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**PANAMA WELCOMES ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS  
AFTER REOPENING BORDERS**

*Panama Has Opened Its Borders to All Countries*



**PANAMA CITY, PANAMA – OCTOBER 13 2020** – Panama has officially opened its borders and is welcoming international travelers back to Tocumen International Airport, the country’s main airport. The reopening of its borders comes after months of strategic planning, which resulted in new health and safety protocols to ensure the protection of both Panamanians and international visitors.

During its first two days of reopening, Panama welcomed the arrival of over 300 entrant passengers from flights on airlines including Copa Airlines, the country’s flagship airline, Air France, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Spirit Airlines, United Airlines, and Wingo. Additionally, Panama received a private Canadian charter flight into the Rio Hato airport. Tocumen International Airport, the hub of the Americas, currently has flights scheduled to and from 41 cities in 20 countries in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, North America, and Europe.

In the morning of October 12<sup>th</sup>, when the operation of international flights officially resumed, the first 35 international passengers arriving into Tocumen International Airport on a Copa Airlines flight from Miami were welcomed with traditional dances and music.



President Laurentino Cortizo sharing his remarks on the Reopening of Panama's borders.

Later that morning, President Laurentino Cortizo Cohen delivered an emotional message highlighting that “air travel is an essential service that moves Panama’s economy” making October 12<sup>th</sup> a day of hope for all Panamanians. President Cortizo was accompanied by Mr. Raffoul Arab, General Manager of Tocumen S.A., as well as Minister Iván Eskildsen, Minister of Tourism.

“After months of dreaming about and planning for Panama’s reopening, we are thrilled that this day is finally here,” said Minister Eskildsen. “Living up to our vocation for hospitality as a country, we are welcoming travelers from around the world. It is our hope that visitors will get to experience all we have to offer, our cultural and natural heritage, in the safest way possible. And of course, experience the emblematic Panama Canal”, added the minister.

Before traveling to Panama, passengers are required to complete an electronic affidavit before checking-in to their flight, where they must agree to comply with all health and safety measures outlined by the Ministry of Health of Panama. The link to the electronic affidavit can be found online via the [VisitPanama website](https://www.visitpanama.com).

All incoming travelers, including Panamanians, must present a negative COVID-19 PCR or antigen test upon arrival, which must be taken no more than 48 hours prior to arrival. If a test is not possible within that time frame, passengers will be mandated to take a rapid test at the airport prior to customs and are responsible for the cost, which will be \$50 USD. It is not a requirement for visitors to have health insurance for entry, however, it is highly recommended. And passengers from all over the world are welcomed, as there are no country restrictions due to COVID-19.



COVID-19 Testing Stations at Tocumen International Airport.

For more information on Panama’s re-opening and new health and safety protocols, please visit: <https://www.visitpanama.com/information/travel-guidelines>.