

The 2020 Year in Review: Impact of Covid-19 on Aviation Industry in Thailand

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Overview on COVID-19 related Travel Restrictions

- As of 18 May 2020, a total of 7 destinations¹⁰ (3% of all destinations worldwide) have eased travel restrictions for international tourism purposes. Nevertheless, all destinations worldwide (100%) continue to have COVID-19 related travel restrictions in place.
- Most destinations worldwide (75%) continue to have their borders completely closed to international tourists (163 destinations out of 217 in total).
- Before the unexpected situation from Samuksakorn, the gradual lifting of national lockdown and quarantine measures has started in Thailand bringing some first promising signs for international tourism to recover.
- References:
 - The following destinations have introduced measures facilitating international tourism: Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, South Sudan, Tanzania and Tunisia.
 - World Tourism Organization, World Tourism Barometer, Volume 18, Issues 2, May 2020, Special focus on the Impact of COVID-19, available online at: <https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-05/Barometer%20-%20May%202020%20-%20Short.pdf>

Regional analysis of travel restrictions

Figure 2 - Regional breakdown of travel restrictions as of 18 May 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 18 May 2020.

Categories of travel restrictions affecting international tourists



- Complete or partial closing of borders
- Destination-specific travel restriction
- Suspension of flights- all or partial
- Different measures

Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 18 May

Simultaneous problems to address

- Thailand has had to deal with conditions that have tightened the liquidity, creating an unsettled situation in the global economic foreign exchange market.
- Airlines Aircraft largely grounded, running out of cash fast
- Governments Healthcare systems are under pressure
- Economies at a standstill need to open up economy while mitigating risk passengers currently unable to travel due to government restrictions

Recommend Aviation Measures

- Recommendation 1: During the global COVID-19 outbreak, Thailand should continue updating COVID-19 situation and any measures related to aviation to other countries and International Civil Aviation Organisation as a Member State.
- Recommendation 2: Thailand should avoid retaining any COVID-19 related alleviation measures as soon as normal operations are resumed. Differences that remain after the contingency if any should be informed to other Member States.
- Recommendation 3: Thailand should expedite the development of guidance for safety management of new operations or operation change during this crisis.
- Recommendation 4: Thailand should establish aviation public health procedures aligned with the International standard guidance to strengthen and harmonise public and passenger confidence in air travel
- Recommendation 5: Thailand should conduct series research to collect and keep the main source of information and to prepare proactively in line with the evolution of the COVID-19.

Conclusion

- The adverse effects of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) to Thailand's aviation industry is just a tip of the iceberg to what is happening all over the entire economic front country.
- It is the government's wish, not only to stabilise the aviation industry, but also the whole economic system. The major challenge is the persistence of the times.
- The airlines in this matter have had to devise methods to deal with the situational changes, and offer captivating and enticing services to the few available consumers. (Pongpirul, 2020).