

# COVID-19 Update

A&K Southeast Asia, 15 October 2020

As COVID-19 rippled across the world, causing unprecedented challenges, our destinations in Southeast Asia have managed to minimize the rate of cases and limit the number of deaths. We have outlined details on each country for you below.

## Regional Snapshot

	Re-opening Situation	Domestic Travel	International Tourism
VIETNAM	Shops, restaurants, hotels and tourist sites open	Permitted	To be advised <i>Entry restricted to expats and/or officials at this time</i>
THAILAND	Shops, restaurants, hotels and tourist sites open	Permitted	To be advised <i>Entry restricted to expats and/or officials at this time</i>
CAMBODIA	Shops, restaurants, hotels and tourist sites open	Permitted	To be advised <i>Entry restricted to expats and/or officials at this time</i>
MYANMAR	Pagodas and some tourist sites closed	Travel restrictions in Rakhine State and some Yangon townships	To be advised <i>Entry requirements to be advised</i>
LAOS	Shops, restaurants, hotels and tourist sites open	Permitted	To be advised
SINGAPORE	Shops, restaurants, hotels and tourist sites open	Permitted	Short-term tourists may apply for an Air Travel Pass (ATP) if they have spent the last 14 days in Australia (except Victoria), New Zealand, Vietnam or Brunei
INDONESIA	Some hotels remain closed	Permitted for business or official purpose	To be advised <i>Entry restricted to expats and/or officials at this time</i>

## Q&A

### Does A&K Southeast Asia offer flexibility with Booking Terms & Conditions?

Yes. A&K is providing new, more flexible booking policies in order for you to plan your future travel with complete peace of mind. For new bookings made by December 31, 2020, for travel this year and in 2021, you may now change or cancel up to 30 days prior to departure in the event of a COVID-19-related reason — whether at home or in your travel destination — and receive a credit toward future travel.

[>>See the full terms and conditions here](#)

### How is A&K Southeast Asia working to improve Health & Safety for guests?

To ensure the safety of our guests as well as our teams across the region, we are rolling out new health and safety guidelines to proactively standardize health and hygiene practices of our employees, hotels, restaurants and suppliers.



Local Partners



Best Practices



Physical Distancing



PPE



Rigorous H&S



24/7 Support

[>>See our new health and safety protocols here](#)

### What types of post-COVID-19 experiences does A&K Southeast Asia offer?

A&K Southeast Asia has always been known for our **highly personalized** private journeys. For us, skipping the lines, curating experiences away from the crowds and arranging **VIP fast track** services have always been the norm. With many travelers now requesting more nature, beach, wellness, and relaxation, our Destination Specialists are ready to help you and your guests discover our range of off-the-beaten path experiences throughout the region such as **trekking** in the Vietnamese highlands, **kayaking or diving** off the coast of southern Thailand, **meditating** at a waterfall in Laos, exploring rice terraces in Bali with a stay at a coffee plantation or an exclusive **luxury glamping** experience in Cambodia. Consider having us arrange regional **private jets** or **private yacht** charters and, in addition to our vetted hotels, we also offer **private villa stays** for those who require privacy and exclusivity.

## Update by Country

### VIETNAM – updated 15 October

**COVID-19 SITUATION:** Vietnam was recognized as a world leader in its handling of COVID-19, which kept the death rate at zero during the first few months of the pandemic. Due to early action, testing and quarantine measures, the country was able to contain the spread of the virus without any local cases for 100 days. On 27 July, new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Da Nang in Central Vietnam. Aggressive contact tracing, testing and travel restrictions have effectively controlled the spread of new cases and Da Nang is starting to re-open. Other parts of the country such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City have been operating as normal since April.

#### ON THE GROUND:

- Since 23 April, Vietnam re-opened with many businesses, restaurants, hotels and tourist sites returning to normal operations
- After a brief lockdown, Da Nang city's restaurants and beaches have now re-opened. However, non-essential services such as bars, karaoke, clubs, and gyms remain closed. Domestic flights to Da Nang have resumed.
- Vietnam's e-visa system has re-opened and travelers can now apply for an e-visa online. Please note that e-visa fees are non-refundable and visas will not be issued to travelers from areas where COVID-19 is spreading.
- On 15 September, Vietnam resumed international flights from Guangzhou (China), Taiwan (China), Seoul (the Republic of Korea) and Tokyo (Japan). Flights from Phnom Penh (Cambodia) and Vientiane (Laos) will resume from 22 September.
- Currently, entry is permitted for Vietnamese citizens and their family and foreigners traveling for diplomatic, official or business purposes. Travelers must test negative for COVID-19 at least 3 days before arrival and will be permitted to self-isolate at home or place of business if they test negative twice after arrival. Passengers transiting from a third country will be required to complete the full 14-day quarantine at a government facility.

Total cases
1,122
Patients recovered
1,029
Deaths
35

### CAMBODIA – updated 15 October

**COVID-19 SITUATION:** Cambodia is one of the countries least affected by COVID-19 with a very low rate of infection and zero deaths. Although travel restrictions were put in place to restrict entry to travelers from COVID-19 affected countries, many businesses within the country continued to operate as normal.

#### ON THE GROUND:

- Visas are being issued for official purposes only at this time. Dates and entry requirements for tourists are yet to be advised.
- On 20 May, Cambodia lifted the ban on travel for nationals of United States, Italy, Germany, Spain, France and Iran. However, e-visas and visas on arrival are currently not available. Travel is permitted for official or business purposes only
- Requirements for entry into Cambodia at the current time include: US \$3,000 deposit to be paid on arrival to cover the cost of possible medical treatment; COVID-19 test at the traveler's expense and an overnight stay in a government designated facility, at the traveler's expense. Additional expenses and a 14-day quarantine will be imposed if one passenger from the arrival flight tests positive

Total cases
283
Patients recovered
278
Deaths
0

## THAILAND – updated 15 October

**COVID-19 SITUATION:** Despite being an important travel hub in Southeast Asia, Thailand saw relatively few cases of COVID-19 overall and limited the spread of the virus by implementing temperature screening and contact tracing at an early stage. Thailand has recorded over 60 days of zero local transmissions with all recent new cases attributed to Thai citizens returning from abroad. After 100 days of no local transmissions, Thailand recorded 1 new COVID-19 case in early September. Contact tracing has revealed no further transmissions.

### ON THE GROUND:

- Thailand began re-opening on 3 May. Markets, restaurants, shops and most businesses are operating as normal
- When entering public places, it is required to wear a mask and check-in via an electronic app
- Foreign nationals are permitted to enter Thailand for official, business or family purposes only. Visas on arrival are currently not being issued. Please check visa requirements with your local Thai embassy prior to travel.
- Upon entry, travelers must comply with a 14-day quarantine at a certified alternative state quarantine (ASQ) hotel, at the traveler's expense. The following documents should be presented on arrival: (1) Certificate of Entry into the Kingdom of Thailand; (2) a "Fit-to-Fly" Health Certificate; (3) a COVID-19-free medical certificate issued no more than 72 hours prior; (4) a valid health insurance policy with coverage of at least US \$100,000, including coverage of COVID-19; and (5) a letter of approval on quarantine accommodation issued by Thai authorities
- The launch of the Special Tourist Visa (STV), which was originally slated for October, has been postponed until further notice. Under the scheme, tourists would be permitted to travel in Thailand on a 90-day visa after completing a 14-day quarantine. Details of the scheme are currently under review with potential new launch date in November.

Total cases
3,665
Patients recovered
3,463
Deaths
59

## SINGAPORE – updated 15 October

**COVID-19 SITUATION:** Singapore was praised for its initial handling of COVID-19. With strict travel restrictions and rigorous contact tracing, the city-state limited the number of cases during the early stages of the pandemic. Despite these strategic measures, a sharp rise in cases occurred in mid-April due to local spread within a migrant community living in housing developments. The number of daily new cases has seen a steady decline in recent weeks.

### ON THE GROUND:

- On 2 June, Singapore began a phased re-opening. Most shops, restaurants and services have resumed operations
- Singapore citizens, permanent residents and long-term pass holders are permitted to enter the country but must complete a 14-day Stay at Home period which may be served at a government facility. All costs related to COVID-19 testing and quarantine stays will be borne by the traveler
- From 1 September, Singapore introduced the Air Travel Pass (ATP), which allows short-term tourists to enter the country if they have spent the previous 14 days in one of the following countries: Australia (excluding Victoria), New Zealand, Vietnam or Brunei. The ATP is valid for single entry and must be obtained within 7-30 days of the intended travel date. Travelers will be tested for COVID-19 on arrival in Singapore (US \$220 at own expense) and must stay in their accommodation until they receive a negative result (approximately 48 hours). Once the test result is received, the traveler may travel freely within the country. Normal visa requirements still apply, so travelers must make sure to obtain a regular tourist visa, if applicable.
- Travelers must submit their health declaration via the [TraceTogether](#) app within 3 days prior to arrival in Singapore.

Total cases
57,889
Patients recovered
57,752
Deaths
28

## MYANMAR – updated 15 October

**COVID-19 SITUATION:** Myanmar reported its first case of COVID-19 in mid-March and maintained a low rate of infection for several months. In August, new cases of local infections were reported in some parts of the country, particularly in Yangon, Mandalay and Rakhine State. Travel to/from these regions is restricted.

### ON THE GROUND:

- Myanmar started to re-open since early May. However, a second wave of cases has seen new stay at home restrictions have been imposed in affected areas, including some townships in Yangon, Mandalay and Rakhine State.
- Pagodas around the country remain closed for tourists and interstate travel including planes and buses have been suspended.
- Face masks are compulsory in public and gatherings of more than five people are banned
- The Myanmar government has announced that borders will remain closed until 31 October 2020

Total cases
31,325
Patients recovered
13,866
Deaths
732

## LAOS – updated 15 October

**COVID-19 SITUATION:** As Southeast Asia's least densely populated country, Laos has been one of the least affected countries in the world when it comes to COVID-19. The country is now COVID-19-free with one active case and zero deaths.

### ON THE GROUND:

- Since 18 May, shops, restaurants and markets re-opened and there are no restrictions on domestic travel
- International travel is expected to return as soon as flight routes to neighboring countries resume

Total cases
23
Patients recovered
22
Deaths
0

## INDONESIA – updated 15 October

**COVID-19 SITUATION:** Most COVID-19 cases in Indonesia have been reported in densely populated areas such as the city of Jakarta. New cases have also emerged in some areas of Bali. However, few cases have been reported in other parts of the country, particularly around Lombok, Sulawesi and other remote islands.

### ON THE GROUND:

- Indonesian authorities have been encouraging citizens to restrict social gatherings and limit unnecessary travel
- Restaurants, shops and markets around the country continue to operate, but with social distancing
- Temperature screening is common when entering public facilities and the use of face masks and hand sanitizer is the norm
- International tourism was slated to restart in September, but has been postponed until the end of 2020

Total cases
344,749
Patients recovered
267,851
Deaths
12,156