

PROPOSED TOURISM FEE SCRAPPED IN THAILAND



Thailand has made a significant decision by scrapping a plan to impose a 300-baht (US\$8.20) tourism fee on visitors arriving by air. This move, announced by Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, is aimed at encouraging visitors to allocate their funds towards other aspects of tourism, thereby substantially boosting the economy, as stated by Thailand's Government Public Relations Department.

The previous government of Thailand approved a controversial tourism fee in February 2023. A spokesperson for the country's Prime Minister's Office stated that the fees collected would be utilized for managing and developing tourism.

Although the private sector opposed the fee, the Government Public Relations Department mentioned it.

Last month, the government approved more extended visa stay periods for tourists, postgraduate students, remote workers, and retirees and improved visa conditions for retirees.

Thailand has expanded its visa policies starting this month as a part of its ongoing efforts to facilitate travel. Travelers from 93 countries will now be allowed to stay in the country for 60 days, up from 57 nations previously. More nations will also be eligible for visas on arrival, making it easier for more visitors to explore the country.

The Thai Tourism Authority has recently launched a campaign called "Amazing Thailand: Your Stories Never End." The campaign focuses on luxury travel, highlighting Thailand's cultural and natural attractions, and promoting the country as a wellness and adventure destination.

Additionally, on June 4, the government approved tax measures to boost domestic tourism. These measures cover the low season from May to November and include tax deductions for companies organizing conventions and seminars. **Other measures were designed to increase domestic travel to secondary cities,** with income tax deductions allowed for homestay and non-hotel accommodation expenses.

Thailand's tourism ministry reported that between January 1 and April 28, 11.95 million foreign tourists arrived, bringing in 575 billion baht in revenue. Thailand aims to attract around 40 million foreign visitors this year.

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