



## Travelling To Hong Kong Now During ATB Could Cost You More Than S\$1,600

### Description

*Singaporeans can now travel to Hong Kong for leisure under the Singapore-Hong Kong Air Travel Bubble (ATB). However, just because you can...should you? Here's why I won't be travelling just yet.*

From 22 November 2020 onwards, Singaporeans can now travel to Hong Kong for leisure, and vice-versa. But before you rejoice and start booking your travel tickets, here's what you should take note of.

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## 1. You'll need to pay ~\$500 in COVID-19 tests.

There are a total of 4 tests that you'll have to pay for – a pre-departure and post-arrival PCR test, both ways.

- [Pre-departure PCR test \(in Singapore\)](#): S\$200
- Post-arrival PCR test (at the Hong Kong International Airport): HKD 499
- [Pre-departure PCR test \(in Hong Kong\)](#): from HKD 700
- [Post-arrival PCR test \(at Changi Airport\)](#): S\$300

Before you leave Singapore, you'll need to have first taken a PCR test showing that you do not have COVID-19. Once you arrive at Hong Kong, you will need to take another COVID-19 test again.

To travel back from Hong Kong to Singapore, you'll need to repeat the process again. With each PCR test costing S\$200 in Singapore and ~S\$100 in Hong Kong, expect to pay at least S\$600 in total, if not more.

Unless the government(s) find a way to reduce the cost of COVID-19 tests, you can be sure that I won't be travelling anytime soon. Anything more than S\$100 in total for required tests will be a no-no for me.

## **2. You cannot enter / leave the airport until your tests are clear.**

Costs aside, you'll also have to schedule time to do your COVID-19 test and get your results within 72 hours of your scheduled departure flights. Before you get on that plane, there's also all that hassle of having to book your post-arrival PCR test in Hong Kong.

Upon arrival at the Hong Kong airport, expect to wait ~4 hours for your test results to be out. You won't be able to leave the airport until you've been cleared negative of COVID-19.

Again, unless the government(s) find and implement tests that have been proven fairly accurate with results out within minutes, I won't be keen on spending so much time waiting around for results.

## **3. There are no discounted / budget air tickets available.**

At this moment, you will only be able to [travel via the designated flights – there will be 4 operated by Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines](#).

Flights are about ~S\$500+ each way, and economy class tickets on Singapore Airlines are in huge demand, so you can [expect to set aside around S\\$1,100 for just your air tickets](#) alone.

## **4. You can't get insurance.**

~~If you were hoping to get insurance to protect you financially against the costs of COVID-19 treatments, there aren't any such options at this moment. A quick look at the clauses of several travel insurance plans show that COVID-19 has been explicitly excluded from it (examples [here](#) and [here](#)).~~

Good news, [travel insurance is now available when you book with Singapore Airlines](#). I'm only aware of [AIG travel insurance that currently covers for COVID-19](#), but if anyone else finds other insurers covering for the same, let me know in the comments below and I'll add it in!

## **5. You're liable to pay for your own medical treatments if you get COVID-19.**

In the unfortunate event that you contract COVID-19 due to your travel, note that the government will not foot your medical bills.

All in all, that's not a very promising sign.

**Total cost to travel and take tests: ~\$1,600**

**Total cost on your health / medical bills if you get COVID-19: unknown**

Given how my previous trips to Hong Kong mostly cost me under S\$300 on a budget airline, coupled with all the hassle of having to pay for multiple COVID-19 tests, you can be sure I won't be travelling anytime soon – ATB or not.

I'll be heading to Hilton for their Foodie Staycation offer instead, where I'll be getting steak and 2-hours of free flow wine to accompany my hotel stay. Count it as part of my #supportlocaltourism contributions, although I actually booked it for a birthday celebration.

If you asked me, I'd choose health over travel anytime. But if you have a different opinion and will be heading to Hong Kong soon under the ATB, [here's a good video that shows what you can expect.](#)

As for me, I feel overseas travel can wait until it is *safer* and *cheaper* once more.

With love,

Budget Babe

**Category**

1. Family

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