

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

## Description

default watermark

*Singaporeans can now travel to Hong Kong for leisure under the Singapore-Hong Kong Air Travel Bubble (ATB). However, just because you canâ?¦should you? Hereâ??s why I wonâ??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, hereâ??s what you should take note of.

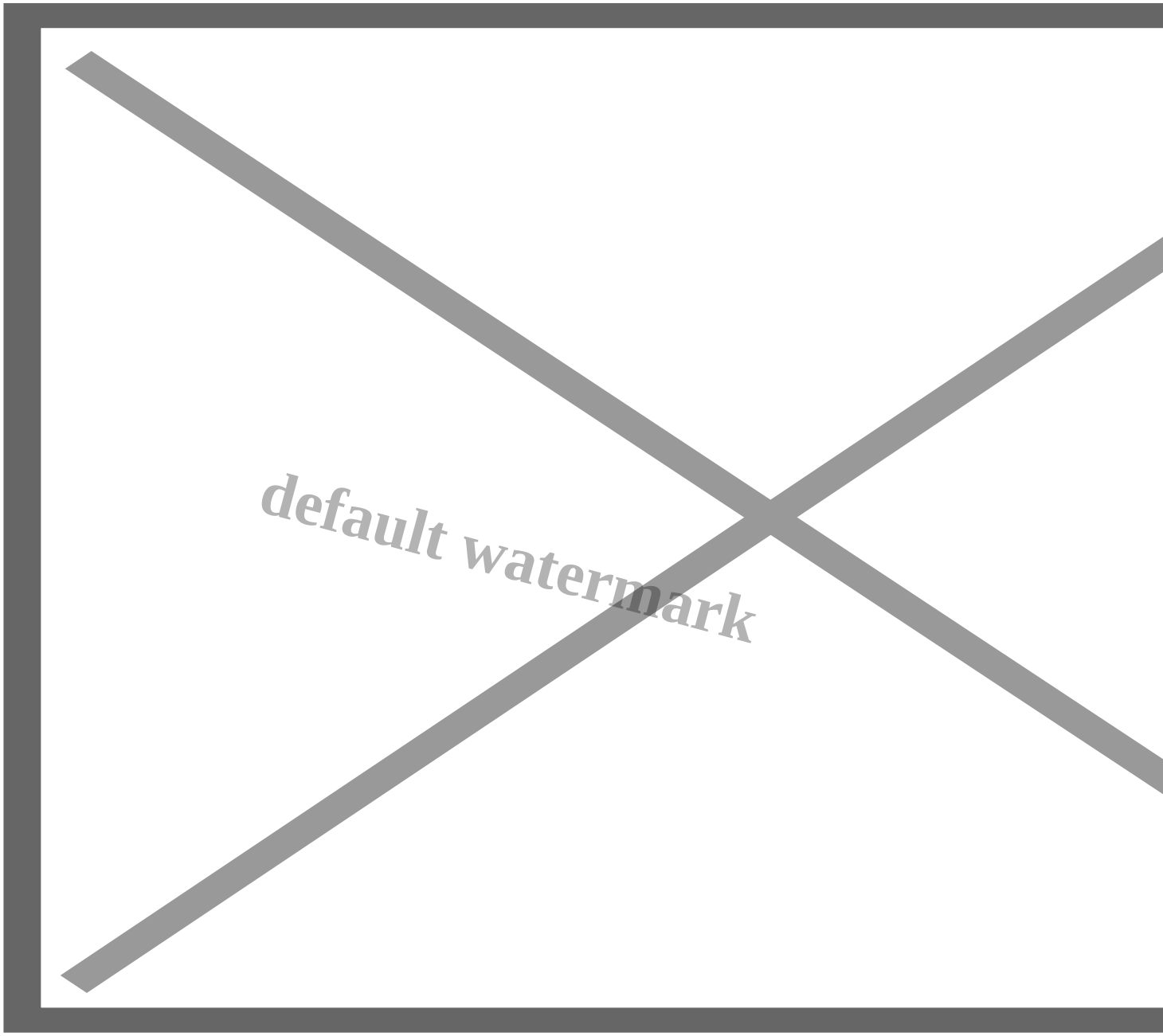


Image Credits

## 1. Youâ??ll need to pay ~$500 in COVID-19 tests.

There are a total of 4 tests that youâ??ll have to pay for â?? 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, youâ??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, youâ??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 wonâ??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, youâ??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, thereâ??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 wonâ??t be able to leave the airport until youâ??ve been cleared negative of COVID-19.

default watermark

Again, unless the government(s) find and implement tests that have been proven fairly accurate with results out within minutes, I wonâ??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 â?? 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 canâ??t get insurance.~~

~~If you were hoping to get insurance to protect you financially against the costs of COVID-19 treatments, there arenâ??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. Iâ??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 Iâ??ll add it in!

## 5. Youâ??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, thatâ??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 wonâ??t be travelling anytime soon â?? ATB or not.

Iâ??ll be heading to Hilton for their Foodie Staycation offer instead, where Iâ??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, Iâ??d choose health over travel anytime. But if you have a different opinion and will be heading to Hong Kong soon under the ATB, hereâ??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

default watermark

**Category**

1. Family