



# KUODA

The Local  
Experience Curator

The Official Check List

10 IMPORTANT ITEMS TO  
CONSIDER WHEN BOOKING  
TRAVEL 2024-2025





# INTRODUCTION

As we venture out into our new world and start to explore, there are many more things to consider than there were before.

We have been utilizing this time to learn all we can about how to navigate the New Normal of travel, and so have put together this list of 10 essential items that you will want to check as you look at booking travel post-covid anywhere in the world.



# Health & Safety Certifications

To be sure you will travel as safely as possible, you will want to check and make sure that any agency you book with has the necessary health and safety certifications.

- Check for any certifications put out by tourism entities, such as the WTTC Safe Travels stamp.
- Make sure they have any necessary government certifications.
- Also check for any international certifications, such as the ISOs, especially those recommended by the World Health Organization.



# Clear Protocols That You Can Review

Any agency you travel with should have a clear set of protocols laid out with regards to safety and hygiene.

- Make sure protocols are in line with government standards, which are mandatory and which are recommended.
- These protocols should be readily available to read in a link or a document.
- These protocols should cover what the agency doing to guarantee safe travel while in vehicles, interacting with guides, and considering accommodation.





## Good Advice and Guidance by your Agency

While planning your trip, any agency you work with should be able to not only offer safer options, but options and activities that fit your personal interests.

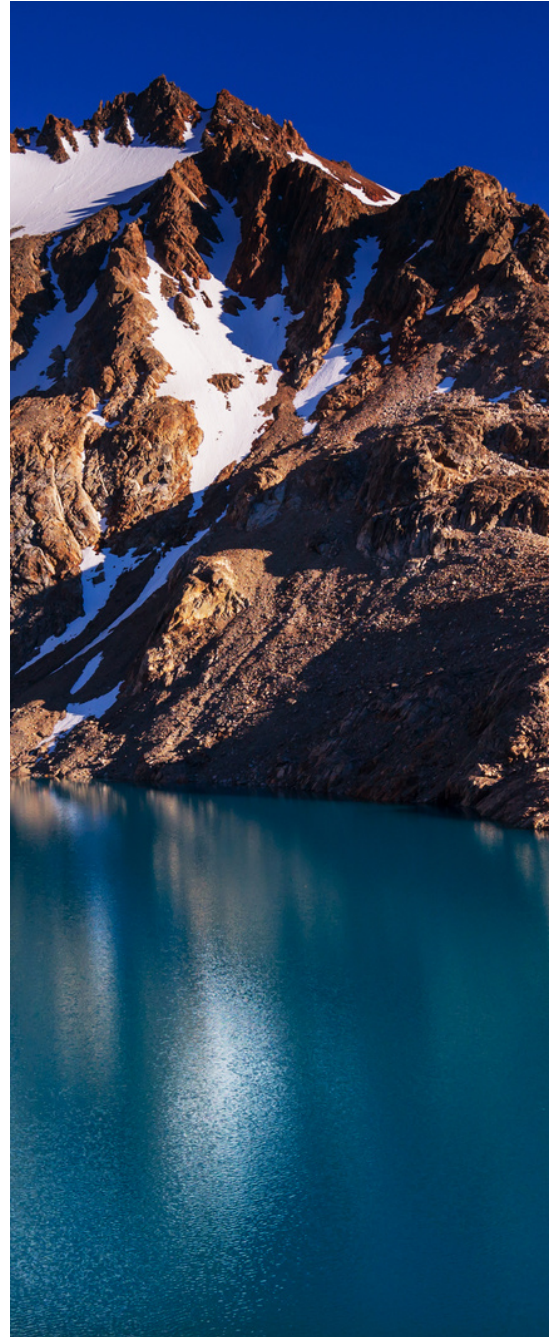
- Your agency should have good, first-hand knowledge of the area that they are offering, including tours, hotels, which places are not only enjoyable, but also safest, etc.
- If there is a question they don't know off-hand, they should know where to get the answer.
- Ask yourself, is this agent going above and beyond to plan the ideal trip for me? Are they anticipating your questions/needs, and putting extra care into each detail of your trip?



## Booking/ Reservation Flexibility

The Covid-19 pandemic has made it very clear that a large degree of flexibility is needed for booking and reserving all portions of a trip, including hotels, tours, etc.

- Should include easy cancellation and/or postponement, especially for reasons that are beyond your control (including Covid-19), and clearly state any fees that may be applied.
- If there is a lack of flexibility, it should clearly state why, and be reasonable (for example, policies of outside providers such as cruise companies).
- Make sure you have clearly read and understood the booking terms and conditions before agreeing to an itinerary, and make sure to keep a copy where you can easily reference it.





# Responsible Travel

The pandemic, and subsequent lockdowns, have brought into stark relief just how important it is to be in tune with Mother Nature, especially during our travels.

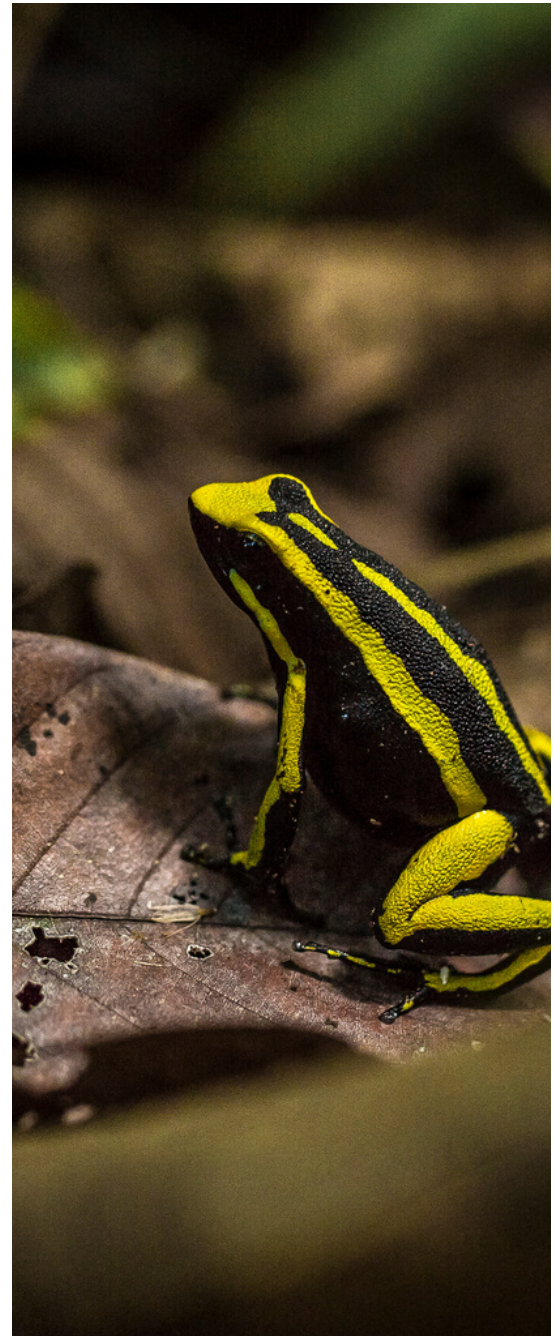
- Leave only a good impact (have ways to get rid of trash, offer personal reusable containers, beneficial visits to villages, does not promote animal cruelty, etc.) – you may have to do some research to be sure.
- Look for companies that can show a commitment to sustainability, such as a carbon neutral certification or other shows of environmental consciousness.
- Think of how you can reduce your own carbon footprint while traveling – consider taking fewer internal flights in favor of land transportation; bring your own reusable water bottle to refill whenever there is clean water available to fill your bottle; etc.



## Cancel for Any Reason Travel Insurance

It has never been clearer just how important it is to buy comprehensive travel insurance to make sure that you are covered in case anything happens before or during your travels.

- You will want to purchase good travel insurance – do your research. Along with the peace of mind knowing you are covered should anything happen, many countries will be requiring proof of insurance upon entry.
- Read the fine print, and make sure Covid-19, as well as any other potential pandemics, are covered.
- Make sure you know what is included in this coverage – lodging in case of quarantine, stays at a medical facility, evacuation services, etc.





## Remote / Open-Air Destination Options

These will give you a chance to experience each country in a unique manner, with less interaction with other people.

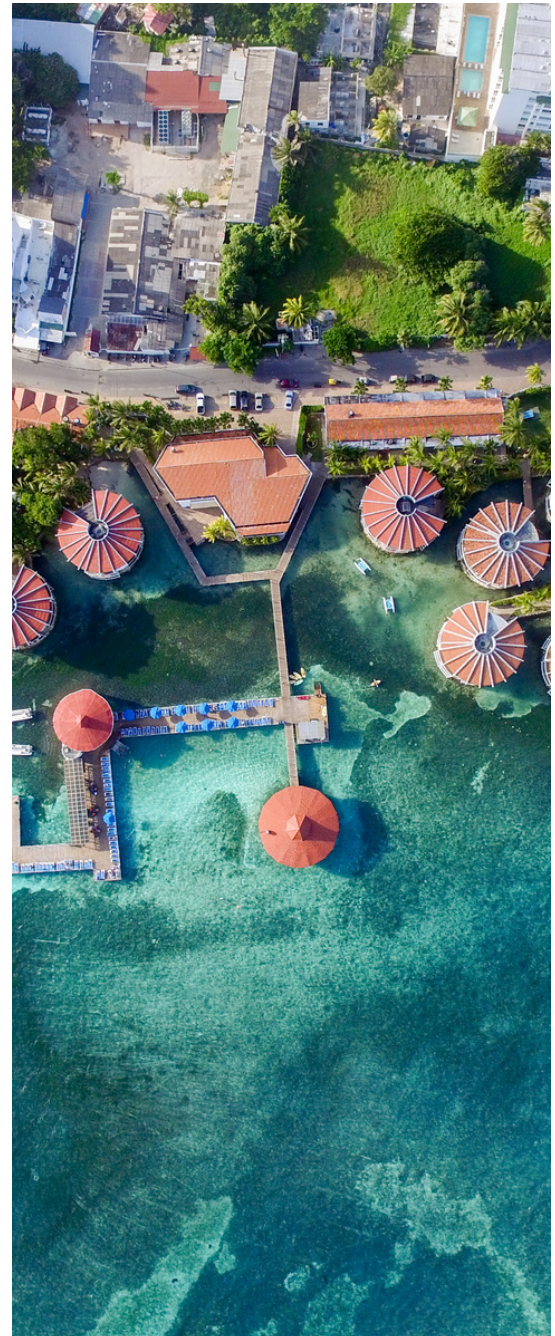
- You can ask to visit lesser-known sites, which are often just as interesting as the more famous ones, but with fewer people – Palccoyo vs. Vinicunca (Rainbow Mountain), for example).
- Opt more for private tours rather than group tours to ensure less interaction with people from outside your group.
- You may want to add more hikes or treks to your itinerary. If you're not the hiking or trekking sort, you can also ask about taking your private vehicle to a remote spot, such as a protected area or national park.



## Detailed Entry Requirements for Each Country you Visit

The agency you work with should also be able to help with detailed and up-to-date requirements for entry into each country or region on your itinerary with them.

- Ask about any visa requirements for travelers from your country to the countries you will be visiting, as well as any Covid-19 test/vaccine requirements for entry, and how many days before your arrival you need to have the test done.
- Check to see if the agency you are working with will accompany you to process any requirements (getting a Covid-19 test done, processing paperwork, etc.).
- Make sure to discuss all of these details with your agency well in advance of your trip, and that if any of these requirements change, your agency will keep you updated!





## 24-Hour Support during Travels

Any agency you book with should have an emergency contact available at all hours.

- 24-hour phone number that you can call in case you need assistance at any time of night, as well as an email address or Whatsapp number that you can contact with any questions.
- There should be more than one method to contact the 24-hour emergency support so you can be sure of getting a hold of assistance when you need it.
- Test this contact ahead of time – send an email or a Whatsapp message – using the platform you are most likely to use while traveling.



## Access to Medical Facilities

It is important to make sure that you will have access to high quality medical care should anything happen.

- Ask to be sure all guides are trained in advanced first-aid, including how to manage a potential Covid-19 infection.
- Your agency should have at least contact numbers and addresses for medical facilities in each area you visit (should be available to review upon request). It's a bonus if the agency has a working relationship with medical facilities where you are visiting.
- For your part, have your insurance information and emergency contact numbers back home with you, as well as with your travel agency.

