

TripsGuard API v3

User's Manual

Last Update: December 27, 2021

For use under the TripsGuard API terms of use only

1. Background

Since version 2, the TripsGuard API offers structured COVID-related travel information. Version 3 has some major additions and also breaking changes, all in the “destinations” resource:

- Support for COVID-19 vaccination status in the various rules
- Breaking change: Simplified rules structure, eliminating the notion of separate lists of rules for “default” and “by_origin”.
- Reduced size of output, making it easier for humans to understand, by removing unnecessary false flags, empty lists and nulls.
- As more qualifiers get added to rules, we define a new mechanism for forward compatibility

Changes from v2 are labeled as **NEW in v3**

Update December 2021: This manual now includes exit rules, issued by governments in order to prevent or discourage their citizens and residents from traveling to specific destinations.

2. API Access

2.1. API Endpoints

The base URL for the API is at:

<https://api.tripsguard.com>

Individual paths under this base URL are described in the sections below. Currently the available resources are:

GET /destinations?v=3
GET /regions?v=3

2.2. Authentication

The API uses standard HTTP Basic authentication.

2.3. Caching and Rate Limiting

API users are required to query the API periodically, and cache results, rather than querying online as they receive upstream queries of their own.

For optimizing communication, it is possible to use client-side caching with standard HTTP headers: For this purpose, API requests may include an `If-None-Match` HTTP header, with a value taken from the `ETag` header in a previous API response to the same resource. If the contents have not changed since the earlier request, a short HTTP 304 response will be returned to indicate so, instead of the actual data.

2.4. Versions and Compatibility

Version 3 responses do **not** include deprecated fields from previous versions. They also omit various false, null or empty values where that would be the default anyway.

NEW in v3 In the future as the COVID situation around the world evolves, new qualifiers may be added to rules. We now define in this document the desired behaviors by API users so they would not be adversely affected by new qualifiers being added.

Most importantly, as a general rule of thumb, when the API client code encounters an unknown qualifier in a rule, it should ignore the rule. Such a qualifier will have a field name that starts with “applies”. For example: “appliesToSomething” or “applies_until_something”.

As an example, a “closed” entry rule may have an adjacent “open” rule which has all identical qualifiers except one additional qualifier in the “open” rule. If the client does not recognize that qualifier, it should just ignore the “open” rule entirely, otherwise the client could end up with two conflicting rules.

Example qualifiers which may be added include:

- New Boolean qualifiers in rules, in the form of fields having a name that starts with “applies”. For example: “appliesToSomething” or “appliesUntilSomething”
- New types of enumerable values such as:
 - COVID test types
 - Quarantine locations

- Vaccination statuses, in addition to “unvaccinated” and “vaccinated”. Any more specific vaccination labels, e.g. “vaccinate with Pfizer”, will be added in addition to the existing “vaccinated” label.

2.5. Example using curl

curl is a well-known command-line HTTP client. You can use it to access the API like so:

```
curl --user username "https://api-prod.tripsguard.com/destinations?v=3"
```

Enter your API key when asked for the host password.

3. Data Model

3.1. Destinations

GET /destinations?v=3

The underlying data model of the API is based largely on one main entity, representing a target country, state, or any other type of destination. This entity is called a “destination”.

Field	Available Values / Examples	Notes	API ver
name	Examples: Bulgaria Bosnia and Herzegovina Alabama (US State)	Countries are named according to common international conventions. US States have a (US State) suffix.	≥ 1
type	country state	New field	≥ 2
public_transportation	Operating Suspended Limited Reduced		≥ 1
masks	Required Recommended Not required Required in some areas Required in some cases	“Required in some cases” is used rarely, e.g. when required only in state facilities, required only in	≥ 1

	Required on public transportation	elevators, required only in shops, etc.	
restaurants	Open Open for outdoor seating Open for takeout only Open for delivery only Open for takeout and delivery Open in low-risk areas Open in most areas Closed		≥ 1
businesses	Open Closed Only essentials are open Open in low-risk areas Open in most areas Partially open		≥ 1
attractions	Open Closed Open in low-risk areas Open in most areas Partially open	It is important to add to answers about attractions, that in most cases there are capacity limitations in place and that reservations are likely required. This is true globally.	≥ 2
global_status	Open for Travel Partially open Closed for Travel	Deprecated	≥ 1
entry_rules	See Entry Rules below		≥ 2
exit_rules	See Exit Rules below		≥ 3
quarantine	X days self-quarantine X days in a government facility X days at a designated location X days at home/facility For some origins Depending on test results Depending on screening results In some cases If showing symptoms Until test results are in If not presenting test results None	Deprecated	= 1
quarantine_rules	See Quarantine Rules below	New structured field	≥ 2

covid_test	Required to enter PCR required to enter Upon arrival PCR upon arrival Screening upon arrival For some origins If showing symptoms None	Deprecated	= 1
covit_test_rules	See COVID Test Rules below	New structured field	≥ 2

3.2. Entry Rules

The new “entry rules” object inside a destination describes in a structured format who is allowed to enter the destination.

Disclaimer

Please note that it is not possible for the entry rules model to cover all the various quirks and exceptions that authorities have come up with at every single destination. The model represented by the entry rules is therefore a best-effort only.

It is highly recommended for TripsGuard partners to either make the free-form, English-language “[moreInfo](#)” field available to end users, or to refer them to the TripsGuard website for more information.

The entry rules come as a list. Here is an example of a list of entry rules:

```
[
  {
    "registration_required_in_advance": {},
    "status": "open"
  },
  {
    "originRegions": [
      "us-entry-ban"
    ],
    "registration_required_in_advance": {},
    "status": "closed",
    "who_may_enter_when_closed": [
      "Citizens and Residents",
      "Diplomats",
      "Family Members"
    ]
  }
]
```

```

    ]
  }
]

```

3.2.1. Entry Rule List

NEW in v3 Each “entry_rules” object contains a single list of rules. Rules may be qualified by origin or vaccination status

3.2.2. Entry Rule Structure

All fields are options, and appear in the rule only if they have non-default values.

Field	Available Values / Examples	Notes
originCountries	Example: ["Bulgaria"]	Origins to which the rule applies, which are modeled by TripsGuard as destinations of their own.
originRegions	Example: ["schengen"]	Origins to which the rule applies, which are modeled by TripsGuard as a region. See Regions .
originOther	Example: ["Kosovo"]	Origins to which the rule applies, which are not modeled by TripsGuard in any way.
residenceCountries	Example: ["Bulgaria"]	Residence or citizenship to which the rule applies, which are modeled by TripsGuard as destinations of their own.
residenceRegions	Example: ["schengen"]	Residence or citizenship to which the rule applies, which are modeled by TripsGuard as a region. See Regions .
residenceOther	Example: ["Kosovo"]	Residence or citizenship to which the rule applies, which are not modeled by TripsGuard in any way.
residence_type	citizens-and-residents citizens-only residents-only	In case residence/citizenship fields are in place, indicates whether they refer to residence, citizenship or both

includes_family	true / false	
who_may_enter_when_closed	Example: ["Citizens and Residents", "Family Members", "Case-by-case"]	List of exception categories. The list of possible values is frequently updated.
visa_required_in_advance	true / false	
registration_required_in_advance	{ "required": true, "registration_link": "https://www.travelform.gov.bb" }	In case registration is required in advance, this object will have required: true. A form link is provided if available.
Applies_to_vax_status NEW in v3	vaccinated unvaccinated	Whether this rule applies only to specific vaccination status. Please note that in the future more vaccination statuses are likely to be added.

3.3. Exit Rules

The new “exit rules” object describes limitations imposed by countries on their citizens and residents, as they wish to travel into other destinations. Governments have established limitations on where their citizens/residents may go, either completely banning or just warning against travel to specific destinations.

It is important to note that when exit rules are defined on a destination, these rules are **not** to be applied towards entry into this destination. Instead, they should be applied toward travel **by citizens/residents of** this destination into the destinations listed in the rules.

It should also be noted that while exit rules formally apply to travelers according to their nationality, in practice they are **mostly enforced only when exiting** the country that imposed them. Therefore travelers who are in theory banned by their home country from travel into certain destinations, may not encounter any enforcement if their origin is not in their home country.

Disclaimer

Please note that it is not possible for the exit rules model to cover all the

various quirks and exceptions that authorities have come up with at every single destination. The model represented by the exit rules is therefore a best-effort only.

It is highly recommended for TripsGuard partners to either make the free-form, English-language “[moreInfo](#)” field available to end users, or to refer them to the TripsGuard website for more information.

The exit rules come as a list. Here is an example of a list of exit rules:

```
[
  {
    "status": "banned",
    "destinationRegions": ["israel-red"],
    "destinationCountries": ["Bulgaria"],
    "destinationOther": ["Kosovo"],
    "does_not_applies_to_vax_status": ["Vaccinated"],
    "short_category_label": "Red",
    "exit_form_links": ["https://covid.gov/exit-statement"],
    "exit_form_links_time_in_advance": {
      "num": 24,
      "unit": "hours"
    },
    "who_may_exit_when_closed": [
      "Citizens and Residents",
      "Diplomats",
      "Family Members"
    ]
  }
]
```

3.3.1. Exit Rule List

NEW in v3 Each “exit_rules” object contains a single list of rules. Rules are always qualified by the destinations which are banned or discouraged, and may also be qualified by a vaccination status. In addition, exit rules **always** apply only to citizens/residents of the country in which they are defined.

3.3.2. Exit Rule Structure

At least one destination field, the status field, and the short category label are always present. Other fields are optional and appear only if they have non-default values.

Field	Available Values / Examples	Notes
status	banned discouraged	Each exit rule may completely ban travel, or may just discourage against it.
short_category_label	Example: ["Red"]	A short label which can be shown to users, explaining the category into which the home country has classified the destinations in this rule. This can be used to show users a phrase such as: "Banned - classified by Israel as Red"
destinationCountries	Example: ["Bulgaria"]	Destinations to which the rule applies, which are modeled by TripsGuard as destinations of their own.
destinationRegions	Example: ["schengen"]	Destinations to which the rule applies, which are modeled by TripsGuard as a region. See Regions .
destinationOther	Example: ["Kosovo"]	Destinations to which the rule applies, which are not modeled by TripsGuard in any way.
does_not_applies_to_vax_status	vaccinated unvaccinated	By default, exit rules apply to all vaccination statuses. In case the rule does not apply to some vaccination statuses, these are listed here.
who_may_exit_when_closed	Example: ["Citizens and Residents", "Family Members", "Case-by-case"]	List of exception categories. The list of possible values is frequently updated.
exit_form_links	Example: ["https://covid.gov/exit-statement"]	Link to a list of online exit forms which need to be filled in order to be allowed to leave the home country towards the destination.
exit_form_links_time_in_advance	Example: ["num": 24, "unit": "hours"]	In case exit forms need to be filled, the timeframe to fill them.

3.4. Quarantine Rules

The new “quarantine rules” object inside a destination describes in a structured format the rules for applying quarantine to users.

Disclaimer

Please note that it is not possible for the quarantine model to cover all the various quirks and exceptions that authorities have come up with at every single destination. The model represented by the quarantine rules is therefore a best-effort only.

It is highly recommended for TripsGuard partners to either make the free-form, English-language “[moreInfo](#)” field available to end users, or to refer them to the TripsGuard website for more information.

Here is an example of a quarantine rules object:

```
{
  "moreInfo": "<p>Some text here</p>",
  "rules": [
    {
      "duration": 7,
      "location": "self-quarantine"
    },
    {
      "originCountries": [
        "United Kingdom"
      ],
      "duration": 14,
      "location": "self-quarantine",
    }
  ]
}
```

3.4.1. Quarantine Rule List

NEW in v3 Each “quarantine rules” object contains a single list of rules. Rules may be qualified by origin or vaccination status:

3.4.2. Quarantine Rule Structure

All fields are options, and appear in the rule only if they have non-default values.

Field	Available Values / Examples	Notes
originCountries	Example: ["Bulgaria"]	Origins to which the rule applies, which are modeled by TripsGuard as destinations of their own.
originRegions	Example: ["schengen"]	Origins to which the rule applies, which are modeled by TripsGuard as a region. See Regions .
originOther	Example: ["Kosovo"]	Origins to which the rule applies, which are not modeled by TripsGuard in any way.
isExemption	true / false	Whether this rule simply excludes the listed origins from the default rules, without defining any alternative quarantine requirements.
duration	A number of days	Duration of quarantine. -1 is used to signify an unspecified duration.
location	One of: self-quarantine government-facility approved-location	Where the quarantine takes place. Government facility means a government-operated facility, while approved locations could also be an approved hotel, etc.
isRecommendation	true / false	Whether this rule is a non-binding recommendation
Applies_to_vax_status NEW in v3	vaccinated unvaccinated	Whether this rule applies only to specific vaccination status. Please note that in the future more vaccination statuses are likely to be added.
appliesIfShowingSymptoms	true / false	Whether the rule applies only to travelers exhibiting COVID symptoms
appliesUntilTestResultsAreIn	true / false	Whether the rule applies only until upon-entry or post-entry test results become available (and are negative)

appliesIfNotTested	true / false	Whether the rule applies only if pre-entry COVID test is not provided by the traveler
appliesIfTestedPositive	true / false	Whether the rule applies only if pre-entry or upon-entry COVID test is positive

3.4.3. More Info

The “quarantine rules” has a text field named “moreInfo”, which contains HTML markup for an English text, describing the quarantine rules. This field may have more details than the model, for example where the peculiarities of local rules could not be accurately fitted into the model. A typical example is where there are specific exemptions to certain types of travelers or trips.

In case there is no such text available, this field may have a `null` value.

3.5. COVID Test Rules

The new “COVID test rules” object inside a destination describes in a structured format the rules for requiring various types of COVID tests from travelers.

Disclaimer

Please note that it is not possible for the COVID tests model to cover all the various quirks and exceptions that authorities have come up with at every single destination. The model represented by the COVID test rules is therefore a best-effort only.

It is highly recommended for TripsGuard partners to either make the free-form, English-language “[moreInfo](#)” field available to end users, or to refer them to the TripsGuard website for more information.

Here is an example of a complete COVID test rules object:

```
{
  "moreInfo": "<ul>\n<li>Anyone arriving to Gambia...\n</li>\n</ul>",
  "rules": [
    {
      "tests": [
        {
          "post_entry": {},
          "pre_entry": {
            "time_in_advance_num": 72,
            "time_in_advance_unit": "hours"
          }
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```

```

        "test_type": [
            "pcr"
        ],
        "upon_entry": "n/a"
    }
],
{
    "originRegions": [
        "gambia-high-risk"
    ],
    "tests": [
        {
            "pre_entry": {
                "time_in_advance_num": 72,
                "time_in_advance_unit": "hours"
            },
            "test_type": [
                "pcr"
            ],
            "upon_entry": "required"
        }
    ]
}
]
}

```

3.5.1. COVID Rules Lists

NEW in v3 Each “`covid_test_rules`” object contains a single list of rules. Rules may be qualified by origin or vaccination status.

3.5.2. COVID Rules Structure

The rules within each rules list have the following fields:

Field	Available Values / Examples	Notes
originCountries	Example: ["Bulgaria"]	Origins to which the rule applies, which are modeled by TripsGuard as destinations of their own.
originRegions	Example: ["schengen"]	Origins to which the rule applies, which are modeled by TripsGuard as a region. See Regions.

originOther	Example: ["Kosovo"]	Origins to which the rule applies, which are not modeled by TripsGuard in any way.
isExemption	true / false	Whether this rule simply excludes the listed origins from the default rules, without defining any alternative rules.
Applies_to_vax_status NEW in v3	vaccinated unvaccinated	Whether this rule applies only to specific vaccination status. Please note that in the future more vaccination statuses are likely to be added.
tests		A set of tests. Typically there is exactly one such set per rule. See Test Structure below.

3.5.3. Test Structure

Each test within a COVID tests rule has the following fields:

Field	Available Values / Examples	Notes
test_type	A list of any of the following: pcr rt-pcr antigen naat rapid screening	If a pre-entry COVID test is required, this field lists the approved types of COVID test.
pre_entry	Either null or : { "time_in_advance_num": 3, "time_in_advance_unit": "days" }	If a pre-entry COVID test is required, this field describes how much time before entry the test should be taken.
upon_entry	One of: n/a available required	Whether an upon-entry test is required. Available means that travelers can take a COVID test upon entry instead of pre-entry.

post_entry	Example: <pre>"post_entry": { "days": [5] }</pre>	Lists required post-entry COVID test times, in days after entry. Typically there is at most one such required test.
post_entry_is_optional	true or false	If true, post-entry testing is optional in order to shorten the quarantine period

3.5.4. More Info

The “COVID test rules” has a text field named “moreInfo”, which contains HTML markup for an English text, describing the COVID test rules. This field may have more details than the model, for example where the peculiarities of local rules could not be accurately fitted into the model. A typical example is where there are specific exemptions to certain types of travelers or trips.

In case there is no such text available, this field may have a `null` value.

3.6. Regions

GET /regions?v=3

In v2 the concept of regions has been introduced. A region is simply a group of origins. Using regions allows reuse of the same common group of origins in multiple contexts.

For example, many countries apply specific rules to travelers coming from Schengen Area countries, and therefore it makes sense to refer to the Schengen Area as such. This is true not just at the data modeling level, but even in interfacing with the user. Instead of listing all 26 countries, the user can simply be told “Schengen Area”, possibly with a linked reference to the full list of countries.

Another use case for regions is where certain destinations have compiled their own list of high-risk vs low-risk areas. In this case, it is convenient for model maintenance to model these lists as a region, so that changes to the list of countries included in a region will automatically apply to multiple rules that refer to that region.

Here is an example of a region:

```
{
  "code": "part-of-africa",
  "name": "Part of Africa",
  "destinations": [
    "Algeria",
    "Angola"
  ],
}
```

```
"other": [
  "Burkina Faso",
  "Canary Islands"
]
```

3.6.1. Region Structure

Each region has the following fields:

Field	Available Values / Examples	Notes
code	Example: schengen	An internal code used for the region. Used in references to this region from destination objects.
name	Example: Schengen Area	A user-friendly name for the region
destinations	Example: ["Algeria", "Angola"]	Origins included in the region, which are modeled by TripsGuard as destinations of their own.
other	Example: ["Canary Islands"]	Origins included in the region, which are not modeled by TripsGuard in any way.