**RESUMPTION OF TRAVEL**

Restarting economies in the recovery stage of MCO

"The world is slowly opening up again...signalling a transition into gearing up for stronger and better recovery, 3% of all global destinations have now taken steps to ease travel restrictions"  
UN World Tourism Organization

Travels have been drastically affected in 2020 due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) that spurred various Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place as preventative measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. On the 12th of June, the Malaysian government finally allowed all domestic flights and public transport to run at full capacity under the Recovery Movement Control Order (R M C O).

In this snapshot, we explore the cautious resumption of international travel, domestic tourism, local public transport, and airline policies.

**IMPLEMENTING A ‘TRAVEL BUBBLE’ CONCEPT**

Malaysia is in preliminary discussions with six countries on possible implementation of ‘Travel Bubble’ and to introduce the ‘Green Bubble’ concept. The ‘Green Bubble’ concept eases travel restrictions between two or more countries with relatively low COVID-19 cases, allowing its citizens to travel to Malaysia (vice versa) without a 14-day quarantine upon testing negative for COVID-19.

With the aim to restart Malaysia’s economy, the following initiatives are underway:

1. **Tourism:** Malaysia to ease travel restrictions between countries within the ‘Green Zone’. Malaysia is also allowing medical tourists to enter the country. However, medical tourists must first register with the Malaysian Healthcare Travel Council prior to travelling.
2. **Work:** Singapore and Malaysia to lift cross-border travels between the two countries and allowing expatriates from ‘Green Zone’ countries to return to Malaysia.

**RESUSCITATING DOMESTIC TOURISM**

The RMCO implemented on 10 June eased restrictions for interstate travels within Malaysia. Attractions such as museums and recreational fishing activities could resume operations. However, pubs and nightclubs are still prohibited from operating. Local airline companies such as Malaysian Airlines (MAS) and AirAsia announced that they will resume and increase frequency for domestic flights in June.

Local hotels and resorts in places such as Langkawi also started to offer a wider range of promotions to attract and encourage domestic travels.

**LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT AT FULL CAPACITY**

All public transport services in Malaysia can now operate at full capacity. As a precautionary measure, all passengers are required to register themselves either manually or through the MySejahtera contact tracing app. Bus operators are also required to check the temperatures of passengers before boarding and provide face masks to passengers not wearing one.

RapidKL’s collaboration with Google Maps allows users to check real-time status and schedules for RapidKL buses. This new feature helps users to plan their commute efficiently.

**SOLUTIONS SNAPSHOT**

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**AIRLINE POLICIES**

Emirates in collaboration with the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) become the first airline to offer COVID-19 rapid testing for their passengers. All Emirates aircraft were also subjected to enhanced cleaning and disinfection after each journey.

Singapore Airlines replaced their in-flight magazines and newspapers with electronic copies. All passengers will also be provided with a ‘Care Kit’ as one of the many precautionary measures.