



# Travel & Tourism | Cities

## COVID-19: pandemic impacts in North America

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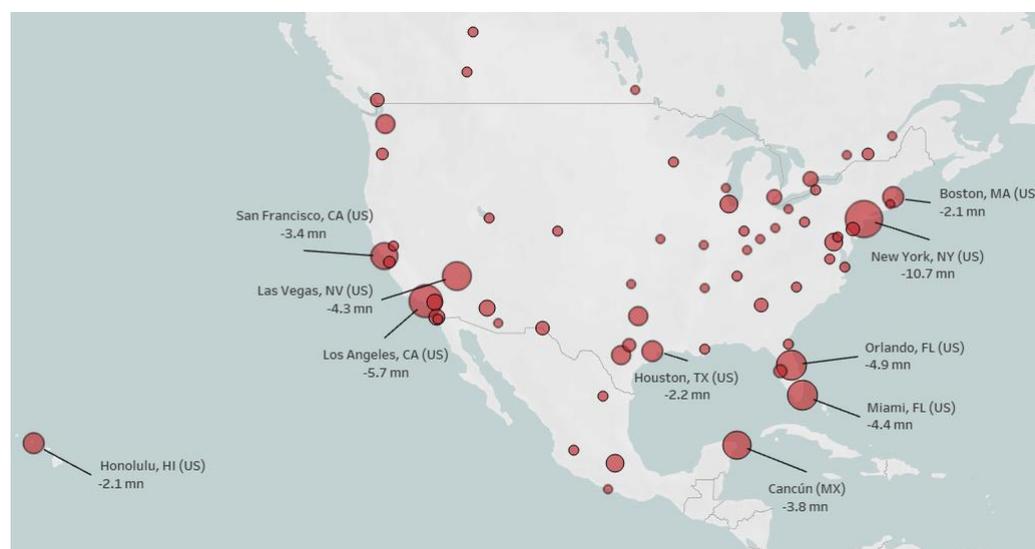
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**International visitor arrivals to over 75% of North American cities will exceed 2019 levels by 2024.**

### Key points

- The COVID-19 outbreak has devastated city tourism, with global city arrivals forecast to decline 58% in 2020, equivalent to the loss of 373mn visitor arrivals for the 309 cities covered in our GCT service.
- North American inbound arrivals are expected to decline 70% in 2020, equating to a loss of almost 102mn visitors compared to 2019.
- Collectively, North American city visitor arrivals are forecast to decline 73% in 2020, with a loss of more than 77mn arrivals for the 64 cities included in our GCT service.
- A greater dependence on long-haul travel for international arrivals in North American cities endangers the travel recovery. North American cities may face a more volatile recovery given the rapidly changing nature of international travel restrictions, while traveller confidence remains fragile in the uncertain external environment.
- Over three-quarters of North American cities are expected to see international travel demand recover to surpass 2019 levels again by 2024. The US cities will see a delayed recovery. While all the Mexican and Canadian cities covered in the GCT service are forecast to reach 2019 levels by 2024, only 70% of US cities will achieve this benchmark.
- Domestic city visitor arrivals are forecast to decline 35% in 2020, a loss of 154 million visitors. The high significance of domestic tourism in North American cities will help minimise the adverse impact that weakened international travel will have and initiate the revival of the struggling tourism industry.

### Decline in international North American city tourist arrivals (mn), 2019-2020



To access the full report, please follow this [LINK](#).

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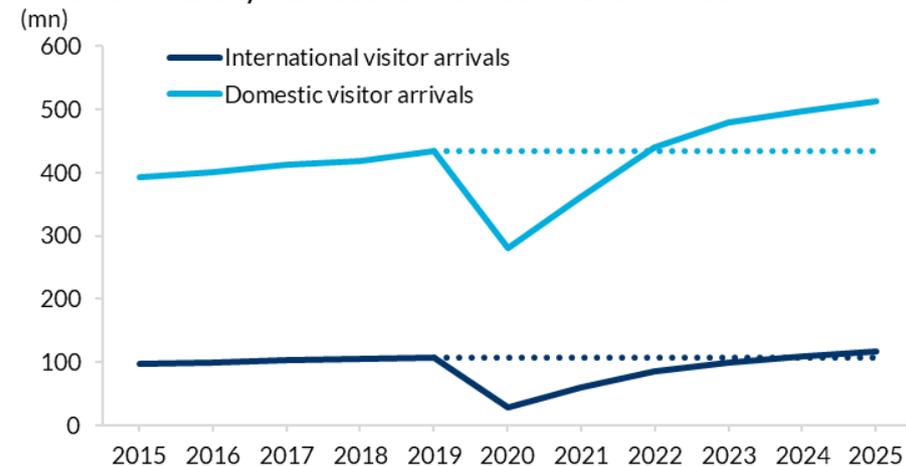
## Impact on city inbound travel

Travel demand to North America has fallen sharply, with the US continuing to have the undesirable distinction of having the most coronavirus cases and deaths worldwide. US cities account for the three largest declines in international visitor arrivals forecast for North American cities in 2020, with New York experiencing the greatest decline at 10.7mn visits. Los Angeles will see a loss of 5.7mn visitor arrivals while a 4.9mn decline in visitor arrivals is forecast for Orlando. Outside of the US cities, Cancún will suffer the largest decline in visitor arrivals in 2020 at 3.8mn.

## Recovery of city travel

The scale of the outbreak across North America combined with strict travel bans has profoundly damaged the attractiveness of the region as a tourist destination. International visitor arrivals will not reach 2019 levels until 2024, however domestic travel provides a more promising outlook. Latest data show an increase in domestic travel activity since the lifting of internal restrictions, especially in the US. Therefore, a quicker return to pre-coronavirus levels is expected, with 2019 domestic visitor arrivals being surpassed by 2022.

North American city international vs domestic visitor arrivals



Source: Tourism Economics

**Domestic visitor arrivals to North American cities will enjoy a swifter rebound than international arrivals, exceeding 2019 levels by 2022.**