

4 June 2020

## **WEEKLY BULLETIN**

Quarantine will be imposed on arrival to the UK from Monday 8th June except from within the Common Travel Area. This policy applies to arrival by air, sea or Channel Tunnel. London, outside the Schengen zone, and normally one of Europe's most visited cities, is facing an unsustainable loss of visitor spend. Urgent consultation continues following strong objections from industry. Today the UK government will talk further with the airlines. The practicability of enforcement aside (in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales enforcement may differ), its benefit to public health at this stage of the crisis is openly questioned as passengers will be permitted to use public transport to reach their destination on arrival. The UK's value as a major source market for intra-European travel will be lost until quarantine is lifted. The UK Government has announced that the first formal review of the policy will take place by 29th June and are considering bilateral agreements with other countries outside the Common Travel Area which would exempt arrivals from quarantine ("air bridges").

Guidelines for operators and clients will become a new part of life. In Amsterdam, restrictions on movement are easing as post-lockdown life starts to take shape. We are starting to see some clarity about business conditions. Prebooking options are available for museums, cafés and restaurants. Canal cruises are now permitted, with new safety management processes in place, developed by the sector including ETOA members Blue Boat Company, Stromma Netherlands and TGI. Under social distancing rules, c.12-30 passengers will be allowed on board, depending on configuration, passenger profile and boat size. Said Suzanne Content, Director of Sales at tourist company Stromma Netherlands: "On the 4th June we will welcome quests on board for the first time since lockdown. The canal cruise operators got together to propose new safety protocols that allow operations to re-start. While we're focusing on the Dutch market and nearby neighbours markets for now, we're looking forward to welcoming visitors from around the world as soon as people start flying again. It is an extraordinary time to see the historic UNESCO cityscape with so few people on the streets along the canals, whether you want to explore independently on foot, by pedal boat, or join a cruise. Members of the same household can sit

together. We can't serve food on board for the time being, but you can always have a drink with a beautiful view on the canals of Amsterdam!"

We would like to hear from other members on their reopening plans and current challenges as restrictions begin to lift in Europe. <u>Contact our team</u> to share your updates.

**Fighting against fraud** The travel industry continues to be targeted by online fraudsters. At a time when finances are so fragile, this is especially harmful. To inform and help ETOA members, especially those who have been subject to fraudulent activity, we have added a <u>dedicated page</u> on our website.



The <u>COVID-19</u> resources page is reviewed and updated regularly with notifications on which sections updated at the top of the page. Recent updates include:

- The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has issued health guidance for airlines and airports. These guidelines are similar to the guidelines issued by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency last month. Both guidelines encourage social distancing wherever possible but "where this distancing is not feasible (for example in aircraft cabins), adequate risk-based measures should be used. (ICAO)" For example, passengers wearing a mask and thorough cleaning protocols implemented.
- Changes have been announced to the Job Retention 'furlough' scheme in the <u>United Kingdom</u>. A <u>factsheet</u> has been published with the new changes which also includes changes to the Self-employment Income Support scheme. Please note the last date an employee can be furloughed for the first time is 10 June. This is due to changes to the scheme from July when part time working will be allowed for furloughed employees and the minimum furlough period will reduce from 3 weeks to 1 week. More details on part-time working will be published on 12 June. It was also announced that the scheme is currently set to end on 31 October 2020 and from August 2020 employers will start financially contributing to the scheme.
- As more countries borders re-open to other countries in the coming weeks, please see IATA and Government foreign affairs webpages of the origin and destination countries for the latest on departure and entry conditions. These can be found on our COVID-19 resources page under each country.



ETOA's previous webinars, including yesterday's webinar on the Nordic and Baltic region, can be reviewed <a href="here">here</a>. Future events will include: destination and regional product development - how public and private sectors can collaborate to stimulate and support recovery; origin markets – what are operators and recent research telling us about travel intentions?

## ETOA's current lobbying priorities remain:

- Access to liquidity, especially for SMEs
- Resolution to cancellation and refund policies
- Better practical information to enable future planning
- Coordination in standards for food, accommodation, transport systems under any new public health guidelines



City Fair 2020

## 20th July, Online B2B Meetings

City Fair, our tried-and-tested B2B networking and product development workshop, is moving online in 2020 to make it easier for attendees from across the world to participate as we lay together the foundations for recovery.

Over 100 buyers have confirmed they will join us on the 20th July for this year's edition, please see <a href="here">here</a> the list of confirmed companies to date and click below to find out more and register:

Register here

## **Members' Features**

On our <u>Members' Features page</u> you can find free-of-charge ETOA Member content to support business and encourage stuck-at-home travellers to keep destinations in mind, offering virtual visits, free online events and inspiration for future holidays. New content include **Barcelona Turisme's** collection on virtual tours, music and cooking, **Europamundo's** collection of inspiring traveller photos and a link to **Tiqet's** free online Culture Festival from 8th-12th June.

Keep the ideas coming!

