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Turkey outlines four-stage 'healthy tourism certification' to support recovery

by Phil Davies (articles/author/849h85200 Davies) © May 11th 2020, 09:19

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A four-stage Healthy Tourism Certification has been initiated by Turkey as the country seeks to attract foreign tourists from this summer once Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are eased.

The four main pillars in the certification initiative cover health and safety of passengers and employees, precautions at tourist facilities and transportation.

Under the proposals, passengers will not be allowed to enter airports without facemasks and they will be subject to thermal camera and body temperature measurements at the entrance to terminal buildings.

Processes will need to be implemented by hotels covering food and drink facilities, the implementation and control of measures such as social distancing contact and isolation "which are required to control the spread of pandemic within the personnel working at such facilities".

Measures and regulations for air, land and sea travel include "safe distance standards".

Hospitality staff will be trained in procedures such as hygiene and sanitation.

The Turkish tourism and culture ministry wants the measure to be applicable "as of the summer season of 2020".

Culture and tourism minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy said: "This certificate programme demonstrates that Turkey will take a pioneering role in terms of setting the direction for the normalisation of tourism.

"Global quarantine measures, which have been taken due to Covid-19, causing unique developments all around the world, and today these measures are getting more flexible.

"The tourism sector itself has a vital role in terms of returning to normal processes.

"The importance of caring for our guests in our culture, leads us to be ready for the transition to healthy tourism before everyone.

"Our certification programme shall ensure that our guests in Turkey are going to make their holidays safely and hygienically and feel comfortable during their visit.