Hotels and campsites open to visitors from today

As part of Phase 3 of Scotland's lockdown route map, guests can now stay in hotels and on campsites and visit tourist attractions across the country as transmission of Covid-19 continues to be suppressed.

Customers can also go indoors at cafés, restaurants and bars from today.

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Scottish Parliament Holyrood. Fergus Ewing MSP Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, Ministerial Statement: COVID-19 (Tourism) at the Covid-19 social distancing Scottish Parliament, at Holyrood. Poolphoto/Fraser Bremner/Scottish Daily Mail Wednesday 10 June 2020. Picture FRASER BREMNER Speaking before a visit to see the new hygiene and safety measures being taken at Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness, Tourism Secretary Fergus Ewing said: "Last month we gave the industry the indicative reopening date of 15 July and I'm pleased we are now in a position where Scotland's world class hotels and tourism attractions can begin to reopen in a safe and sustainable manner.

"We have worked closely with stakeholders including representative bodies and trade unions on guidance for safely restarting the sector to ensure employees are protected and visitors can have full confidence in planning their trips. Indeed, I am impressed by the strong and comprehensive action so many businesses across the country are taking as they make their preparations.

"Scotland's tourism offer is world leading and I hope many people book staycations or even visit their local tourist attractions and restaurants as they reopen. We all have a responsibility to enjoy tourism safely so please familiarise yourself with the guidance available and make plans in advance, checking what facilities are open. Do make use of booking systems where available prior to beginning your journey and if for any reason you cannot attend, give plenty of notice before you cancel.

"It is also so important to be considerate of local communities and respect those living in the area you are visiting, particularly by avoiding busy areas.

"We have some of the best experiences in the world here in Scotland — let's enjoy them safely and support the strong return of our tourism sector."

Kingsmills Hotel Group CEO Tony Story said: "The hotel industry has had to adapt to this situation very quickly, and we are delighted to be able to demonstrate to Mr Ewing how we are managing the new procedures whilst still assuring guests of a warm Highland welcome.

"Inverness and the Highlands is the perfect spot for a staycation. With so many beautiful wide-open spaces to explore, people can socially distance without too much effort and we'd urge Scots to consider supporting our local economy by planning a trip."

There is more information <u>here</u> on the Transport Scotland website about travelling in Scotland.