

*Highlight News / October 05/2022*



- \$17M tourism project in Kep province approved
- Angkor Archaeological Park attracts 0.14M foreign tourists in Jan-Sept
- Lao coffee brand wins Asian award
- Thailand grants Myanmar citizens 45-day visa-free stay
- Vietnamese GDP set to rank third in ASEAN by 2027
- Vietnam may not reach goal of 5 million int'l visitors in 2022



## \$17M tourism project in Kep province approved



*Cambodia News | 4 October, 2022*

The Council for the Development of Cambodia has approved a \$17-million tourism development project in Kep province. Try Pheap Koh Tonsay Resorts Co Ltd, which has been developing a \$130 million tourism resort project offshore Kep, received approval for the new project in the province. The CDC said the project, located in Kep City, Kep province, has an investment of \$17 million and has the potential to create up to 105 jobs. This will contribute to the government's master plan for developing Kep as a tourism destination in the country, said Governor of the province Som Piseth. Kep province has the potential for tourism development to serve the industry, he said, adding that the province has other potential islands ready for development as attractive tourism landscapes. "The new investment projects in the tourism sector will contribute to the government's master plan for developing Kep province into a high-end, eco-tourism destination," Piseth told Khmer Times. Rabbit Island Development Investment, owned by Try Pheap Group, is developing a \$130 million multiple resort project in Koh Tonsay Island, four kilometres off Kep province. In September, the CDC approved a qualified investment project certificate for Samanea Co Lt to invest \$18.5 million in tourism development projects on three islands in Kep province. The local authorities are building a tourism

port on Tonsay Island to facilitate the travel of local residents and tourists.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501162001>

[/17m-tourism-project-in-kep-province-approved/](#)

## Angkor Archaeological Park attracts 0.14M foreign tourists in Jan-Sept



*Cambodia News | 4 October, 2022*

Cambodia's world-famous Angkor Archaeological Park attracted 0.14 million foreign tourists in the nine months (January-September) of 2022, an increase of 2,075 percent over the same period of the last year, according to the state-owned Angkor Enterprise report. According to the report, Angkor Archaeological Park and Koh Ker temples earned \$5.36 million in revenue from ticket sales during the period, which was 2,012 percent rise, year-on-year. Ly Se, Director General of Angkor Enterprise, told Khmer Times, the Siem Reap-Angkor World Heritage Site had witnessed significant growth in the number of visitors as the government reopened the country following the vaccination of all Cambodians. "With 800-1,000 foreign tourists visiting per day, the number of tourists may touch the pre-Covid-19 period in the next 3-4 years," he hoped and added the threat of a fresh outbreak of the disease and the ongoing Russia-Ukrainian war were the main challenges facing the tourism sector. "The war has pushed fuel prices up, making the cost of travel of foreign tourists expensive," he said. According to the Angkor Enterprise announcement, to promote domestic tourism and provide incentives to

foreigners living in Cambodia, the Royal Government has decided that all foreigners staying in the Kingdom for two or more years can apply for a once-a-year free pass to the Angkor and Koh Ker temples from September 1, 2022, onwards. The free pass plan will include diplomats, investors, and international organizations, foreigners working in companies and private enterprises, experts working in ministries, public and private institutions, as well as their families. Meanwhile, as many as 1,711 of some 6,000 families living in illegal structures in the 401-square-km Angkor Archaeological Park have volunteered to be relocated to a new site, Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Tuesday. The relocation site is in the 1,300-hectare Run Ta Ek eco-village in the Banteay Srei district, about 20 km outside Angkor Park, in northwestern Siem Reap Province. Talking to the relocated families during a visit, Hun Sen said the resettlement is to preserve the beauty of Angkor Park, which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized as a world heritage site. The Park, included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO in 1992, is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian nation. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019, the Angkor Archaeological Park attracted up to 2.2 million international tourists, earning gross revenue of \$99 million from ticket sales.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501161993/angkor-archaeological-park-attracts-0-14m-foreign-tourists-in-jan-sept/>

## Lao coffee brand wins Asian award



*Laos News | 5 October, 2022*

Lao Mountain Coffee's peaberry blend has won first place in the Continental Awards for Asia coffee competition. Peaberry, the award-winning coffee, is a naturally occurring coffee and constitutes only 5-10 percent of the global coffee market. The World Coffee Challenge Competition took place in Ourense, Spain, from September 29-30, gathering coffee growers from more than 34 countries with the aim of promoting high quality coffee. Lao Mountain Coffee represented Laos in the competition and entered its coffee sourced from beans grown on the Bolaven Plateau in Pakxong district, Champassak province. Pakxong is known as one of the best areas to grow some of the world's best tasting coffee. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, coffee is Laos' third largest agricultural export and is sold to 26 countries in Asia, Europe and North America. The government is promoting coffee production in 11 provinces of Laos, to supply the growing need for high-quality products in the local and foreign markets. As of 2018, coffee was grown on 95,400 hectares and the total yield was recorded at 154,135 tonnes, compared to 77,540 tonnes in 2015, with most of the crop grown on the Bolaven Plateau. Most of the coffee produced in Laos is made from the Arabica and Robusta varieties. Lao coffee exports (unit tonnes of green beans) rose from 28,320 tonnes in 2017 to 31,495 tonnes in 2018. Last year, 56 percent of Lao coffee (green bean) exports to

international markets went to Vietnam, 13 percent to Japan, 12 percent to Thailand, 3 percent to Cambodia, 2 percent to Germany, 1.5 percent to China, 0.9 percent to the US, and 11 percent to other countries. In the domestic market, Lao coffee products such as three-in-one and coffee beans are sold to coffee shops such as Amazon, Dao Heuang, Sinouk and Joma. The first coffee plantation on the Boloven plateau was set up around 1920 by French settlers alongside roads built by the colonial administration. Coffee rapidly became the main crop in the area, especially after the construction of a research centre near Pakxong in 1930.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent193\\_Laocoffee.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent193_Laocoffee.php)

## Thailand grants Myanmar citizens 45-day visa-free stay



*Myanmar News | 5 October, 2022*

Thailand has announced the extension of a visa-free period for Myanmar citizens from 14 days to 45 days, according to the statement of its Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Thai government extended the visa-free period for foreigners entering the country to 45 days from 30 days starting October 2022, and Myanmar citizens are also on the list for a 45-day visa exemption stay period. According to the bilateral agreement, any Myanmar passport holder is also among those who will be granted 45 days of visa-free stay in Thailand. When the Thai government granted up to 30 days of visa-free stay to foreigners entering the country, Myanmar citizens were allowed

only 14 days but could stay for 60 days with tourist visas. The announcement was issued by the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa, Canada on 30 September. But, the Thai Embassy in Myanmar has not released such an announcement yet. — TWA/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/thailand-grants-myanmar-citizens-45-day-visa-free-stay/#article-title>

## Vietnamese GDP set to rank third in ASEAN by 2027



*Vietnam News | 4 October, 2022*

Vietnam's gross domestic product (GDP) in ASEAN is expected to expand considerably over the next five years, with its rankings rising from sixth this year to third by 2027, according to the latest forecast made by the IMF. Specifically, Indonesia's GDP leads the way in the ASEAN region, reaching approximately US\$1.29 billion, followed by Thailand with US\$522.01 billion this year. Elsewhere, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Vietnam will have GDPs of US\$439.37 billion, US\$424.43 billion, US\$411.98 billion, and US\$408.95 billion, respectively. Moving forward to 2023 and 2024, the IMF forecasts that Vietnam's GDP will rank fourth in the ASEAN-6, hitting US\$462.64 billion and US\$615.6 billion, respectively. Throughout the 2025 to 2027 period, Vietnamese GDP is projected to continuously rank third among the ASEAN-6, grossing US\$571.12 billion, US\$629.62 billion, and US\$690.11 billion in three years respectively. Meanwhile, the Center for International Development at Harvard University, in its July report

on Growth Forecast of Economies to 2030, listed Vietnam among the 10 fastest growing economies in the world over the next eight years, with GDP anticipated to expand 5.56% per year, ranking sixth in the world and second in the ASEAN-6. According to Harvard Growth Lab, Vietnamese GDP is anticipated to rank sixth in ASEAN this year, fifth in 2023-24 and third in 2025-27.

Source : <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnamese-gdp-set-to-rank-third-in-asean-by-2027-2066437.html>

## Vietnam may not reach goal of 5 million int'l visitors in 2022



*Vietnam News | 4 October, 2022*

At a recent event, Mr. Nguyen Trung Khanh, General Director of the General Department of Tourism, said that in January-July 2022, international visitors to Vietnam reached 954,600, 10 times over the same period in 2021 but still 90.3% less than that of the time before the Covid-19 outbreak. This was nearly 15% of the yearly plan, which aims to welcome 5 million international visitors. Mr. Hoang Nhan Chinh, Head of the Secretariat of the Tourism Advisory Board (TAB), told VietNamNet this May that Vietnam needs to welcome over 650,000 visitors per month in the remaining months of the year in order to achieve the yearly target. However, this will be very difficult. Mr. Cao Tri Dung, Chairman of the Da Nang Tourism Association, said that although the tourism industry has tried its best, Vietnam may only receive 2 million international visitors this year. Explaining

why the number of international tourists to Vietnam has not been high yet, General Director Nguyen Trung Khanh said the Russia-Ukraine conflict has affected the resumption of Vietnam - Russia flight routes. Also, most of the markets in Northeast Asia are still enforcing tough pandemic prevention and control measures. Mr. Phung Quang Thang, Vice Chairman of the Vietnam Travel Association, said that it is necessary to take 2019 as a milestone and target. Emphasizing the importance of foreign visitors, he said that revenue brought by 18.5 million foreign visitors is much larger than that from 85 million domestic tourists. Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Nguyen Van Hung said that in 2022, Vietnam's tourism industry aims to serve 60 million domestic tourists. By the end of July, the figure was already over 71 million visitors. That shows the right direction of the tourism industry in focusing more on local tourists. The Minister said that in the past, the spending of international visitors, according to incomplete statistics, was 1,500 USD per visitor in Thailand and less than 1,000 USD in Vietnam. High hopes are placed on international tourists, but it is difficult to say if the benefits will be higher. Therefore, it is necessary to carefully consider which markets Vietnam should focus on. There are many bottlenecks that need to be removed to promote the tourism industry, experts said. The first is the visa policy. Mr. Nguyen Thien Phuc, Product Director of

Vidotour Indochina Travel, suggested that management agencies have more open policies regarding visas, especially speeding up the issuance of e-visas. It is necessary to restore the visa policy used before the pandemic. Mr. Cao Tri Dung said that some destinations in Vietnam have outstanding products, which compete well with destinations that have developed over the past 20-30 years, such as Bali (Indonesia) and Phuket (Thailand). However, they need more promotion. Mr. Dung suggested promoting tourism online, especially when 70% of customers search for information before traveling. Localities need to build their own tourism database and connect it to platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Tiktok. A plan on digital transformation for the tourism industry is a must. Dr. Nguyen Anh Tuan, Director of the Institute for Tourism Development Research, said that one of the problems of the tourism industry is the labor shortage, which is affecting the quality of tourism products as well as the level of visitor satisfaction. Minister Nguyen Van Hung said that relevant agencies had met to deal with visa-related problems for international visitors. In the future, this will be cleared up. However, travel firms must be ready to prepare staff, tourism infrastructure, and tourism products to serve foreign visitors well, he said.

Source : <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnam-may-not-reach-goal-of-5-million-int-l-visitors-in-2022-2066185.html>

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