

FINANCIAL REVIEW

What you need to know before you travel overseas



Fiona Carruthers *Travel editor*

Oct 13, 2021 – 5.00am

As we prepare to jet out of Fortress Australia from mid-November, three experts offer their best tips to *The Australian Financial Review* travel editor Fiona Carruthers.

Ski Austria in March: Yvonne Verstandig, Y Travel

I'm planning to take my annual Ski Safari back to Austria in March 2022 with my Ski Buzzers, and then hope to spend a week or so in the Maldives recuperating from the intense past 20 months we've had, particularly in the travel industry.

Being pampered at my favourite properties there is never time misspent. A few weeks back in Italy is also high on the list.



Yvonne and Allan Verstandig abandoned their trip to Zermatt, Switzerland, in March 2020 to fly home as borders closed.

The phone and email have been going crazy with requests for travel out of Australia to all over the globe. And of course, from clients overseas [trying to get back home](#).

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We have requests for departures as early as December to places such as Fiji, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Singapore, Hawaii, the Bahamas, New Zealand and Israel. In January, it's for skiing the United States and/or Europe, and also Japan. Naturally, actual bookings are subject to all these countries opening up. Unfortunately, a lot remains unclear as each country learns to live with the virus; some are doing better than others. Australians also wish to be certain they can [home quarantine on return](#).

Many of my clients are delaying their trip to mid-next year, and Europe is huge for the 2022 northern hemisphere summer months; countries frequently requested include Italy, Greece, Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Turkey and Ireland. Cruising is also hugely popular, with some clients looking to stay in Europe for up to three months next year on a range of rolling experiences and holiday options.

What are the best apps and websites Australian travellers should be checking?

The Australian government's [smarttraveller.gov.au](https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au) is the main go-to. Informed traveller site [visalink.com.au](https://www.visalink.com.au) is also excellent, and the government's [homeaffairs.gov.au](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au) is important to reference.

(Of course, we also use more comprehensive industry-specific websites.)

Australians are eagerly awaiting the federal government's revised travel documentation, which is still being developed.

The International Air Transport Association travel pass is still in trial stage, but it looks great so far at [iata.org](https://www.iata.org). [Re-open EU](https://www.re-open.eu) (for European travellers) is a resource-rich site, with many useful tips that Australians should also have a look at.



Y Travel is creating social media inspiration to get people travelling overseas again - just don't forget your passport and COVID-related forms. **Y Travel**

Checklist of what travellers need to take to the airport?

It's a long one these days!

- Valid passport (with at least six months until expiry)

- Digital itinerary

- Digital and print copies of travel insurance (we suggest paying for comprehensive cover; beware the fine print)

- Up-to-date international drivers' licence (if planning to self-drive)

- Frequent flyer and loyalty membership cards

- All visas required for entry to your destination(s)

- Print copy of the MyGov and/or any other official COVID-19 vaccination certificates (with vaccine brand, and the dates of first and second vaccines clearly stated, plus any boosters). Also download this information to your phone, along with any other destination-dependent vaccinations (don't forget that many other vaccinations are still essential for travel, and may require boosters).

- All necessary digital travel passes and documents that each country and/or airline requires, including a history of your negative COVID-19 test results within the required timeframes.

- Passenger Locator Form (where required), and confirmed booked PCR test on arrival where required

- Attestation forms (if required), which is the act of witnessing the signing of a formal document and then also signing it to verify that it was properly signed