



After more than 600 days, the US opened to travelers from Europe. Passengers across Europe **crowded** into airports, and they were happy that they would finally meet **relatives**, do business, or simply enjoy a vacation.

Data shows that hotel and flight reservations already reached 70% of the levels before the COVID-19 pandemic started. Unfortunately, the number of COVID-19 cases is also increasing across Europe, so it is possible that Europeans will not be able to travel again.

Also, travelers are happy, but airlines are not. Hundreds of thousands of airline employees lost their jobs during the pandemic, and airlines lost hundreds of billions of dollars.

Difficult words: **to crowd** (when many people come to one place), **relative** (a person who in the same family as other people), **data** (information and numbers).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the word: *to crowd, relative and data*
2. How long was the US closed to travelers from Europe?
3. Why are Europeans happy that they could travel to the US again?
4. What does the data on hotel and flight reservations suggest?
4. But why might Europeans not able to travel again?
5. Why are airline companies unhappy about the possibility of the US to be closed to European travelers again?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Is your country open to travelers again?
2. Have you travelled abroad again since the pandemic started?
3. Did many Japanese airline employees lose their jobs during the pandemic?
4. Did any airline companies in Japan go bankrupt during the pandemic?