

## 1. Warmer

### A Discuss these questions in groups.

1. How has COVID affected travel where you live?
2. Have you had any travel experiences during the COVID pandemic?

### Making Summer Plans in Times of COVID

Many countries like Canada, Mexico, France, Greece, Spain, Sweden, and the UK are no longer requiring that fully vaccinated travellers (who have had two doses of the COVID vaccine) and under-18s take a COVID test before they travel. There will be no more mask-wearing indoors and COVID certificates will become a thing of the past. But are travellers willing to take the risk?

According to the European Travel Commission (ETC), the answer seems to be yes. 77 per cent of people have made travel plans between April and September 2022, with just over half hoping to visit another European country.



Peter Kern, CEO of Expedia group, thinks summer 2022 will be the busiest travel season ever. He explains that with Europe relaxing restrictions and borders reopening in places like Australia, travel will make a big comeback. Kern predicts that airlines will be back to historic levels by August. He thinks prices will be high, but people will be willing to pay whatever it takes to get away. People have been saving since 2020 and are eager to pay for experiences. "They want to go to New York and go to a Broadway show," he says, adding that cities in Europe with a cultural offer will also be popular destinations.

Kern is not the only one who thinks so. Ryanair's Michael O'Leary also predicts a strong bounce-back. Ryanair is recruiting and training 2,000 new cabin crew and 1,000 new pilots, while British Airways is looking to hire thousands of new staff.

It seems that with fewer COVID-related logistics to think about, summer plans can return to older more persistent questions like "the beach, city, or mountains?".

## 2. Understanding the article

### A Choose the correct way to finish each sentence.

1. Many countries will no longer require COVID tests from travellers who...
  - a ... have received two vaccinations or are under the age of eighteen.
  - b ... are from Canada, Mexico, France, Greece, the UK or Spain.
2. A survey done by the European Travel Commission found that most people in the EU are...
  - a ... not ready to take the risk of travel this year.
  - b ... planning to travel in the next few months.

3. Expedia's CEO thinks that airlines...
  - a ... will make a full recovery by August.
  - b ... will struggle because prices will be high.
  
4. Peter Kern predicts that most people will want to...
  - a ... travel to cities and places that offer cultural events and entertainment.
  - b ... visit wherever they can fly the cheapest in order to save money.
  
5. Several airlines are...
  - a ... cutting staff in order to reduce their expenses.
  - b ... hiring and training thousands of new flight crew.

### 3. Exploring the topic

**A** Choose a summer destination that you would like to visit. Find information online to complete the table below.

	Notes	Cost/Links/Other
Destination		
COVID requirements		
How to get there		
Where to stay		
What to do there		