

## **SITUATION UPDATE IN THAILAND**

### **TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND FACT SHEET**

#### **Situation in Bangkok**

**As of 16 April, 2009/ 10.00 hrs. (Bangkok Time)**

The situation in Bangkok has returned to normal. Residents and visitors to Thailand are enjoying the Songkran Thai New Year celebrations throughout the Thai kingdom, including in Bangkok.

The Thai Government has also declared April 16 and 17 (Thursday and Friday) public holidays, thereby extending the Songkran festive holiday.

On 14 April, the leaders of the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) called off their anti-government protests. By mid-afternoon, all of the protestors had dispersed.

Shopping malls in Bangkok re-opened as of 13.00 hrs on 14 April and have continued to operate on a normal schedule since.

Hotels throughout the country are operating as normal.

The BTS SkyTrain, subway services, public utilities and communication services continue to operate uninterrupted.

All roads in Bangkok are now open to traffic. Bus services on all routes and the train service to/from Bangkok have resumed.

All other travel-related infrastructure and services, including all airports, train services throughout the country, and roadways are operating as normal and all other parts of Thailand are safe for travel and tourists can still visit other destinations and attractions.

The Kingdom's various tourist attractions and shopping districts are open for business as usual and tourists and visitors can continue to enjoy the variety of sites, food and experiences. For information, please call the TAT Call Center: 1672.

Under the emergency decree, the prohibition of public gatherings of more than five people in Bangkok is limited to political activities and acts which may lead to unrest.

The measure does not in any way apply to Songkran celebrations and festivities, the organization of local and international corporate meetings, incentive events, conventions, and exhibitions, or MICE. It is 'business-as-usual' for all MICE events hosted in Thailand.

The Emergency Decree is only a temporary measure. Representatives from Thailand's travel and tourism-related trade associations are scheduled to meet

with the Thai government on 17 April to discuss the lifting of the Emergency Decree at the earliest possible time.

**Note:**

Following the safe departure of the ASEAN leaders on 11 April (Saturday), the state of emergency for Pattaya and Chon Buri province was lifted soon after 19.00 hrs. on the same day.

Tourism Situation in Pattaya

<http://www.youtube.com/thailand>

Please click to view video clip

For the latest updates and official announcements by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, please visit the Ministry's web site: [www.mfa.go.th](http://www.mfa.go.th) or check with Thai embassies and consulates nearest to you.

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