

The European Union, as well as the United States, have banned all Russian aircraft from operating in their airspace, effective immediately. The move was announced by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during a speech on Sunday.

"First, we are shutting down the EU airspace for Russians. We are proposing a prohibition on all Russian-owned, Russian-registered, or Russian-controlled aircraft. These aircraft will no longer be able to land in, take off, or overfly the territory of the EU. This will apply to any plane owned, chartered, or otherwise controlled by a Russian legal or natural person," von der Leyen said.

The EU's decision, as well as the United States' decision, to ban Russian aircraft from operating in their airspace is one of the harshest measures taken against the country since the start of its military offensive in Ukraine. Spain, Sweden and other countries have followed suit, closing their airspace to Russian airlines. Russia has reciprocated by closing its airspace to airlines from the EU and other countries. This move is likely to have a significant impact on the aviation industry.

"This flight ban aims to further isolate Russia. It is also important that the EU is continuing to demonstrate great unity," the Swedish Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren said, announcing the move.

## What this means for the commercial aviation industry

The commercial aviation industry is likely to be significantly impacted by the ban. Airlines will need to find alternative routes, which could lead to increased travel times and higher costs. This could also have a negative impact on tourism. The ban is also likely to impact business travel, as companies will need to find alternative ways to transport employees between different countries. It is unclear how long the ban will last and what the long-term consequences will be for the aviation industry.

While the ban is in place, some people may choose to charter a private flight rather than take a

commercial flight. This can be a more convenient option, especially for business travel. Chartering a private flight can be an excellent option for those who need to travel urgently or who need to avoid the long queues and delays at commercial airports.

## Serbian loophole

Some Russians are using a loophole in the Serbian aviation system to avoid the EU's flight ban. They are flying to Serbia on charter flights and then using Serbian airlines to fly to other destinations in Europe. The EU has banned all Russian airlines from flying to its member states, except for those that operate through Serbian airspace. This has led to an increase in the number of Russians using Serbian airlines to travel to Europe. The Serbian government has said that it is not responsible for the actions of Russian airlines and that it is up to the EU to decide whether or not to allow them to operate in its airspace.

The EU has not commented on the matter. This loophole may be a way for Russians to circumvent the EU's flight ban, but it is unclear how long it will remain open. The Serbian government could close it at any time and the EU may eventually decide to tighten its restrictions on Russian airlines.

## When flight bans result in unpredictable travel plans

This isn't the first time that sudden commercial airline bans have been put in place, putting thousands of travelers in a difficult position. Recently, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to spread around the world, more and more countries began to impose travel restrictions in an effort to contain the virus. This has included a growing number of flight bans, with many airlines suspending all flights to and from heavily impacted countries. When bans weren't enforced, strict criteria, such as proof of COVID-19 vaccinations and/or negative tests were often required, and still are for many routes. As a result, more and more travelers have been seeking alternative options, such as chartering private flights.

In general, commercial airlines are not always reliable. This is especially apparent during times of high traffic, such as during holidays or in the summer, and when these flight bans are enforced. When specific routes are completely banned, this can result in a trickle effect that can have an impact on travelers worldwide.

Airlines often have to cancel or delay flights because they don't have enough staff or because their planes are too full. This can cause a lot of inconvenience for passengers, who may have to wait hours or even days for a new flight. In some cases, passengers may even be stranded in a foreign country.



## You can depend on chartered flights in this time of uncertainty

The world has been unpredictable over the last couple years, and this includes the effect on travel. When commercial airlines have certain regulations enforced or bans in place, it can be difficult to impossible for many people to follow through with their travel plans. By chartering a private flight for your upcoming trip, you can ensure that your plans don't get interrupted. Contact us today for more information on flying private for your next trip, and to learn more about our exclusive wholesale pricing.