Guide on How to Travel to Thailand in 2021

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Thailand Travel Restrictions
Updated on May 12, 2021

New Quarantine Period
Starting May 6, 2021, both foreigners and Thai travelers who will arrive in Thailand from most countries, the mandatory quarantine period of 14 days.

Vaccinated Travelers
Starting May 6, 2021, travelers will be required to have a mandatory quarantine period of 14 days, regardless of possession of a certificate of vaccination or the so-called "vaccine passport".

Requirements:
- Certificate of vaccination completed at least 14 days and no more than three months before arrival in Thailand.
- Covid-19 Free Certificate, within 72 hours before departure

Quarantine for those from Africa
The Ministry of Public Health has released the list of countries with COVID mutations from where foreign and Thai travelers are still required to do the 14-day quarantine, namely:
- South Africa
- Zimbabwe
- Mozambique
- Botswana
- Zambia
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- Cameroon
- Congo
- Ghana
- Tanzania

Phuket SandBox Program
The government's plan for the July 1, 2021 reopening of Phuket for vaccinated travelers will still push through however, there has been no official guidelines on how to qualify for the "no quarantine" stay in Phuket. It is recommended to check with your local Thai Embassy for recent updates.
For the most part of 2020, foreign visitors have been banned from entering Thailand. This year, 2021, Thailand has gradually allowed foreigners to enter Thailand and foreigners must comply with the health measures and entry requirements enforced by the Thai government. You may follow these 5 Easy Steps on how to enter Thailand in 2021.

1. Apply for the Thai Visa
You must determine the appropriate visa to enter Thailand.

Here are the most common types of visa you may obtain:
- Visa Exemption (for visiting Thailand for tourism purpose not longer than 45 days)
- Tourist Visa (for visiting Thailand not longer than 60 days)
- Special Tourist Visa (STV)
- Non-Immigrant Visa (for visiting Thailand based on the different purpose of stay and the visa is valid for 90 days and it can be extended in Thailand up to 1 year)
- Thai Elite Visa

The application for the Thai Visa (tourist visa and non-immigrant visas) may be accomplished online, by mail, or in person.

Pro-tip: Right now, the easiest way to enter Thailand is to obtain a 45-day visa exemption or a 60-day tourist visa. You only need to purchase a 60-day COVID 19 insurance which is cheaper and after arriving in Thailand and completing the quarantine, you may change your visa into non-immigrant visas such as marriage visa, retirement visa, Thai Elite visa, or other non-immigrant visas. You may contact our Bangkok Office to assist you with the change of your Thai visa.

2. Book your Flight, COVID 19 Insurance and ASQ Hotel

Book your Flight to Thailand
At present, certain airlines such as Qatar, Emirates, and other major airlines are permitted to operate semi-commercial flights to Thailand whether it is on a daily or weekly basis. Before booking flights to Thailand, you should ensure that you have studied the different categories of visas granted to foreign nationals at this time to determine the possibility of travel.

You may find the list of semi-commercial flights HERE.

Pro-tip: It is faster to obtain a tourist visa or visa exemption from the Thai embassy so, if you are planning to extend your stay in Thailand or you have plans on changing your visa category, you may book a return flight that you can easily cancel once you are already in Thailand.

Book your ASQ Hotel
You must book an accredited ASQ hotel for the mandatory state quarantine. Normally, the ASQ hotel package includes 3 meals per day, complimentary WiFi, a private car transfer from the airport to the ASQ hotel, a 24/7 on-call nurse, and a health checkup twice a day. The package also includes two COVID-19 testing kits that take place on the 5th and 13th day of your quarantine. All ASQ bookings are subject to specific terms and conditions of the hotel so make sure to read them carefully before making a booking.
Note: Starting May 6, the Thai government has announced that the mandatory quarantine will be 14 days for all travelers regardless of nationality and vaccination status.

Purchase your COVID 19 Insurance

You need to secure COVID-19 Insurance that meets the requirements of the Thai authorities such as:

- Coverage of up to THB 3.5 million (equivalent to at least USD $100,000) for medical expenses due to injury or sickness including COVID-19
- The insurance policy must cover the length of your stay in Thailand. It can be 60 days, 90 days, 6 months, or even 12 months.

3. Apply for the COE or Certificate of Entry

You must apply for the COE or certificate of entry from the local Thai Embassy or consulate at least 5 to 15 working days prior to the intended date of travel.

- To apply for the COE, please register online by filling in your personal details, and upload supporting documents such as a copy of your passport, a copy of the valid visa, and COVID-19 travel insurance. The Embassy will screen and pre-approve the applicants who meet the requirements. Please check the status of your application after 1-3 working days.

- The applicants can check their status online if they have been pre-approved. The applicants who received the pre-approval will upload a copy of the flight ticket and the ASQ hotel booking confirmation. Please check the status of your application after 1-3 working days.

4. Obtain COVID-19 PCR Test

After receiving your COE or certificate of entry, you must obtain the following:

- Medical Certificate with a laboratory result indicating that COVID-19 is not detected. The COVID test must be by the RT-PCR method, conducted within 72 hours before departure. Some airlines do not accept home kit tests so please check specific requirements with the airlines you are traveling with.
5. Prepare your documents before departure

You should print and present these documents to your airline before departure:

- Certificate of Entry (COE)
- Valid visa in your passport
- Declaration Form
- Printed Medical Certificate with a laboratory result indicating that COVID-19 is not detected. The COVID test must be by the RT-PCR method, within 72 hours before departure.
- COVID 19 travel insurance certificate
- Copy of confirmed ASQ Hotel booking
- T8 Health Form
- Download ThailandPlus mobile app on your phone
Siam Legal Visa and COE Application Assistance

Siam Legal International offers foreigners who wish to enter Thailand and in need of legal assistance and guidance.

Package 1: 395 USD (2-3 weeks process)  
(for US and UK only)
- Unlimited Online Visa Consultation through WhatsApp or Line App
- Assistance in visa application (non-immigrant O visa and tourist visa)
- Assistance in COE application
- Assistance in booking an ASQ hotel with our partners
- Assistance in booking insurance with our partners
- Assistance in booking the flight

Package 2: 175 USD (2-3 weeks process)  
(for US and UK only)
- Unlimited Online Visa Consultation through WhatsApp or Line App
- An extensive checklist of required documents
- Assistance in visa application (non-immigrant O visa and tourist visa)
- Assistance in COE application

Package 3: 100 USD (3-15 days process)
- Visa Consultation for the best visa suitable to the applicant
- An extensive checklist of required documents
- Assistance in COE application (including visa exemption)
Book your ASQ Hotel

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Thai Ministry of Public Health has required that any Thai or foreign nationals traveling to Thailand must undergo a mandatory quarantine at any accredited Alternative State Quarantine (ASQ) facilities.

You may find some of the highly recommended ASQ Hotels here:

**Budget Hotels**

- Zenith Sukhumvit Hotel
- ibis Styles Bangkok Khaosan Viengta

**Deluxe Hotels**

- Courtyard by Marriott Bangkok
- DoubleTree by Hilton
Luxury Hotels

Note: Starting May 6, the Thai government has announced that the mandatory quarantine will be 14 days for all travelers regardless of nationality and vaccination status.

Purchase your COVID-19 Travel Insurance

This COVID-19 travel insurance is required to be allowed into Thailand so you will be purchasing this before you travel. The easiest way to buy your policy is online from one of the above providers who will then provide you with the all-important certificate of coverage to present to the authorities when you arrive (and you will also need to present it to the airline before they will allow you onboard). It’s quick and easy to do online, and you can choose your length of policy from 60 days to one year. Be sure that the policy covers the entire period that you are planning to stay in Thailand or you may be refused entry.
You may purchase COVID-19 travel insurance within a few minutes.

You can buy budget travel insurance here: https://www.siam-legal.com/axa-insurance

For traveler who are 75 years old and above, get your Health Insurance here: https://www.siam-legal.com/axa-health-insurance
Open a Bank Account in Thailand

As a tourist or short-term visa holder, Siam Legal International can assist you in a smooth and hassle-free way in opening up a Thai bank account.

■ You will receive assistance in opening up a savings/current bank account
■ You will receive a Bankbook and a debit/ATM card
■ You will be able to have Online Banking (Thai mobile number is required)

Requirements

■ Passport
■ Guarantee letter (to be provided by Siam Legal)

Process

■ The applicant may book for our service online.
■ Our staff will prepare the application and necessary documents for the bank and arrange an appointment with the applicant.
■ The applicant will collect the application form and documents from the Siam Legal Bangkok office and will proceed to the specific bank branch. The process of opening the account at the bank takes 1 to 2 hours.

Service Fee

Our service fee is 150 USD for opening a Thai savings account.
Thailand Elite Visa

The Thailand Elite Visa is a long-term Thai visa under a privilege entry visa program managed by the Thailand Privilege Card Company Limited. The purpose of the program is to promote Thailand to affluent and high-earning foreigners through the issuance of a privilege entry visa and offers an opportunity to obtain a long-term multiple entry visa and the right to live in the country for up to 20 years. This includes individuals such as digital nomads that don’t want to do visa runs, retirees who don’t want to be stressed with the new complicated regulations that have been regularly changed, or investors and business people who need to travel in and out of Thailand several times a year.

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**How to Get a Thai Elite Visa?**

1. **Start your Application and Due Diligence Process**

   You can start the application for the Thai Elite Visa wherever you may be, whether you are in Thailand or abroad. All you need to do is to send a scanned copy of your passport and application form to an accredited Thai Elite Visa agent. The due diligence process may take 1 month for most nationalities and up to 2 months for special nationalities.
2. Approval and Payment of Membership Fee

Once the due diligence process is complete, an approval letter is issued along with instructions on how to remit payment for the Thai Elite Visa cost. The membership fee ranges from 500,000 Thai baht to 2 million Thai baht depending on the membership package the applicant has applied for. The payment for the membership fee can be made through local or international bank transfer or online payment.

3. Membership Acceptance and Visa Issuance

After completing the payment or bank transfer, the applicant will receive the Membership ID and instructions on how to receive the visa.

During this time of the pandemic, the applicant will be provided a Letter from Thailand Privilege Card Co., Ltd to apply for the Thai Elite Visa and Certificate of Entry from the local Thai Embassy or consulate to be permitted to travel to Thailand.

In case that the Thailand Elite member is already staying in Thailand or entered Thailand as a tourist, the Thailand Elite agent may arrange the cancellation of the previous visa and Thai Elite Visa issuance at the Immigration Bureau in Bangkok.
How to Enter Thailand in 2021 Checklist

1. Visa Eligibility (you must determine the appropriate visa for you)

- [ ] Visa Exemption
- [ ] Non-immigrant Visa
- [ ] Thai Elite Visa
- [ ] Tourist Visa
- [ ] STV or Special Tourist Visa
- [ ] Category: ______

2. Visa and COE Requirements

- [ ] Flight Reservation
- [ ] Book ASQ Hotel
- [ ] Book COVID-19 Insurance
- [ ] Bank Statement (proof of funds for you travel)
- [ ] Supporting Documents for Non Immigrant Visa (marriage certificate, employment letter, WP3, Elite Membership and other supporting documents based on the type of visa)

3. Apply for the visa (except for visa exemption)

- [ ] Apply online
- [ ] Apply by mail
- [ ] Apply in person

4. Apply for the COE online

- [ ] Part 1 (registration)
- [ ] Part 2 (confirmation of travel details)

5. Obtain COVID-19 PCR test

- [ ] COVID 19 PCR test

Final Checklist for your flight:

- [ ] Printed COE
- [ ] Copy of Thai Visa (except for Visa Exemption)
- [ ] Declaration Form
- [ ] COVID-19 Medical certificate
- [ ] COVID-19 Insurance
- [ ] ASQ Hotel Confirmation Letter
- [ ] Flight Reservation
- [ ] T8 Health Form
- [ ] ThailandPlus Mobile App
How to get to Siam Legal Bangkok

Siam Legal International
18th Floor, Unit 1806, Two Pacific Place,
142 Sukhumvit Rd, Khlong Toei,
Bangkok 10110, Thailand

02 254 8900 (Thailand)
1 (877) 252 8831 (U.S.)

website: https://www.siam-legal.com
email: info@siam-legal.com

Business hours:
Monday to Friday 9 AM to 6 PM (ICT)