Press Clippings
May 31 - June 6, 2014
Print Coverage
Tower Club at lebua
lebua at State Tower
Five-star glamour

...at a modest cost to travellers

The sprawl of the city, at night with millions of twinkling lights is mesmerizing.

The third floor of the Tower Club at lebua is the perfect spot to observe the twinkling lights of the metropolis. A water feature underneath the floor-to-ceiling windows offers a serene view of the city lights. The high ceilings and elegant décor of the Tower Club provide a luxurious atmosphere for the guests to enjoy the view.

The Tower Club at lebua is a perfect spot for a private dinner or a romantic evening out. The rooftop terrace offers a stunning view of the city lights and the surrounding area.

Shop until you drop

Singapore has a lot to offer! The Great Singapore Sale provides a great deal of fabulous shopping and discounts on everything from fashion, to food, to entertainment. The sale is running from mid-July to mid-August.

The major shopping centers in Singapore, including Orchard Road, Serangoon Garden and Thomson Road, are all participating in the sale.

Cruise French waterways

If there’s one way to enjoy the finest cuisine, art, culture and history, it’s by river cruising! Experience the beauty of France’s historical waterways and see the countryside up close.

Cruise from Paris to Lyon and experience the beauty of the French countryside. Enjoy scenic views of vineyards, castles and small towns.

On October 7, head to Paris on a luxury cruise aboard the MS Seine Princess, where you’ll have the opportunity to explore the city’s historic sites and enjoy the French culture.
เลือกวิเอิร์ท แลนด์ วิลเลจ บนระเบียงพิทแม่น้ำและห้องพักที่การออกแบบที่เกี่ยวข้อง
การท่องเที่ยวสุขภาพดีขึ้น สำหรับยูนิเวิร์สัล ที่เน้นด้านสุขภาพดีขึ้น
โดยเริ่มต้นด้วย บริการรีวิวจากทั้งสุขภาพดีที่ทางรีวิว
ที่มีประสบการณ์จากสุขภาพดีที่ได้รับการรีวิว
ที่มีผลิตภัณฑ์ดีสุดที่ได้รับการรีวิว

State Tower, 1055 Silom Road, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Thailand
T: +66 (0) 2624 9999 F: +66 (0) 2624 9998 resvn@lebua.com www.lebua.com

Media: Ban Muang / Thailand
Article: lebua’s staycation package
Page: 12 Date: May 31, 2014
GETAWAYS

BANGKOK
Rooms with a view

Bangkok’s Lebua hotel is offering visitors to the city a series of special packages including the "My Sirocco or Breeze" promotion. It starts at US$239 per night, and includes accommodation in a suite with spacious balcony offering breathtaking views of the Bangkok skyline. Also included is breakfast for two at Cafe Mozu and a four-course dinner at The Dome or Breeze. This luxury hotel is located in Bangkok’s central business district. Reservations can be made until June 30 for stays from now until July 31. Call (01) 624 9555 or e-mail: resv@lebua.com, Visit www.lebua.com/tower-club.
Online Coverage
CEO Interview on passion for global dining destination / UAE

Date: June 1, 2014

Provisioning luxury seekers with the ultimate high-end experience, CEO, lebua Hotels & Resorts, Deepak Ohri exclusively speaks to TTG about the hotel company’s passion for F&B and Thailand’s position as a global dining destination.

TTG: What news can you share with us?

Sirocco (a popular outlet on the 64th floor of lebua at State Tower, Bangkok, Thailand) celebrated its 10th anniversary this past New Year’s Eve with a phenomenal event, the Bangkok Ball Drop at lebua, which captured the public’s attention around the world and is set to be the new icon for Bangkok’s New Year celebrations.

In addition, Sirocco recently launched the ‘2003 Heritage Collection’ menu to honor the ten-year quest by our chefs for exclusive, unique ingredients and new ways to combine them that has made the restaurant an unrivalled culinary destination in Bangkok.

We are expanding our dining concepts to Europe through a strategic partnership with Steigenberger Hotel Group, starting with the 2015 launch of the restaurant Breeze by lebua at the Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof in Germany.

TTG: What new trends and innovations are shaping tourism in Thailand?

Tourists are increasingly seeking innovative, memorable experiences during their visit to Thailand. lebua was the first in the country to offer a truly world-class dining experience in terms of atmosphere, service and cuisine. Since then, Bangkok has become a global dining destination.

The expectations of local, expat and international guests continue to rise, and we continuously push ourselves to offer guests distinct dining experiences. For example, at Breeze, we launched the ‘Oshi 2020’ concept.

Based on lebua chefs’ predictions of what Chinese cuisine will look like in six years, the new à la carte menu is a fully interactive dining experience. Guests can mix their own cocktails using unexpected ingredients before cracking open a salt rock sited in an elegant wooden box to reveal the feast within, and roll the dice to let fate determine the lucky sauce that will accompany their Omi Beef.
Das praias a Bangcoc, turistas perguntam: 'Que golpe?'

Entretanto, indústria do turismo já registra queda

POR JOSÉ F. MECHEK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

— Recenemos mais de 650 cancelamentos nos últimos cinco dias — disse o executivo-chef no Hotel Lebua, Deepak Ohri. A cobertura do hotel, vertiginosamente alta, onde fica o Sky Bar, foi destaque do filme "Se beber não case — Parte II".

O hotel cinco estrelas, com 358 quartos, está oferecendo promoções que chamam de "Fique de Férias", para atraer moradores e tê-los tomar uns díritos ou jantar e passar a noite, e evitar voltar correndo para casa por causa do toque de recolher. O Swissotel Nai Lert Park anunciou um similar: "Combata o Toque de Recolher", com ofertas semelhantes para os moradores, durante junho.

Hotéis informam que estão à espera do desenrolar dos eventos, antes de cortar as taxas para os visitantes estrangeiros. A Junta militar advertiu esta semana que não vai tolerar disssidência ou protesto, aumentando as preocupações sobre uma repressão aos manifestantes antigojfe.

— Se isso perdurar por mais uma semana, haverá uma guerra de preços — admitiu Ohri. — Então, novamente, se uma guerra civil acontecer, guerras de preços de hotel não têm nenhuma relevância.
Thai coup fails to dent tourists' enthusiasm

31 MAY 2014

The Khan Saa road is renowned as one of the busiest hubs for backpackers in South East Asia. They shop off in the Thai capital for a few days, before hitting the beaches or travelling north.

Gastro-tourists say they had numerous cancellations last week, when the army staged a coup and toppled the government.

The curfew was imposed in the city centre, and local businesses say that business has dropped significantly.

SOUNDbite: Moniqueclr, Mariner, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 28 May (1min)

"Since the coup things have got a bit worse, because before the coup I could make a living but after the coup, I have only earned a little. Things are harder than before."

Thailand has been rocked by months of protests—which has deterred some tourists from coming.

And in the days after the coup, the once-bustling Bangkok has hundreds of cancellations and bookings dropped to nearly 70 per cent.

But some of the curfew has released the hotel industry business as returning to normal.

SOUNDbite 2: Deepak, CEO, Lebua hotels and resorts, (30 May, 17:50)

"This people actually are such a great nation, and great and so when the people actually come back. Whether there is a tourism, whether there are floods or whether this is a political issue, guests always come back."

There are some soldiers and police on the streets, and small daily protests against the coup—but life continues as normal for many people here.

At the time, no tourists are still arriving, as well as heading off on day trips to other parts of the Kingdom.

SOUNDbite 3: Tavala Vella, Tourist (men, French, 13:39)

"Well, we always join questions about Bangkok and actually we felt that it is safer than France. Even if there were some hits, they were covered a lot on T.V. and we're really safe and we haven't seen anything out of the ordinary."

(France's PM calls Bangkok, on our posts of questions of all that on the same day, plus the political issue, France, maybe we go as does elsewhere, we can find a safe place, we are on the streets, the police force, and to the police of particular area."

It's at night that Bangkok really comes alive, and although bars are still supposed to shut at midnight, revellers are still out in force.

Many countries have issued travel warnings to avoid crowded sites, and while many tourists prefer to bypass the capital for the Thai beaches, those who do come have shown determination to enjoy themselves.

SHOUTLIST:

BANGKOK, THAILAND, 28 MAY 2014

SOURCE: AFP

- Various images for use on the Khan Saa Road
- Voice of Bangkok
- SOUNDbite 1
- Voice of degraded army vehicle
- Still video footage

State Tower, 1055 Silom Road, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Thailand
T: +66 (0) 2624 9999  F: +66 (0) 2624 9998  resvn@lebua.com  www.lebua.com
Article: lebua’s staycation package / Thailand
Date: June 1, 2014

Website: http://www.ryt9.com/s/bmnd/1909432
The World's Highest Bars: Why Cocktails Are Better in the Clouds

Bangkok's Sky Bar, the place to take in the Bangkok cityscape.
(Photoby Steve Jurvetson)

Highest Outdoor Bar in the World

This picturesque 820-foot-high Sky Bar on the 63rd floor of Bangkok's towering Lebua Hotel looks like something out of a dream. From its perch at the edge of Sirocco restaurant, the color-changing lights give the feeling of floating on the Bangkok skyline. Grab a seat at the circular bar and sample one of celebrated mixologist Ron Ramirez's signature cocktails — like the Hangovertini, a drink inspired by the R-rated sequel that was shot here.
Five-Star Glamour

Every Aussie who has visited Thailand has fallen in love with the country and its people, so it is sad to see one of our beloved holiday destinations in turmoil.

I visited Bangkok late last year and saw life going on as usual (even though I didn’t venture into any protest areas).

But now it feels as though the bubble is about to burst in the city, and it is essential to be aware of potential travel risks. It is time to support a favourite holiday destination.

The Smart Traveler website will keep you informed.

Over the years I’ve been a regular visitor to Bangkok and love its street side as much as its high-end luxury.

The first time I stayed at Lebua State Tower I spent the duration at the Tower Club on the 59th floor trying to wrap up my plan.

Up there in the sky with all of Bangkok spread out below you, you can see and feel the frantic pulse of the city, but in the quiet comfort of your suite you can’t hear it.

The roads so far below appear like the ribbons, the traffic might be frantic but it is silent to you.

The sprawl of the city at night with millions of twinkling lights is mesmerizing.

At Ozone Restaurant, up on the 50th and 52nd floor with Bangkok’s气势磅礴的相框 (view) or it was framed cheaply, and with the Chao Phraya River snaking its tranquil way through the city way below, it’s pinch-me-is-this-dreaming stuff.
Article: lebua’s staycation package / Thailand
Date: June 4, 2014
เลบู๊, มอบพิเศษสุดเด็ดสำหรับการพักผ่อนที่หนีจากประเทศไทยและชาร์มเรำรื่องราวแห่งความเป็นไทย

การท่องเที่ยวใน Thailand ไม่เพียงแค่เกิดขึ้นในฝันเท่านั้น แต่ยังเป็นการตรวจสอบความเยี่ยมของประเทศที่มีอิทธิพลทางวัฒนธรรมที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุมโลก การเดินทางผ่านทางcanal หรือร้านพอกิจการทูเทนด์ ที่มีอยู่ในทุกมุ
BANGKOK Rooms with a view

lebua's staycation package / Thailand

Date: June 4, 2014

Bangkok's Lebua hotel is offering return to the city a series of special packages including the “My Smooch or Breeze” promotion.

It starts at US$220 per night, and includes accommodation in a suite with spacious balcony offering breathtaking views of the Bangkok skyline. Also included is breakfast, half-day at Café Lebua and a four-course dinner at The Centre or Breeze. This luxury hotel is located in Bangkok’s central business district. Reservations can be made until June 30 for stays from now until July 31. Call 02-624-6555 or e-mail: resv@lebua.com. Visit: www.Lebua.com/hotel-electric.
‘Staycation’ at lebua

Exclusively for Thai and expat resident in the kingdom, the luxury Tower Club at lebua and lebua at State Tower offer a five-star refuge for those wishing to stay above the political fray. lebua in Bangkok is two stunning urban destinations in one towering location – the luxurious lebua at State Tower on the 21st - 23rd floors, and Tower Club at lebua on the 52nd with even more dazzling views as well as exclusive access to Tower Club Lounge.

Above them both, under the iconic Dome at lebua, the multiple-award-winning Shouko, Metropol, basement, Sky Bar and D.a.k. delight guests nightly with irresistible dining and beverage choices, dynamic service, and enthralling views.

The new Staycation Package announced today provide an opportunity for guests to rise above the common and enjoy everything that lebua in Bangkok has to offer from their exclusive garden of earthly delight in the sky.

Valid for bookings made between today and June 30, 2014 and stays from today to July 31, 2014, the packages are based on a minimum stay of one night for two people – but guests may well opt to extend their staycation until the political situation below is resolved.

+ Retreat to Sky Bar: From S$175+/nt/nt for lebua at State Tower; package Includes:
  • Luxurious accommodation
  • Voucher for two signature cocktails (Shagarevs or Doner Kebabi) at Sky Bar
  • ‘Lebua’s Best Breakfast’ (Buffet at Cafe Milano)

+ Cocktails and #Felten: From S$175+/nt/nt for lebua at State Tower and S$229+/nt/nt for Tower Club at lebua; package includes:
  • Luxurious accommodation
Thailand's curfew lifted in tourist spots

Wednesday 04 Jun 2014 9:50a.m.

He said his company suffered hundreds of cancellations in the immediate aftermath of the coup because of the curfew, but bookings have since begun to recover.

Airlines also say demand for flights to Thailand has been relatively resilient.

Emirates said its passenger loads were "healthy" and that it recently introduced a sixth daily flight to Bangkok.

British Airways said its flyer numbers to the Thai capital were normal for the time of year.

Thailand’s economy shrank 0.6 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2014 due to falling consumer confidence and a slump in tourism.

The fear is it will contract again in the second quarter, tipping the kingdom into recession.

Tourist arrivals in the first four months of 2014 were already down nearly five per cent on a year earlier at 8.6 million, with visitor numbers from other Asian countries particularly affected, according to official figures.

AFP


Article: CEO Interview with AFP on current hospitality business / New Zealand

Date: June 4, 2014
Thai junta lifts curfew in tourist areas

June 4, 2014 - 02:08 AM

BANGKOK: The ruling junta said yesterday that it was lifting a curfew in three major beach resorts to kick start tourism, in the wake of last month’s military coup.

"The message will be 'Welcome Back to Thailand!" said Prayuth Chan-ocha, who is the junta's chief of the junta’s newly formed cabinet.

"The aim of the measures is to create a favorable climate for tourism," the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister said the measures were initially introduced after a military coup in May 2010 that lasted for three weeks in the country for 10 days until 5:30pm, to give the US the owners of oil and other key businesses.

The junta also announced a series of measures to attract tourists, including the lifting of a weekend curfew.

Months of bloody political unrest have dealt a heavy blow to the country's tourism industry, the junta said, which welcomed a record 20.5 million foreign tourists in 2013.

The decision to lift the curfew comes after a series of warnings from foreign governments about the potential for unrest.

But for many, it is not clear how optimistic the measures are. The country's tourism industry, which welcomed a record 20.5 million foreign tourists in 2013, is still reeling from the long impact of the political crisis.

On the day after the coup, airlines saw 3,000 cancellations, compared with neighboring countries with flights starting to operate.

The Thai authorities said they would keep a close eye on the situation but that foreign visitor arrivals fell more than 20 percent after the military seized power, but predicted they would soon return.

Hotels and airlines also said they do not expect a lasting impact, noting that it is now the low season anyhow.

"We are now in the low season and have more than 80% of bookings," said Dheeraj Shroff, chief executive of the Thailand Tourist Board.

AP

State Tower, 1055 Silom Road, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Thailand
T: +66 (0) 2624 9999 F: +66 (0) 2624 9998 resvn@lebua.com www.lebua.com

Article: CEO Interview with AFP on current hospitality business / Bahrain
Date: June 4, 2014

Thai curfew lifted in three tourist hotspots

Hotels and airlines also say they do not expect a lasting impact, noting that it is now the low season anyway.

"After the curfew relaxation the confidence has come back as we have no worries," said Deepak Chhun, chief executive of Lebua Hotels & Resorts.

He said the company suffered hundreds of cancellations in the immediate aftermath of the coup, because of the curfew, but bookings have since begun to recover.

Airports also say demand for flights to Thailand has been relatively resilient. Emirates said passenger loads were "healthy" and that it recently introduced a sixth daily flight to Bangkok.

British Airways said its figures were "still strong," and forecast that the Thai capital would normalise for the time of year.

Thailand’s economy shrank 0.4% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2014 due to falling consumer confidence and a slump in tourism.

The fear is it will contract again in the second quarter, tipping the kingdom into recession.

Tourist arrivals in the first four months of 2014 were already down nearly 3% on a year earlier at 6.6m, withirror numbers from other Asian countries particularly affected, according to official figures.
Curfew lifted in 3 Thai tourist sites

Tuesday, Jun 4, 2014 / 21:50
Written by Oman Observer / International

But for many in the kingdom goes almost as normal and international flights are still in operation, with those traveling to and from airports among the few exempt from the night curfew. On the day, after the coup airlines saw 5,600 cancellations, compared with roughly 28,000 rebooked bookings on May 19, according to Paul Pranggarn, a spokesperson for the Pacific Asia Travel Association. The Thai military has no charge of tourism said last week that foreign tourist arrivals fell about 28 per cent after the military seized power, but predicted they would soon return. prince and airways also say they do not expect a lasting impact, noting that it is now the low season, anyway. "After the curfew relaxation the confidence has come back so we have no worries," said Supat Cans, Chief Executive of Lebua Hotels & Resorts.

He said his company suffered hundreds of cancellations in the immediate aftermath of the coup because of the curfew, but bookings have since began to recover. Airlines also say demand for flights to Thailand has been relatively resilient. British Airways saw its five numbers to the Thai capital were normal for the time of year. Thailand's economy shrank 6.6 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2014 due to falling consumer confidence and a slump in tourism. The fear is it will continue in the second quarter, capping the kingdom into recession. Tourist arrivals in the first four months of 2014 were already down nearly five per cent on a year earlier at 3.6 million, with visitor numbers from other Asian countries particularly affected, according to official figures.

Meanwhile, an index of consumer confidence in Thailand jumped in May on hopes a military government that ended political power promising to impose order after months of political chaos will drag the economy back from the brink of recession. The army toppled the caretaker of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's government on May 22 after sometimes deadly protests since November that had forced ministers to close, hurt business confidence and caused the economy to shrink. Since then the ruling junta has moved to suppress criticism and registration the but. Yingluck and prominent supporters of the Shinawatra have been briefly detained and warned against any anti-military activities. But the crackdown does appear to have brought some stability to rule, after months of strains under a caretaker government that lacked the power to make policy or approve new spending.

The University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) said yesterday, its fifth consumer confidence index hit its highest level since January, just before protests erupting in February 2 election called by Yingluck in a failed bid to end the crisis. The index rose to 70.7 in May from 67.8 in April, when it had fallen for the 13th month in a row and was at its lowest level in more than 12 years. Voting for the index was carried out last week, after the coup. The main factor boosting sentiment was confidence in the future due to political clarity. People were more confident the economy would get better. Prasert Phootschai, an economics professor at the university, told a news briefing — Agencies.
Thai junta lifts curfew in three tourist hotspots

BANGKOK, Thailand’s junta said on Tuesday that it was lifting a curfew in three major beach resorts to woo back tourists in the wake of last month’s military coup.

The measure will be lifted for Pattaya, Koh Samui and Phuket “to create a favourable climate for tourism,” the military said in a televised announcement. “The rest of the country remains under curfew,” it added.

The measure was initially introduced after the May 22 coup for the whole country for 10pm until 5am, to the dismay of the owners of restaurants and other late-night businesses. The junta shortened it to midnight until 4am last month.

Months of bloody political unrest have dealt a heavy blow to the key tourism industry in the “Land of Smiles”, which welcomed a record 26.3 million foreign visitors in 2013.

The army takeover has prompted a flurry of warnings from foreign governments about travelling to the Southeast Asian holiday hotspot.

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AirAsia also say demand for flights to Thailand has been relatively resilient.

Emirates said its passenger loads were “healthy” and that it recently introduced a daily flight to Bangkok. British Airways said its flight numbers to the Thai capital were normal for the time of year.

Separately, an index of consumer confidence in Thailand jumped in May on hopes a military government that seized power promising to impose order after months of political chaos will drag the economy back from the brink of recession.

The University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) said on Tuesday its May consumer confidence index hit its highest level since January, just before protests disrupted a February 2 election called by Yingluck in a failed bid to end the crisis.

“Economy is improving. People are more confident the economy would get better,” Tharatwiwat Phuvichai, an economics professor at the university, told a news briefing.

University President Sevavamee Therungroung said an index on the political situation jumped to 86.6 in May from 37.3 in April.

“It rose 20 points in a month, compared with just a few point changes previously, and that came in just one week.”

Not everyone in Bangkok shared the optimism.

“T’ma not so confident with this government. It’s not simple to seize control with guns and then manage the country’s economy.

You’re bringing an inexperienced group to govern,” said Sunanta Pornsakawong, 64, looking for lunch in a supermarket.
Jam Malam di Tiga Titik Lokasi Wisata Thailand Dicabut

Bangkok — Jutaan Thailand pada Selasa (3/6) mengatakan telah mencabut jam malam di tiga lokasi resor pantai utama untuk menarik kembali para wisatawan setelah terjadi kudeta militer pada bulan lalu.

Langkah pencabutan penerapan jam malam ini diakukan di Pattaya, Koh Samui dan Phuket, dengan tujuan untuk menciptakan iklim yang menguntungkan bagi pemesanan, ujar pihak militer dalam sebuah pembaruan yang disiarkan televisi. "Namun, sebagian dari warganegara itu masih tetap diizinkan untuk beraktivitas, " tambahnya.

Hotel-hotel dan maskapai penerbangan juga mengatakan mereka tidak mengharapkan dampak yang bertanggung lama setelah menjalani kis seaso. "Setelah pemulihan jam malam, kami pihak kami tidak perlu khawatir, " kata Deepak Ohri, Kepala Eksekutif Lebua Hotels & Resorts.

Dia mengatakan setelah terjadinya kudeta dan pemberlakuan jam malam, perusahaan mereka mengalami kurangnya rata-rata penjualan kedinamakan turis. Namun, kini tingkat peselarannya tumbuh pulih kembali.

Maskapai penerbangan juga menuturkan agar penerbangan-penerbangan ke Thailand tetap dilaksanakan. Maskapai Emirates mengatakan jumlah penumpang berada dalam kondisi "sehat" dan baru-baru ini memperkenalkan penerbangan baru keenam ke Bangkok.

Sementara itu, maskapai British Airways mengatakan jumlah penerbangannya ke Ibukota Thailand berada dalam kondisi normal sepulang tahun.

Perekonomian Thailand pun menyesut sebesar 0.6% year-on-year (yoy) di kuartal pertama 2014 akibat turunnya kepercayaan konsumen dan komersial yang terjadi di sektor pariwisata. Kehawatiran pun muncul bahwa hal ini akan kembali berdampak di kuartal kedua, sehingga menggambarkan kerajinan ke dalam resesi.

Menurut laporan resmi, jumlah kunjungan wisatawan di empat bulan pertama 2014 sudah merosot hampir 5 persen dibanding tahun sebelumnya menjadi 8.6 juta, dimana jumlah pengunjung kebanyakan berasal dari negara-negara Asia lainnya yang terkena pengaruh kudeta militer.

Penulis: Happy Amanda Amatari
Sumber: AFP-PYA
Le couvre-feu levé dans trois zones touristiques

La junta thaïlandaise a annoncé mardi la fin des restrictions horaires imposées dans des lieux appréciés des visiteurs, pour tenter de faire revenir les touristes après le coup d’État.

Le chef de la Marine, désormais en charge du tourisme, avait indiqué la semaine dernière que les activités de visites étrangères avaient dû être interdites pendant 20% du coup d’État. Il avait prévu une réduction de 10% de l’activité touristique à un impact de longue durée, suggérant que c’est de cette façon que la saison creuse. « Après l’annexion du couvre-feu, la confiance est revenue, alors nous ne sommes pas inquiets », a aisé estimé Deepak Chah, patron des hôtels Lebua, notant qu’après des centaines d’annulations initiales après le putsch, les réservations étaient en train de revenir à la normale.

(L’essentiel/AFP)
Thai curfew lifted

Wed, 11 Jun 2014 8:59 PM

Hotels and airlines also say they do not expect a lasting impact, noting that it is now the low season anyway.

"After the curfew relaxation the confidence has come back so we have no worries," said Deepak Churi, chief executive of Lebua Hotels & Resorts.

He said his company suffered hundreds of cancellations in the immediate aftermath of the coup because of the curfew, but bookings have since begun to recover.

Airlines also say demand for flights to Thailand has been relatively resilient.

Emirates said its passenger loads were "healthy" and that it recently introduced a sixth daily flight to Bangkok.

British Airways said its flyer numbers to the Thai capital were normal for the time of year.

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AFP
Thai curfew lifted in three tourist spots

June 3 2014 at 02:34pm

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Bangkok -

Thailand's junta said on Tuesday that it was scrapping a curfew in three major beach resorts to woo back tourists in the wake of last month's military coup.

The measure will be lifted for Phuket, Koh Samui and Prakat "to create a favourable climate for tourism," the military said in a televised announcement.

"The rest of the country remains under curfew," it added.

The measure was initially introduced after the May 22 coup for the whole country for 10.00pm until 5.00am, to the dismay of the owners of bars and other late-night businesses.

The junta shortened it to midnight until 4.00am late last month.

Months of bloody political unrest have dealt a heavy blow to the key tourism industry in the "Land of Smiles," which welcomed a record 26.5 million foreign visitors in 2013.

The army takeover has prompted a flurry of warnings from foreign governments about traveling to the South-east Asian holiday hotspot.

But for many in the kingdom goes on almost as normal and international flights are still in operation, with those traveling to and from airports among the few exempt from the night curfew.

On the day after the coup airlines saw 5,000 cancellations, compared with roughly 28,000 inbound bookings on May 19, according to Paul Prangkram, a spokesperson for the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

The Thai navy chief now in charge of tourism said last week that foreign visitor arrivals fell about 20 percent after the military seized power, but predicted they would soon return.

Hotels and airlines also say they do not expect a lasting impact, noting that it is now the low season anyway.

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Coup in sunny Thailand spurs overseas cancellations, as tourists on beaches ask, ‘What coup?’

Jocelyn Barker, The Associated Press

BANGKOK - When Thailand’s military staged a coup last week, the headlines were on a beach enjoying the debauchery of the country’s infamous “Half Moon” festival.

Not a soldier was in sight on the white sands of Koh Phangan and the revelers party that attracting tourists from around the world continued for hours. After shelling off the effects of too much celebration, the German backpacker headed from the island to Bangkok, watched by the military bodyguard.

“I figured if I survived the Half Moon Party, I could go to Bangkok and ’chill the coup’,” said the 21-year-old, turned and looked as he drifted through one of the castle’s bustling bars and nightclubs district. “This is not how I imagined a party.”

So far, the drama of Thailand’s military takeover has played out mainly in the political arena. As the army summons journalists and academics as anti-coup, Beijing backed political leaders and issues clerical warnings on TV, tourists are looking back on the country’s famed beaches and sightseeing in Bangkok. The main impact on tourists for now is a 10 p.m. curfew, which forces restaurants to close several hours earlier.

“It’s really like nothing’s changed, except you have to go home before 10,” said American tourist Rosemary Burt.

But Burt and her daughter, from Gilbert, Arizona, were roaming around the ornate Grand Palace in Bangkok, before heading off to other sites and then a pre-sunset dinner. It was a normal day at the Grand Palace as tour buses outside tried to avoid lawsuits with inflated rebel and anti-coup security guards.

Daughter Shae Addy, 16, said her initial concerns had dissipated. “I thought it was going to be a little dangerous.”

Photos posted to Twitter show scenes of white and transparent-crystal clear waters in Phuket, Samui and other idyllic beach resorts. One post was titled, “What Coup?”

For Thailand’s travel industry, however, the situation is more ominous. Bookings were already down after six months of anti-government protests in Bangkok, and the combination of coup plus curfew along with uncertainty over how long the crackdown will last could be bruising.

Tourism accounts for about 7 per cent of Thailand’s economy and provides more than 3 million jobs. The industry has been resilient despite a decade of political turbulence.

A record 26.7 million visitors came last year, up 20 per cent from the year before.

But political protests that escalated in November led to a 6 per cent drop in foreign tourist arrivals from January-April this year, said Prayut Chan-ocha, president of the Tourism Council of Thailand.

Prayut has promised the ruling junta will lift the nightly curfew at beach resorts including Phuket, Samui, Koh Lanta and Koh Phangan.

“Everyone in the country, especially in the tourism sector, hope military rule is lifted soon and democracy restored,” she told The Phuket Gazette newspaper.

More than 40 countries have issued travel alerts, including the U.S. and Hong Kong, which have advised citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Thailand.

In Hong Kong, a major source of tourists to Thailand, the Travel Industry Council reported that travel agents cancelled at least 75 tour groups this week involving 3,300 people.
La Thaïlande lève le couvre-feu à Phuket, Samui et Pattaya pour faire revenir les touristes

5 % DE TOURISTES EN MOINS EN 2014

Les sept mois de crise politique ayant précédé le putsch, marqués par des manifestations anti-gouvernementales qui ont fait 28 morts, avaient frappé de plein fouet le tourisme, secteur-clé de l'économie du "pays du sourire" qui avait accusé en 2015 un nombre record de 26,5 millions de visiteurs étrangers.

Les arrivées de touristes étrangers sur les quatre premiers mois de 2014 ont ainsi diminué de 5 % par rapport à la même période de l'année précédente et la prise du pouvoir par l'armée a provoqué de nombreuses mises en garde de pays étrangers à leurs ressortissants. Le chef de la marine, désormais en charge du tourisme, a précisée la semaine dernière que les arrivées de visiteurs étrangers ont chuté d'environ 20 % après le coup d'État, mais a prédit une reprise rapide.

DES HÔTELIERS « PAS INQUIETS »

Hôtels et compagnies aériennes ne s'attendent pas non plus à un impact de longue durée, soulignant que c'est de toute façon la saison creuse. « Après l'annulation du couvre-feu, la confiance est revenue, alors nous ne sommes pas inquiets », a ainsi estimé Deepak Ohri, patron des hôtels Lebua, notant qu'après des centaines d'annulations juste après le putsch, les réservations étaient en train de revenir à la normale.

Article: CEO Interview with AFP on current hospitality business / Australia

Date: June 4, 2014

Thai curfew lifted in three tourist spots

4 June 2014  AFP  0 comments

Thailand's junta say it is scrapping a curfew in three major beach resorts to woo back tourists in the wake of last month's military coup.

The measure will be lifted for Pattaya, Koh Samui and Phuket "to create a favourable environment for investors", the junta said.

Hotels and airlines also say they do not expect a lasting impact, noting that it is now the low season anyway.

"After the curfew relaxation the confidence has come back so we have no worries," said Deepak Ohn, chief executive of Lebua Hotels & Resorts.

He said his company suffered hundreds of cancellations in the immediate aftermath of the coup because of the curfew, but bookings have since begun to recover.

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Tourist arrivals in the first four months of 2014 were already down nearly five per cent on a year earlier at 8.6 million, with visitor numbers from other Asian countries particularly affected, according to official figures.
Thaïlande: la junte lève le couvre-feu dans trois zones touristiques

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L'économie dans son ensemble s'est contractée au premier trimestre avec un PIB en repli de 0.6% par rapport à la même période de 2013, une contraction inédite depuis les inondations historiques de 2011. Et certains experts craignent une nouvelle baisse au deuxième trimestre.
Thai curfew lifted in three tourist hotspots

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The army takeover has prompted a flurry of warnings from foreign governments about travelling to the Southeast Asian holiday hotspot, but for many the softening on arrival as normal and international flights are still in operation, with those travelling to and from airports among the few exempt from the night curfew.

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AFP

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