

Asia Medical Tourism Checklist & Cost Comparison

A practitioner-grade pre-trip checklist plus indicative cost ranges for the four hospital systems travellers actually request: Bumrungrad, Samitivej, Mount Elizabeth, and St Luke's International.

CITIES	Bangkok · Singapore · Tokyo · Seoul
PROCEDURES	Cardiology · Orthopaedics · Oncology · Cosmetic
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UPDATED	Q2 2026 · Methodology link in footer

WHAT THIS BRIEF IS FOR

Asia handles roughly two million inbound medical travellers a year. Most of the public commentary focuses on price arbitrage, which is the least useful framing. The four hospital systems most often shortlisted by US and European patients differ by clinical specialty, language support, recovery infrastructure, and how their cost scales as the case becomes more complex. This brief gives you the questions to ask and the indicative cost band to plan against.

Use the checklist before you contact any of the international patient offices listed. Each hospital responds within 48 hours when the intake form contains the documents the checklist requires.

HOSPITAL SYSTEMS AT A GLANCE

HOSPITAL	CITY	SPECIALTY DEPTH	LEAD TIME
Bumrungrad International	Bangkok	Cardiology · Oncology · Orthopaedics · Wellness	10–14 days
Samitivej Sukhumvit	Bangkok	Cosmetic · Orthopaedics · Family medicine	7–10 days
Mount Elizabeth Novena	Singapore	Cardiothoracic · Neurosurgery · Oncology	14–21 days
St Luke's International	Tokyo	Oncology · Cardiology · Preventive screening	21–28 days
Asan Medical Center	Seoul	Liver transplant · Cancer · Cardiac	21–35 days

INDICATIVE COST RANGES, US DOLLARS

Figures below reflect 2026 publicly listed packages or international-patient-office quotations. Final billing depends on case complexity, implant choice, and length of inpatient stay. Add 18–25% for premium single-room inpatient suites where applicable.

PROCEDURE	BANGKOK	SINGAPORE	TOKYO	US BENCHMARK
Coronary bypass (CABG)	\$18–24k	\$28–36k	\$32–40k	\$95–135k
Hip replacement	\$13–17k	\$19–24k	\$22–28k	\$38–55k
Knee replacement	\$11–15k	\$17–22k	\$20–26k	\$35–52k

PROCEDURE	BANGKOK	SINGAPORE	TOKYO	US BENCHMARK
LASIK (per eye)	\$1.4–2.0k	\$2.0–2.6k	\$2.4–3.2k	\$2.5–3.0k
Dental implant (single)	\$1.0–1.6k	\$2.4–3.2k	\$2.8–3.6k	\$3.5–5.0k
Comprehensive screening	\$650–1,200	\$1,400–2,400	\$1,800–3,000	\$2,500–4,500

PRE-TRIP CHECKLIST

- [] 01. Diagnostic packet: imaging on disc plus radiologist report (last 90 days).
- [] 02. Current medication list with generic names, dosages, and prescribing physician.
- [] 03. Allergy and adverse reaction history, including contrast media reactions.
- [] 04. Insurance pre-authorisation letter or self-pay confirmation.
- [] 05. Two passport-quality photographs for hospital ID and visa-on-arrival.
- [] 06. Travel health insurance covering medical evacuation (not standard travel cover).
- [] 07. Companion travel documents — most procedures require a recovery escort.
- [] 08. Recovery accommodation booked for the post-discharge window plus three days.
- [] 09. Translator-confirmed appointment time and ward location at the hospital.
- [] 10. Power-of-attorney letter scanned and accessible if procedure is general anaesthetic.

LANGUAGE AND RECOVERY SUPPORT

Bangkok and Singapore hospitals listed above offer fluent English at international patient desks and during clinical consultations. Tokyo and Seoul require a hospital-supplied translator for nursing handover and discharge. Confirm translator scheduling at intake — recovery-ward translation is the single most under-planned detail in self-organised medical travel.

Plan a minimum recovery window of seven nights for outpatient cosmetic or LASIK, fourteen nights for orthopaedic, and twenty-one nights for cardiac. The hospitals listed have partner serviced apartments within ten minutes of the campus; their international patient office will share the current rate sheet on request.

How we verify. Every claim in this brief is cross-checked against operator websites, government tourism boards, hospital JCI databases, and on-property visits where applicable. Pricing reflects publicly listed rates at time of publication. Full methodology: <https://www.asialuxuryguide.com/methodology>

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