



Thailand Temporarily Waives Visa Fees 02 March 2009

Thailand needs to lure the tourists back. The global crisis, protests against the government that blocked airports and caused troubles to foreign tourists as well as strong Baht are all reasons for which the Thai tourism is in decline. Tourist arrivals at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport have dropped by 20 per cent this January.

Thai officials are taking steps to improve the situation and to boost the ailing tourism industry. The government has decided to change the country's visa policy. Tourist visa applications will be without fee between March 5 and June 4 this year. Currently, tourists from 20 countries are getting visa on arrival for a stay that does not exceed 15 days. Tourists from 42 countries do not need the visa unless they want to stay longer than 30 days. The government has already approved a visa exemption for transit passengers through Suvarnabhumi International Airport. Those people often have to wait long hours for their flights and the exemption will make it possible for them to temporarily leave the airport without a visa. They will be allowed to go to the nearby shops and thus get to know the Thai culture a bit.

Designer Amenity Bags for Cathay Pacific Passengers

First Class Cathay Pacific female passengers will soon be enjoying the airline's new range of elegant Ipa-Nima travel kit pouches, containing luxury skincare products from Australian brand Aesop. The products featured in the kits have been specially selected to help the skin cope with different environmental conditions and stimulants, including humidity. From April onwards, the airline's First Class male passengers will receive a black double-zip pouch from renowned international fashion house Bally. The kits feature skincare products from Italian luxury brand Acca Kappa's White Moss product line.

Tsunami Museum Opens in Indonesia

A museum commemorating the victims of the 2004 Asian tsunami has opened in the Indonesian province of Aceh as a symbolic reminder of the disaster, as well as an educational centre. It will also serve as an emergency disaster shelter in case the area is ever hit by a tsunami again. Aceh was home to more than half the 240,000 people who died in the disaster. The outpouring of aid, which followed was the largest in history and paid for more than 130,000 houses as well as thousands of kilometres of road, schools and other infrastructure.

South Africa ranks 20th in New York Times top destinations

The New York Times named South Africa one of the top destinations to visit in 2009, ranking at number 20. The Times' 2009 list features 44 of the world's most compelling holiday destinations. Other high-ranking destinations included Rome, Berlin, Beirut, the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador and Zambia.

Thailand Package

Bangkok / Pattaya
(3 Days/2 Nights)

3 star hotels
Rs. 44,900/-
Per Person
on Twin Sharing

4 star hotels
Rs. 50,199/-
Per Person
on Twin Sharing

*Terms & Conditions apply

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Upcoming International Events

Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Festival
When: 21 Mar - 4 Apr 2009 (annual)
Where: Abu Dhabi

Hong Kong International Film Festival
When: 22 Mar - 13 Apr 2009 (annual)
Where: Hong Kong

Mosaic Music Festival
When: 13 - 22 Mar 2009 (annual)
Where: Esplanade, Singapore

Japan Fashion Week
When: 23 - 29 Mar 2009 (various dates)
Where: Tokyo

King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament
When: 23 - 30 Mar 2009 (annual)
Where: Anantara Resort Golden Triangle, Thailand

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Corporate Office: 140 Hotel Metropole | Abdullah Haroon Road | Karachi 75520 | Pakistan