



APAC Reopening

While a few APAC countries have specified when the restrictions are meant to end or be re-evaluated, most countries have not provided an exact timeline. There is little information as to when the restrictions will be eased or lifted, and border closures remain in place for the most part.

However, there are some promising developments in China as well as Australia and New Zealand, wherein initial talks are being made to reopen the borders for specific countries. News agencies have published articles about these discussions, but official implementation procedures have yet to be known.

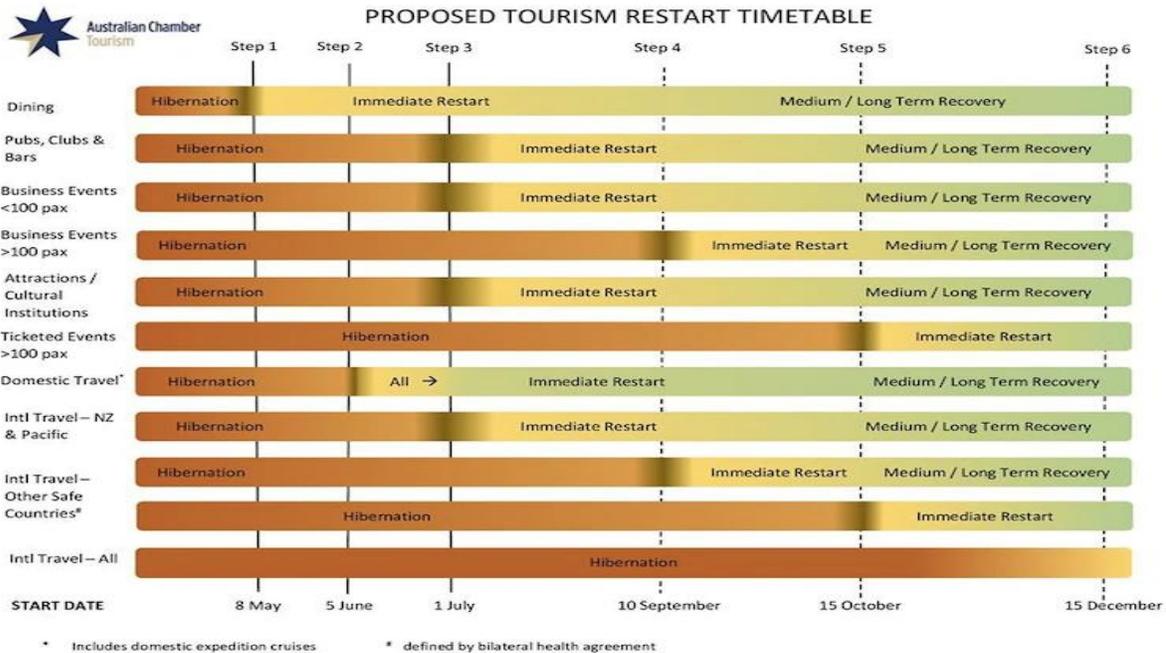
On May 12, 2020, a Taiwan news agency has published an article informing of a probable collaboration with New Zealand and Australia along with a few other Asian countries for a “*Trans-Tasman Bubble*” safe travel zone if and when Australia and New Zealand decide to set it up. There is no official information about the process yet.

But on the last meeting of Australia Tourism Restart Taskforce on May 22, John Hart, Chair of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Tourism said “We are saying that New Zealand travel will commence on July 1 and from 10 September we will consider whether other bubbles can commence.” In addition, the Australia timetable has all international travel restarting from December 15.

Meanwhile in China, it was on May 27 that an announcement was made for planning of “*green channels*” where certain categories of travelers will be allowed from specific countries. News articles have informed that the initial countries will be Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland.

Australia

The AUS government does not have any current plans to ease international flight restrictions at this time. Currently, crew-only/ repatriation/ cargo /air ambulance /essential flight operations are the only international flights considered for permission to operate into/out of AUS. The focus is on the cautious easing of domestic restrictions first, with the federal, state, and territory governments working together to help ensure Australia remains COVIDSafe during this period and into the long-term future. As such, our National Cabinet has agreed upon a 3-step plan: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/easing-of-coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions/easing-of-coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions>



Cambodia

Border restrictions are still in place until further notice.

China

Currently, China border restrictions are still in place for international arrivals. Land travel between Hong Kong and China may be allowed with the permission from government. Travelers will need to acquire a government letter to be allowed for land travel. There have also been plans to set up a “green channel” for flights which will allow specific countries to travel to China. On **May 27, 2020**, Chinese state media reported that the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) will let domestic and foreign airlines apply for "green channels" for chartered flights to airports in the mainland. The countries given the green light are Singapore, Japan, Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland, said the media reports. Initial information confirms that the *green channel* plan does not apply to GA/BA operators.

http://www.caac.gov.cn/PHONE/XXGK_17/XXGK/TZTG/202005/t20200527_202810.html

Hong Kong

At the moment, there is no definite update yet as to when the travel restrictions will be lifted. As of **March 25, 2020**, all non-Hong Kong residents coming from overseas countries and regions by plane will be denied entry to Hong Kong; and Non-Hong Kong residents coming from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan will be denied entry to Hong Kong if they have been to any overseas countries and regions in the past 14 days.

<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html>

India

From **May 25, 2020** onwards, Indian commercial carriers have been permitted to operate domestic flights. There is currently no update as to when the international travel will be permitted. <https://boi.gov.in/content/advisory-travel-and-visa-restrictions-related-covid-19-0>

Indonesia

Travel restrictions to/from/within Indonesia territory remain valid until further notice.

Japan

Restrictions to international inbound travelers have been extended to **June 30, 2020**. This due date may be extended without prior notice. Although it has reduced, domestic airline flights are still operating in Japan.

Laos

Border restrictions are in place until **June 1, 2020**. This will be re-evaluated on the same date.

Macau

Air travel restrictions for Macau are still in place. There is no update as to when the restrictions will be eased or re-evaluated. However for land travel, residents of HK, mainland China and Taiwan may be allowed with the following conditions:

Type of resident/visitor		Travel History	Preventive Measures
Non-Macau Residents	Foreigners	Arrive from any origin	Entry are prohibited
	Resident of Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan	Arrive from Mainland China	Entry is allowed. Present the nucleic acid certificate proving tested negative for COVID-19 within the past seven days.
		Visited Hong Kong and Taiwan in the past 14 days	Entry is allowed, quarantine for 14 days
		Visited foreign countries in the past 14 days	Entry are prohibited
Macau Residents		Visited foreign countries, Hong Kong and Taiwan in the past 14 days	Entry is allowed, quarantine for 14 days

For HK and China citizens:

1) If passengers stayed in Hong Kong and Taiwan in the past 14 days, entry is allowed and quarantine is required for 14 days in designated hotel. Currently, there is only one quarantine hotel which is Pousada Marina Infante Hotel currently.

2) If passengers stayed in Mainland China in the past 14 days, entry is allowed, presenting of nucleic acid certificate proving tested negative for COVID-19 within the past seven days is required.

Malaysia

Current Movement Control Order (CMCO) is until **9th June 2020**. As of now, there are no updates regarding the re-opening of the border.

New Zealand

At this stage, only NZ Citizens and Residents are allowed to enter NZ following quarantine policies. There are still no updates about opening for international travels. Domestic travel within New Zealand has started last Wednesday, **May 20, 2020**.

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/coronavirus-update-inz-response>

Palau

Entry restrictions into PTRO have been extended to the end of **June 2020**.

Philippines

Border restrictions are still in place until **June 10, 2020**. This will be re-evaluated by the government by **May 31, 2020**.

Singapore

There is no definite timeline yet as to when Singapore is going to lift the border closure. Travelling via land between Malaysia and Singapore is still strictly prohibited. Currently, Singapore is still under "Circuit Breaker" which is meant to end on **June 01, 2020**. With strict measures in place, a few businesses and government offices dealing with issues such as housing, employment passes and taxes are set to reopen on June 2 as Singapore enters **Phase 1** of the post-circuit breaker period. Singapore has planned to slowly reopen in **3 Phases** which would take several months at least. <https://www.gov.sg/article/ending-circuit-breaker-phased-approach-to-resuming-activities-safely> ; <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19> ; <https://www.gov.sg/features/covid-19>

Taiwan

There is currently no updated news about relaxing the border control for Taiwan. All foreign passport holders are not allowed to enter Taiwan including foreign operating crew members. Taiwan Tourism Bureau announced on Tuesday that the ban on travel agencies operating outbound and inbound group tours will be extended to **June 30, 2020**, citing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic around the world as the reason for prolonging the ban. The ban was first

put in place by the Tourism Bureau on March 18 and was intended to span from **March 19 to April 30**. In April, the bureau extended the ban to **May 31**. <https://www.cdc.gov.tw/En>

Thailand

International travel restrictions are still in place until **June 30, 2020**. This due date may be extended without prior notice. Domestic flights are allowed with the exception of Phuket (VTSP).

Vietnam

Border closure is still in place for Vietnam and there is no specific timeline as to when this will be lifted.

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