



Bangkok, March 10th 2020

Dear colleagues and partners,

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has been declared a global emergency by the WHO (World Health Organization).

As the COVID-19 outbreak and response has been accompanied by an over-abundance of information, some accurate and some not, we refer to the statements published by the WHO and the resources on the WHO website related to the virus.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

We recommend everyone to get coronavirus information from reputable sources. Fake news stories are circulating widely on social and mass media channels, placing a wrong perspective on this situation. Besides the WHO and government websites, also the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) is a reliable source of information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

The Thai government has declared COVID-19 a dangerous contagious disease as a proactive measure aimed at safeguarding public health and reaffirming Thailand's strong capacities and strict system of monitoring and containing the disease. There have been 53 officially confirmed coronavirus cases for Thailand; 19 are still being treated in hospitals, 33 have recovered and returned home, one patient passed away.

No governments nor the WHO have issued any travel advisory against travel to Thailand. It is our assessment that at present there are no major concerns for travel to Thailand and we are operating tours and travel activities under increased health surveillance and hygiene measures.

Thailand's Ministry of Public Health has implemented strict surveillance at all points of entry including ground, sea and air. All tourism-related businesses, both in the Thai public and private sectors across the Kingdom, have stepped up hygiene measures and work together to combat the crisis. The ongoing efforts to monitor the virus are coordinated by the WHO, and various national governments and organizations worldwide. The Thai government is experienced in screening methods, monitoring of health epidemics and emergency medical responses since the SARS outbreak almost 20 years ago.

The updated and officially implemented measures for travellers can be found on the TAT Newsroom website (<https://www.tatnews.org/>) and the Thailand Department of Disease Control (<https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/eng/index.php>). The WHO situation reports regarding Thailand can be found here, detailing as well the current policy regarding arriving travellers: <https://www.who.int/thailand/emergencies/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

All travellers are advised to "travel safely" by practising daily hygiene habits, avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms, seek medical help and wear a surgical mask once you show any symptoms. The WHO has issued a practical advice for people on how to protect themselves against COVID-19 infection which may be found here:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

A separate notice has been issued by Asian Trails China for travel in China. Should you wish to receive Asian Trails China information, please contact Ms Xiaolin Zhang via xiaolin.zhang@asiantrailschina.com.

We are closely monitoring the situation and will be regularly updating our information. Please do not hesitate to contact us for questions or more specific information.

The Asian Trails Thailand Team