

## Barcelona brings back tourist services



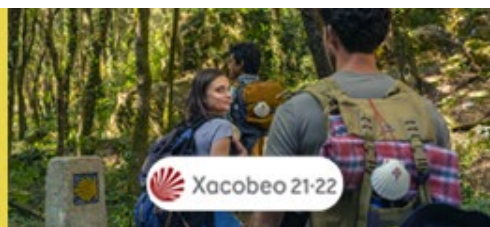
## IATA Travel Pass extends footprint



## Sabah taps Hybrid City Alliance



## Limited flight options for Thailand travel



# IATA Travel Pass extends footprint

EU and UK Digital Covid Certificates recognized by IATA Travel Pass.

The European Union's Digital Covid Certificate (DCC) and the UK's NHS

travel information for their journey, create an electronic version of their passport and import their vaccination certificate in one place.

"Covid-19 vaccination

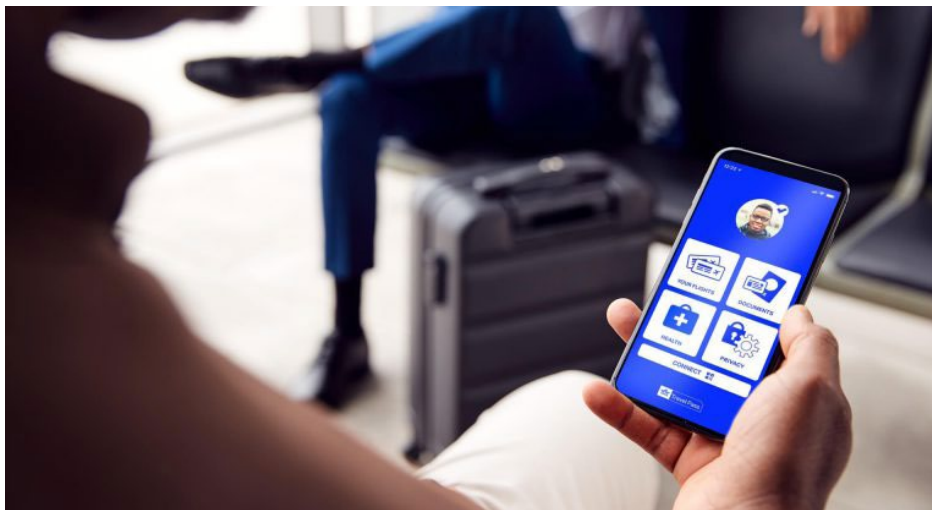
efficiency for airlines," said IATA's Senior Vice President for Operations Safety and Security Nick Careen.

IATA welcomes the work done by the EU

standard.

"The absence of a global standard makes it much harder for airlines, border authorities and governments to recognize and verify a traveller's digital vaccination certificate. The industry is working around this by developing solutions that can identify and verify certificates from individual countries. But this is a slow process that is hampering the restart of international travel.

"As more states roll out their vaccination programs, many are urgently looking to implement technical solutions to provide vaccine certification for their citizens when they travel. In the absence of a WHO standard, IATA urges them to look closely at the EU DCC as a proven solution that meets WHO guidance and can help to reconnect the world," said Careen.



COVID Pass can now be uploaded into IATA Travel Pass as verified proof of vaccination.

International Air Transport Association confirmed last week that the EU DCC or UK NHS COVID Pass holders can now access Covid-19

certificates are becoming a widespread requirement for international travel. Handling the European and UK certificates through IATA Travel Pass is an important step forward, providing convenience for travellers, authenticity for governments and

Commission in developing, in record time, the EU DCC system and thereby standardizing digital vaccine certificates across Europe. However, IATA urges the World Health Organization (WHO) to revisit its work to develop a global digital vaccine

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Xacobeo 21-22





# Barcelona brings back tourist services

New Check Barcelona App offers visitors real-time information to manage reservations; Tourist bus resumes city routes and the city gets its WTTC travel stamp certificate.

Turisme de Barcelona and Barcelona City Council, with EureCat as a technological partner, recently presented a new App that aims to avoid congestion in the different tourist spaces by offering other alternative visits.

Check Barcelona is the name of the new application, a guide to the city and its metropolitan and provincial environments with real-time information on occupation and availability of facilities, public spaces, beaches, availability of parking lots, and other places of tourist interest.

The objective of the new application is to provide the visitor with a tool that allows them to know, in real-time, the occupation status of the different spaces and manage the reservation following the established security and capacity protocols. In this way, by optimizing the visit, the degree of visitor satisfaction increases and improves the management of tourist areas and attractions with a high concentration of visitors. Up-to-date information on security protocols, mobility and other relevant aspects also contributes to the security of the visit.



Read more: [https://  
checkbarcelona.com/](https://checkbarcelona.com/)





### **Barcelona Bus Turístic Resumes Operations**

The Barcelona Bus Turístic, operated by Barcelona Metropolitan Transport (TMB) in association with Turisme de Barcelona, resumed its routes last July after being suspended for more than a year due to the pandemic. The red and blue routes will be running as usual and taking visitors to the city's main attractions.

The Bus Turístic is the perfect way to enjoy Barcelona's cultural and shopping attractions on a convenient and sustainable means of transport from the unique vantage point of the upper deck of an open-topped bus. Initially, the service will run every 20 to 30 minutes from 9am with the last bus departing at 7pm. As is the case with all public transport, face coverings must be worn on board. A 16-language audio guide is available and a crew member will be on the bus to help passengers and give them information.

Read more: [https://bcnshop.barcelonaturisme.com/shopv3/en/product/21/barcelona-bus-turistic.html?o=h&w=9329-1795&utm\\_source=Visit-Home&utm\\_medium=carrussel&utm\\_campaign=BBT-EN](https://bcnshop.barcelonaturisme.com/shopv3/en/product/21/barcelona-bus-turistic.html?o=h&w=9329-1795&utm_source=Visit-Home&utm_medium=carrussel&utm_campaign=BBT-EN)

Turisme de Barcelona has become a partner destination at the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), the institution that represents the worldwide travel trade and tourism private sector and it works to promote the sector development ensuring the sustainable growth in coordination with governmental entities, destinations and other relevant industry agents.



### **Barcelona Safe Travel Stamp Certification with WTTC**

Turisme de Barcelona has been collaborating with the WTTC since November last year, to manage in Barcelona the Safe Travels stamp. The stamp recognizes the standardized safe travel protocols and the security measures against the Covid-19, aiming as well to inspire and to help travelers feel confident again. As of today, there are more than 200 approved destinations and thousands of companies that have been recognized with this stamp. In Barcelona city, in just two months, more than 150 companies have been registered and the number increases day by day.

Read more: <https://professional.barcelonaturisme.com/en/blog/safe-travels-stamp-by-wttc>



# Sabah taps Hybrid City Alliance

Sabah will leverage Hybrid City Alliance to build multi-destination events with other states in Malaysia.

Sabah is proud to be part of the Hybrid City Alliance that will help leverage multi-destination events in partnership with Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kuching.

"We are appreciative that MyCEB included Kota Kinabalu in this alliance. Being a member of the Hybrid City Alliance, we have the benefits of connecting with global network partners and foster collaboration through knowledge sharing, innovation and tools to produce hybrid and multi-city events," says Sabah Tourism Board CEO Noredah Othman.

"We had a productive engagement session recently, moderated by Place Borneo through its #TuesdayTalk online session addressing business event opportunities for Sabah.\*

"Representatives from the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC), Discovery Tours Sabah, a local Destination Management Company and MyCEB shared views on how the industry is indeed a symbiosis of many related suppliers that contributes to the local economy," Noredah explained.

In addition, Sabah Tourism has recently revised the MICE Incentive 2021 which prior to this only supported physical events.

"As physical events remain unfeasible, we tweaked the incentive to allow hybrid and virtual events instead. This incentive is specifically for Sabah based organizers and organizers are urged to ensure SOP compliance at all times," said Noredah.

Financial support up to a

## SABAH NEW DEAL

### MICE INCENTIVE 2021

**TYPE OF SUPPORT**

**PHYSICAL**

- Financial support from RM3,000.00 up to RM100,000.00
  - ~ Minimum group size of 30 pax
  - ~ Minimum 2 nights stay in Sabah

**HYBRID**

- Financial support of RM30 per pax up to maximum RM10,000.00
  - ~ Minimum group size of 100 pax
  - ~ Minimum 30% physical attendees in a full-service venue and 70% virtual attendees
  - ~ Sabah based organizer / Sabah host hybrid event

**VIRTUAL**

- Financial support of total amount RM1,500.00 per event.
  - ~ Minimum group size of 50 pax
  - ~ Sabah based organizer / Sabah host virtual event

**TYPE OF EVENTS**

- Corporate Meeting
- Incentive Group
- Conference
- Exhibition

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

- Destination Management Companies (DMC).
- Destination Marketing Organization (DMO).
- Professional Conference Organizer (PCO).
- Incentive Houses.
- Associations.
- Professional bodies with a local chapter in Sabah or Malaysia.
- Corporate or Government bodies that are sole organizers of MICE events.



For full criteria and application, go to <http://be.sabahtourism.com/mice-incentive/>

\*Terms and condition apply



helpdesk.sabahtourism.com

maximum of MYR10,000 is provided for hybrid events with a minimum of 100 participants, 30% physical attendees and 70% virtual attendees, whereas virtual events with a minimum of 50 participants will receive financial support of MYR1,500 per event. This support only covers events held before 31 December 2021.

For more details on this incentive visit <http://be.sabahtourism.com/mice-incentive/>

\*For more about business event opportunities, see the following [YouTube link](#). The discussion starts around 6 minutes into the video.

TuesdayTalk LIVE: Exploring BE Opportunities in Sabah



# Be Enchanted!

Bajau-Sama or West coast Bajau are known for their unique heritage that is authentic only to the district of **Kota Belud** in Sabah, the traditional horse culture.



# Limited flight options for Thailand travel

Travellers should wait for CAAT to confirm domestic airlines can resume full services in September before booking tickets.

In theory, travellers can book domestic flights in Thailand for departures starting 1 September,

but it will take at least two to three weeks to confirm a downward trend in new infections.

Travellers have been making do with just a handful of limited flights mainly to serve Phuket Sandbox travellers who want to get off the island and visit other destinations.

Thai Smile Airways will operate a single charter flight from Phuket to Bangkok on 26 August 2021. Flight WE 8784 will depart Phuket at 1430 and arrive in Bangkok at 1600. The fare quote is THB 4,300 one-way inclusive of tax, about double the fare offered pre-Covid-19 era.

Thai AirAsia and Thai Lion Air are grounded, but they hope to resume domestic services starting in September. Bookings can be made directly with the two airlines for flights in September. However, the situation is fluid. Passengers buying tickets could face the hassle of seeking a refund or applying for a voucher for future travel if the ban on flights in and out of Bangkok extends beyond 31 August.

Last week, Thai VietJet Air reactivated promotional fares on limited domestic routes for travel between 15 September to 31 December 2021.

Promotional fares started at THB389 one way on limited routes, but travellers should be cautious until it is clear that the airline intends to resume consistent services to all destinations advertised. Refunding unused tickets from any of the domestic airlines can take months.

There is a 14-hour bus ride option from Phuket to Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport just for international travellers under the Phuket Sandbox programme. The service runs three times weekly (Monday, Thursday and Saturday until 30 August 2021). The one-way fare is THB1,800. If airlines services from Bangkok to domestic destinations fail to resume 1 September, bus service may extend into September.

but a note of caution as the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand has yet to confirm flights will be back next month.

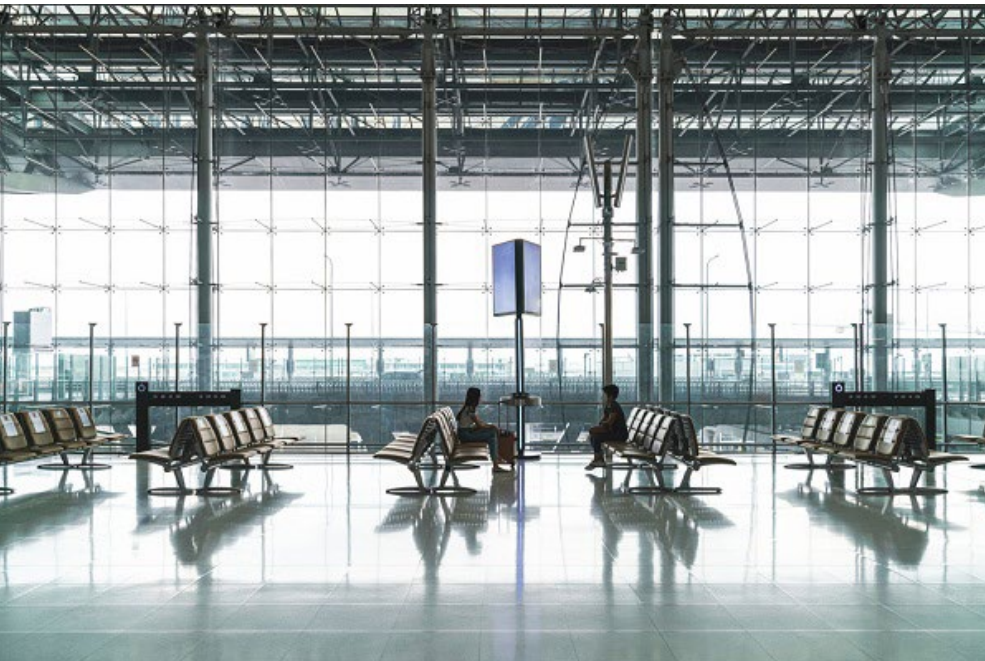
Airlines are pushing for a commitment from the CAAT that they can resume flights on 1 September. You can even browse their websites to book and pay for fares starting 1 September. That could invite more grief for stressed-out passengers who will demand refunds if the flight ban is extended.

Travel experts claim a 15 September reopening of domestic air travel is more likely when you consider the rate of new daily Covid-19 cases. It is falling slowly,

Bangkok Airways resumed three direct flights weekly between Samui and Phuket to support the Phuket Sandbox and Samui Plus programmes. The first flight takes off today, 25 August, departing Samui at 1125 and returning from Phuket at 1300.

Bangkok Airways is also offering a weekly Samui – Singapore flight, the only international service out of Samui.

Nok Air offers travellers limited flights from U-Tapao Airport in Rayong province to Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai Nakhon Si Thammarat, Ubon Ratchathani, Udon Thani and Phuket up to 31 August.







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