

Tourism

Tourism is the backbone of Macao's economy. With the long-term goal of building Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre, the government department responsible for tourism development - the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) - started adjusting tourism policies and measures in accordance with Macao's new positioning, and promoted sustainable and healthy development of the tourism industry in areas including marketing and promotion, tourism planning, products and events, tourism industry management, and training and quality control.

In 2022, the tourism exchange between Macao and mainland China remained relatively smooth during the Covid-19 pandemic. The total number of tourists visiting Macao in 2022 was 5,700,339 – representing a decrease of 26 percent from the 2021 figure. The number of overnight visitors during the year totalled 2,484,028, representing a decrease of 32.8 percent, and accounting for 43.6 percent of visitors to Macao. The average length of stay of overnight visitors was 3.4 days while the overall figure was 1.5 days.

In 2022, Mainland China continued to be the largest market for visitors to Macao, accounting for 89.6 percent of the total number of visitors. Among the mainland China visitors, 1,681,823 (accounting for 32.9 percent of visitors from mainland China to Macao) travelled to Macao under the Facilitated Individual Travel (FIT) scheme. Hong Kong and Taiwan were the second and third largest markets for visitors to Macao, respectively; compared with 2021, the numbers of visitors from Hong Kong decreased by 12.8 percent, and those from Taiwan decreased by 5.1 percent.

Hotels and Travel Agencies

According to Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) statistics, at the end of 2022, Macao had a total of 142 hotel premises, of which 102 were hotels and apartment hotels, accounting for 71.8 percent of the total hotel premises, while 40 were budget accommodations, accounting for 28.2 percent of the total hotel premises. There were 46,506 hotel rooms in Macao

| Star Rating | Number of Hotels | Number of Rooms |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Hotels and Apartment Hotels | 102 | 45,576 |
| Five-star Luxury Hotels | 12 | 7,689 |
| Five-star Hotels | 27 | 20,510 |
| Four-star Hotels | 18 | 8,038 |
| Four-star Apartment Hotels | 2 | 657 |
| Three-star Hotels | 17 | 6,142 |
| Three-star Apartment Hotels | 2 | 638 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|-------|
| Two-star Hotels | 24 | 1,902 |
| Budget Accommodations | 40 | 930 |

The average room rate of three- to five-star member hotels was 749.8 patacas in 2022, 14.5 percent lower than in 2021, according to the Macau Hotel Association.

The total number of guests who stayed in hotels in Macao during 2022 was 5,114,551, representing a decrease of 22.8 percent from the figure in 2021. The average year-round occupancy rate of hotels decreased by 11.8 percent to 38.3 percent. The average length of stay was 1.8 nights, same as in 2021.

At the end of 2022, there were 188 licensed travel agencies in Macao, 20 less than in 2021. A total of 1,736 people held tourist guide licences issued by the MGTO, 118 (6.4 percent) fewer than in 2021. The language abilities of these tourist guides spanned Cantonese, Putonghua, English, Portuguese, Indonesian, German, Japanese, Korean, Thai, French, Russian, Malay, Hokkien and Chaozhouese.

In 2022, a total of 46,686 Macao residents engaged with travel agent services to travel abroad, representing a 68.4 percent decrease over the figure of 2021.

The first three quarters of 2023 saw 19,928,168 inbound tourists to Macao, a year-on-year increase of 360 percent.

Tourism Resources

Boasting a brilliant and fascinating history encompassing 400 years of cultural exchange between China and the West, Macao has a unique appeal to tourists. Its scenery is embellished with tourist treasures of all types, including picturesque dwellings constructed in traditional styles and ancient temples built during the Ming and Qing dynasties, buildings with Southern European architectural features, baroque-style churches and impressive contemporary structures.

Some of Macao's best known tourist attractions that are steeped in history include: the Ruins of St Paul's Church; the Chapel of Our Lady of Guia; St Anthony's Church; St Augustine's Church; St Dominic's Church; St Lawrence's Church; St Lazarus's Church; the Cathedral; Mount Fortress; Mong Ha Fortress; St Francis Fortress; Guia Fortress; Barra Fortress; the A-Ma Temple; Pou Chai Buddhist Monastery and Temple; Lin Fong Temple; Na Tcha Temple; Hong Kung Temple; Tam Kung Temple; Yeok San Buddhist Monastery; Chu Lam Chi Buddhist Monastery; Sam Po Temple; Po Tai Buddhist Monastery; Lin Kai Temple; Pak Tai Temple; and Tin Hau Temple.

Other unique tourist attractions in Macao include: the Museum of Macau which is adjacent to Mount Fortress and features exhibits on Macao's history; the Grand Prix Museum; Wine Museum; Maritime Museum; the Macao Museum of Art; the waterfront Kun Iam Statue; the A-Ma Statue which is made of white marble and sits on the highest point of Coloane island; and the cybernetic fountain at Nam Van Lake.

Visitors are able to see different aspects of Macao in these attractions.

In July 2005 the Historic Centre of Macao was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List with the support of the central government. The Historic Centre of Macao has long been an invaluable asset to the local tourism industry and since its inscription on the World Heritage List, the Government has actively used it as a major selling point in its global marketing efforts to spur diversified development of the tourism industry.

Cuisines and Events

Macao's unique mix of cultures and customs is reflected in the form of culinary fusion. In November 2017, Macao was awarded the title of UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy under the Creative Cities Network. Macanese food, which is a fusion of Portuguese, African, Southeast Asian and Chinese cooking, has begun to gain international recognition after being enjoyed by locals for decades. Other international cuisines are also available in Macao.

Every year Macao stages various international events to raise its international profile and increase its appeal to different tourists around the world. These include the Macao Grand Prix, the Macao International Marathon, the World Women's Volleyball Grand Prix, the International Fireworks Display Contest, the International Music Festival, the Macao Arts Festival and the Food Festival. In addition, the inauguration of major entertainment facilities, theme hotels, convention venues, world class stadiums and other infrastructures has enriched Macao's tourism resources and brought more music concerts, art shows, sports events as well as international meetings and exhibitions to Macao, turning a new page in the local tourism industry.