 2020).
- o Out of these, 163 destinations have completely closed their borders (increase from 156 destinations) for international tourists including air, sea and land border. Some exemptions are usually made for nationals,

residents, commuters, diplomats and for essential travel purposes.

- o The remaining 22 destinations have partially closed borders, (increase from 10 destinations) resulting in a significant reduction of the entry points to access their destinations.

- **Suspension of flights:**

11 destinations (5%) have suspended completely or partially international flights. This is a decrease from 26 destinations in last report.

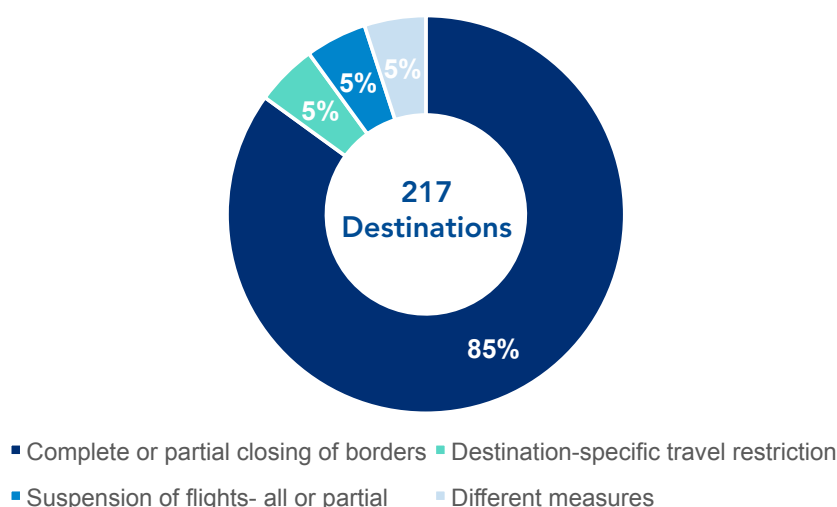
- **Destination-specific travel restriction:**

10 destinations (5%) are implementing the closing of borders in a more differentiated manner by banning the entry for passengers from specific countries of origin. This is an increase from 9 destinations in last report.

- **Different measures:**

The remaining 11 destinations (5%) are applying different measures, such as

Figure 7 - Category of travel restrictions by destination with COVID-19 travel restrictions



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 18 May 2020.

quarantine or self-isolation for 14 days, visa measures, or requesting a medical certificate upon arrival. This is a decrease from 16 destinations in last report.

5.6 The importance of consistent and reliable information

As destinations around the world are now starting to lift the travel restrictions they have introduced. Developments are expected to vary widely, depending on the actual situation and context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the different geographical areas.

Consequently, immigration procedures and requirements will differ from destination to destination, which is especially challenging for the consistency of information on procedures and requirements across the different national authorities, namely health, foreign affairs, immigration and tourism authorities of a country.

Providing reliable, consistent and easy to access information on immigration procedures for international tourists has created already in the past in the context of Visa unnecessary burdens for travelers, which could have easily been avoided. It is now, especially in view of the upcoming fast changing procedures and requirements, even more important, and national authorities must ensure that immigration procedures and requirements are provided in a timely, reliable and consistent manner across all information systems and platforms, to maintain confidence and trust.



ANNEXES



Annex 1

Overview on the different categories and applying destinations as of 18 May²³

Complete or partial closing of borders

Applied by 185 destinations (85% of all destinations worldwide).

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bolivia, Bonaire, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros Island, Congo, Congo DR, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Fiji, Finland, France, French Guiana, French Polynesia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong SAR, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea DPR, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao SAR, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Martinique, Mauritius, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand,

Nicaragua, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Reunion, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saba, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan Province of China, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Virgin Islands British, Yemen.

Suspension of flights - partially or completely

Applied by 11 destinations (5% of all destinations worldwide).

Afghanistan, Chad, Egypt, Guyana, Kenia, Mauritania, Myanmar, Palau, Slovenia, Tunisia, Venezuela.

Destination-specific travel restrictions aimed at passengers from specific countries

Applied by 10 destinations (5% of all destinations worldwide).

Angola, Botswana, Japan, Maldives, Nauru, Niue, St. Eustatius, Tuvalu, United States of America, Zimbabwe.

²³ Some destinations apply more than one measure, in this case the measure affecting tourists most is used for the purpose of this analysis.

Quarantine or self-isolation related measures

Applied by 5 destinations (2% of all destinations worldwide).

Belarus, Ethiopia, Ireland, United Kingdom, Zambia.

Visa measures - Visa are invalidated or no longer visa exempt or visa cannot be obtained any longer upon arrival

Applied by 3 destinations (1% of all destinations worldwide).

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Republic of Korea.

Medical certificate before arrival

Applied by 3 destinations (1% of all destinations worldwide).

Kiribati, South Sudan, Tanzania.

Annex 2

Overview on COVID-19 and pandemic measures, including travel restrictions

On 31 December 2019, a pneumonia of unknown cause was detected first in Wuhan, China and reported to the local WHO office. Four weeks later, on 30 January 2020 the WHO declared the outbreak of this virus, initially named 2019-nCoV, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). At that stage WHO referred to 83 cases in 18 countries²⁴ and did not recommend any travel or trade restriction. In a joint statement by UNWTO and WHO released on 26 February 2020, it was indicated that “Tourism’s response needs to be measured and consistent, proportionate to the public health threat and based on local risk assessment, involving every part of the tourism value chain”.²⁵

While from end of December 2019 until end of February 2020 China reported the largest amount of COVID-19 cases, by February 2020 the virus had already spread almost all over the globe. When WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020, 114 countries had reported 118,000 cases with Europe becoming the worst-affected region. As of 18 May 2020, there are worldwide reported 4,618,821 COVID-19 cases with 311,847 deaths.²⁶

Based on the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response guidance document for governments²⁷, a variety of measures have been implemented worldwide in order to reduce the spread of the virus. These include individual measures, such as the promotion of hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as societal level measures, such as protocols related to social distancing which include the suspension of school classes, adjusting work patterns, the reduction of unnecessary travel and overcrowding of mass transport systems as well as the development of frameworks for cancellation/restriction of mass gatherings.²⁸ Moreover, with regards to international travel, measures to “develop capacities for emergency public health actions at designated points of entry in accordance with International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) Annex 1 B.2.”, which include relevant control mechanisms for arriving and departing travellers, have been implemented.

Furthermore, additional provisions of the IHR²⁷ have guided the introduction of measures. For instance, under Chapter III on special provisions for travellers, the treatment of suspected travellers when entering a destination is outlined, ranging from medical examination to providing the person with food and water.³⁰ Also under IHR Article 43, it is stated that additional health measures shall be based on scientific principles,

24 World Health Organization (2020), Statement on the second meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), 30 January 2020, available online at: [www.who.int/news-room/detail/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

25 World Tourism Organization, World Health Organization (2020), Joint statement on tourism and covid-19: UNWTO and WHO call for responsibility and coordination, 26 February 2020, available online at: https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-03/31012020%20Coronavirus_Feb_2020%20EN_3.pdf.

26 World Health Organization, Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Situation report 119, available online at: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200518-covid-19-sitrep-119.pdf?sfvrsn=4bd9de25_4

27 International Health Regulations (2005), Third Edition, WHO, pp. 40-42, available online at: www.who.int/ihr/publications/9789241580496/en.

28 International Health Regulations (2005).

29 International Health Regulations (2005).

30 International Health Regulations (2005), pp. 23-24.

available scientific evidence and available specific guidance of WHO. In this context, the implementation of additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic, shall be reported to WHO within 48 hours, including the public health rationale and relevant scientific information. Significant interference means “refusal of entry or departure of international travellers, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, good, and the like, or their delay, for more than 24 hours”. The IHR stipulates that WHO shall share this information with other governments and request that the measure is reviewed within three months. Furthermore, WHO may request a government that implemented such measure to reconsider its application.³¹

31 International Health Regulations (2005), pp. 29.



UNWTO

World Tourism Organization