

TAT NEWSLETTER

Dear Esteemed Partners,

Starting from January to October 2021, Thailand welcomed visitors from overseas through various entry schemes, including the Phuket Sandbox programme. Meanwhile, from 1 November 2021, Thailand is welcoming fully vaccinated visitors from 63 countries and territories under the Exemption from Quarantine (TEST & GO) entry scheme, and from around the world under the Living in the "Blue Zone" (17 Sandbox destinations) programme. Partially or unvaccinated visitors from any countries and territories are also much welcomed via the Happy Quarantine requirements.

Starting now, you can turn this winter season into a warm winter holiday in the 'Land of Smiles', Amazing Thailand!

Yours sincerely,
TAT Prague Office



TEST&GO Programme: A Quarantine-Free Thailand Reopening for Fully Vaccinated Tourists from 63 Countries

Schemes for Entering Thailand Effective 1 November 2021			
Requirements	Exemption from Quarantine (TEST & GO)	Living in The "Blue Zone" (17 Sandbox Destinations)*	Alternative Quarantine (AQ) Happy Quarantine Nationwide
Web / Application	Before You Arrive: Thailand Pass / When You Arrive: MorChana / Alert Application		
Countries/Territories	Eligible Countries/Territories (must reside in the countries for at least 21 consecutive days, except those who have just travelled out from Thailand)	Countries/Territories	Countries/Territories
Quarantine	Exemption from Quarantine (must wait for RT-PCR test result at the hotel for 1 night or until receive negative result)	Travel restricted in Sandbox Area for 7 days (must wait for RT-PCR test result at the designated hotel before travelling)	Quarantine at AQ/OQ/AHQ/SQ - Fully vaccinated: 7 days - Unvaccinated: air, sea arrivals 10 days / land arrivals 14 days
Vaccination	Fully vaccinated (at least 14 days prior to travelling) <small>*Children under 12 years, travelling with parents are exempt</small>	Fully vaccinated (at least 14 days prior to travelling) <small>*Children under 18 years, travelling with parents are exempt</small>	Unvaccinated / Not fully vaccinated
Accommodation	1 Day Reservation at SHA+ or AQ Hotel (payment confirmation required)	7 Days Reservation at SHA+ Hotel in Sandbox Area (payment confirmation required)	7, 10, or 14 Days Reservation at AQ/OQ/AHQ/SQ (payment confirmation required)
Insurance (not required for Thai nationals)	Insurance with minimum coverage of US\$50,000	Insurance with minimum coverage of US\$50,000	Insurance with minimum coverage of US\$50,000
COVID-19 test result before Departure	Have a RT-PCR Covid-19 test result issued within 72 hours before travelling	Have a RT-PCR Covid-19 test result issued within 72 hours before travelling	Have a RT-PCR Covid-19 test result issued within 72 hours before travelling (not required for Thai nationals)
COVID-19 tests in Thailand (travellers are responsible for test fees which is included in hotel reservation)	2 COVID-19 tests - RT-PCR on arrival date - ATK self-test on Day 6-7	2 COVID-19 tests - RT-PCR on arrival date - ATK self-test on Day 6-7	2 RT-PCR COVID-19 tests - On Arrival Date - Day 6-7 / Day 8-9

*For Blue Zone Sandbox Programme, travellers must arrive in Thailand via designated international airports: - Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Samui, U-Tapao, and Buri Ram (chartered flights only)

Source: Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
26 October 2021

Effective from 1 November, 2021, Thailand is ready to reopen for fully vaccinated travellers from the 63 initially approved countries/territories. Visitors entering under the TEST&GO programme should prepare the relevant documents in advance and obtain the Thailand Pass QR code before travelling at <http://tp.consular.go.th>. The Thailand Pass QR code together with other related documents are suggested to be printed out in hard copy to display to the airline and to screening officers at the Immigration checkpoint.

Visiting Ko Samui with the TEST & GO Programme

Visitors must travel on dedicated 'sealed route' connecting flights. These are operated by Bangkok Airways between Bangkok Suvarnabhumi (BKK) and Ko Samui (USM) Airports. The flight must be a through flight booked on the same ticket. The dedicated daily connecting flights from Bangkok to Ko Samui for the TEST & GO passengers from 1 November, 2021, are PG5125 and PG5171. Visitors must book and pay in advance for a package through an approved SHA Extra Plus hotel on Ko Samui that includes a RT-PCR test on arrival (test will be done at an approved test centre), airport transfer, self-antigen test kit (to be taken on Day 6 or 7), and a minimum one-night's accommodation to await the RT-PCR test result. Please note that not all hotels are able to provide the Test & Go one-day package. Travellers are advised to enquire with their preferred hotel to see if they offer the Test & Go package before booking. The prepaid booking confirmation generated by the hotel will be used to upload for obtaining the Thailand Pass QR Code accordingly. With a negative result on the first RT-PCR test upon arrival, travellers are free to travel anywhere in Thailand.

‘SHA Plus’ Certificate Awarded to Bangkok’s Grand Palace and Wat Pho



The Amazing Thailand Safety and Health Administration (SHA) Plus Certificate has been presented to three of Bangkok’s most famous and revered attractions: the Grand Palace, Wat Pho, and the City Pillar Shrine. The three attractions received SHA certification in 2020, and this year have continuously upgraded their sanitary and health measures, which is reflected in the upgraded certification to SHA Plus. All three attractions reopened to the public on 1 November, 2021, after a temporary closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This means tourists can once again marvel at the beauty and magnificence of the Grand Palace complex, which also incorporates the famed Temple of the Emerald Buddha or Wat Phra Kaeo, and the historical significance of Wat Pho also known as the Temple of the Reclining Buddha, which is also a centre of traditional Thai massage. Bangkok’s City Pillar Shrine is also now once again welcoming both Thai and foreign visitors to pay homage.

Loi Krathong Festival 2021

The traditional festival of Loi Krathong – also known as the ‘Festival of Lights’ – is one of the most charming and visually stunning of all Thailand’s annual festivals and is celebrated during the full moon of the 12th month of the Thai lunar calendar. This year the Loi Krathong Festival was held on Friday, 19 November. All around Thailand, people gathered in the evening at lakes, rivers, canals, and beaches to participate in Loi Krathong and pay respect to the goddess of water. The festival entails the floating of a *krathong* decorated with candles and flowers onto the water. The Thais believe this is a way to rid oneself of bad luck and negative feelings, and to bring good luck and positive feelings.



Thailand Imposes Travel Restrictions on Arrivals from Africa

Thailand’s Ministry of Public Health has imposed restrictions on arrivals from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe as a precautionary measure to prevent and control the spread of the new Omicron COVID-19 variant.

Effective from 28 November, 2021, arrivals from any of the eight countries who already have a pre-approved permit to enter Thailand will be allowed to enter, but all will be subject to a 14-day quarantine. However, from 1 December, 2021, arrivals from these countries will not be allowed. Meanwhile, entry registration has been closed from 27 November, 2021.

Krabi’s World Famous Maya Bay Expected to Reopen in January 2022

Maya Bay in Krabi’s Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park is expected to reopen to tourists on 1 January, 2022, having been off limits to the public for three and a half years to allow for environmental rejuvenation.

The bay on the uninhabited island of Phi Phi Leh has been closed since June 2018, when it was determined the area’s coral and other marine life needed time to recover from the damage being caused by the thousands of daily tourists who were visiting the location. Maya Bay shot to international fame after it featured in the 1999 Leonardo di Caprio movie, *The Beach*. At its peak in 2017, tourist traffic to the location was recorded at almost 5,000 people a day. Terrestrial and marine ecosystem recovery has been seen at Maya Bay thanks to its closure since mid-2018. To aid the rejuvenation, officials planted a new coral reef area and more trees on the beach to help prevent shore erosion.



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Areas of Responsibility: Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and the Balkan areas