



Siam Legal Advises on Thailand's Proposed 300 Baht Tourist Entry Fee and Insurance Framework

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Siam Legal International, a full-service law firm in Thailand, is advising foreign visitors and long-term residents on the implications of Thailand's proposed tourist entry fee, which is currently under renewed consideration by the Thai government as of April 2026.

The proposal introduces a mandatory entry charge of 300 THB (approximately 8-9 USD) for travelers arriving by air and 150 THB (approximately 4-5 USD) for those entering by land or sea. The fee, locally referred to as "Kha Yeap Pan Din" or "stepping onto Thai soil," is separate from any visa or entry stamp and would apply to all foreign tourists entering the country, regardless of their visa category or length of stay.

According to Thai authorities, a portion of the fee will be allocated toward insurance coverage. Approximately 70 THB (approximately 2 USD) per traveler is expected to fund basic accident and medical insurance, which would activate immediately upon arrival in Thailand. This measure is designed to provide a baseline level of protection for tourists, particularly in cases of unforeseen medical emergencies or accidents, without requiring travelers to present separate insurance documentation at immigration checkpoints.

The remaining portion of the fee is intended to support a ring-fenced tourism development fund. Government agencies have indicated that this fund will be directed toward improving tourism infrastructure, enhancing public safety systems, and supporting sustainability initiatives across major tourist destinations. This includes upgrades to transportation networks, emergency response capabilities, and environmental management in high-traffic areas.

“The introduction of a standardized entry fee with built-in insurance reflects a broader policy shift toward self-funded tourism management,” said Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager at Siam Legal. “For travelers, this may simplify certain aspects of entry, particularly around basic insurance coverage. However, the details of implementation, collection methods, and any exemptions will be important to monitor closely as the policy develops.”

While the policy has been under discussion for several years, it has gained renewed momentum due to fiscal and structural considerations. Thailand has historically absorbed the cost of emergency assistance for foreign tourists, including unpaid medical expenses, without a dedicated or sustainable funding mechanism. High-profile incidents, including the Erawan Shrine bombing in 2015 and the Phuket boat disaster in 2018, exposed gaps in the country’s ability to provide consistent financial support for tourist welfare, prompting ongoing discussions around a more structured system.

The proposal has faced multiple delays in the past, largely due to concerns about its potential impact on tourism recovery during periods of reduced international arrivals. However, as tourism numbers continue to stabilize and rebound, authorities are revisiting the policy with a stronger focus on long-term sustainability and cost-sharing between the government and incoming travelers.

The current framework is expected to be submitted for cabinet consideration, although no official implementation date has been confirmed. Authorities are also reviewing whether additional insurance requirements may be introduced alongside the entry fee. While visa-exempt travelers are not currently required to show proof of insurance upon entry, the inclusion of basic coverage within the proposed fee may reduce the need for such requirements at a baseline level. Whether higher-tier or supplemental insurance requirements will be introduced remains under discussion.

In terms of collection, the government has indicated that for air travelers, the fee may be integrated into airline ticketing systems or collected upon arrival at designated checkpoints. For land and sea entries, separate collection mechanisms are being evaluated. Potential exemptions for certain categories of travelers have been mentioned, but no official criteria or qualifying groups have been confirmed to date.

Siam Legal notes that while the proposed entry fee primarily affects short-term visitors, it also reflects a broader shift in Thailand’s approach to tourism regulation and visitor management. Individuals planning

extended stays in Thailand may wish to consider long-term visa options that are not impacted by short-term entry policy changes. These include the Long-Term Resident visa, Thailand Privilege visa, Retirement Visa, and the Destination Thailand Visa, all of which provide more stable frameworks for residing in Thailand.

The firm continues to monitor developments closely and advises travelers, investors, and long-term residents to stay informed as further details are released and the policy progresses through the legislative process.

Siam Legal International is a Thailand-based law firm providing legal and immigration services to foreign nationals and Thai clients. The firm supports clients across visa strategy, corporate matters, property transactions, and regulatory compliance, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya.

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American-managed Thailand law firm with 22+ years' experience. Experts in corporate setup, BOI, FBL, family & divorce, property, litigation, immigration, notary, wills, contracts & due diligence across Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya & more.

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The logo for Siam Legal International features the word "SIAM" in a large, red, serif font with a small red flame-like accent above the letter "I". Below "SIAM" is a horizontal yellow line, and underneath that line, the word "LEGAL" is written in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font.