

# Travel Insights Report



At PacRim Marketing Group and PR Tech the wellness of our customers, associates and the community is important to us and we are monitoring the current situation with COVID-19 very closely. Following is the latest roundup of news from Hawaii and Asia.

## **UPDATES re COVID-19, Novel Coronavirus**

As of May 13, 2020

### **GLOBAL**

Global Coronavirus cases: 4,315,679

### **USA**

Domestic Coronavirus cases (including Hawaii): 1,380,465

Hawaii cases: 635

### **CHINA**

China Coronavirus cases (Domestic): 84,021

### **JAPAN**

Japan Coronavirus cases (Domestic): 15,968

### **S. KOREA**

South Korea Coronavirus cases (Domestic): 10,962

For updated figures on the disease toll in individual countries and worldwide, please visit:  
<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

## **HAWAII**

- State of Hawaii allows retail businesses to open. In a significant step toward reopening the local economy, Gov. David Ige [05/05/20] authorized shopping malls and a variety of retail businesses to reopen provided they minimize contact between employees and customers.
- Ige's seventh supplementary emergency proclamation to cope with the [threat of the new coronavirus](#) will allow state residents to leave home to shop at the newly reopened "low risk" businesses, but Ige said the state expects there will be an increase in new COVID-19 cases as the local economy reopens.
- The new Hawaii motto is "Safer At Home," and said people should not be congregating. People shopping will still be required to wear masks and practice social distancing.

- Retail opening dates and types of stores/services permitted to open are determined by the mayors of each county.
  - Most retail sales will not begin on Oahu until May 15.
  - Shopping malls and most retail and repair shops in Maui County were allowed to open on May 11.
- Some businesses were allowed to reopen on 5/7/20 at 12 a.m.
  - Retail, certain repairs, shopping malls, real estate services, car dealership, mobile service providers, one-to-one educational services, etc.
  - Full proclamation: [https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2005024-ATG\\_Seventh-Supplementary-Proclamation-for-COVID-19-distribution-signed-1.pdf](https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2005024-ATG_Seventh-Supplementary-Proclamation-for-COVID-19-distribution-signed-1.pdf)
- Golf courses were permitted to reopen on May 1, subject to new guidelines.
- The state is working on a plan that would permit “medium-risk” businesses to open May 25.
- Visitor Industry
  - Mainland visitors continue to visit Hawaii and get arrested for not complying with the mandatory 14-day quarantine order, which is currently due to expire on May 31.
  - Government, visitor industry officials and the general public have raised concerns about a lack of enforcement for the quarantine order and confusion.
  - Several visitors have been sent home for breaking quarantine. Fines and other penalties are being proposed.
  - The 14-day quarantine for incoming travelers to Hawaii might be extended into June.

## **AIRLINE INDUSTRY**

- Hawaii – Japan
  - JAL: All flights between Japan – Hawaii suspended till 6/15/20
  - ANA: Honolulu to/from Haneda (HND) & Narita (NRT) flight suspension extended thru 6/15/20<sup>1</sup>
  - Hawaiian Airlines<sup>2</sup>
    - HND – HNL (HA855 & HA856): suspended until 7/03
    - HND – KONA: suspended until 7/02
    - Sapporo – HNL: suspended until 7/20
    - Other Hawaii – Japan flights to resume on 6/15
  - Delta Honolulu – Japan flights suspended until 7/02
  - United – NRT– HNL resumes 9/08
- Hawaii – Korea
  - Hawaiian Airlines (ICN – HNL): Suspended till 6/15
  - Korean Air (ICN – HNL / ICN – NRT – HNL): Suspended until 7/17<sup>3</sup>
  - Asiana Airlines (ICN – HNL): Suspended till 7/01

If Hawaii extends the stay-at-home order and self-quarantine for visitors, the flight schedules will likely change, impacting summer travel.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.anahd.co.jp/group/pr/202005/20200512-2.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://hawaiianairlines.com/ScheduleChanges.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>

[https://www.koreanair.com/content/dam/koreanair/Global/Documents/about/corona19/6%EC%9B%94%20%EC%BD%94%EB%A1%9C%EB%82%9819%20%EB%B9%84%EC%9A%B4%ED%95%AD%20%EB%B0%8F%20%EA%B0%90%ED%8E%B8%20%ED%98%84%ED%99%A9\(%EA%B3%B5%EC%A7%80\)\\_0512\\_1600%20-%20ENG.pdf](https://www.koreanair.com/content/dam/koreanair/Global/Documents/about/corona19/6%EC%9B%94%20%EC%BD%94%EB%A1%9C%EB%82%9819%20%EB%B9%84%EC%9A%B4%ED%95%AD%20%EB%B0%8F%20%EA%B0%90%ED%8E%B8%20%ED%98%84%ED%99%A9(%EA%B3%B5%EC%A7%80)_0512_1600%20-%20ENG.pdf)

## **JAPAN**

- State of Emergency extended to 5/31<sup>4</sup>
  - Original planned date: 5/6
- Hawaii – Japan flights
  - ANA: Honolulu – HND & NRT flights suspension extended till 6/15/20 (<https://www.anahd.co.jp/group/pr/202005/20200512-2.html>)
- Japan to raise its travel alert for additional 13 countries to Level 3, the second highest level
  - 100 countries and regions are included in the Level 3 advisory, which urges Japanese nationals to "evacuate immediately" and "avoid all travel regardless of purpose." (<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/05/12/national/japan-raises-travel-alert-13-countries-virus-pandemic/#.XrsX8WhKjcs>)
- During Golden Week, many tourism destinations saw 50 - 90% decrease in visitors compared to the same period last year
  - Freeway usage dropped to 30%
  - Shinkansen and rapid service train usage decreased by 95%
  - However, home centers and parks in the city area saw an increase in visitors
- Tokyo logged sixth consecutive day below 100 cases on 5/8<sup>5</sup>
  - However, the government suggested the threat of a second wave of infections will remain for months<sup>6</sup>
- Government approved Remdesivir drug for COVID-19 treatment<sup>7</sup>
- While the new cases drop, the number of deaths is on a rise<sup>8</sup>
- Recession expected as spending and service activity plunge
  - According to Asia Pacific Research Institute, consumer spending decreased by approx. \$7.4 billion USD (800 billion JPY) in Kansai region alone
  - Tax revenue decreased by 9% in March 2020
- Experts are suggesting the new “normal” to co-exist with the virus.<sup>9</sup> Examples:
  - General: Practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash hands and face
  - Travel: Refrain from traveling as much as possible and avoid visiting highly infected areas
  - Socializing: Note who you met/where you went to make tracking contacts easy
  - Shopping: Go shopping alone when it is not crowded or use online shopping. Plan ahead and do not spend too much time at the store.
  - Restaurants: Use takeout/delivery service when possible. Outdoor seating suggested. Do not talk while eating, do not share food/beverage.
  - Events: Do not gather in big groups.

### **Schools:**

- Schools in Aomori and Tottori prefectures reopened
  - Some schools only allow half of the students at school each day

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nippon.com/en/japan-data/h00715/japan%E2%80%99s-extended-state-of-emergency.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/05/08/national/tokyo-logs-sixth-consecutive-day-100-39-coronavirus-cases/#.XrXu1GhKjcs>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/05/05/national/japan-new-lifestyle-coronavirus-shinzo-abe/#.XrXurmhKjcs>

<sup>7</sup> <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/05/a71bc1fcd3ad-update1-japan-approves-remdesivir-for-covid-19-treatment-in-expedited-review.html>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.asahi.com/articles/ASN5C7SFZN5CUTIL031.html?iref=pc\\_special\\_coronavirus\\_top](https://www.asahi.com/articles/ASN5C7SFZN5CUTIL031.html?iref=pc_special_coronavirus_top)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.asahi.com/articles/ASN5C3QK1N57UCLV00G.html?iref=pc\\_special\\_coronavirus\\_top](https://www.asahi.com/articles/ASN5C3QK1N57UCLV00G.html?iref=pc_special_coronavirus_top)

- Most other schools remain closed. Aichi prefecture announced metropolitan high school closure till the end of May
  - Summer break will be significantly shorter<sup>10</sup>
- No official resume date is set for schools
  - State of emergency is set to end on 5/6, but it could be longer
- 1 in 13 college students are thinking of dropping out of school due to COVID-19<sup>11</sup>
  - Lost their full/part-time jobs
  - 70% students rely on their part-time job income to pay tuition/necessities<sup>12</sup>

#### **Observation from a Tokyo Team Member:**

- In Tokyo where I still am, the “tension” of people feels slightly loosened up with some stores reopening after a very quiet Golden Week, and the country’s state of emergency being extended but possibly being lifted soon in some areas outside of Tokyo. Schools are still closed for most until the end of May. To make up for lost school hours, opening up schools in August (which is summer vacation in a normal year) is a possibility, which is making it difficult to consider travel in August for families even among those who are optimistic about being able to travel in summer.

#### **KOREA**

- Government to extend the strict social distancing rules until 5/19
  - Original planned date: 5/5
  - This is due to the recent cluster infection which took place in nightclubs, sporadic cases in the communities, and the large number of tourists that visited Jeju Island during the long weekend (4/30 - 5/5)
  - Schools, public parks, and libraries to open in phases
  - Other business establishments are allowed to open if they follow basic sanitation measures
- Government had planned to shift from strict social distancing rules to “everyday life quarantine”<sup>13</sup>
- Cluster infection took place in nightclubs
  - At least 102 confirmed cases (73 visited the clubs, 29 family and friends)
  - Government issued a month long advisory on clubs and bars
  - If clubs decide to remain open, all visitors will be required to wear a mask
- Imported cases jumped with the relaxed social distancing rules
- Communities are encouraging residents to avoid close contact with each other and visiting public places
  - Promoting remote working system and delay of the new school semester

#### **Travel:**

- South Korea's Foreign Ministry extends “Special Travel Advisory” to May 23<sup>14</sup>
  - Called on citizens to cancel or postpone their trips to any foreign countries/regions
  - Residents are allowed to take only domestic trips
  - Between level 2 – 3 under the country's four-tier advisory system
    - First stage (blue): travel note, second stage (yellow): travel restraint, third stage (red): recommended withdrawal, fourth stage (black): immediate withdrawal/prohibition of travel

<sup>10</sup> <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20200424/k10012403161000.html>

<sup>11</sup> [https://news.tbs.co.jp/newseye/tbs\\_newseye3963060.html](https://news.tbs.co.jp/newseye/tbs_newseye3963060.html)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.nishinippon.co.jp/item/n/602788/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/s-korea-to-reopen-schools-new-everyday-life-quarantine-in-force>

<sup>14</sup> [http://world.kbs.co.kr/service/news\\_view.htm?lang=e&Seq\\_Code=152939](http://world.kbs.co.kr/service/news_view.htm?lang=e&Seq_Code=152939)

- Aimed at preventing the inflow of viruses into Korea amid the global pandemic of COVID-19 as well as preventing Koreans from becoming infected and isolated overseas
- South Korean nationals residing overseas have been returning home. Are subject to temporary quarantine and restrictions
- The government suspended its visa waiver agreement / visa-free entry beginning April 13 for countries with a ban on entry by Korean nationals
  - Applies to 90 countries/regions including Australia and Germany
- As the authorities expect the reemergence, these travel restriction measures will unlikely be lifted after May
- Travel demand is flocking to domestic travel destinations such as Jeju Island and Gangwon Province

## **GREATER CHINA**

- Government claims that China has contained COVID-19<sup>15</sup> and it is under control
  - Some question the data and fear the second wave
- Shanghai Disneyland to reopen on 5/11/20<sup>16</sup>
  - Capacity is restricted to 30% (24,000)
  - Pre-purchased ticket or reservations for annual pass holders required
  - They will take all guests' temperature and practice social distance (they are not allowed to hug Mickey Mouse)
- Exports increased by 3.5% compared to last year while imports decreased 14.2% in April 2020
- Countries including the U.S., U.K., India, and Turkey plan to sue China for failing to take precautionary measures to stop the virus spreading globally<sup>17</sup>
- Robotaxi providers plan to increase the number of driverless cars on the road to accommodate people unwilling to take public transportation<sup>18</sup>
- Taiwan marks 30 days of no new local cases as of 5/12/20.  
(<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2020/05/13/2003736302>)
- Wuhan plans to test all residents in the city after a new cluster infection emerged  
(<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2020/05/13/2003736304>)

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

The World Travel & Tourism Council has launched a campaign aimed at uniting the global travel and tourism community. The campaign asks people from around the world to share the hashtag **#TogetherInTravel**, along with a video to demonstrate their passion for travel and spread a message of solidarity. [www.togetherintravel.com](http://www.togetherintravel.com)



<sup>15</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2020/05/07/851255361/china-says-it-contained-covid-19-now-it-fights-to-control-the-story>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/news/2020/05/08/coronavirus-disneys-shanghai-park-set-reopen-fever-checks-social-distancing/3094802001/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-05-06/lawsuits-against-china-escalate-covid-19-blame-game-with-u-s>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-52392366>