



COVID-19: Information to Swiss citizens currently traveling or residing in Laos / No. 3 / 25.03.2020

Dear compatriots,

Please find below a new update from the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok, responsible for consular affairs in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar.

If you are a Swiss citizen residing in Laos or in the region, please relay this newsletter to any Swiss citizens currently traveling in the region that you might know of.

A) Messages for the Swiss currently traveling in the region

1) Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok reiterates its **call to all Swiss citizens who are currently traveling in Laos or in the region – and who live in Switzerland – to return to Switzerland immediately**. There is a great uncertainty about how the situation will evolve in the next few days, both for the flights and the measures taken in the country by the Thai government to fight against the spread of the virus. This call does not apply to Swiss citizens living in Laos.

2) **Commercial flights**: more and more flights are canceled every day. A list of identified remaining international flights operating from Bangkok is available on the Embassy in Bangkok's [website](#) and is frequently updated. The only possibility to fly to Bangkok is through Thai Airways – which temporarily resumed some flights from Vientiane to Bangkok. However, these flights' schedules and availabilities remain unclear. Please contact directly Thai Airways if you are interested and also read the point 5 below regarding transiting through or entering Thailand.

3) In any case: **please make your way to the cities which are close to international airports as soon as possible** to be able to take advantage of any flying out opportunities.

- **For Lao PDR: Vientiane**
- For Thailand: Bangkok (a list of hotels near the airport is on our [website](#)) and Phuket
- For Cambodia: Phnom Penh
- For Myanmar: Yangon
- For Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur

4) **Travel Admin App / Itineris** : If not done yet, please register on the Swiss "[Travel Admin App](#)" (also known as "Itineris") so that we can contact you if needed. Also be aware that the date of your trips should be up-to-date so that our Embassy can easily know who is still in the country or not.

5) Info on flights **transiting in Thailand** : since yesterday evening 24.03 and for 7 days only (until 31.3 included), it will be possible to transit through an international airport in Thailand with a **fit-to-fly health certificate, without COVID test**. This applies to those who have "connecting flights" in Thailand *en route* to a third country. The certificate has to be presented at the check-in counter in the departing country for flight bound for Thailand. Transit imply that the travelers remain in the transit area the entire time, but less than 24 hours, before departing from Thailand to Switzerland or any third country. More information on the Embassy in Bangkok's [website](#).

35 North Wireless Road (Thanon Witthayu Nuea)
Lumphini, Pathum Wan
Bangkok 10330

G.P.O. Box 821, Bangkok 10501

Phone: +66 2 674 6900, Fax: +66 2 674 6901
bangkok@eda.admin.ch, www.eda.admin.ch/bangkok

Important: Travelers who need to step out of the transit area for new boarding pass will need to present, when checking in for a flight bound for Thailand, the same documents as those who want to enter the country:

- less than 3-day old health certificate certifying that the traveler is free of Covid-19;
- health insurance which cover Covid-19 treatment in Thailand and with the coverage of no less than USD 100,000.

B) Message for the Swiss community residing in Laos and in the region

1) **Traveling within Laos:** given the uncertainty and the fast evolving situation due to the spread of COVID-19 in the region, we would like to strongly advise you to stay at your place of residence to Laos, or to return to it as soon as possible.

2) **Operations of the Swiss Embassy in Bangkok:** The staff of the Swiss Embassy is still operating and is fully dedicated to the COVID-19 situation, in order to advise and assist Swiss citizens in the best possible way, with its resources available. Not urgent consular requests will be dealt with at a later stage. Thank you for your understanding.

I also invite you to watch **my video** from today addressed to the Swiss citizens traveling and living in the region. It is available on [Facebook](#) and our [website](#).

For further questions please contact: bangkok.cc@eda.admin.ch or +66 2 674 69 00. Or the Helpline FDFA: +41 800 24-7-365 or +41 58 465 33 33

Don't forget to regularly consult our social media: Facebook pages ([Embassy in Bangkok](#) and [Swiss Cooperation Mekong](#)) and the Embassy in Bangkok's [website](#) as well.

Stay safe and healthy and with my best greetings,

Helene Budliger Artieda
Swiss Ambassador to Switzerland to Lao PDR, Cambodia and Thailand