AUSTRALIA'S *Indian Ocean Islands*

Procedures for
Travelling to Christmas Island & Cocos Keeling Islands Under Covid-19

Australia's Indian Ocean Islands have enjoyed a COVID-19 free status to date. Whilst we welcome travellers, we would like to bring a few things to your attention prior to finalising your booking and travelling to our amazing islands.

This information is valid and was updated on 16th December 2020

Continuing State of Emergency

It is important to understand that a State of Emergency still applies in the Indian Ocean Territories. This legal mechanism enables our authorities to manage our borders and provides the powers to restrict movement, enforce physical distancing and apply travel bans. The authorities must act on medical advice and decisions are made to keep travelers and our island communities safe. Please note that any change in circumstances may result in a travel ban being instigated with little or no notice. We will do all possible to assist to re-book your travel, but will not be held liable for losses incurred as a result of the travel ban.

The current State of Emergency is due to expire on: 16 March 2021

Flying with Virgin Australia

Virgin Australia has been purchased by Bain Capital and normal booking & ticketing conditions have been resumed. In the event of a travel ban, this may affect your ability to travel and it may be that you are not entitled to a refund, depending the fare type you purchased. You need to be aware that travel insurance policies will not cover for COVID-19 related travel disruptions. You need to be familiar with the conditions of your ticket prior to finalising the purchase so that you clearly understand what your options may be in the event of a travel ban being instigated. Please remember the flight departs from T1 (International) in Perth.

Applying for Approval to Travel

Whilst some border arrangements are relaxing, the following still applies:

Entry into the Indian Ocean Territories:
IOT entry has now changed and a separate form needs to be completed for your visit to each island (not applicable if only in transit).
People must apply for approval to travel to the IOT using the following forms:
https://bit.ly/IOT_Traveller_Form_Christmas
https://bit.ly/IOT_Traveller_Form_Cocos

Entry into Perth, Western Australia:
Before you travel, you must seek approval from the WA Government. People are encouraged to apply using the 'Good to Go Pass' app which can be completed electronically. Click on the link: https://www.g2gpass.com.au/

To determine your eligibility to enter WA please visit COVID-19 coronavirus: Controlled interstate border (www.wa.gov.au)

If travelling from the East Coast, you will be required to submit 2 applications for your transits/stops through Western Australia to/from the IOTs. Please note that the G2G system can only accept one application at a time. You will need to apply for your return journey G2G after your first entry into WA.

You may also have to obtain a permit prior to re-entering your home state.

IOT to WA - how to complete the G2G application:
- Please select the option relevant to your travel. Tourism is an option.
- Declare truthfully about your travel prior to entering the IOT or WA.
- Provide additional supporting documentation as required.

Heavy penalties apply for making a false declaration.

**Please note that border arrangements can change at short or no notice.

Travel Insurance

We always advocate that travellers ensure they have a travel insurance policy in place that covers them for the IOTs. In a post-Covid 19 world, we implore you to understand what your policy covers you for so you can calculate the risks of taking your journey.

You can help keep our islands COVID-19 free!

We are very proud of our COVID-19 free status and you can help us keep it that way by observing a few important hygiene practices.

Wash your hands
Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol based hand sanitizer.
Please wash your hands regularly whilst in airports, on the aircraft and before you visit our local businesses.
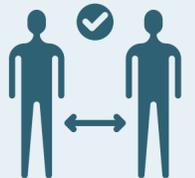
Wear a mask
We recommend you consider wearing a mask through airports and possibly on the aircraft. This provides you and others with an extra barrier of protection.

Practice physical distancing
Please maintain at least 2 meters (6 feet) distance from others where pratical.
Please observe physical distancing limitations in restaurants and cafes. Please also ensure that you sign the log book of any eateries you visit during your stay.

Physical distancing requirements are changing regularly but we recommend that if you always ensure a safe distance when in the company of others you will drastically reduce your chances of infection or spreading the virus.

Stay in your Travel Bubble
We know that holidays usually mean spending time with new friends whilst you discover exciting places and experiences. In our new reality, we recommend that you do this with caution. If you mix with other people do so in open spaces where you can observe social distancing and dont undertake activities like sharing trips in vehicles.

Check for travel updates at www.australiasindianoceanislands.com.au

I'm showing symptoms of COVID-19...
If you have arrived in the IOTs and start to show symptoms you should do the following:
- Immediately isolate yourself in your accommodation
- Contact the medical service to report your symptoms and they will provide directions for assistance and testing
- Do not go shopping, using eateries or participating in tours
- Follow all instructions from the Territory Controller and medical staff

Make Contact Before Visiting our Hospitals
If you need to seek medical attention whether for viral symptoms or other medical care reasons, contact the doctor or hospital ahead of time so they can prepare and take precautions for your arrival.
You can contact the health services, our social worker or police on the following numbers:

Christmas Island
Christmas island Health Services 9164-8333
Christmas Island Community Policing Team 9164-8444
Social Worker:
Narelle Phone 9164 8333 ext 128 or 0447 975 436

Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Home Island Clinic 9162-7609
West Island Clinic 9162-6655
Cocos Community Policing Team 9162-6600

Christmas Island
A *Natural* Wonder
Phone: 9164 8382
E: cita@christmas.net.au
W: www.christmas.net.au

Cocos Keeling Islands
Phone: +61 8 9162 6790
E: info@cocoskeelingislands.com.au
W: www.cocoskeelingislands.com.au

Source• Australian Federal Police – Territory Controllers for Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands