

Mekong Tourism

NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Facebook page of the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office (MTCO) has been changed to **Mekong Tourism** (@mekongtourismofficial). This FB page has been endorsed by the governments of six countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, namely Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Please **like** and **follow** our new page to stay updated on the Mekong Tourism.

About the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office

The iconic Mekong River unites the six nations that make up the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).

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.

Mekong countries cooperating to bring tourism back



Image courtesy of Cambodia Ministry of Tourism

Tourism has returned to the Mekong Region: the pent-up desire to roam has increased demand for tourism and tourism-related services to near pre-pandemic levels. To take advantage of tourism business opportunities in the very near future, both city- and nation-level bodies around the Mekong are joining forces.

Last July, officials from the Mekong Delta city of Can Tho in Viet Nam [met with representatives of Cambodia's Ministry of Tourism](#) to further promote bilateral cooperation in tourism and other areas. Both Viet Nam and Cambodia seek to link the port of Kampot in Cambodia with Phu Quoc in the Mekong Delta province of Kien Giang, for starters—tapping the high demand for Cambodia tours from Viet Nam-based tourists.

And in Kunming, the [recent China International Travel Mart](#) saw deeper ties being developed between China and Laos through the China-Laos

Railway and its many travel opportunities. Beyond accelerating the development of regional trade, the new railway line also promotes the formation of a large regional tourism market. Its potential can be seen in the 4.11 million passengers transported over the route in its first seven months alone!

In the [recent meeting](#) between Thai Prime Minister and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, both agreed upon greater trade, economic cooperation, investment, and connectivity, which will build a community with a shared future, and make it the goal and vision for the development of bilateral ties.

With the [coming Mekong Tourism Forum opening in Hoi An, Viet Nam in October](#), we're excited to see what other cross-border tourism partnerships are in the offing. Stay tuned!

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



- Officials from Mekong Delta city of Can Tho and Cambodia's Ministry of Tourism discuss ways to promote bilateral cooperation. [More information here.](#)
- Cambodia lays out master plan to bring back tourists. [More information here.](#)

CHINA

- China International Travel Mart kicks off in Kunming with the theme "Intelligent Innovation Towards the Future: For the High-Quality Development of Tourism". [More information here.](#)
- Tourism rebounds in Yunnan as epidemic wanes. [More information here.](#)



LAO PDR



- LaoSafe app certifies over 100 tourism businesses, helping make Laos one of the most open Southeast Asian countries for international tourists. [More information here.](#)
- UNESCO-winning Luang Prabang is top favourite with Thai tourists, with 90% of room reservations made by Thai visitors. [More information here.](#)

MYANMAR

- Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to approve qualification standards for six types of hotels and tourism professionals. [More information here.](#)
- Seminar highlights Pakistan tourism potential in Myanmar. [More information here.](#)



THAILAND



- 12 dark sky locations named to under the Amazing Dark Sky in Thailand tourism concept. [More information here.](#)
- TAT wins Social Empowerment category at Asia Responsible Enterprise Awards 2022. [More information here.](#)

VIET NAM

- Viet Nam tourism revenue surge sharply, hitting \$509.85 million in the first seven months of 2022. [More information here.](#)
- Hanoi Tourism Department ramps up activities to lure more foreign tourists. [More information here.](#)

