

Can I visit my second home during lockdown? Not until 2 December, then it's all about the tier

Is visiting your Cotswolds cottage or chateau in Provence on the table?

By **Francesca Syz**, CONSULTANT ULTRATRAVEL EDITOR
2 December 2020 • 9:08am

Related Topics
School holidays, Coronavirus



Dry Creek, Polzeath, available to rent through latitude50.co.uk

We now know that England will enter a [three-level Covid tier system](#) following the lifting of lockdown today, Wednesday, 2 December. What you can and can't do after that depends on which tier you've been allocated. The tier assignments will be [re-assessed every 14 days](#).

Only three areas - Isle of Wight, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, are in Tier 1. As expected, London has been placed in Tier 2, along with Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire, Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Suffolk, Cumbria and a number of other places.

Tier 3 locations include Greater Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham, Sheffield, Chesterfield, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Kent and parts of Essex among others. For the full list of which areas are in which category, go to the [Government Postcode Checker](#).

When these new tiers come into effect, those in Tier 1 must abide by the Rule of Six, both indoors and outside. In Tier 2, pubs can only open if they serve substantial meals alongside drinks and hotels, B&Bs and holiday rentals can be open for individual household groups or bubbles but there can be no mixing of households indoors. Outdoors, the Rule of Six applies.

Those in Tier 3 can only meet people from other households in outdoor spaces like parks. Hotels and restaurants must be closed, except restaurants offering 'takeaway'. The rules vary slightly in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland so check relevant government websites for the most up-to-date information.

In terms of holidays abroad, all unnecessary travel is currently banned until Wednesday 2 December. After that, from around December 15, those returning from countries without a travel corridor agreement with the UK will find the 14-day quarantine on returning home replaced by a 5-day 'testing plan', involving 5 days of self-isolation, followed by a Covid test. If the result is negative, no more quarantine is required. Travellers returning from a holiday will be expected to cover their own testing costs.

The government has been removing a handful of countries from the quarantine list each week in preparation for the time we can travel again and this week, there are a further eight you will no longer have to quarantine when returning from.

However, it's not that simple, as many countries around the world still have their own travel restrictions or are simply not ready to receive tourists yet.

Of the newest list of countries you will not be required to self-isolate when returning from - Bonaire, St Eustatius + Saba and the US Virgin Islands in the Caribbean, Israel, the Northern Mariana Islands, Namibia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka and Uruguay - only two, Namibia and Rwanda, are open to Brits to travel to and of those two, Namibia is the only one with a true corridor as you can currently only get to Rwanda by flying via a country that's still on the quarantine list.

While earlier this month it was all about the places that were losing their green list status (Germany, Sweden and Denmark), in recent weeks it has been about those re-gaining it, notably winter sun favourites, Dubai and Abu Dhabi and Turks & Caicos, which are now open to all those carrying evidence of a negative Covid test.

Others added to the green list recently are Iceland (although those visiting must take a Covid test on arrival and another five days later to avoid the country's 14-day quarantine), Chile, which is currently closed to foreigners but hopes to re-open to foreign travel in December, Cambodia and Bahrain (both open to tourist, but with restrictions) and Laos and Qatar, which remain closed to regular tourists for the moment.

We also learnt that Greece had come off the green list, with the exception of the islands of Corfu, Crete, Rhodes, Zakynthos (Zante) and Kos. Also, South Africa announced it was opening its borders to all countries, immediately. While it remains on the UK quarantine list, its cases are currently down to 19.5 per 100,000 people so it could well join the UK's green list soon.

So as it stands, all unnecessary travel is banned in the UK until Wednesday 2 December, both at home and overseas, except for work that cannot be carried out from home and a limited number of other exemptions set out by law, including medical appointments.

Overnight stays and holidays away from primary residences are also not allowed and this includes visiting your second home or staying with anyone you do not live with or anyone outside your support bubble. Those who were already abroad before lockdown started, should liaise with their airline or tour operator about returning.

The situation will be reviewed at the end of this current one month period and a decision taken at that point as to whether to lift it.



A villa at Finca Cortesin in Andalucia | CREDIT: Alessan

England

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before Wednesday 2 December

The country is in full lockdown until Wednesday 2 December. We now know there will be a three-tier system thereafter as mentioned above. At all tier levels, non-essential shops, cinemas and gyms can re-open after December 2.

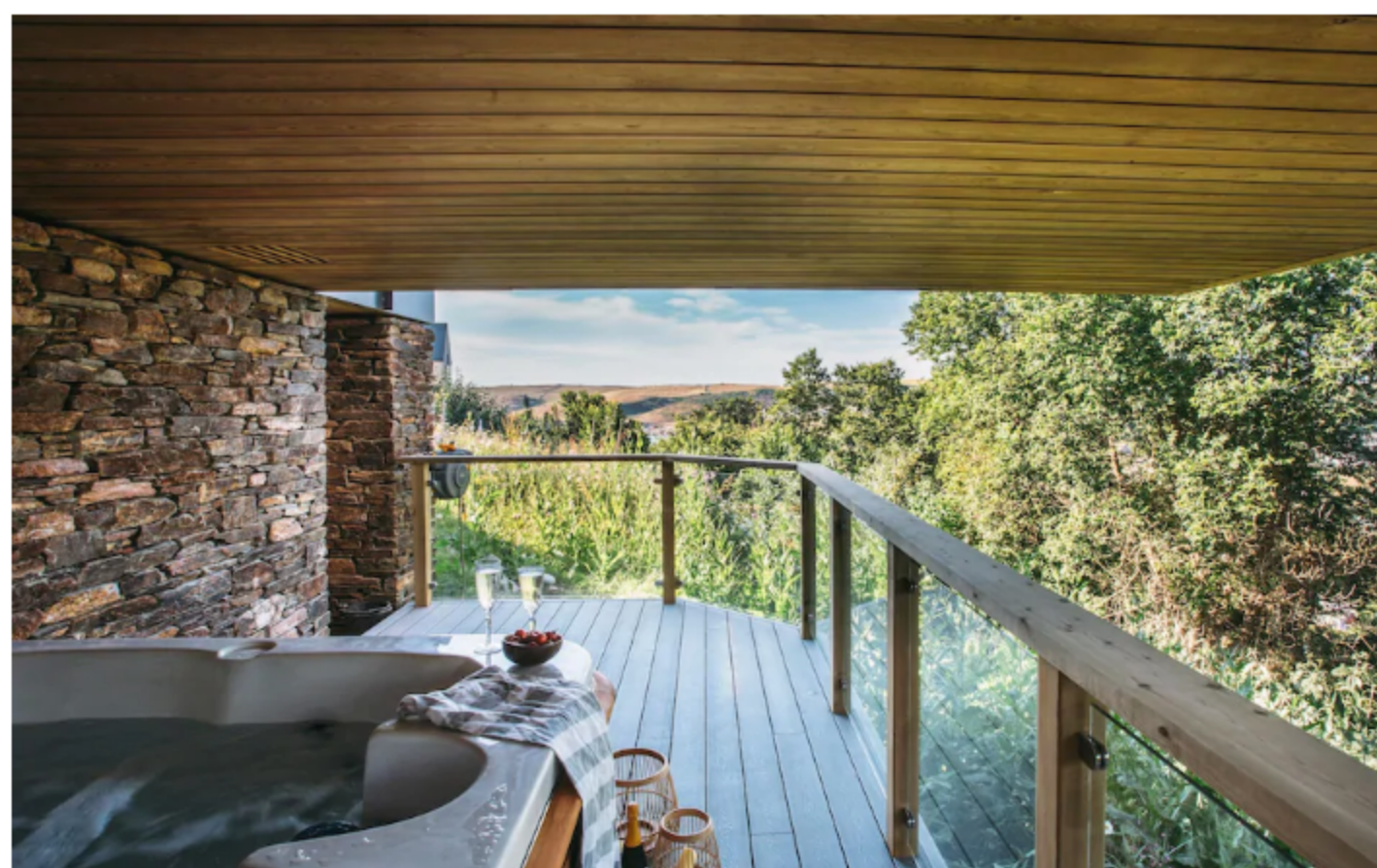
Families will be able to enjoy Christmas together across the whole of the UK, regardless of tier, for a 5-day period between Christmas Eve and December 28.

As mentioned above, when these new tiers come into effect, those in Tier 1 must abide by the Rule of Six, both indoors and outside. In Tier 2, pubs can only open if they serve substantial meals alongside drinks and to serve until 10pm, with an 11pm closure. Hotels, B&Bs and holiday rentals can be open for individual household groups or bubbles but there can be no mixing of households indoors. Outdoors, the Rule of Six applies.

Those in Tier 3 can only meet people from other households in outdoor spaces like parks. Hotels and restaurants must be closed, except restaurants offering 'takeaway'. The rules vary slightly in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland so check relevant government websites for the most up-to-date information.

For now, hotels and other accommodation should only open to accommodate those who have to for the purpose of business or for a limited number of other exemptions set out by law, for example for medical reasons. You also cannot stay in a second home, or with anyone you don't live with or are not in a support bubble with.

Currently, essential businesses like supermarkets are open and pubs and restaurants are permitted to provide takeaway services to customers.



A hot tub at Dry Creek, a holiday house in Cornwall available through Latitude50

Scotland

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before 2 December, when coming from England

Scotland has a slightly different five tier system in place, Level 4 being the equivalent of the rest of the UK's current lockdown. Nicola Sturgeon's new Level 4 restrictions came into force on November 20 for more than two million Scots.

The restrictions are in place for 11 local authority areas across central and western Scotland, including Glasgow. It will not be possible for people from the rest of the UK to travel into Scotland for non-essential reasons until December 23.

Those in Level 3 and 4 also face travel bans for venturing outside their council areas.

As it stands now, nowhere will be in level five at the start but the central belt area and Dundee will be in level three. Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll & Bute, Borders, Dumfries & Galloway, Fife and Perth & Kinross will be in level two, while Highland, Moray, Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles in level one.

In level one, hospitality venues have to close at 10.30pm. In level two, pubs and restaurants can only serve alcohol with a main meal and must close indoors at 8pm and outdoors 10.30pm. In level three, premises can be allowed to open but no alcohol can be sold and they must close at 6pm.

People leaving level three areas have to avoid public transport unless absolutely necessary and have been advised not to leave their local areas if possible and for people outside these areas not to visit.

Wales

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before 2 December, when coming from England

Wales entered a firebreak 'stay at home' lockdown from 6pm on Friday 23 October, to run for 17 days until the start of Monday 9 November.

At that point, full lockdown was lifted and replaced with a less restrictive version. While there are currently no travel restrictions within Wales, travel will not be permitted outside Wales while England is still in lockdown, without a reasonable excuse.

Ireland

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before 2 December, when coming from England, but as it currently stands, you'd still have to quarantine when arriving in Ireland anyway.

Indoor household visits were banned in all parts of Northern Ireland on 22 September and no more than six people from two households can meet in private gardens, although children under 12 don't count in the total.

On 16 October, Northern Ireland shut all its hospitality and close-contact services until 13 November to try to get its R number back down below one. It is unclear whether that timeline will be extended. While most hotels have currently closed again, there is no rule against visiting self-catering accommodation and holiday homes. The overall message, however, is 'no unnecessary travel should be undertaken.'

The Republic of Ireland is currently in full lockdown. Anyone arriving from the UK will be expected to self-isolate for 14 days. Hotels, guesthouses and B&Bs may remain open but only to support the provision of essential services.

France

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before 2 December and as it currently stands, you would still have to quarantine for 14 days when you got home anyway

Plus, anyone returning from France would still have to quarantine on returning to the UK anyway.

The Association of British Insurers says travel insurance will remain valid for people who are already in the newly quarantined countries, until they return home.

Eurotunnel Le Shuttle is advising people not to turn up outside their allocated travel time as the service is already very busy and there is no additional capacity.

Read more: [Can I travel to France?](#)



Villa Rose Pierre, a private home in the grounds of Grand-Hotel du Cap-Ferrat in the South of France

Anyone using any kind of public transport in France is currently required to wear a face mask.

Looking to the future, [Eurotunnel Le Shuttle](#), is definitely the way to go. A speedy and, more importantly, entirely contact-free way of crossing the Channel (you never have to leave your car), it has also just introduced the new Standard Refundable Ticket (from £72 per car for up to nine people) to encourage people to get booking. Brittany Ferries has also already resumed service.

Italy

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before 2 December and as it currently stands, you would still have to quarantine for 14 days when you got home anyway

Plus, anyone returning to the UK from Italy would still have to quarantine for 14 days anyway.



Villa Spinaltermine on the Reschio estate in Umbria | CREDIT: Philip Vile

Spain

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

None, unless you got to the Canaries before Thursday 5 November, the one Spanish spot we still have a travel bridge with

Spain, which had begun welcoming international travellers back without the need to quarantine on arrival, and which had also featured on the UK's list of 'travel corridor' countries from which you would not have to quarantine when returning home, has lost that status in the UK, after spikes in numbers of new cases in several regions.

However, the Canaries have been added to the list of corridors.



Head Gardener's House within the grounds of Floors Castle on the Scottish Borders, offered by Crabtree & Crabtree | CREDIT: Tracey Bloxham

Greece

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before Wednesday 2 December

It has also been announced that Greece is back on the UK quarantine list, with the exception of Corfu, Crete, Rhodes, Zakynthos (Zante) and Kos.



Orion House, a villa on Crete available through Scott Williams | CREDIT: scottwilliams.co.uk / 01749 812 721

Those that travel to those places in Greece after our lockdown is lifted must fill in a Passenger Locator Form at least 24 hours before arriving there. They will then receive an email confirmation with a unique QR Code on it. A certain number of people will be randomly selected for a Covid screening test on arrival in Greece.

While they will be free to continue on to their final destination at that point, they will have to self-isolate for 24 hours until their results come in, which they will receive by text. If the test is positive they will be made to quarantine under supervision for 14 days. If negative, they can continue with their holiday as normal.

Croatia

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before 2 December and as it currently stands, you would still have to quarantine for 14 days when you got home anyway

Croatia was on the UK's 'safe travel' list but has now been removed so anyone returning from there to the UK currently has to quarantine for 14 days when they get home.

The first Balkan country to ease restrictions, the process began in Croatia on 27 April, with the opening of most retail outlets, libraries, galleries, museums and bookshops and public transport, including fast-speed lines to islands but excluding ferry lines. Hotels have been allowed to open since 11 May and some of the country's top hotels are now following suit.

Beaches and national parks have re-opened, gatherings of up to ten with social distancing are allowed, restaurants and bars can serve people on outdoor terraces, and inter-city public transport and domestic air traffic has re-launched.



Villa Spinaltermine on the Umbrian estate of Reschio

Turkey

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before 2 December and as it currently stands, you would still have to quarantine for 14 days when you got home anyway

Portugal

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before 2 December and as it currently stands, you would still have to quarantine for 14 days when you got home from mainland Portugal anyway

Mainland Portugal has been re-added to the UK's quarantine list so you now have to self-isolate for 14 days when returning to the UK. This does not apply to those returning from Madeira or the Azores.

Switzerland

Likelihood of getting to your second home now:

Not before 2 December and as it currently stands, you would still have to quarantine for 14 days when you got home anyway

While Scotland added Switzerland to their quarantine list before the rest of the UK did, it is now on the quarantine list across the UK. Switzerland has dropped the need for visitors to quarantine on arrival in the country but you'll still have to self-isolate when you get home.

Sign up for the [Telegraph Luxury newsletter](#) for your weekly dose of exquisite taste and expert opinion.



Global Health Bulletin
Get the latest coronavirus news and advice as the outbreak continues

[Sign up](#)

Related Topics
School holidays, Coronavirus



More from Luxury



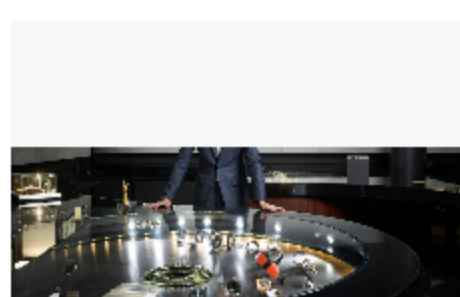
Emma Tennant: 'The Argentinian estancia I lived on 50 years ago had much in common with lockdown'

By Emma Tennant
5 Dec 2020, 10:40am



James Middleton: 'I wasn't in the right state of mind but one special Christmas changed everything'

By James Middleton
5 Dec 2020, 7:00am



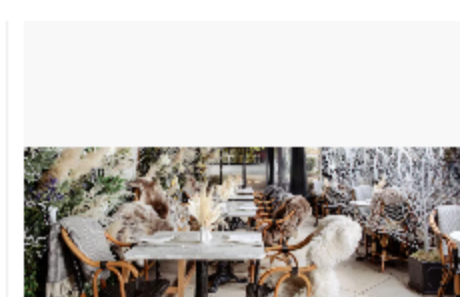
Tag Heuer's new CEO is just 25 years old - but leading a billion pound company is in his blood

By Tracey Llewellyn
5 Dec 2020, 7:00am



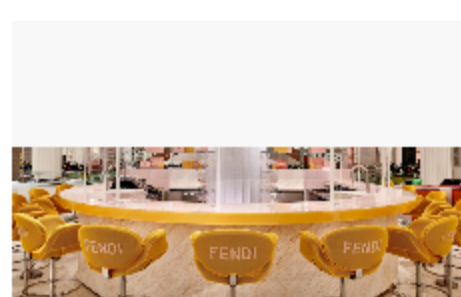
Five ultimate beauty treatments to book now that clinics are open

By Camilla Hooper
5 Dec 2020, 7:00am



London's best heated terraces for Tier 2 socialising

By Sarah Royce-Greensill
4 Dec 2020, 6:43pm



Live out your Roman Holiday fantasy - in London's West End

By Eilidh Hargreaves
4 Dec 2020, 5:40pm



More from The Telegraph



The wrath of Vader: Dave Prowse and his 30-year feud with George Lucas



The anti-Covid diet: how zinc, selenium and probiotics could boost your immune response



Tosca Musk: 'If my brother Elon just gave me money, there's nothing to prove'



No Taylor, no Ariana: Why is Spotify's most-streamed list such a boys' club?



The Princess Diana effect: why designers are recreating some of Diana's most famous fashion hits



Meet the modest man who is saving the world from Covid with the Pfizer vaccine