On 15 March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the National State of Disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act, highlighting the urgent and drastic measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

On 20 September 2020, President Ramaphosa announced that the country was moving to Alert Level 1 of the Risk Adapation Framework, which was the lifting of some of the stringent restrictions which were imposed on citizens under lockdown. He further announced that, on 1 October 2020, South African borders would be opened for business and leisure travel for international travellers subject to a number of requirements, which include the mandatory wearing of masks at all times, practicing social distancing in public spaces, regular washing or sanitising of hands and presenting a negative COVID-19 test result no older than 72 hours from the time of departure.

Over the past month, over 6 000 South Africans were repatriated from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Namibia, Zambia, Turkey, Qatar, Dubai, China, Uganda, Martinique, French, India, Gabon, Burkina Faso, the United States of America (USA), Cuba, the Conuntries of the Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Switzerland, Cuba, Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, the Seychelles, and Madagascar.

For the full statement on the reopening and parts of ports to go, see: http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/pand0930.htm

LATEST ARRIVALS

On 15 September 2020
- A flight from Qatar repatriated 19 South Africans
- A flight from China repatriated eight South Africans

On 16 September 2020
- A flight from the Netherlands repatriated 68 South Africans
- A flight from Kenya repatriated one South African
- A flight from the DRC repatriated 24 South Africans
- A flight from China repatriated 32 South Africans
- A flight from Mozambique repatriated 67 South Africans

On 17 September 2020
- A flight from Ethiopia repatriated one South African
- Two flights from Angola repatriated 20 and nine South Africans, respectively
- A flight from China repatriated 32 South Africans
- A flight from Zambia repatriated 38 South Africans

On 18 September 2020
- A flight from Ethiopia repatriated 47 South Africans
- A flight from Ethiopia repatriated 10 South Africans
- A flight from the DRC repatriated 32 South Africans
- A flight from Gabon repatriated 12 South Africans
- A flight from the USA repatriated 204 South Africans
- A flight from the Netherlands repatriated 313 South Africans
- A flight from India repatriated 175 South Africans

On 19 September 2020
- A flight from the Netherlands repatriated 64 South Africans

On 20 September 2020
- A flight from Zambia repatriated one South African
- A flight from Kenya repatriated 38 South Africans
- A flight from Turkey repatriated 197 South Africans

On 21 September 2020
- A flight from Ethiopia repatriated one South African
- A flight from Botswana repatriated seven South Africans
- A flight from Angola repatriated nine South Africans
- A flight from Qatar repatriated 187 South Africans

On 23 September 2020
- A flight from Mozambique repatriated 57 South Africans
- A flight from Zambia repatriated 40 South Africans
- Two flights from Angola repatriated 52 and 32 South Africans, respectively
- A flight from Mozambique repatriated 25 South Africans
- A flight from Zambia repatriated nine South Africans

On 24 September 2020
- A flight from Germany repatriated 150 South Africans
- A flight from China repatriated 41 South Africans
- A flight from Mauritius repatriated 22 South Africans
- A flight from Zambia repatriated 31 South Africans
- A flight from Angola repatriated 30 South Africans
- A flight from Botswana repatriated one South African

On 25 September 2020
- A flight from Tanzania repatriated seven South Africans
- A flight from Zambia repatriated 42 South Africans
- A flight from Qatar repatriated 313 South Africans
- A flight from Mozambique repatriated 15 South Africans
- A flight from Mozambique repatriated one South African

On 26 September 2020
- A flight from Qatar repatriated 58 South Africans
- Two flights from Zimbabwe repatriated 37 and 41 South Africans
- A flight from the Netherlands repatriated 95 South Africans
- A flight from Angola repatriated 16 South Africans
- A flight from Mozambique repatriated one South African

On 27 September 2020
- A flight from Dubai repatriated one South African
- A flight from Kenya repatriated 14 South Africans
- A flight from Zambia repatriated four South Africans
- A flight from Mauritius repatriated two South Africans

On 28 September 2020
- A flight from Mozambique repatriated 36 South Africans
- A flight from Zambia repatriated 15 South Africans
- A flight from Mauritius repatriated one South African

On 29 September 2020
- A flight from Dubai repatriated two South Africans
- A flight from Mozambique repatriated 36 South Africans
- A flight from Zambia repatriated 28 South Africans
- A flight from Mauritius repatriated one South African

On 30 September 2020
- Two flights from Zambia repatriated 38 and two South Africans
- A flight from Angola repatriated 24 South Africans
- A flight from China repatriated 78 South Africans
- A flight from Mozambique repatriated 76 South Africans.

Close to 30 000 South Africans have been repatriated.
As of 1 October, following nearly half a year of being closed off to the world—much like most other countries—South Africa will officially open its borders to several countries to allow visitors back onto our shores. "As a country we have adopted a gradual reopening of borders and ports of entry for international travel for business, leisure and other travel guided by the communique published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Public Health on considerations for international travel on 30 July 2020, International Relations Minister Naledi Pandor said. "The gradual reopening of borders and ports of entry informed by a cautious approach means that a limited number of ports of entry and borders will be opened from 1 October 2020. In reopening these selected ports of entry and borders we will be guided by epidemiological and transmission rates both in South Africa and the traveller's countries of origin." Source: https://ewn.co.za/2020/09/30/here-what-you-need-to-know-about-international-travel-under-lockdown/

Home Affairs Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, said travellers should bring a test which is less than 72 hours old before the time of departure. Home Affairs Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi has reiterated that travellers coming to South Africa from across the continent are required to observe safety protocols to help slow the spread of COVID-19. He says, “They have to bring a result which is less than 72 hours old before the time of departure. This is unique to Africa provided this document is accepted in other African countries, but this will improve international travel to South Africa. International Relations Minister Naledi Pandor says "Travelers from all African countries, provided that they are in possession of a negative test result, will be allowed into South Africa. "To allow ease of travel from the African countries, 18 borders will be opened.” South Africa has moved to open its borders and allow international travellers Thursday. Travellers from the US, the UK, India, Russia, Switzerland, the Netherlands and France are among those that will not be allowed to visit South Africa.


Over 300 tourists/ businessmen and women arrived this morning from Frankfurt. Lufthansa was the first to say it will wait 8 hours until the international travel ban was lifted.

Heidi Gielkons
@HeidiGielkons

Over 300 tourists/ businessmen and women arrived this morning from Frankfurt. Lufthansa was the first to say it will wait 8 hours until the international travel ban was lifted.

Tweet

Ham Petersen, I am from 5A, @HamPetersen1.

Today – it is late for the time being – the last repatriation flight to Amsterdam. I am very proud of our teams in Cape Town and in Pretoria, as well as of the SAA staff! A special word of thanks to @ORICO_ZA. Together we helped more than 10 000 people flying home. Great job!