





As lockdown restrictions ease world-over, we need to adapt to a new way of travelling. One that lays emphasis on safety, social distancing and sustainability.

words // Punita Malhotra

The changed world will have new rules of health and hygiene for incorrigible hearts hungry for unfamiliar adventures and unexplored experiences.

1 THE GOOD-TO-GO FACTOR:

Staying in perfect health will command top slot on the personal priority chart of every traveller, more than ever before. There's no getting away from carrying verifiable, all-clear health credentials in keeping with governmental guidelines. One will need to make peace with new testing norms at airports. Thermal cameras, symptom-tracking and contact-tracing apps are here to stay. A smart choice would be to elevate health and travel-related insurance from its previous 'nice-to-have' status, especially for international trips.



2 THE NEW LUGGAGE

LIST: Camping gear. Check. Cosmetics case. Check. Corona kit. Double check. Organised equals cool in the post-pandemic era. A separate pocket in the carry-on is handy to store a hand sanitiser, disposable tissues, antibacterial sprays and wipes for surfaces one happens to touch while travelling. Also trending is a medicine kit with a thermometer and digital oximeter.

#FlyingFeelsSafeAgain WITH VISTARA



MINIMISING TOUCHPOINTS

Vistara has minimised touchpoints of human contact including temporary suspension of meal service on-board, removal of its inflight magazine and other reading material to ensure complete safety and well-being for all.



CATERING TO YOUR NEEDS

Vistara crew has undergone special training preparing them for the new way of flying. Additionally, they get updated daily on the procedures and safety measures that they get updated regularly.



AIRCRAFT SANITISATION

Vistara disinfects all its aircraft before every take off and carries out thorough deep cleaning of all aircraft every 24 hours with approved disinfectant cleaners.

3 FLEXING IT ALL THE WAY: Why be sticky about spring vibes, blue skies and blooming flowers? Offbeat rhymes better with offseason. Leisurely chat with Father Christmas in North Pole. Steaming espresso looking out on a snow-draped Parisian street. Queue-free culture hops and crazy deals on luxury resorts. All it takes is some flexibility in holiday plans.

4 IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE: A beach house by the great wide ocean, a tree house in a pine forest or a ski-lodge with icy-blue glacier views. Seclusion and pristine wilderness will be the ultimate haven. Starlit skies, not laser beams. Forest walks, not pub-hops. Just a grateful nestle in the lap of nature with fresh and earthy scents is all one would require.

5 HOME AWAY FROM HOME: Hair-splitting research on accommodations would be encouraged. Hotels with transparent sanitisation guidelines, impeccable hygiene systems and glowing reviews on cleanliness will clinch the deal. Sanitisers at entrances to public spaces, frequent disinfection of elevator panels, deep cleaning of serving tables are just the basics which every guest must demand. Central location to avoid public transportation, organic food, and sustainable values should be other important criteria to consider. Offbeat options like vacation rentals and villas need to be inspected even more critically.



6 IN TOUCH WITH TOUCHLESSNESS: From the airport to the hotel and beyond, technology will be the strongest shield. Food ordering, check-ins, boarding and cashless purchases at retail stores will set the pace for the touchless theme. Biometrics for identity verification, physical fingerprint and hand scanners will be replaced by eye and face recognition. In hotels, one can expect standard contact-less features like electronic check-ins and scannable key cards, while robot servers, digital butlers and automated baggage carts are not too far in the future. Using travel safety apps can be useful as guides to risk areas.

7 NO SAFETY IN NUMBERS: Solo travelling is the call of

the hour. This is the era to steer clear of crowds at museums, monuments, festivals, sports arenas, bars and nightclubs. Self-guided tours using phone devices and QR-code scanned restaurant menus are the alternatives to get accustomed to. Pre-booking of tickets for sightseeing spots will help skip the lines.

8 IN THE COMFORT OF COMPANY: Travel bubbles are likely to emerge for those who prefer group journeys instead of solo-ing it. What can be more comforting than sharing a flight cabin, restaurant space or hotel floor with familiar faces instead of strangers? Deep-sea expeditions with your squad and sun-kissed smiling faces will act as 'Nirvana'... ✨



VISTARA QUIZ

Question 3: Which is the only riverine port of India?

Answers in the next issue of Vistara magazine.

Share your answers at inflightmag@airvistara.com. Two winners for each question will be eligible for prizes.