



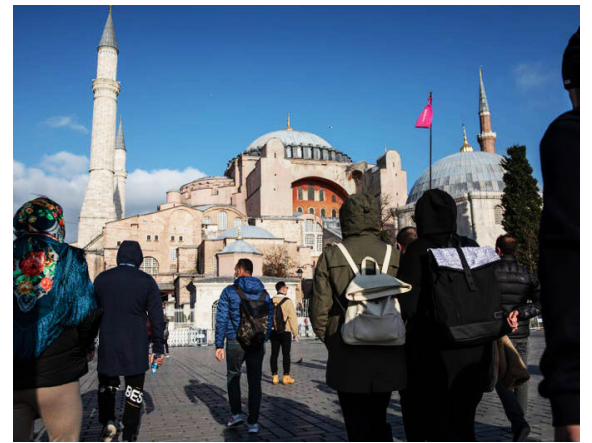




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## Turkey exempts foreign tourists in the country from ongoing curfew restrictions

Turkey, which is under lockdown until May 17, has decided to exclude foreign travellers from curfew, who are already in the country. Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, Culture and Tourism Minister, Turkey assured foreign visitors that they are exempt from the round-the-clock curfew. Foreign visitors will be able to carry out their activities provided that they have their passports with them. Public transportation will continue to operate at 50% capacity. Major museums and historical sites across 9 cities, including Istanbul, Antalya, Mugla and Nevsehir (Cappadocia) will be open to foreign visitors during the lockdown.





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### AmexGBT makes binding offer to acquire Egencia from Expedia Group

American Express Global Business Travel (GBT) has made a binding offer to acquire Egencia, Expedia Group's corporate travel arm. As part of the transaction, Expedia Group would become a shareholder in, and enter a long-term strategic commercial agreement with, GBT.

The proposed deal is subject to consultation by Expedia Group and Egencia with their applicable employee representatives, as well as customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals.



### Qatar National Tourism Council appoints BRANDit as India Representative

The Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC) has appointed BRANDit as the integrated sales & marketing agency in India. BRANDit will be responsible for defining and executing Qatar's in-market trade engagement, product development and joint marketing campaign strategy while overseeing initiatives to promote the country's attractions and events, including FIFA World Cup 2022.

Philip Dickinson, Vice President International Markets, QNTC, said, "We are excited to have BRANDit as our marketing and sales partner in India to promote Qatar's new value proposition to tour operators, online travel agencies and consumers at large."



### RT-PCR not needed for travel within states: ICMR

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has advised removing the need for an RT-PCR test for inter-state travel to reduce the load on diagnostic laboratories testing for Covid-19 amid the sharp surge seen in cases. "The need for RT-

PCR test in healthy individuals undertaking inter-state domestic travel may be completely removed to reduce the load on laboratories," the government's flagship bio-medical research agency said in its advisory.



### Nepal bans all domestic & international flights until May 14

Nepal has banned all domestic and international flights until May 14 due to increasing COVID-19 cases. Nepal's Health Minister Hridayesh Tripathi has stated that the decision on flight restrictions will be in place until May 14, but charter flights will be allowed. Nepal has made quarantine mandatory for everyone arriving in the country. Those flying in from abroad will be subject to mandatory 10-day quarantine in hotels upon arrival.

