

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Tourism ministry sets January date to reopen

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The Tourism and Sports Ministry vows to open the whole country without quarantine by January next year, but such a move largely depends on nationwide herd immunity. Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, the tourism and sports minister, said Bangkok was scheduled to reopen in October as part of the second phase for the country, but this phase has been delayed to November as the majority of residents will not receive their second vaccine dose until the end of October. "The plan for Bangkok is more challenging as it has extended territory covering vicinities that require more elaborate standard operation procedures [SOPs]," he said. Meanwhile, Chiang Mai, Prachuap Khiri Khan (Hua Hin) and Chon Buri (Pattaya) will go ahead as planned on Oct 1, as well as Phetchaburi, which hasn't yet started its SOPs and needs to speed up this month, said Mr Phiphat.

2. Samui to launch sandbox programme from Oct 1

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

Beginning October, Koh Samui will replace the "Samui Plus Model" to promote tourism with the more liberal "sandbox" programme. Hotel bookings are expected to exceed 10,000 nights, district chief Teerapong Chuaychoo told the press on Sunday. Under the Samui Plus Model, after Samui, the islands of Pha Nga and Phuket have been opened for tourists who are fully vaccinated since July 15. "From July 15 to September 1, 524 tourists visited under the Samui Model Plus. A total of four infection cases were found -- two on the first day, one each on the seventh and 13th days," said Teerapong.

3. TAT launches campaign to boost Chonburi's tourism industry

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) launched the "Check-in Chonburi Free 500" campaign last month to lure tourists back to the province after the Covid-19 lockdown. Under the campaign, which runs until September 25, travellers will be given a 500-baht voucher when they check into any of the following hotels:

- Sunbeam Hotel Pattaya
- Bella Villa Cabana
- Ravindra Beach Resort and Spa
- Mera Mare

- Villa Wanida Garden Resort
- The Now Hotel Pattaya
- The Tara Residence
- LK Emerald Beach
- Chezzotel

4. Jab proof for dine-in on Oct 1

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Starting Oct 1, only those who have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19 or have a negative antigen test result will be allowed to dine-in at restaurants and seek out services deemed a high risk for virus transmission in "dark red" provinces, where maximum Covid-19 restrictions apply. According to the Health Department's director-general, Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai, the move is part of the government's push to allow businesses to reopen while the number of Covid-19 cases continues to increase. Customers will be required to fill in a form detailing their infection risk through the government's "Thai Save Thai" app before entering premises which are considered high-risk venues, which include restaurants, barber shops and hair salons, beauty clinics and spas.

5. Thailand moves up to 7th rank in 2021 world heritage rankings

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

Thailand has been ranked seventh in the heritage sub-ranking and 28th in the total best country ranking, organised by US News Best Countries rankings for 2021. The rankings are based on how global perceptions define countries in terms of a number of qualitative characteristics, impressions that have the potential to drive trade, travel and investment and directly affect national economies. The 2021 Best Countries rankings, organised in partnership with BAV Group, a unit of global marketing communications company VMLY&R, and The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, are based on a study that surveyed more than 17,000 people from four regions to assess perceptions of 78 countries on 76 different metrics.