

A letter from Switzerland Getting ready to pack

Dear friends, dear partners, dear colleagues
Things look good in Switzerland. The weather is great, people are out in the streets in huge numbers – I counted 25 clients queuing up outside the Louis Vuitton Store in Zurich yesterday!
In the last few days we have even started to get a few bookings again. We hear from airlines

getting ready to fly to our destinations again soon, and the first destinations are opening up - including the Seychelles. Chances are good that the Swiss will be travelling again very soon and that is the reason for this message.
We get lots of mail from hotels, agents, and ministries informing us about the steps they are taking

to create a safe environment. Some of these messages make one believe that hotel rooms were not cleaned in the past at all; some hotels even created special "safe environment" labels; some countries even want to make hotels pay for such a label. Well, this is definitely not what Swiss tourists will be looking for.
Here, life is back to normal, ev-

erybody is tired of hearing these virus stories and definitely not in their future holiday destination. Swiss tourists will definitely not want to be greeted by a masked driver, masked receptionist and served by a masked waiter. They want to see people's faces and look for a holiday experience that is close to the one they are used to.

I believe that all of you should invest much more in guest experiences – like a "great to see you" message upon arrival instead of handing them a mask, and offering them a glass of wine with dinner instead of a bottle of disinfectant (well, – if you insist you can do that on top of the wine).
Please unite and convince your governments to put themselves

in the role of a tourist who can choose where he will spend the most precious days of the year. Definitely not in a country or hotel that looks like a hospital. If you open up, do it properly!

With best regards
Kurt Zürcher
CEO
Let's go Tours

Training

STA students invited for practical training sessions at Kempinski

Seychelles Tourism Academy (STA) students received a boost in their practical training this week courtesy of an invitation by Kempinski Seychelles Resort to the institution for them to hold their training sessions at the resort.



Training and exam preparation of the cohort of second year tourism academy students is taking place over four weeks

The luxury hotel at Baie Lazare, which had kept their doors open to guests during the COVID-19 pandemic, invited the Seychelles Tourism Academy to conduct some of their practical training at the hotel's facilities earlier this week.

The cohort of second year students is benefitting from hands-on training and guidance under the leadership of experienced hotel staff and academy tutors. The students' training and exam preparation will take place over a four-week period, following which their practical exams will also be held at the hotel.

They are also practicing real-life applications of the latest health and safety precautions being adopted by the hospitality industry in a post-COVID-19 world.



A hospitality student plumps up a cushion during her practical training session at the resort

Kempinski's general manager Hany Abdelmoneim said that they took advantage of the downtime in business to open their doors to help nurture the new talent in the hospitality industry and prepare them for when tourism returns.

"At Kempinski we are committed to nurturing young talent and believe that the passion and enthusiasm of our young hoteliers is what gives our brand heart," said Abdelmoneim. "This quiet period is the perfect opportunity to focus

on training and honing our craft, and we are delighted to be able to share this opportunity with the students of the Seychelles Tourism Academy.

We always believe in investing in people and are confident that business will soon be back to normal. Thus, we welcomed the opportunity to cooperate with the Seychelles Training Academy to ensure that Seychellois students will be prepared when tourism returns."

For visitors

Seychelles Tourism Board issues safety guidelines for visitors

The Seychelles Tourism Board (STB) has published information for holidaymakers planning to visit Seychelles on their official website through the 'Seychelles Safety Travel Guidelines'

The long-awaited date of the re-opening of the airport has arrived in Seychelles and many are those already planning to hit the beautiful sandy beaches and the lush vegetation to escape from the confinement of COVID-19, enthuses a communique from STB entitled "What to Expect when you book a holiday to Seychelles under the New Normal!"

Entry into the beautiful destination as of 1 June, 2020 will be gradual and subjected to strict conditions imposed by the Public Health Authority.

In order to limit risks for the Seychelles inhabitants, the Seychelles health authority has announced that during the first phase of the reopening of its airport, the destination will only consider visitors from low risks countries travelling through private jets and chartered passenger direct flights.

Visitors are advised that applications will be processed on a case-by-case basis as per Public Health orders.

Information for holidaymakers planning to visit Seychelles is available on the Seychelles Department of Tourism website through the 'Seychelles Safety Travel Guidelines' issued on 29 May, 2020 and reinforce recommendations made by Public

Health Authority.

All visitors are required to send their COVID-19 PCR test result to Seychelles Department of Health prior to boarding the plane. They should also have the result to present, upon disembarking on the Seychelles shores, certification by their local health authorities confirming they have taken a COVID-19 PCR test 48 hours or less prior to boarding the flight to Seychelles and that the same is negative. Visitors failing to present the required proof will be turned back on the same aircraft.

Visitors are advised that they will be subjected to strict entry screening procedures including completion of the health check form, symptomatic check, temperature scanning. The Public Health Authority also reserves the right to request that visitors undergo a rapid antigen test.

Industry partners including destination management companies, airlines and other partners selling the destination are strongly advised to inform their clients that they must provide proof of accommodation in an approved establishment for the entire period of stay and must show booking vouchers at Immigration desk upon entry.

For ease of control and contact tracing, visitors are encouraged



What to Expect when you book a holiday to Seychelles under the New Normal!

to refrain from changing accommodation during their stay in Seychelles and must not interact with the community apart from those at their place of residence.

The series of guidelines under the 'Seychelles Safety Travel Guidelines' also contains crucial recommendations for tourism-related business providers in regards to new required measures to be put in place before they are allowed to operate.

All establishments will be visited by the Department of Tourism and the Public Health Authority and must be certified fit to operate prior to re-opening.

As part of the strict measures taken by the authorities to limit a second wave from hitting the destination, a designated Health and Safety officers or focal person will monitor visitors and staff of tourism establishment daily.

Tourism trade partners are also encouraged to ensure strict hygiene measures and physical distancing are enforced at all times.

Clients owning or intending to rent a yacht, superyacht and leisure fishing vessels in Seychelles may enter Seychelles waters and must clear immigration at port Victoria and receive clearance for any subsequent visit or disembarkation at any site or island from relevant authorities.

The Public Health Authority has advised that the disembarkation procedures imposed will reflect the strict measures taken at the airport and considering the risks, permission for any crew or passengers to get off will not be given until the vessel has spent at least 14 days at sea during which time daily temperature checks should be submitted to the Port Health office. A COVID-19 test may be requested at the end of the 14 days.

All passengers and crew must have been screened for COVID-19 and have a recent negative PCR test prior to entering Seychelles waters.

Industry partners operating yachting services have been advised that there should be a lapse of at least 48 hours before boarding of new clients to allow thorough cleaning as per guidelines and inspection by authorities.

These guidelines start taking effect as of the beginning of June and will be reviewed periodically by the concerned authorities and updated consequently.

Owners of private planes, airlines, yacht and other leisure fishing vessels are reminded that they need to clearance from the respective authorities before entering the destination's waters and its airspace.