

# Barbados Announced As Part Of UK 'Green List' As Travel Resumes

### Bridgetown, Barbados

The Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI) is pleased to announce that Barbados has been added to the UK 'Green List'\* as it relates to the resumption of travel, effective June 24, 2021.

The inclusion onto the Green List is testament to the low number of current infection rates on the island (<2% of all tests) and the successful vaccination roll-out over the last few months, which has seen nearly 95,000 first doses given out to the population, with nearly 70,000 on the island now fully vaccinated with two-doses. This represents nearly half the adult population having had their first shot.

Historically, Barbados has seen a very low number of infections and deaths throughout the course of the pandemic, due to the protocols that were put in place in early 2020 to safeguard the population. This included the need for negative PCR tests on arrival by all guests, to ensure there were low numbers of cases coming into the island – ensuring the safety of both visitors and people who live on the island.

The addition onto the 'Green List' comes within a few weeks of Barbados announcing its new entry protocols – which will ensure the continued safety of both guests and those who reside on the island, which remains the most important aspect to allow tourism to resume in a meaningful way.

The new entry protocols are detailed below. They provide two entry processes – the first for those who are 'Fully Vaccinated' and entry protocols for those who remain unvaccinated.

Barbados Entry Protocols at a glance – Effective June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

|   | FULLY VACCINATED<br>TRAVELLER   | UNVACCINATED<br>TRAVELLER  |
|---|---|--|
| COVID-19 standard PCR test<br>3 days prior to arrival                   | All travellers are required to:<br>• Present proof of COVID-19 standard PCR test taken 3 days prior to travel<br>• Have the test taken at an accredited or recognised lab by a health care provider<br>• Have a sample taken via nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swab |  |
| Invalid PCR test submitted.   | Standard PCR test done at airport<br>and two (2) full days of quarantine<br>before the second standard PCR<br>test is completed to exit approved<br>accommodation.  | May be denied entry or have a<br>standard PCR test done at<br>airport and then five (5) days of<br>quarantine before second test is<br>completed to exit quarantine. |
| 2nd COVID-19 standard PCR<br>(rapid PCR for vaccinated<br>persons) test | On arrival<br>(at airport or at approved<br>accommodations)   | 5 days after arrival   |
| Enjoy Barbados fully  | In 1 - 2 days<br>dependent on return<br>of test results.  | Approx. 7-8 days<br>(5 days quarantine plus<br>return of test results)   |

The above protocols allow for a much more traditional experience for travellers who have received two shots of a vaccination regimen, with an approved vaccine – with guests who are waiting the result of their on-island PCR test often being able to use facilities in the hotels at leisure (such as restaurants and pools). There will then be a maximum of 48 hours before they receive their test results – and they are then free to enjoy Barbados in full.

Note that Fully Vaccinated travellers whose pre-flight COVID-19 tests have been rejected on arrival, will have a standard COVID-19 PCR test. Such travellers are expected to quarantine at an approved quarantine accommodation and their quarantine will end upon receipt of a negative test result. No further testing is required.

Full entry protocols can be found here: www.barbadostravelprotocols.com

Barbados is fully served at present by weekly flights from the UK: British Airways and Virgin Atlantic from London, Heathrow and, with Virgin Atlantic from Manchester from August 6<sup>th</sup>. Aer Lingus will join the collective with flights starting from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 out of Manchester.

Minister for Tourism and International Transport, Senator the Hon. Lisa Cummins comments:

"This is significant news for Barbados today. Making the Green List is testament to the marriage between the work of the public health officials and the tourism officials in ensuring there are safe border protocols that govern entry into the country; the work of our Prime Minister in ensuring we have one of the strongest vaccination programmes in the Caribbean; and the work of Barbadians in protecting each other.

In addition to the UK Green List, Barbados is also on the Scottish and Northern Irish Green Lists. When combined, these are all significant opportunities for Barbados to get our economy going again, to earn much needed revenue for our businesses, and to get our workers employed again.

After a few months of paused tourism, Barbados and its people are looking forward to re-opening their doors and safely welcoming back visitors for long overdue getaways. Known for some of the most open and inviting luxurious hotels, spacious beaches and rich culture and history, Barbados lends itself as the perfect post pandemic travel destination.

\*Barbados is listed on England's Green Watchlist, signalling that Barbados is at risk of moving from green to amber. For more information please visit <u>www.gov.uk</u>

### ENDS

## For more information on Barbados, please contact Niamh Waters niamh@travelmedia.ie

### **About Barbados**

Barbados is the easternmost of the Caribbean islands and offers visitors a truly authentic experience. With a rich culture and history, the island is 166 square miles and has a population of approximately 275,000 people. Though given the name "Los Barbados" by Portuguese sailors in the 1500s, the first English settlers arrived in 1627, and the island remained a British colony until 1966, when it became an independent nation.

Barbados is often referred to as the culinary capital of the Caribbean. The island has an unparalleled food scene, with an array of outlets, from places to try the local cuisine to fine dining restaurants and everything in between. The island has a programme of numerous festivals throughout the year, from jazz to sailing, gospel to rum, reggae to horse racing and of course one of the calendar highlights, Crop Over and Grand Kadooment.

Barbados is the dream destination for your travels: with over 3,000 hours of sunshine per annum, a year-round tropical climate with average temperatures in the high 20s, and a safe, welcoming environment, it is tailor-made for fun, relaxation and surprise.

For more information on travel to Barbados, visit <u>www.visitbarbados.org</u>, follow on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/VisitBarbados</u>, via Twitter @Barbados or Instagram @VisitBarbados.