



# Asean Mobility Spotlight

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# Executive summary \*

Following multiple waves of COVID-19 outbreaks in 2020 and 2021, jurisdictions in Southeast Asia have finally found their footing amid accelerated vaccination rates and are reopening their borders and relaxing entry and quarantine requirements.

Thailand was among the first in the region to pilot its reopening through a sandbox scheme in Phuket in July 2021 and has allowed travelers from 46 countries to enter the country without serving quarantine since early November 2021. It is now introducing more-relaxed entry requirements before and after arrival in the country.

Similarly, Singapore has also reopened its doors to fully vaccinated travellers on 1 April 2022, removing all existing vaccinated travel lane and unilateral travel pass arrangements. Under the new simplified travel framework, fully vaccinated travellers will be able to travel to Singapore quarantine-free.

Indonesia has welcomed vaccinated visitors to resort island Bali from selected countries since mid-October 2021. Indonesia has also increased the number of entry points into the country and has indicated that it intends to eliminate quarantine requirements effective from April 2022 but formal regulations on how this will be implemented remain outstanding.

Vietnam and Malaysia have followed suit by announcing the reopening of their borders in March and April respectively while the Philippines has suspended the classification of countries, territories and/or jurisdictions into "Green," "Yellow," and "Red," and introduced new entry, testing and quarantine protocols for foreign nationals arriving from abroad.

These steps are expected to boost international business travel and tourism, both key elements of Southeast Asian economies which have been almost non-existent over the last two years and help to drive overall economic growth.

(\*): Please note that the information provided in this spotlight is updated as of 5 April 2022 and the changes to policies, restrictions and quarantine measures are being proposed and implemented on a regular basis.

# Indonesia



## Border reopening

The Indonesian Government has been slowly opening up the borders for tourists through certain entry points.

Starting from 6 April 2022, visas on arrival (VOA) and visa free facility are issued for the following criteria:

- ▶ The purpose of travel is for tourism
- ▶ Travelers are entering Indonesia from the following entry points:
  - ▶ Airports: Soekarno Hatta DKI Jakarta, Ngurah Rai Bali, Kualanamu North Sumatera, Juanda East Java, Hasanuddin South Sulawesi, Sam Ratulangi North Sulawesi, and Yogyakarta
  - ▶ Seaports: Nongsa Terminal Bahari, Batam Centre, Sekupang, Citra Tri Tunas, Marina Teluk Senimba, Bandar Bentan Telani Lagoi, Bandar Seri Udana Lobam, and Sri Bintan Pura
  - ▶ Cross borders ports: Entikong West Kalimantan, Aruk West Kalimantan, Mota'in Nusa Tenggara Timur and Tunon Taka North Kalimantan
- ▶ Travelers who are citizens of nine countries (i.e., Brunei Darussalam, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) are entitled to visa free facility.
- ▶ VOA is applied for travelers who are citizens of the following 43 countries: South Africa, USA, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Australia, Netherlands, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Denmark, Philippines, Finland, Hungary, India, United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, Germany, Cambodia, Canada, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Norway, People's Republic of China, France, Poland, Qatar, New Zealand, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam
- ▶ Visa free facility is granted for a maximum 30 days and can not be extended
- ▶ A tourist VOA is granted for a maximum of 30 days and can be extended once for another 30 days



## Indonesia (cont.)

### Relaxation of entry and quarantine requirements

The quarantine requirements in general have been relaxed up as follow:

- ▶ For travelers who have received a second or third dose of the vaccine: no quarantine
- ▶ For travelers who have received their first dose of vaccination: 5 x 24 hours
- ▶ For international travelers who are under 18 years old and/or need special protection must be quarantined for the same duration as their parents or caregivers
- ▶ Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test will be conducted as follow:
  - ▶ Upon arrival: waiting for the results in hotel rooms/accommodation or residence and not permitted to leave waiting the results of the RT-PCR examination showing negative
  - ▶ Travelers who are not required to quarantine and tested negative on RT-PCR upon arrival are suggested to conduct independent COVID-19 symptoms monitoring for 14 days with compliance to the applicable health protocol
  - ▶ Travelers who are subject to quarantine and tested negative on 4th day of quarantine are suggested to conduct independent COVID-19 symptoms monitoring for 14 days with compliance to the applicable health protocol.

### Other updates

To date, there is no specific policy or restriction in terms of visa issuance for individuals of Ukrainian and Russian nationalities.



# Malaysia

## Border reopening

Effective 1 April 2022, Malaysia has reopened its borders and implemented changes to pre-travel and post-travel requirements.

Prior to 1 April 2022, the Malaysian borders were closed with exceptions to foreigners entering with a valid permit or permit approval, using one of the approved travel programs for entry (i.e. vaccinated travel lane or international travel bubble to Langkawi) or have obtained entry permission to enter Malaysia.

## Relaxation of entry and quarantine requirements

With the re-opening of the borders, the changes include removal of the MyTravelPass application requirement for any foreigners to be able to enter the country. Foreigners will no longer have to apply for entry permission, regardless of their purpose of travel, but will need to conform with prevailing travel and entry visa requirements, if applicable.

Quarantine requirements have also been relaxed whereby travelers who are fully vaccinated as defined by prevailing Malaysian guidelines and children and adolescents aged 17 and below regardless of vaccination status, are exempted from quarantine. A polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test is still required within two days prior to their journey.

Travelers who are not vaccinated due to medical reasons may also be exempted from quarantine, on a case-to-case basis. Travelers who are not vaccinated or are partially vaccinated are subject to a five-day quarantine.

Travelers who have been infected with COVID-19 within 60 days before their journey are also exempted from quarantine but must undergo antigen rapid test kit (RTK-Ag) testing within two days prior to their journey.

## Other updates

- ▶ With the reopening of the borders and removal of entry permission requirements, the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) One Stop Centre (OSC) entry permission approval for short-term business traveler will also be discontinued from 1 April 2022. Business travelers may either enter as a social visitor via usual means, or apply for the relevant work permit, as applicable.
- ▶ The requirement for the Single Entry Visa (SEV) for all non-visa exempt nationals entering with a Malaysian permit approval has been reinforced. This is in line with the introduction of the electronic visa (eVISA) facility, which has been extended to additional nationalities, whereby travelers can apply the eVISA for expatriate, study and medical purposes to enter Malaysia.
- ▶ In light of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, there have been no changes on Malaysian immigration regulation toward citizens of either of these countries at this juncture.



# Philippines

## Border reopening

The Philippines has reopened its borders to travelers from all countries, including from visa-required countries starting 1 April 2022, with the resumption of visa issuances by Philippine embassies and consulates.

## Relaxation of entry and quarantine requirements

Starting 1 April 2022, there is no limit to the number of international passengers arriving in all ports of entry in the country.

At present, the initial requirement for arriving tourists is a negative RT-PCR result taken 48 hours prior to departure from point of origin. Entry Exemption Document (EED) is no longer required.

Further, the application of 9g visa outside the Philippines (based on IATF Resolution No. 131-A) shall no longer be continued. All on-going applications will still be processed, but no new applications will be accepted. This means that all work visa applications may only be initiated once the foreign national is already in the Philippines.

## Other updates

In light of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, there have been no changes on the immigration regulation toward citizens of either of these countries at this juncture.

# Singapore

## Border reopening

Singapore has launched a Vaccinated Travel Framework for all travellers including short-term visitors (STV) from 1 April 2022. All countries/regions have been classified under either the general travel or the restricted category, and border measures are accorded based on a traveler's vaccination status. Travelers are no longer required to obtain an entry approval or take designated Vaccinated Travel Lane transport.

## Relaxation of entry and quarantine requirements

### General Travel border measures

Border measures for travelers with a seven-day travel history from countries/regions in the general travel category will be as follows:

- ▶ All fully vaccinated travelers and non-fully vaccinated children aged 12 and below will continue to be subjected to a pre-departure test (PDT) within 2 days before departure for Singapore but will no longer be required to serve a stay-home notice (SHN) or undergo an unsupervised antigen rapid test (ART) after arriving in Singapore.
- ▶ Non-fully vaccinated Long-Term Pass Holders (LTPHs) and STVs aged 13 and above are generally not allowed to enter Singapore, with the following exceptions:
  - ▶ LTPHs who are medically ineligible for vaccines
  - ▶ LTPHs aged 13 to 17, subject to the appropriate measures
  - ▶ LTPHs and STVs with other valid entry approval (i.e. for compassionate reasons)

They are required to take a PDT within 2 days before departure for Singapore, undergo a 7-day SHN, and take a PCR test at the end of their SHN period.

### Restricted Category border measures

All travelers entering Singapore from a Restricted Category location will be required to take a pre-departure PCR test within two days before departure for Singapore, undergo an on-arrival PCR test, serve a seven-day SHN and take a PCR test at the end of their SHN period.

For full details, please refer to [Travel and Health Control Measures \(ica.gov.sg\)](#)

## Other updates

- ▶ Changes in minimum qualifying salary

The Employment Pass (EP) and S Pass minimum qualifying salary will be adjusted upwards for all sectors from 1 September 2022 and to renewal applications from 1 September 2023.

- ▶ Complementarity Assessment Framework (COMPASS)

In addition to raising the qualifying salary, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has also introduced a new points-based COMPASS for EP applications. This will apply to new EP applications from 1 September 2023 and to renewal applications from 1 September 2024.

COMPASS evaluates an EP application based on a holistic set of individual and firm-related attributes. In addition to meeting the qualifying salary thresholds, EP applicants will have to score sufficient points to qualify for an EP. Points under COMPASS will be awarded based on four foundational attributes and two bonus criteria. A minimum of 40 points are required to pass.

- ▶ In light of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, there have been no changes on the immigration regulation toward citizens of either of these countries at this juncture.



# Thailand

## Border reopening

Thailand remains open to all types of travelers including tourists since late 2021, with now more relaxed entry requirements before and after arrival in the country.

## Relaxation of entry and quarantine requirements

Notable easing of entry requirements as of 1 March 2022 are as follows:

**Health insurance:** Minimum insurance policy coverage has been reduced to US\$20,000. Thais and expats covered by Thailand's national health care coverage (Social Security Fund) are exempted from this requirement.

**Test & Go Scheme :** Now permits arrivals by air, water and land. Fully vaccinated travelers arriving through the Test & Go scheme will no longer be required to quarantine upon arrival. On day one of arrival, they must proceed to pre-arranged accommodation (a government-approved hotel) to undergo RT-PCR test and must wait for the test result. Travelers whose test result returns as negative are free to go anywhere in Thailand but will be provided with test kit for a self-test on day five and be required to report or record the result in a government approved mobile application.

**Alternative Quarantine (AQ) Scheme :** A seven-day quarantine with 2 RT-PCR tests for fully vaccinated travelers and a ten-day quarantine with two RT-PCR tests for travelers who are not fully vaccinated.

## Other updates

**Vaccinated Travel Lanes (VTL) :** According to recent agreement between Thailand and Malaysia, it was agreed to setup a VTL between the two countries starting mid-March 2022. However, official details from the Thai government has yet to be announced.

In light of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, there have been no changes on the immigration regulation toward citizens of either of these countries at this juncture.





# Vietnam

## Border reopening

Vietnam has scrapped travel restrictions and quarantine for foreign visitors from 15 March 2022 in an effort to fully reopen its border after two years of pandemic-related closure.

## Relaxation of entry and quarantine requirements

On 15 March 2022, Vietnamese government agreed to restore measures and procedures on immigration policies for foreigners as applied during pre-COVID-19 pandemic period, including retrieving business visa, work visa, tourist visa, visa exemption and e-visa application.

Accordingly, new entrants to Vietnam for business and working purposes are now likely not required to apply for entry permit approval from local administrative authorities. Therefore, the time for obtaining visa approval is reduced significantly.

Besides, Vietnamese Government also grants unilateral visa exemption for citizens of 13 countries, including Germany, France, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and North Ireland, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Belarus when they enter Vietnam with temporary stay period of 15 days from the entry date.

Another remarkable change, effective from 15 March 2022, is that entry persons are no longer required to undertake quarantine upon entry. However, they are required to implement COVID-19 prevention and control measures, including testing, health declaration at the boarder gate, health monitoring and other requirements. Besides the test result of RT-PCR or RT-LAMP, the test result using rapid antigen method 24 hours before entry, which is certified by the competent authority of the country conducting the test is now also accepted. Within 10 days of entry, the entry persons are required to self-monitor their health status and report or notify the nearest local medical authority if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.

## Other updates

- ▶ Currently, there is no special instructions that are being applied for citizens of Ukraine/ Russia.
- ▶ The bilateral visa exemption for ASEAN citizens to Vietnam are also retrieved from 15 March 2022.

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