

# REPORT: AIRLINES: SOUTHEAST ASIA

## What you need to know

September 2021

This report presents a roundup of what's been happening to airlines in Southeast Asia over the last month.

## Major airlines

### Philippine Airlines

#### Airline files for Chapter 11

On [September 6](#), Philippine Airlines (PAL) filed for a pre-arranged restructuring under the U.S. Chapter 11 process. The filing applies only to PAL and excludes PAL Holdings and Air Philippines Corporation (operating as PAL Express). PAL will continue to operate flights while it restructures under a reorganization plan that awaits court approval.

### SIA Group

#### Big rise in August passengers

SIA Group carried [155,400](#) passengers in [August 2021](#), up [290%](#) year-over-year. With capacity increased by [330%](#) and traffic rising by [299%](#), the group saw a very small [1.3](#) point dip in load factor to just [18%](#). Capacity is at 32% of pre-pandemic levels.

Singapore Airlines carried 133,300 passengers, up from 32,700 in August 2020. The respective figures for low-cost carrier Scoot were 22,100 and 7,100.

## Low-cost carriers

### AirAsia

#### Losses reduced on revenue rise

AirAsia Group reported a [161%](#) year-over-year increase in revenue to [MYR371 million](#) (US\$89 million), which was driven largely by stronger cargo revenues. The company managed to reduce operating losses from [MYR1.18 billion](#) to [MYR653 million](#) (\$157 million). A focus on profitable routes, lease restructuring, asset optimization and targeted cost control all contributed to the improved result.

#### Airline ready for recovery

Malaysian airline AirAsia is ready to fully restore its domestic and international services following the national government's announcement of the resumption of interstate travel and the reopening of tourism activities once the vaccination rate reaches [90%](#).

AirAsia notes overwhelming demand for domestic leisure destinations that have recently reopened. To cope with load factors of [80-90%](#), the airline is adding more frequencies and routes. It expects international travel to resume within the next few months.

## Cebu Pacific

### Return to Hong Kong

As it gradually rebuilds its international network, Philippine low-cost carrier Cebu Pacific has resumed [six-times](#) weekly service from Manila to Hong Kong. The airline has also reinstated international flights to Nagoya, Osaka, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei and Tokyo Narita.

## Nok Air

### Full-year losses deepen

At Bt6.74 billion (US\$209 million), Nok Air's [revenues](#) during [2020](#) were [66%](#) lower year-over-year. This resulted in a significant deepening of the airline's annual [pre-tax loss](#) from Bt1.74 billion to [Bt9.43 billion](#) (\$292 million).

## Other airlines

### Bamboo Airways

#### Flights to U.S. a step closer

Vietnamese carrier Bamboo Airways is to operate charter flights to the U.S. ahead of the formal launch of scheduled transpacific services. Between [September](#) and [November](#), it intends to operate special charter flights from Hanoi and Da Nang to San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle. Ho Chi Minh City to San Francisco and Los Angeles could be Bamboo's first [scheduled](#) routes.

### Super Air Jet

#### New route added

Indonesian start-up carrier Super Air Jet launched in early [August](#) with [daily](#) flights from Jakarta to Medan and Batam. It added a [third](#) route on [September 18](#), with another daily domestic operation linking Jakarta with Palembang.

## Note

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at September 27, 2021. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

Do you have questions or comments regarding this report?

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