



## Tips for camping trips in Thailand



## Vaccine passport green lights travel



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# Vaccine passport green lights travel

Red Elephant Reps CEO confidently forecasts arrival of vaccine passport will green light travel recovery in Q3 and Q4.

Red Elephant Reps says it is confident travel recovery will kickstart possibly around the third and fourth quarter of the year on the back of vaccine programmes now underway.

Commenting on travel recovery in Southeast Asia, the company's CEO, Ian Paul Woods, told TTR Weekly "we believe the trickle back will be slowly evident in Q3 and Q4 due to the vaccines being actively rolled out in various countries."

He noted that Singapore and Thailand are already starting to reopen borders and allow travellers back – albeit with restrictions and conditions.

"Some sort of proof of vaccination, whether a digital passport or

smartphone app, seems inevitable to ensure the safe resumption of international travel," he said.

"Some airlines are already asking for proof of vaccination before

We have already seen an increase in travel requests for special deals that we are currently offering for future travel in the second half of 2021 and beyond. As our

marketing in Russia and Japan following the appointment of a director of sales covering those two key markets.

It recently appointed Olga Tonkikh as director



boarding a flight, and Thailand has announced it is considering allowing vaccinated travellers to skip the mandatory quarantine. Countries that have already started vaccinations, such as the UK, UAE and Israel, could well be the first places to consider these passports."

global sales team is seeing an increase in agents reconnecting with clients wanting to travel, we are actively promoting our destinations and products in Southeast Asia with training and webinars."

Meanwhile, the company is expanding its travel and hospitality

of sales for Russia, based in Vladivostok; and Hisae Yanai as director of sales for Japan, based in Tokyo.

"Their strong connections within the travel and hospitality industry in both Russia and Japan will be crucial in helping us grow within these regions".

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# Indonesia mulls travel corridor to Bali

Tourism minister mulls over a safe travel corridor but says proof of vaccination and a negative test on arrival are essential requirements

A corridor to allow international travel to Bali is still on the cards according to Indonesia's Tourism and Creative Economy Minister, Sandiaga Uno.

Quoted in an Antara report at the weekend he confirmed the ministry was still studying the possibility of implementing a Covid-19 free corridor from low-risk countries that have successfully introduced vaccination.

Hundreds of hotels have shut down on the island as tourism associations warned tourism was heading for bankruptcy with an estimated 250,000 workers in hotels and tourism linked sectors out of work or on unpaid leave.

Success introducing an airline corridor to the island depends on travellers being vaccinated and have a negative Covid-19 test result on arrival at Bali's airport.

The minister said swab testing would be compulsory for all travellers flying to the island or they would face a lengthy quarantine of around 10 to 14 days before the holiday could begin.

Antara news agency said discussions were held with Bali's Governor Wayan Koster last Thursday.

"The concept of a COVID-19 free corridor has been discussed with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Health Ministry, Foreign Ministry, and the COVID-19 Task Force. In principle, it has been deliberated at the final stage," the tourism ministry confirmed.

Bali is likely to be the first tourist destination to see its 1.2 million

tourism workers vaccinated

Soft loans of IDR9.9 trillion for the Balinese tourism industry are on the table, while Bali's provincial government and the Chamber of Commerce proposed a stimulus package of IDR1.5 billion to boost local tourism entrepreneurs' cash

flows, he said.

Indonesia Covid-19 cases reached 1,202,859 cases and 32,656 deaths as of 13 February the highest of all the Southeast Asian nations. The Philippines followed in second place with 545,300 cases and 11,495 deaths.



## BBTF back in Bali

Organisers of the 7th Bali & Beyond Travel Fair confirmed a hybrid version featuring a mix of in-person and online business networking would convene 8 to 12 June in Nusa Dua Bali.

The committee posted an email announcement saying the event would comply with strict compliance of health protocols outlined in the national CHSE (Cleanliness, Health, Safety and Environment) standard. Recognised as Indonesia's leading International travel and tourism Fair, BBTF is a key element in the nation's strategy to promote new opportunity and to facilitate the industry's recovery while expanding tourism beyond the Bali to emerging destinations

across the nation.

Supported by the Ministry of Tourism from its early years, BBTF draws international and national buyers to meet sellers from Bali as well as other priority destinations in Indonesia.

For the first time, BBTF 2021 will be conducted both online and offline after it skipped 2020 due to the impact of Covid-19 on global markets. The fair this year will present creative economy sectors including culinary, art and fashion elements that are identified as the "strengths of Indonesia's super-priority destinations." The 2021 theme 'Exploring Sustainable and Wellness Tourism' will drive activities and forum discussions.



# Tips for camping trips in Thailand

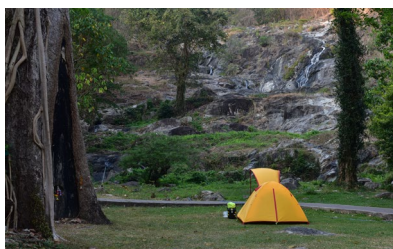
When was the last time you embarked on a camping vacation in a natural setting where you can enjoy the outdoors and amazing views?

There are plenty of arguments and possibly excuses for not going camping – lack of home comforts, the do-it-yourself dining, and even the weather come to mind – and one excellent reason to go camping. It takes us back to nature and radiates a perception of adventure.

Understandably, sleeping under the stars protected only by a flimsy tent is not for everybody, when there are plenty of luxury options at bargain prices at Thailand's boutique resorts that offer equally stunning views of the sea or mist-covered mountains. But nothing quite matches the fun and frustration of fumbling with the tent fly zip to hurriedly scramble barefoot from your tiny canvas haven to Instagram a spectacular sunrise.

Enthusiasts argue that the fun of camping starts with the preparation from choosing a campsite to preparing essential items, including camping gear, cooking equipment, and proper clothing and shoes.

There are many lists of things to think about, including having enough groceries, rice, snacks even a supply of drinking water. The camp master has to create fun activities, songs, and creepy night-time stories to round off the camp experience. Rain, bugs, ants,



slugs, leeches, mosquitos, outdoor shower blocks, noisy neighbours, are often cited as reasons why pitching a tent in the woods might not be a good idea.

## *Start with the right mood*

Camping under the stars comes with a simple requirement. It is all about leaving your worries behind and taking a break from daily routines. Those who have discovered camping say dwelling in

the forest even for a short spell say it will heal your mood, allow you to chill out and blow away stress.

Camping trips require a team effort to ensure safety, especially when engaging in adventure travel activities. Take a guide to show you forest trails rather than wandering off alone. Rain forests enthrall us with the majestic beauty and profusion of colour, but they can also surprise us as they are also home to wildlife that might object to our presence. Experienced national park guides can ensure you return safely to the campsite while benefiting from local wisdom that unlocks the mysteries of the forest.

Getting close to nature, enjoying a different type of holiday to luxury resort living is now trending, and camping is catching on here in Thailand. The craze started with university students and couples with young children looking for a different kind of vacation experience during long school holidays. The demand for camping led to specialised shops opening in Bangkok and online stores offering the latest camping gear and gimmicks.



But for international travellers, the camping option is limited to resorts in national parks that offer campsites experience and all you need to do drive there for the camping experience to begin. More tour operators are now looking at how they can package a camping holiday and supply all the gear even including guides for national park treks. They may even provide a camp cook to rustle up the food for the group. It makes the logistics of camping easy for the traveller and saves the investment in camp gear that you might only use a couple of times.

Seeking an ideal campsite is a good start but ensure the site is authorised with support facilities and there are experts close-by. Pitching a tent in a national park outside of designated zones is not a good idea. It might sound adventurous, but there are risks that your presence is unknown to rangers and park officials. It is important that park officials know where you are and can monitor campers from time-to-time to ensure their safety.

Of the 155 Natural Parks in Thailand, many offer excellent camping sites with facilities that include electricity, tap water, bathrooms, shops selling food provisions and security. There are rules at the campsite that have been tightened recently, such as limiting night-time party hours to ensure everyone enjoys a peaceful sleep and a ban on consuming alcoholic beverages. Campers must



also take their rubbish home with them.

### ***Under a blanket of stars – Doi Samur Dao***

Doi Samur Dao in Nan province in North Thailand is one of the best spots to enjoy magnificent views of mountain ranges in Sri Nan National Park. The campsite stands on an open grassy area on the tip of a mountain ridge. This offers overnight camping under the stars while you wake up to witness a beautiful sea mist and sunrise scenery, stretching to the horizon. Sunset views are also spectacular from Hua Sing Cliff. Doi Samur Dao enjoys cool weather all year round. The most favourite time for campers to visit Doi Samur Dao is between October to February, when winter breeze blow and overnight temperatures dip to around 5 to 8 degrees centigrade.

### ***Panoramic sunset scenery – Pha Keb Tawan***

The name literary means a cliff that holds the sun. The spot offers a campsite where you can enjoy twilight vistas over Thap Lan National Park. Located in Wang Nam Khiew, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thap Lan National Park is known as the second largest National Park in Thailand. Visitors can enjoy a reforestation activity such as shooting plant seeds with a



slingshot into the undergrowth. In September visitors can spot Fan Palms in full bloom.

### ***Morning mist over the lake – Pang Ung***

Pang Ung offers picturesque spots, surrounded by pine forests, where campers can enjoy winter morning mist that settles over the park's reservoir. Pang Ung is home to the Royal Forest Project at Pang Tong 2 in Mae Hong Son. There are two main campsites for visitors which include a campground located within the area of the royal project and the site which is supervised by The Tham Pla – Namtok Pha Suea National Park. Due to limited capacity, campers are advised to contact visitor centres for reservation in advance. In Pang Ung, visitors can enjoy bamboo rafting, trekking, birdwatching, or visiting Ban Ruam Thai village.

### ***Relaxing waterfall sound – Huay Mae Khamin Waterfall***

Located in the Srinakarin Dam National Park, Huay Mae Khamin Waterfall is one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Kanchanaburi. The seven-level waterfalls offer campsite facilities at level four, named Chat Kaew, which is recognised as the best spot to enjoy the charm of the Waterfall.

[Click for full report.](#)

# STB rolls out virtual events show

STB partners with local MICE players to organise a virtual trade show 3 to 4 March.

SingapoReimagine MICE Virtual Show, jointly organised by the Singapore Tourism Board and local MICE players is set to be hosted from 3 to 4 March 2021.

The two-day event should attract around 700 participants who will join a locally curated programme that includes live-streamed cultural and leisure tours, culinary masterclasses by celebrity chefs, and a live panel discussion with industry leaders on organising pilot events in Singapore.

The business networking component online will also facilitate one-on-one virtual meetings between participants and up to 40 leading suppliers like hotels, convention centres and tour operators.

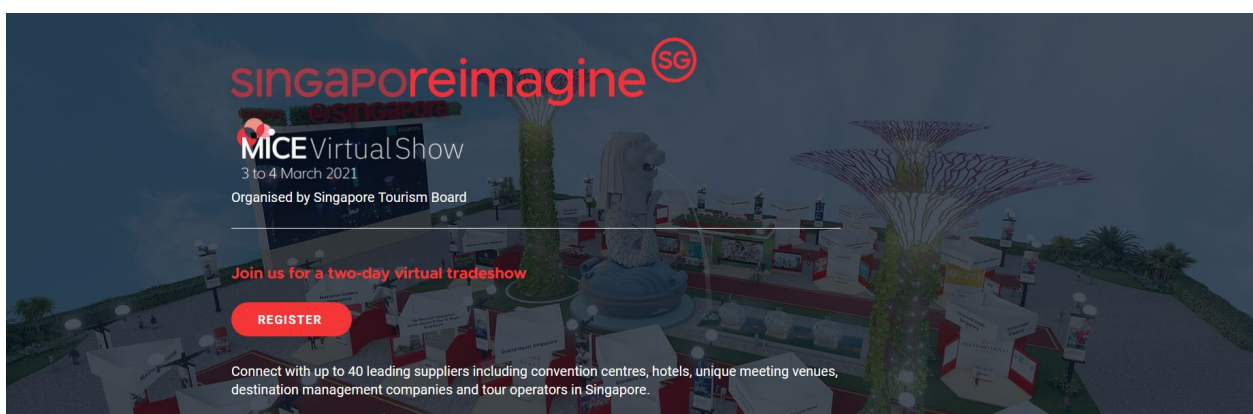
Within the virtual 3D environment, participants can navigate the virtual tradeshow floor using their mobile devices and connect with exhibitors, such as Gardens by the Bay, Singapore Airlines and Sentosa Development Corporation. They can also catch up on various event programmes

on demand and take part in trivia quizzes to win prizes. The top five voted buyers will each win a hosted trip to Singapore on Singapore Airlines, inclusive of a hosted stay and exclusive experiences.[1]

STB partners with local event organisers such as (EO) MICE Neurol, Aspen Event Planners and TLC Events. The EOs have organised over 48 digital events between them in the last eight months, including providing production and event management services for the 2020 Alzheimer's Disease International Conference, a three-day event with over 1,000 delegates.



For more information on the SingapoReimagine MICE Virtual Show, visit <https://www.miceneurol.com/singaporeimagine>





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An aerial photograph of a stunning tropical coastline. The water is a vibrant turquoise, transitioning to a deeper blue further out. Lush green hills and cliffs line the shore, with dense tropical vegetation. Several boats are visible: a small white boat in the distance, a larger white boat with a blue roof, a small motorboat, and a red boat with a white roof in the foreground. A rocky, forested peninsula is in the lower left, and a white wake is visible in the water. The text "Amazing moments await you in Amazing Thailand." is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the image.

Amazing moments await you  
in Amazing Thailand.