

TAT NEWSLETTER

Dear Esteemed Partners,

It has been proven that the reopening of Phuket signifies a crucial step forward in the revitalisation of Thailand's tourism industry with the island serving as a pilot destination. Since the implementation of the programme until mid-September, nearly 35,000 fully vaccinated tourists have enjoyed the "Phuket Sandbox". International travellers have come to Phuket on direct international flights operated by major airlines from main airports around the world. With over 160,000 room nights currently on the books for September, the three-month total for July to September is presently at over 500,000 room nights. As the number is positively still building up, the "Phuket Sandbox" has become the successful model for other tourist destinations in other countries. If the situation in any area is effectively controlled, the next step of the reopening plan will be released cautiously. Every night is followed by day, and we anticipate sunny skies will return in the not-too-distant future.



Yours sincerely,

TAT Prague Office

'Thailand Reopening' Continues with More Destinations to Reopen Soon

The Royal Thai Government has announced plans to reopen more destinations for overseas travellers. The timeline has been set to start from October onwards, as Thailand has continued to make significant progress in the vaccination of the country's population since the mass rollout began on 7 June.

In November, the reopening plan will be extended to 10 other tourism-driven destinations. These include all areas of Bangkok, Krabi and Phang-Nga, and designated areas in Buri Ram, Chiang Mai, Chon Buri (Pattaya), Loei, Phetchaburi (Cha-Am), Prachuap Khiri Khan (Hua Hin), and Ranong. Other destinations up and down the country are planning to reopen in December 2021 and January 2022 onwards. The number of new cases and vaccination for the local population are the key factors to consider the reopening of the area.

Meanwhile, foreign tourists can continue to visit the four pilot beach resort destinations, including Phuket, Surat Thani (Ko Samui, Ko Phangan, Ko Tao), Krabi (Ko Phi Phi, Ko Ngai, Railey Beach), Phang Nga (Khao Lak, Ko Yao Yai, Ko Yao Noi), under the more relaxing conditions starting from October 2021 onwards. The quarantine time or mandatory stay period for fully vaccinated international travellers arriving in Thailand, including pilot reopening destinations through the Alternative Quarantine (AQ) system, will be reduced from 14 to 7 days, starting from 1 October, 2021. The requirement to undergo RT-PCR tests will be reduced to two tests – first upon arrival on Day 0-1, and the second before finishing the quarantine or mandatory stay period on Day 6-7.

Travellers who have not been vaccinated, without a vaccine certificate, or partially vaccinated, and who arrive in Thailand by air will be required to enter a 10-day quarantine and undergo two RT-PCR tests – first upon arrival on Day 0-1, and the second on Day 8-9. Interested vaccinated foreign tourists are recommended to enquire at the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate in their home country for more details.

“Phuket Sandbox” Agent Familiarisation Trip

TAT with the cooperation of Qatar Airways arranged the agent familiarisation trip to Phuket during 18-25 September, 2021. There were 19 invited agents from Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia joining the event. The group passed through the necessary “Phuket Sandbox” safety and health procedures on arrival. They also enjoyed various activities and the island’s picturesque natural scenery. This included visiting the Phuket Elephant Sanctuary, the Big Buddha, Phuket Old Town, Wat Chalong, and so on.

Some commenting on the trip are as follows:

“That few days was an amazing experience to me to see what’s happening now in Phuket and also in Thailand. I am happy to see some old friends and also partners there. I hope with some changes in the regulations the tourists will coming back. We are working hard to inform our clients with the real information’s and prepare them what they will expect. And now we are getting requests daily for the upcoming season, which is a good sign. So thank you so much again and finger crossed that tourism will be growing in the future.” – Csajághy Péter, Thaiturizmus

“The words „thank you” are enough to say, as it is not possible to describe the appreciation of your support to us and to all side of the tourism participants including „sellers and buyers”, in summary your hard work to get tourism business back to normal in Thailand from step to step. I received a complex experience including Sandbox model, hotel visits, local life during covid times, new venues and adventures, new contacts for making attractive package offers.” – Timea Nyul, Vista Travel



“The Phuket Sandbox’s Visitors’ Survey



The survey conducted by TAT between 11 July-15 September, 2021 showed 80% of the respondents were satisfied with the local people’s hospitality, and 85% were happy with the SHA Plus certified hotels. They also rated the top five most satisfaction on: SHA Plus airport shuttle, booking service for the SHA Plus airport shuttle, booking service for the SHA Plus hotels, the overall quality of service at Phuket International Airport, and the health screening upon arrival in Phuket. The 117 respondents were visitors from Israel (36), the USA (17), Germany (11), the UK (10), Switzerland (8), and others (i.e., Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxemburg, Qatar, Bahrain, and Singapore). About 80% of the respondents were 25-56 years of age.

Alongside the necessary health and safety measures in place for the visiting international travellers, Phuket’s vaccination programme as of 12 September has seen 92% of the local population receiving their first vaccine dose, while 81% had completed the two-dose series. Phuket is also currently embarking on giving the third vaccine dose, or a booster dose.



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