

Aug 18 · 6 min read

How to charter a private jet

Private jets have long been the domain of celebrities, the uber-wealthy and high-flying execs. But has coronavirus pushed non-commercial flight into the mainstream?, asks Gayatri Bhaumik.



Cruise control - an MJets private plane in action.

In the wake of Covid-19, it's being reported that demand for private flights has risen sharply.

In recent years, fractional ownership and charter memberships have made flying private somewhat more accessible, but just how likely is a non-commercial future for the average expat family?

"Pre-coronavirus, the demand for private charters in the Asia-Pacific region was mostly from entrepreneurs and c-suite (chief) executives who were travelling for business," says Keith Tsang, [QJets'](#) vice president sales, Asia-Pacific. "Since the outbreak, we've seen a shift in demand towards repatriation and charter cargo of essential supplies. Currently, the demand is largely for essential business trips, with some leisure trips for countries that are starting to open up."

Ian Moore, chief commercial officer of [VistaJet](#), believes the situation is complex, noting that demand has fluctuated significantly at different stages of the pandemic.

In the first quarter of 2020, VistaJet experienced increased interest in their long-range Global jets as people flitted between the eastern and western hemispheres trying to outrun the pandemic.

"But in the second phase, from the end of March until the end of April, we saw a significant slowdown in demand as borders were closing very rigidly," says Moore. "During this time, we mainly performed repatriation flights. We've now entered the third phase and we're now seeing some borders slowly opening up and restrictions being carefully lifted. Since the end of April, we've seen a slow but steady increase in traffic around the globe."

Add to this the fact that private jets beat borders. Put succinctly, if you're flying private, the pandemic world suddenly opens up. When the Maldives first opened in June, it was to private jets and yachts only and many destinations have followed this lead. [Kokomo Private Island](#) in Fiji has its own hangar at Nadi Airport and welcomes guests flying private, despite the country as a whole remaining closed to commercial international passengers.



Guests at Kokomo Private Island Fiji transferring to the resort by private seaplane.

Link to full article: <https://www.asiafamilytraveller.com/>