

What the adjusted Level 3 regulations mean for your travel plans

Supporting South Africa's measures under the recently implemented adjusted Level 3 Covid-19 regulations, the Flight Centre Travel Group addresses questions from travellers on how these will affect their holiday plans.

“The Flight Centre Travel Group supports the president’s measures to flatten the curve and would like to assure holidaymakers that leisure travel, as well as business travel, can still take place,” says Andrew Stark, MD of the Flight Centre Travel Group Middle East and Africa.



Andrew Stark, MD of the Flight Centre Travel Group MEA

“Whereas under the previous Level 3 regulations, interprovincial leisure travel was prohibited, this is not the case under the new and adjusted Level 3 regulations. Both domestic and international leisure and business travel is permitted, subject to strict health and hygiene protocols.”

The *Government Gazette* indicates that international travel can take place from and to OR Tambo, King Shaka and Cape Town International Airport. Travellers entering South Africa will need to provide a valid certificate of a negative Covid-19 test not older than 72 hours. If travellers fail to submit a certificate as proof of a negative test, they will be required to do an antigen test on arrival at their own cost. If they test positive for Covid-19, they will be required to quarantine at their own expense.

The Flight Centre Travel Group addresses questions from travellers under the adjusted Level 3 regulations:

Can I still travel locally and internationally?

Yes, local and international travel for both business and leisure purposes is allowed under the adjusted Level 3 regulations. Although the president has cautioned against travelling to Covid hotspots, it is not prohibited.

Can I break curfew to get to the airport in time for my flight?

Travellers will need to abide by the nationwide curfew. This means that they will need to be at their accommodation establishment from 9pm to 6am unless they’ve obtained a special permit or are attending a security or medical emergency.

Minister of cooperative governance and traditional affairs Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma clarified during a press briefing that

international travellers arriving after curfew are advised to carry their flight ticket or their stamped passport as proof of their reason to break curfew to reach their final destination. The Flight Centre Travel Group is investigating whether special permissions can be obtained for travel reasons for local travellers.

Will pools be open at my hotel?

Although public swimming pools will be closed under Level 3, there remains some confusion as to whether hotel swimming pools that are open exclusively to hotel guests would be classified as public. It is advised to check with your hotel whether or not their pool will be open for use.

Can I go to the beach?

Beaches in all hotspots (including most beaches in KZN and the Western Cape) are closed, as are dams, lakes and rivers.

Are game reserves open?

Game parks, botanical gardens, aquariums and zoos where access control measures and entry limitations are already in place will remain open to the public.

What are some of the changes I can expect during my trip?

- Travellers will need to wear a mask when in a public place.
- Alcohol will not be served at restaurants as the consumption of liquor in public places is prohibited. This means that the tasting and selling of liquor to the public by registered wineries, wine farms and other similar establishments is also not allowed.
- All restaurants, museums, galleries, casinos, theatres and cinemas will need to close by 8pm.

“Although the travel experience might look a little different during these difficult times, people still have the flexibility to travel, to get outside and spend quality time with their loved ones,” says Stark. “We are just being asked to travel responsibly and follow a number of rules intended to keep all South Africans safe and healthy.”