



## Culture and Tourism Newsletter: COVID-19 Tourism Policy Responses (As of April 7, 2020)

The Department of Economic Development, cognizant of the role that tourism plays in many of the economies of the countries of the Americas, as well as the devastating impact that the COVID -19 crisis is having on the travel, tourism and hospitality sectors, **is compiling a list of actions and measures taken by OAS member states to support the tourism sector.** The list of country actions below represent the initial effort to capture this information and to share with all member states the range of initiatives and measures enacted or being contemplated by countries.

It also builds on the OAS MSME Newsletter on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and countries' COVID-19 policy responses, presented on March 31, **recognizing that tourism SMEs represent the dominant business operation in the sector in our countries.** The list of measures and countries is not exhaustive, with information not captured for several key countries. The information will continue to be updated with the aim to create a platform so that countries may more readily and effectively share this valuable information.

The U.N. World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has compiled a broad range of recommendations, which [call for action](#) to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and accelerate recovery. These recommendations cover three broad areas - Managing the crisis and mitigating its impact, providing stimulus and accelerating recovery, and preparing for the future. They advise that these actions be approached simultaneously and through cooperation between all stakeholders.

The majority of country actions broadly fall within these three categories, and represent not only measures taken by governments but include initiatives suggested by the private sector, Chambers of Tourism, and calls for support for specific segments of suppliers of tourism services such as indigenous groups and tour guides. Some countries have announced measures to which cover the whole economy, through fiscal stimuli, with the obvious benefit to the tourism sector. Others have focused on tax relief, and deferment of payment of hotel, tourism and income taxes for firms in the sector. Several commercial banks have alternatively offered loans and relief conditions for loan repayments.

There have also been innovative initiatives, used by tourism authorities, which utilize digital technology to remain in contact with the market and stakeholders. Three of these include the Jamaica Tourist Board's (JTB) weekly virtual care package - "Escape to Jamaica" to uplift and inspire followers around the world currently practicing responsible social distancing, Chile's Activa Turismo Online, a virtual space that seeks to connect the sector through relevant information spaces, talks with specialists and joint think tanks to support the survival of the tourism industry, and Antigua and Barbuda's [Message in the Sand](#) campaign.

## Antigua and Barbuda:

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority turned to Instagram to launch its [Message in the Sand](#) campaign hoping internally to boost the island economy post-virus — while externally “**spreading kindness and encouraging travelers to keep Antigua in mind for a future trips.**”

## Argentina:

Government has adopted broad economy-wide measures (costing about 1% of GDP) focused on providing: **support for workers and vulnerable groups, and hard-hit sectors.** Support for Hard-hit sectors like tourism include exemption from social security contributions, and subsidized loans for construction activities,

<https://webpicking.com/argentina-anuncia-medidas-para-paliar-impacto-economico-del-covid-19/>

The payment of employer contributions to tourism, passenger transport and hotel companies will be exempted. This is 20.4% for the services and commerce sector.

The Productive Recovery Program (REPRO) will be expanded to guarantee the employment of those who work in companies affected by the health emergency. Through this Program, workers are offered a fixed sum of up to an amount equivalent to the monthly salary, for a term of up to 12 months.

There will be more investment for tourist infrastructure. There is a \$ 100 billion budget that will be allocated to roads and for economic, tourist, construction, and renovation of homes, schools and kindergartens infrastructure.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-presento-un-paquete-de-medidas-que-benefician-al-sector-turistico>

## The Bahamas

Tourism sector workers and other self-employed persons to receive a **\$200 per week benefit** until the Bahamas National COVID -19 lasts.

<http://www.tribune242.com/news/2020/mar/31/self-employed-assistance-net-expands-to-cover-7000/>

The Government of the Bahamas will provide support to the workforce and small businesses

<https://ewnews.com/covid-19-relief-package-will-bridge-the-gap-says-chamber-confederation>

## Barbados:

The Government of Barbados announced that, through the Barbados Bankers’ Association, there will be a **six-month moratorium on all existing loans and mortgages** for persons and businesses directly affected by the virus. Among those most affected are tourism businesses. .

<https://www.barbadosadvocate.com/business/business-monday-policies-expected-protect-householders-businesses>

## Belize:

The Belize Tourism Board is part of an inter-agency team providing guidelines for the operationalizing of the **Unemployment Relief Program** which will offer financial assistance to meet the needs of workers who, having been terminated or laid off, cannot earn all of their work income and are not eligible for another financial assistance program.

<https://www.breakingbelizenews.com/2020/04/01/find-out-if-you-qualify-for-the-covid-19-unemployment-relief-program/>

## Bolivia:

Tourism businesses in Bolivia call for extension of the time for rescheduling of loans in banking from two to 12 months, deferment of the tax payment and establishing an emergency fund.

<https://www.americaeconomia.com/economia-mercados/finanzas/difieren-pago-de-impuestos-en-bolivia-hasta-mayo-por-crisis-de-covid-19>

The Bolivian National Tax Service (SIN) issued a resolution that **extends the due date for the payment of tax obligations until next May**, in the face of the crisis caused by the disease of the new coronavirus (COVID-19).

<https://www.americaeconomia.com/economia-mercados/finanzas/difieren-pago-de-impuestos-en-bolivia-hasta-mayo-por-crisis-de-covid-19>

## Brazil:

Micro, small and medium entrepreneurs in sectors such as airports, ports, shops and services, segments linked to tourism, will have a grace period of six months in the payment of loans granted with the National Development Bank (BNDES).

**The government is working on three fronts with a focus on maintaining jobs in the sector.** A provisional measure was introduced that, among other things, suspends the employment contract and guarantees government support for workers. In addition, work is being done on the relationship between companies and consumers, to request the rescheduling and non-cancellation of travel packages, shows and events. Discussions are underway with the main Brazilian banks, so that the institutions can create credit lines to allow working capital in tourism companies and the sector.

The House of Representatives approved a bill that provides for the payment of R \$ 600 for informal workers affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The benefit will be paid for a period of three months and eligible tourism workers can access it. The text will now be voted on in the Federal Senate.

The measure serves the informal sector that has been suffering from the serious crisis. In tourism, artisans, street vendors, tour guides, drivers, among others, who depend on tourism and conform to what the text says, will be able to have money during this difficult period.

A new line of credit will allow small and medium-sized businesses to pay their payrolls for two months during the coronavirus pandemic. The money will be loaned by banks to companies with annual incomes between R \$ 360 thousand and R \$ 10 million.

The measure responds to an important demand from the tourism sector, one of the most affected by the situation. About 80% of the tourism sector is made up of micro and small companies. The person who receives the loan will not be able to fire employees for two months and the money will be deposited directly into the worker's account.

<http://www.turismo.gov.br/%C3%BA%ltimas-not%C3%ADcias.html>

#### Canada:

Tourism operators, small- or medium- sized business or organization may be eligible, through Canada's Regional Development Agencies, to receive federal funding to help stay in business, or advice and pathfinding services to other federal programs and services available.

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/07677.html>

The Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) has established a **Fund to help Indigenous tourism operators during the COVID 19 pandemic.**

<https://aptnnews.ca/2020/03/30/1-2m-fund-set-up-to-help-indigenous-tourism-operators-during-pandemic/>

#### Chile:

The Under-Secretariat of Tourism and SERNATUR launched Activa Turismo Online, a virtual space that seeks to connect the sector through relevant information spaces, talks with specialists and joint think tanks to support the survival of the tourism industry.

[http://www.pulsoturistico.com.ar/mas\\_informacion.asp?id=11808&titulo=Chile-lanza-lanza-el-programa,-Activa-turismo-online-](http://www.pulsoturistico.com.ar/mas_informacion.asp?id=11808&titulo=Chile-lanza-lanza-el-programa,-Activa-turismo-online-)

Among the measures presented in the Economic Emergency Plan, and which generate real support for the tourism sector, those aimed at employment protection are highlighted, such as the Law on Protection of Labor Income and the Draft Law on employment protection.

Other measures for the productive system include suspension of the monthly provisional payments (PPM) of the corporate income tax for the next 3 months, postponement of VAT payment for the next 3 months for all companies with sales below UF 350,000, postponement until July 2020 of the payment of income tax for SMEs according to what they declare in next April's income, postponement of April tax payments for companies with sales below 350,000 UF and for people with properties with a tax assessment of less than \$ 133 million. Additional measures include temporary reduction of stamp and stamp tax to 0% for all credit operations during the next 6 months, relief measures for the treatment of tax debts with the General Treasury focused on SMEs and people with lower incomes.

All the expenses of the companies facing the health crisis will be accepted as a tax expense. Greater flexibilities will be granted in the terms to present sworn statements associated with this year's income. Other liquidity measures for SMEs include acceleration of payments to state providers; new capitalization of the State Bank for US \$ 500 million: These resources will be used mainly to provide financing to individuals and SMEs.

#### **Exclusively for the tourism sector:**

**ECONOMIC TOOLS:** The Undersecretary of Tourism is preparing a **toolkit for the reactivation of the sector, in order to inject liquidity into SMEs and protect employment**. The toolkit was designed in conjunction with key organizations such as the Corporation for the Promotion of Production (CORFO), the Technical Cooperation Service (SERCOTEC) and the National Tourism Service (SERNATUR). It focusses efforts on enhancing productive development and investment, key to being able to emerge after this harsh crisis.

**SIGO PROGRAM:** "Technical assistance in business and digital management processes for tourism entrepreneurs. The Undersecretary of Tourism together with the National Tourism Service (SERNATUR), adapted the program, incorporating a strong digital component and targeting the relevant content to address in the period of emergency and reactivation. Also included is the generation of a set of complementary online talks and trainings that allow tourism service providers to be prepared, to resume their businesses more strongly or reinvent themselves in these times of change.

#### **Colombia:**

The hotel sector has made available more than 8,000 rooms nationally if the health emergency facing the country were to require it.

<https://www.reportur.com/colombia/2020/03/29/hoteleros-ponen-disposicion-8-mil-camas-atender-covid-19/>

For businesses in the tourism and aviation sector the National Government, has instituted the deferment of payment of the private settlement of the parafiscal contribution, for the promotion of tourism, of all taxable persons in the first quarter of 2020, with the obligation to pay for the month of July instead April for the current year.

<https://www.reportur.com/colombia/2020/03/11/duque-anuncia-ayuda-al-sector-del-turismo-la-aviacion-covid-19/>

Through the "Tourism Contingencies" chat, a permanent communication channel was implemented with the tourism sector unions and national entities to monitor economic impacts in the sector and respond to contingencies.

Deferment of the payment of the private settlement of the parafiscal contribution, for the promotion of tourism, of all taxpayers in the corresponding quarter of 2020, leaving the obligation of payment for the month of July instead of April.

The Government has established special deadlines for the payment of the VAT tax declaration of the first semester 2020, and on complementary income for taxable year 2019, for the tourism and aviation sectors, leaving the payments of the first semester for the second semester of this year.

Another measure will be to lower the import tariffs for some inputs related to the health and aviation sectors, on a temporary basis. Likewise, the Government will create a new line of credit, through Bancóldex, subsidized by the Government, in the **amount of \$ 250,000 million, which will be directed to the tourism and aviation sectors**, in order to maintain liquidity for companies of all sizes.

The domestic tourism promotion strategy will be strengthened, a decision to offset the drop in international tourism.

<https://www.reportur.com/colombia/2020/03/11/duque-anuncia-ayuda-al-sector-del-turismo-la-aviacion-covid-19/>

<http://www.mincit.gov.co/prensa/medidas-para-mitigar-impacto-del-covid-19>

### Costa Rica:

Costa Rica announced measures, which aim to **mitigate mass layoffs in the tourism sector**. Some of these measures include a four-month moratorium for companies that owe the payment of tourist taxes.

<http://www.monumental.co.cr/2020/04/01/autoridades-de-turismo-adoptan-medidas-para-evitar-despidos-masivos-de-personas-ante-temporada-cero/>

Suspension of employment contracts for an estimated period of three months, in order to help companies and people to keep their jobs.

A payment moratorium of tourist taxes will last for a period of four months, from April to July. The taxes that fall under this guideline are 5% of each ticket sold that originates in Costa Rica to travel abroad, and 5% of the purchase of tickets whose destination is Costa Rica and \$ 15 for the income of each tourist by air.

<http://www.monumental.co.cr/2020/04/01/autoridades-de-turismo-adoptan-medidas-para-evitar-despidos-masivos-de-personas-ante-temporada-cero/>

### Dominica:

Given the significant economic impact, which the coronavirus pandemic will have on the tourism industry, the Dominica Hotel and Tourism Association is advocating for fiscal and other support from local banks and the government for its membership. **The Ministry of Tourism, International Transport and Maritime Initiatives is working with stakeholders within its portfolio to collect data to galvanize assistance for the tourism sector.**

### Dominican Republic:

The Association of Tourism Guides of the Dominican Republic requests to be included in the list of beneficiaries of government-provided **aid to workers** affected by the current crisis.

<https://www.caribbeannewsdigital.com/es/turismo/guias-de-turismo-como-afrontan-la-crisis-del-sector-y-que-alternativas-han-creado>

## Ecuador:

Measures in Ecuador include suspension of terms and deadlines for the substantiation and processing of all administrative processes, including sanctioning procedures and coercive execution, before the Ministry of Tourism. Suspension of terms and / or terms established for the declaration and payment of the Eco "Delta -ED-" and the contribution "Tourist Power - PT-".

Guidelines for applying pop-up telework; for the application of the reduction, modification or emergency suspension of the working day during the declaration of the health emergency; guidelines for determining the value of living wages; instructions for the payment of profit sharing.

Financing for the productive sector

### BANECUADOR

Grant a moratorium on payments for credit operations. Uncollected interest will be distributed over twelve months, while the principal will be distributed until the end of the credit period.

### TOURISM SPECIFICALLY:

- For Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Micro-enterprises.
- The credit can be for working capital and fixed assets.
- Terms can be up to **120 months for fixed assets and 36 months for working capital**.
- Grace periods can be up to **36 months for fixed assets and 12 months for working capital**.
- The form of payment will be based on the activity to be carried out, and may be monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.

Source: Ministry of Tourism

## El Salvador:

El Salvador announced **special relief for the tourism sector**. The initial relief measures include suspension of the 5% tax to support tourism promotion and a 30-day extension to pay income tax for 2019 for tourism businesses.

<https://www.larepublica.net/noticia/el-salvador-otorga-alivio-fiscal-al-sector-turismo-ante-emergencia-por-covid-19>

Defer payment of bills for drinking water, electricity and telecommunications services, which will be paid in a period of up to 24 months. The payment of municipal taxes is excluded from the application.

SPECIFICALLY FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR:

A Structured plan to **mitigate the economic impact of the population, including the tourism sector**.

Commercial rental payments are frozen; as is payment of mortgages, personal loans, credit cards, working and entrepreneurial capital, and credit payments to commercial houses. Natural or legal persons with difficulties paying insurance premiums due to the pandemic do not lose coverage in the emergency period. Extension the term for payment of income tax from the months of March to May 2020.

<https://www.larepublica.net/noticia/el-salvador-otorga-alivio-fiscal-al-sector-turismo-ante-emergencia-por-covid-19>

Source: Ministry of Tourism

## Grenada:

Government outlines **Home-grown Structural Adjustment** program to benefit tourism and other sectors, small businesses and employees.

<https://menafn.com/1099895892/Grenada-delivers-structural-adjustment-programme-Confirms-first-case-of-COVID-19>

## Guatemala:

Members of the Guatemalan Institute of Tourism (INGUAT) and representatives of the private sector work together to define a plan **to save the nearly 180,000 jobs in the tourism sector**, highlighting the need for close cooperation between the government and the private sector. A Tourism Recovery Strategy was developed

<https://www.estrategiaynegocios.net/centroamericaymundo/1369144-330/guatemala-buscan-plan-para-salvar-al-turismo-tras-crisis-de-covid-19>

The Central Bank has reduce the leading interest rate of monetary policy by 50 basis points, from 2.75% to 2.25%, with the purpose of helping to contain in the short term the slowdown in economic activity, employment and lower the cost of credit. Respite in financial commitments to banks for a period of 180 days, as part of the defined contingency actions, according to the modification and loans, mortgage loans, credit cards, pledge loans, among others, with deferred payments between two and three months has also been proposed.

The Superintendence of Tax Administration (SAT) suspended the deadlines for inspection and verification of compliance with tax obligations for 14 days.

MINECO received a fund of 400 million Quetzales, which will be used to provide support to MSMEs. An employability bonus equivalent to 1,000.00 - 3,000.00 (Quetzales per person) is being processed for which the most vulnerable workforce in the tourism sector will be able to access such aid.

A Crisis Committee was formed through discussions led by INGUAT, with the participation of representatives of the private tourism sector. The main objective is the consolidation of a consensus action plan that will mitigate the effects derived from the crisis caused by COVID 19.

Through the Department of Tourism Promotion, a project for training and education in the preparation of tourist packages is being managed, with the objective of strengthening the private tourism sector in the elaboration of said packages and improving their chances of success in the post-crisis period.

As part of the actions to encourage domestic tourism, the implementation of a coupon plan has been considered. It will be used to motivate and make domestic tourism more accessible and for destination marketing, in countries of the Central American region and Mexico.

[https://www.banguat.gob.gt/Publica/Prensa/boletin\\_tasa\\_int\\_covid.pdf](https://www.banguat.gob.gt/Publica/Prensa/boletin_tasa_int_covid.pdf)

<https://portal.sat.gob.gt/portal/noticias/la-superintendencia-de-administracion-tributaria-hace-de-conocimiento-la-resolucion-de-superintendencia-numero-sat-dsi-280-2020/>

Source: INGUAT

## Guyana:

Guyana has completed a [Report](#) on the Financial Impact of COVID-19 on Guyana's Tourism Sector. It contains prioritized recommendations for financial assistance from the Government of Guyana as well as **Tourism Sector Resiliency Plans** focusing on the following – Improving Product Development, Infrastructure Upgrades, Revision of Rates and Staff Assessment-Training.

## Honduras:

Honduras announced an Economic Aid Plan for economy-wide relief. The plan includes special consideration for small and medium-sized enterprises many of whom are the backbone of the tourism sector.

<https://www.eleconomista.net/actualidad/Presidente-de-Honduras-advierte-impacto-del-COVID-19-y-anuncia-plan-de-rescate-economico--20200317-0025.html>

The Honduran Bank for Production and Housing (Banhprovi) **will freeze the financing limits for three months**; the National Entrepreneurship and Small Business Service (SENPRENDE) will make available a batch of loans from credit operations.

The private tourism sector, grouped in the National Chamber of Tourism (CANATURH) has proposed several support measures:

Through the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (STSS), use the “Con Chamba Vivís Mejor” Program so that at least L7.2billion are earmarked to help cover the next (6 ) months, jobs in the Tourism Sector, prioritizing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Authorizing BAHNPROVI to transfer, at the end of the maturity of the loans that it has granted to the tourism sector, (6) capital installments plus interest corresponding to the months of March to August of 2020.

They have also proposed to authorize and place in BAHNPROVI a line for emergency funds, which will cover obligations for wages and salaries, public services, general operating expenses and short-term debts with suppliers and other accounts to pay; a line so that the institutions supervised by the National Commission of Banks and Insurance (CNBS) can consolidate and / or realign debts of the Tourism Sector with funds from BANHPROVI.

A request has been made for current BANHPROVI products for the tourism sector be expanded to a minimum of twenty (20) years and that their interest rate be reduced to 7%. An expedited mechanism to speed up the credit approval and debt adjustment processes with BAHNPROVI. Creation of a regulatory framework that allows for very broad flexibility so that financial institutions, cooperatives and banks can grant arrangements for restructuring, refinancing and readjustment of debtors' credit obligations.

In tax matters, defer payment on account of the year in a period of six (6) monthly installments. Request that a Special Amnesty of at least (6) months be granted for all taxes collected by the Tourism Sector, and

for the environmental control reports before the Secretary of Environment. . Extend the Amnesty in Force for the rest of the current year; request non-suspension of billing and RTN.

Suspension of payments for basic services (telephone, water, electricity, etc.) for 3 months (March, April and May) and deferring the payment of the following 3 months (June, July and August) to 6 months; establish a special electricity rate for the next 6 months for hotels, restaurants and tourism service providers; defer to (6) months, rent payments, internet, social security, contribution from INFOP, RAP and all kinds of taxes from the Central Government and Municipalities, to overcome the crisis and start the revival of the sector.

<https://www.eleconomista.net/actualidad/Presidente-de-Honduras-advierte-impacto-del-COVID-19-y-anuncia-plan-de-rescate-economico--20200317-0025.html>

Source: Honduran Chamber of Tourism (CANATURH)

## Jamaica

Government establishes **Stimulus Package for the tourism sector** with cash transfers to tourism businesses and tourism employees, a soft loan fund to businesses and employees hardest hit by COVID - 19 and a special COVID-related grant to support the poor and most vulnerable.

<http://www.loopjamaica.com/content/covid-19-tourism-stakeholders-pleased-stimulus-package>

The Ministry of Tourism has established Protocols for Management of CoVID-19 for Tourism Entities.

<https://www.mot.gov.jm/news-releases/protocols-established-management-covid-19-jamaican-tourism-entities>

The Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCM) has been tasked with driving the recovery of tourism in Jamaica and elsewhere in the region post COVID-19.

<https://jis.gov.jm/tourism-resilience-centre-to-drive-sectors-recovery-post-covid-19/>

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) is using its digital platform to deliver a weekly virtual care package - "Escape to Jamaica" to uplift and inspire followers around the world currently practicing responsible social distancing.

[www.instagram.com/visitjamaica](http://www.instagram.com/visitjamaica)

## Mexico:

The Secretary of Tourism received requests from the businesses that are divided into two lists: one for the days of the emergency and another after, which will be analyzed by the Economic Growth Cabinet and sent to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

The National Tourist Business Council proposes 14 measures to **"avoid the bankruptcy of companies and the massive loss of jobs"**:

No increases in energy rates (water, electricity and fuel) for the next 24 months; promote that the institutions that constitute the development banking and commercial banking system also facilitate the extensions and restructuring of debts; that credit lines are granted at competitive rates; speed up tax refund processes; exemption of rights to use the Mexican airspace and migratory rights and the payment of booths that are not concessioned for six months.

Once the emergency is over, the CNET suggests applying these measures for what it calls the "economic recovery phase":

Subsidy to (VAT), applying zero rate for six months; exclusively direct the lodging tax for promotion and tourist activity; allow provisional payments to be made on a quarterly basis; create a working group to identify support measures for all activities in the tourism sector.

<https://www.gob.mx/sectur/prensa/recibe-miguel-torruco-propuestas-del-sector-privado-para-periodo-de-emergencia>

<https://www.yucatan.com.mx/merida/proponen-medidas-para-mitigar-impacto-del-coronavirus-en-el-turismo>

#### Nicaragua:

The Ministry of Health distributed measures that must be implemented in conjunction with collaborators and the established **protocols regarding how to act** if there is any suspicious case, or if tourists arrive from places where the virus is already present.

<https://www.intur.gob.ni/2020/03/prepara-a-empresarios-turisticos-para-verano-2020-y-fortalece-medidas-preventivas-ante-covid-19/>

#### Panama:

Panama has established Virtual Working Group sessions to seek measures to support COVID-19 crisis tourism sector. The Virtual public-private sessions seek to develop support measures and actions to benefit the tourism sector during and after the COVID-19 crisis.

[https://www.tvn-2.com/nacionales/Coronavirus-en-Panama-Mesas-trabajo-virtuales-medidas-COVID-19-Ivan-Eskildsen-ATP-turismo\\_0\\_5543445623.html](https://www.tvn-2.com/nacionales/Coronavirus-en-Panama-Mesas-trabajo-virtuales-medidas-COVID-19-Ivan-Eskildsen-ATP-turismo_0_5543445623.html)

Panama will use all possible resources to safeguard the health of the inhabitants of the national territory; grant bonds to the most vulnerable. Banks that are part of the Panamanian system have given 3-month moratorium for the payment of mortgages, credit cards, personal loans. The Panamanian government has spared no effort in reaching the largest number of citizens with the coronavirus test. The tourism sector has collaborated by offering its hotels so that positive patients can go through quarantine. **The Government of Panama has extended tax incentives for tourism companies until 2025.**

[https://www.tvn-2.com/nacionales/Coronavirus-en-Panama-Mesas-trabajo-virtuales-medidas-COVID-19-Ivan-Eskildsen-ATP-turismo\\_0\\_5543445623.html](https://www.tvn-2.com/nacionales/Coronavirus-en-Panama-Mesas-trabajo-virtuales-medidas-COVID-19-Ivan-Eskildsen-ATP-turismo_0_5543445623.html)

Source: Tourism Authority of Panama

## Paraguay:

The Minister Sofía Montiel de Afara, together with the Minister of the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Carla Bacigalupo, discussed via videoconference with representatives of unions **specific instruments that favor the tourism sector from the workplace.**

The revalidation of the National Registry of Tourism has been suspended for three months  
By means of a credit product, operating capital will be granted to owners of inns and rural accommodations, used for the acquisition of various supplies and to the payment of wages.

The National Development Bank announced the incorporation of better conditions and a more abbreviated and flexible process to facilitate access to the loans for operating capital to companies negatively affected by the situation generated by COVID-19. The measures are mainly aimed at micro, small, medium and large companies with credit options that will allow them to alleviate and overcome the delicate economic moment that the country is going through.

<https://www.senatur.gov.py/noticias/senatur-y-trabajo-articulan-propuestas-laborales-que-favorezcan-al-sector-turistico>

<https://www.senatur.gov.py/noticias/senatur-suspende-revalidacion-anual-de-registro-por-tres-meses>

<https://www.senatur.gov.py/noticias/propietarios-de-posadas-turisticas-y-alojamientos-rurales-recibiran-asistencia-crediticia>

<https://www.senatur.gov.py/noticias/bnf-ofrece-facilidades-crediticias-para-seguir-trabajando>

## Peru:

Commercial banks offer mortgage and credit relief to tourism and hospitality businesses.

<https://gestion.pe/economia/coronavirus-en-peru-covid-19-empresarios-del-sector-turismo-contaran-con-facilidades-para-el-pago-de-deudas-hipotecarias-nndc-noticia/>

The scope of coverage of the CRECER Fund which seeks financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and exporting companies has been expanded.

**Refund of user fees that would have been paid, or income for tourist purposes to the protected natural areas and to the assets that are part of the Cultural Heritage of the Nation.**

Modifications in the due date for the payment of Income Tax for MSMEs and individuals.

The deadlines for the declaration and payments of tax obligations are extended, as well as the Sales and Income Registry and the Purchase Registry.

Creation of the Business Support Fund for SMEs (FAE-MYPE), in order to guarantee credits for working capital granted to SMEs, as well as to restructure and refinance their debts.

The extraordinary withdrawal of the pension fund in the Private Pension System has been established as a measure to mitigate the economic effects of compulsory social isolation and other measures.

Temporary disability allowance for patients diagnosed with COVID-19. ESSALUD will provide compensation to workers diagnosed with coronavirus.

The banks have offered entrepreneurs in the tourism sector relief for the payment of their mortgage debts.

<https://gestion.pe/economia/coronavirus-en-peru-covid-19-empresarios-del-sector-turismo-contaran-con-facilidades-para-el-pago-de-deudas-hipotecarias-nndc-noticia/>

Source: Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism

### Saint Kitts and Nevis:

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis announced a **17-Point Stimulus Package** which Includes Reducing Corporate and Unincorporated Business Tax. Tourism businesses to benefit.

<https://www.thestkittsnevisobserver.com/covid-19-governments-17-point-stimulus-package-includes-reducing-corporate-and-business-tax/>

### Saint Lucia:

Saint Lucia's Tourism Sector takes proactive approach amid concerns of the Global Impact of Covid-19. The government and private sector are considering national strategy for a rebound of the sector post COVID-19. The government of Saint Lucia has been meeting with various sectors of the society and economy to get their input into the first phase of a **Social Stabilization Program**. The first phase of the Program aims to bring immediate support and relief to those who have lost their jobs and income earning opportunities due to the effects of COVID-19 on the economy. The measures of this first phase will be announced on April 8, 2020.

<https://thevoiceslu.com/2020/03/saint-lucias-tourism-sector-takes-proactive-approach-amid-concerns-of-the-global-impact-of-covid-19/>

### Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:

Government announced a Fiscal Stimulus and Tax Relief Plan in excess of three percent (3%) of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the whole economy for which the tourism and other vulnerable sectors are beneficiaries.

**Relief to be granted to airlines**, including LIAT and local carriers, which operate in or out of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in respect of certain taxes, fees and airport charges. Support for displaced workers in the hotel and tourism sector, including cruise buses and taxis, through a Displacement Supplementary Income for three months in the first instance

[http://pmoffice.gov.vc/pmoffice/images/PDF/speech/Prime\\_Minister\\_Gonsalves\\_Address\\_to\\_the\\_Nation\\_on\\_25.3.20\\_Rising\\_Stronger\\_from\\_the\\_Ashes\\_of\\_Covid-19.pdf](http://pmoffice.gov.vc/pmoffice/images/PDF/speech/Prime_Minister_Gonsalves_Address_to_the_Nation_on_25.3.20_Rising_Stronger_from_the_Ashes_of_Covid-19.pdf)

### Trinidad and Tobago:

**\$50 million grant, to upgrade hotels**, part of the Government's economic stimulus package to jump-start the sector and get it ready for after the COVID- 19 pandemic.

<http://www.guardian.co.tt/news/tobago-hoteliars-anxious-for-governments-help-6.2.1090930.a943bb51cf>

### United States of America:

President Donald Trump signed into law, the CARES Act, a **\$2 trillion stimulus** meant to keep the U.S. economic engine running despite concerns about coronavirus. The stimulus package has allocations for travel and tourism companies including airlines, airports, travel agents and hotels.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/amphtml/news/2-trillion-u-stimulus-package-223027714.html>

### Uruguay:

The Ministry of Tourism, in coordination with the Presidency of the Republic, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the Ministry of Labor, are working to **find solutions that minimize the serious effects of this global crisis**.

Make unemployment insurance more flexible, postpone payments and even suspend the application of public rates, improve lines of credit at the bank level, suspend the collection of loans granted, extend the expiration dates of tax and social security obligations or allow making agreements without fines, surcharges or interest for the next few months without activity. These are some of the economic emergency measures that the Uruguayan Chamber of Tourism (CAMTUR) proposes to the government.

<https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-turismo/comunicacion/noticias/comunicado-oficial>

[https://www.hosteltur.com/lat/135385\\_uruguay-estudia-medidas-especiales-para-el-sector-turismo.html](https://www.hosteltur.com/lat/135385_uruguay-estudia-medidas-especiales-para-el-sector-turismo.html)