Travel Industry Update
June 23, 2020

Restrictions on Travel Easing as Europe Leads Cautious Restart of Tourism

- The latest research by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) shows that 22% of all destinations worldwide (48 destinations) have started to ease restrictions, with Europe leading the way.
- This is up from just 3% (7 destinations) on 18 May.
- 65% of all destinations worldwide (141 destinations) continue to have their borders completely closed to international tourism.
- UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: "The restart of tourism is of vital importance - for livelihoods, for businesses and for national economies. This latest overview of global travel restrictions shows that growing numbers of destinations are beginning to ease the restrictions they introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is being done in a responsible and measured way. However, this crisis is not over. UNWTO will continue to work with our Member States around the world to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and to ensure that, when the time is right, tourism can help drive a responsible and sustainable recovery."

Delta to resume flights between U.S. and China

- Delta Air Lines Inc will resume flights between Seattle and Shanghai on June 25, making it the first U.S. airline to restart operations between the United States and China after flights were suspended in February due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The flights will operate twice a week in June and once a week starting July from Seattle and Detroit, Delta said.

26 Emirates passengers test positive for COVID-19

- An Emirates flight on Saturday may have just set a record for the highest number of confirmed coronavirus cases on a single flight.
- On Saturday, June 20, 2020, an Emirates Boeing 777-300ER operated flight #380 from Dubai to Hong Kong.
- Hong Kong still has strict immigration requirements, with most visitors being banned from entering (at least most people can now transit Hong Kong International Airport). Entry is primarily restricted to returning residents, and they have to be tested for coronavirus upon arrival.
- Unfortunately this particular flight had at least 26 passengers test positive for COVID-19.
- Hong Kong authorities have published the seat assignments of the passengers who tested positive for coronavirus. The passengers who tested positive were spread out throughout the cabin.
What these passengers do have in common is that they were all connecting from Pakistan.

What is unknown so far:

- If these passengers were all seated close to one another on the flight from Pakistan to Dubai
- If the passengers knew one another
- If the passengers just happened to all have independently picked up coronavirus in Pakistan

**U.S. Expands Flight Disputes, Accuses Air India Of Evading Coronavirus Restrictions**

- After threatening to ban Chinese airlines, the U.S. could restrict Air India in retaliation for India blocking U.S. carriers from making a long-haul recovery.
- Delta has yet to receive Indian approval to operate U.S.-India flights despite requesting permission a month ago. That delay has not hindered Air India, which is planning to operate effectively 53% of its normal U.S. schedule, according to the Department of Transportation.
- “India has impaired the operating rights of U.S. carriers and has engaged in discriminatory and restrictive practices with respect to U.S. carrier services,” DOT said in an order.
- To create leverage against India, the U.S. is now requiring Air India to request U.S. permission for each flight a month in advance, potentially allowing the U.S. to reject certain flights.
- Air India is the only Indian carrier flying to the U.S.
- So far only Delta has requested Indian permission, DOT said, despite United Airlines having a larger and longer presence in India.

**TSA number: over 600,000 passengers go through check points for the first time since March 19**

- On Monday, June 22, 607,540 passengers went through TSA check points. The last time over 600,000 passengers went through TSA was March 19 when 620,883 passengers went through.
- Compared to a year ago (same week day in June), 2,716,428 passengers were cleared through TSA check points.

**Cruise Lines International Association, the leading trade organization for the global ocean-going cruise industry, says its member cruise lines have voluntarily extended the suspension of U.S. cruise operations until Sept. 15 amid coronavirus concerns.**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s "no-sail order" is scheduled to expire on July 24, but no extension has yet been announced.
- CLIA’s member lines carry 95% of the world’s ocean-going cruisers. The new order will apply to all CLIA member ships the CDC order applies to – vessels that can carry 250 or more passengers.
Royal Caribbean, Carnival Cruise Line extend sailing suspensions into Fall

- Royal Caribbean announced it will extend its sailing suspension through Sept. 15 for most cruises.
- Exceptions include itineraries from China, which are canceled through the end of July and sailings to Bermuda, which are canceled through Oct. 31.
- Carnival Cruise Line will extend its suspension in North America through the end of September.

The coronavirus pandemic has claimed its first cruise line

- Spanish cruise operator Pullmantur Cruises, which is partly owned by Royal Caribbean Cruises, has filed for reorganization under Spanish insolvency laws, Royal Caribbean Cruises said Monday.
- Royal Caribbean Cruises owns 49% of the three-ship company, which caters to Spanish speaking vacationers from Spain and Latin America.
- For now, Pullmantur has canceled all sailings through Nov. 15. Royal Caribbean Cruises said passengers booked on affected sailings would be offered the option to sail on ships operated by other Royal Caribbean Cruises brands.