

Mekong Tourism

NEWSLETTER

The Mekong Tourism Forum 2022 is back in-person

Under the theme “**Rebuild Tourism, Rebound with Resilience,**” in Quang Nam Province, home to Hoi An ancient town in central Viet Nam, from **12 – 13 October 2022.**

Register now at
www.mekongtourismforum.org



About the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office

The governments of Cambodia, Yunnan and Guangxi provinces in China (PRC), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam established the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office (MTCO) in 2006 as a tourism collaboration framework to coordinate activities that boost tourism's contribution to inclusive economic growth and environmental sustainability in the GMS.

MTCO's work is guided by the GMS Tourism Working Group (TWG), which is made of senior representatives of the National Tourism Organizations (NTOs) of the six member countries.

More information here.

Tourism “growing forward” in the Mekong, gaining strength



Image courtesy of Ho Chi Minh City Tourism Promotion Center

The return of tourism events to the Mekong countries is a positive sign for travel revival in the area. In Viet Nam within the coming weeks, the largest international tourism event in the Greater Mekong Sub-region will kick off again after a two-year pause: the International Travel Expo Ho Chi Minh City 2022 (ITE HCMC 2022) takes place in Ho Chi Minh City from 8 to 10 September.

This year's theme is “Growing Forward Together”: a call to action for the 300-plus exhibiting companies, 150 high-level buyers from over 50 countries and territories, and over 20,000 visitors expected to visit ITE HCMC 2022 over its three-day span.

Watching the news, tourism stakeholders in the GMS have a lot to be positive about. Viet Nam, host of the ITE HCMC (and the upcoming Mekong Tourism Forum in Hoi An) attracted 602,000 international visitors in the first half of 2022.

Myanmar's foreign tourist arrivals saw a rise of 22.9% year-on-year between April and June this year.

And that's not even mentioning Thailand, the major tourism player in the region, which expects 10 million total inbound visitors for 2022!

As tourism rebounds throughout the Mekong Sub-region, we'll be there to tell you all about it; read this newsletter to find out what's in store!



Image courtesy of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism Myanmar

GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION COVID-19 TRAVEL POLICIES

The nations in the Greater Mekong Subregion have opened up to foreign visitors. Read the summaries below for the update.



	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>China</u>	<u>Lao PDR</u>	<u>Myanmar</u>	<u>Thailand</u>	<u>Viet Nam</u>
International travel status	Fully open for tourism	Visits for tourism purposes restricted	Fully open for tourism	Fully open for tourism	Fully open for tourism	Fully open for tourism
Quarantine requirements	None	7 days quarantine regardless of vaccination status	None	<u>Quarantine</u> for unvaccinated/partially vaccinated travelers; RT-PCR test on third day, quarantine ends with negative results	None	None
Vaccinated visitors: screening procedures	None for visitors showing proof of vaccination	Regardless of vaccination status, visitors must take two nucleic acid tests 48 hours before their flight and one antigen test 12 hours before boarding	None for visitors showing proof of vaccination	Regardless of vaccination status, visitors must take Antigen Rapid Test (ATK) upon arrival; must bear 15,000 MMK (US\$8) cost	None for visitors showing proof of vaccination	None, regardless of vaccination status
Unvaccinated visitors: screening procedures	Must take ATK upon arrival; must bear US\$ 5 cost	Unvaccinated travelers are not allowed to enter	Must show negative ATK results taken 48 hours before travel	Must show negative ATK results taken 48 hours before travel	Must show negative ATK results taken 72 hours before travel	None, regardless of vaccination status
Additional requirements		Some provinces require additional quarantine upon arrival		<u>COVID-19 insurance</u> from Myanmar Insurance		<u>PC-Covid mobile app</u> and COVID-19 insurance (US\$10,000 minimum cover)
Restrictions	<u>Mask use voluntary</u> , not required in public spaces	Masks required in public spaces	<u>Masks required</u> in public spaces	<u>Masks required</u> in public spaces	<u>Mask use voluntary</u> , not required in public spaces	<u>Masks required</u> in public spaces

NEWS FROM THE MEKONG SUBREGION



CAMBODIA



- Siem Reap rises from the ashes of COVID-19, reinventing the arteries of Angkor. [More information here.](#)
- Cambodia to introduce special tourist policy to help boost industry. [More information here.](#)

CHINA

- China reopens border with Macau after six weeks, as cases ebb. [More information here.](#)
- China-centred tourism promotions a sign of tourism revival. [More information here.](#)



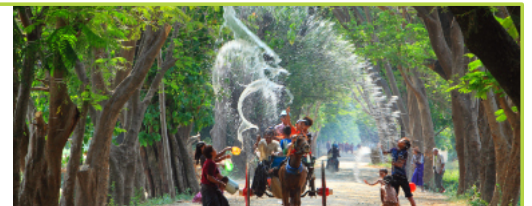
LAO PDR



- Laos targets 900,000 foreign visitors this year; tourism expected to generate more than US\$218 million in revenues. [More information here.](#)
- Lao travel operators gear up to certify guides and drivers with LaoSafe, in anticipation of an uptick in tourist arrivals to Laos. [More information here.](#)

MYANMAR

- Myanmar to hold tourism exhibition to revitalise pandemic-hit industry [More information here.](#)
- Foreign tourist arrivals in Myanmar up 22.9 pct on year in Q2. [More information here.](#)



THAILAND



- Thailand expects \$11 billion from tourist rush in second half of 2022; first eight months of 2022 saw more than 4 million tourists. [More information here.](#)
- Thailand hopes to boost tourism revenue by targeting high-spending groups like Indian wedding parties and honeymooners. [More information here.](#)

VIET NAM

- Viet Nam aims for 5 million international arrivals in 2022, domestic arrivals exceed 60 million target. [More information here.](#)
- Pullman Vung Tau and DLG Hotel Da Nang win kudos at International Travel Awards. [More information here.](#)

