



UPDATE – 9th AUGUST 2020

UK QUARANTINE SITUATION

We are sure you will be aware by now that there has been a flurry of activity on several other social media groups and forums discussing that quarantine, for travellers arriving from the UK will end on the 15th August.

This was sparked by an announcement made by the TRNC Health Ministry yesterday, that originally said “ **It is foreseen that it may be possible**” which was subsequently changed to read “ **It is foreseen that it will be possible**” The paragraph in question, within the announcement states: Travellers arriving from the UK (England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland) have been staying in quarantine for 7 days since the 16th of July 2020; as a result of positive progress observed in terms of case numbers and death rates this implementation will be maintained. It is foreseen that it will be possible to include the UK in Category B, after the 15th of August 2020.

We felt that it is important not to stay specifically focused on the 15th August itself, or go ahead and arrange flights based upon date alone, that for several reasons,

- 1) The statement says “that it will be possible” this is not the same as a definite decision being announced, when in fact the decision has yet to be taken.
- 2) We hope we are wrong, but from previous experience, we believe that the significance of the 15th August, will relate more to an announcement being made of a further later confirmed date, that the change of no quarantine will be applicable from. Possibly one further week later, or even the 1st September, as being the actual applicable date for arrivals without quarantine.
- 3) We can see nothing within the above, that clarifies what the exact entry regulations will be, upon the removal of quarantine. We suggest that for the time being that you should assume that PCR tests are still required between 72 and 120 hours prior to arrival in the TRNC.
- 4) We can see nothing that clarifies that NHS tests will now be acceptable, so we suggest that for time being that you should assume that printed test certificates showing the full details of the test taken, inclusive of the date and time that the test was taken, is essential.
- 5) There is nothing that indicates that the current restriction on the number of daily flights between the UK and the TRNC is going to be increased, to accommodate a higher number of passengers looking to travel.

Nevertheless, we hope to see many more of our members back in the TRNC at the earliest possible opportunity, however please take decisions to travel, based upon all of the necessary information being available to you, to avoid any difficulties arising.

FLIGHTS INTO TRNC

This is still relevant and in force.

A SHORT CONCISE SUMMARY EXPLANATION IF COMING FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AFTER 16th JULY.

Due to the reduction in the number of cases in the UK, flights from this country to the island are expected to begin on **16 July 2020**.

From 16 July, people coming to the island from the UK will be able to take a PCR test **no less than three days and no more than five days** with a negative result before leaving the country.

A second PCR test will be taken upon entry to the TRNC . Passengers will then be quarantined for 7 days, at a TRNC designated quarantine facility, at the passenger's own expense.

At the end of the quarantine period, the passenger will take a third PCR test and if negative will be allowed to leave the facility.

QUARANTINE COSTS FOR 7 DAYS WITH PCR TEST - APPLICABLE FOR ARRIVALS AS FROM THE 16TH JULY

We have just received confirmation from the Ministry of Health that the payment required in advance (**prior to departure**) is Accommodation including meals is 265TL per person per night x 7 = 1,855TL plus 300TL for PCR test. Total amount 2,155TL Confirmation of payment in advance will need to be produced upon arrival at Ercan airport.

If coming from a Zone C country, such as the UK, ensure that the payment for your quarantine and PCR test is made before departure. Then ensure that you carry a copy of the payment advice with you on the flight.

The bank details are as follows,

TC ZİRAAT BANKASI ACCOUNT INFORMATION

RECIPIENT NAME: KKTC MALİYE BAKANLIĞI

RECIPIENT ADDRESS : KKTC MALİYE BAKANLIĞI LEFKOŞA-KKTC

RECIPIENT BANK ADRESİ: ŞHT. MUSTAFA AHMET RUSO SOKAK NO:11 KÜÇÜK KAYMAKLI LEFKOŞA KKTC

ACCOUNT NUMBER AND IBAN NUMBER FOR

TC ZİRAAT BANKASI

TL

HESAP NO: 40298710-5001

UBAN: TR290001000860402987105001

USD

HESAP NO: 40300032-5001

IBAN: TR470001000860403000325001

EURO

HESAP NO: 40298710-5002

IBAN: TR020001000860402987105002

GBP

HESAP NO: 40298710-5004
IBAN: TR450001000860402987105004

You will need to complete the TRNC Ministry of Health Information and Obligation Form. This consists of two pages. One completed form for each adult, children may be added to one of the adult's forms. Ensure that you bring these with you.

Upon arrival at Ercan airport, the necessary officials will be aware of your arrival in advance, through the flight manifests, which will also highlight any connecting flights that you have made, to connect with your final flight to the TRNC.

Only upon arrival at Ercan will your quarantine accommodation be allocated to you, according to availability. It will not be possible to know beforehand, where you will be accommodated.

Currently, all arrivals from category A & B Countries will be required to self-isolate pending results from PCR tests. Arrivals from category C countries will of course be going into 7-day mandatory quarantine

FLIGHTS TO THE UK (TRAVEL CORRIDORS)

The UK Government has updated its travel advice regarding flights from various countries to the UK.

From the 10th of July 2020 people flying to the UK from Cyprus or Turkey will not need to self-isolate on arrival but must provide some details. If you click on the link below more information and the form needed to be completed can be found.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

We are aware of members who have returned to the UK recently using this system which has worked without any problems.

EXTENSION TO RESIDENCY AMNESTY–TOURIST VISAS ONLY

The Government has announced that the amnesty which was put in place in March has been further extended until 9th September.

This means that those members who have **TOURIST VISAS** and have not yet applied to renew them, you now have until 9th September to obtain them.

Alternatively, you can apply for Residency using the new online system.

RESIDENCY – PRIVATE INSURANCE POLICIES

Any person applying for a Short – Term Residency permit **THAT HAS NOT YET STARTED THE PROCESS** – will now be able to use Private insurance policies rather than having to enrol into the State Health Insurance scheme. If you have already applied online, you **will not be able** to use your private policies.

Once you have attended the Police immigration appointment the system will subsequently **ALLOW** you to upload your private policy onto the system.

Please note that any private policies **MUST** be for the **FULL TERM** of your residency permit.

UK PASSPORT RENEWAL

The following information was released via the BBC news today (21 July 2020)

- UKPO have suspended their Fast Track service
- Over a million passports would have expired during the lockdown
- To consider applying to renew a passport 9 months or more before expiry (no comment was made to those living abroad)
- UKPO cannot guarantee how soon renewals will be processed
- The backlog is increasing as lockdown restrictions are gradually being lifted
- Those who are applying for their passports for the first time are not being processed due Social Distancing rules as an Interview is required. Interviews are necessary based on security to avoid identity fraud.
- Skype is being tested but there is no guarantee of being taken up based on security reasons.

Anyone who may be affected by this is advised to call

Passport Adviceline

Telephone: 0300 222 0000

From outside the UK: +44 (0)300 222 0000

Textphone: 18001 0300 222 0222

Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm

Saturday, Sunday, and UK bank holidays, 9am to 5:30pm