



**The "10th Global Tourism Economy Forum · Macao 2023" was Held**

The "10th Global Tourism Economy Forum · Macao 2023" was held on September 21st in Macau. Over 1,500 representatives from the global tourism industry and related sectors gathered to engage in in-depth discussions on the theme of "Destination 2030: Unlocking the Power of Tourism for Business and Development". Founded a decade ago, this forum has consistently been committed to assisting the tourism industry in exploring innovative solutions, promoting sustainable tourism development, facilitating the development of new products, new markets, and new investments in the tourism sector. It also serves as an excellent platform for global tourism experts and scholars to exchange ideas, share innovative and creative solutions, and promote innovation in the tourism industry. This edition of the forum delved into "Thinking Beyond Tourism" to explore opportunities for the global tourism economy's recovery and to enhance discussions on new ways of constructing a resilient, high-quality and people-oriented environment for the tourism industry in the new normal through innovative and sustainable international cooperation.

**The Extended 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee Reviews the Addition of 25 New World Heritage Sites**

The 45th session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee took place in Al Ula, Saudi Arabia, and resulted in the addition of 25 new World Heritage sites. These include Indonesia-The Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks, Palestine-Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan-Silk Roads: Zarafshan-Karakum Corridor, as well as China-Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er, among others.

**The French Tourism Development Agency Launches "France Expert" Travel Industry Training Platform**

Recently, the French Tourism Development Agency has launched a brand new "France Expert" travel industry training platform in seven language versions. Its aim is to assist global tourism professionals in accurately integrating and leveraging the upgraded resources of France as a destination. This platform efficiently combines the emerging market demands in the post-pandemic era to upgrade and expand high-quality travel products. Within this platform, 16 specialized regional modules encompass a wide array of innovative itineraries and experiences introduced across various regions of France in recent years. This platform also prioritizes practical applications to better serve our global travel industry partners.



**Dublin Launches Ireland's First AR Map: "Explore Dublin"**

Dublin Announces the Launch of a New AR (Augmented Reality) Map Feature: Simply download the "Explore Dublin" app on your phone to open a 3D map of Dublin. Users can explore the city in a novel way by interacting with the virtual city, discovering landmarks, museums, and attractions in Dublin. Additionally, users can delve into the history and culture of landmarks like the Guinness Storehouse, the Irish Emigration Museum, and 14 Henrietta Street.

**Global Tourism Industry Recovery Nearing 84% of Pre-2020 Levels**

According to data from the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the international tourism industry is steadily recovering. As of the end of July 2023, international tourist arrivals have rebounded to 84% of pre-2020 levels. Among regions, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa are at the forefront of the global tourism industry's resurgence. From January to July 2023, international tourist arrivals reached 700 million, a 43% increase compared to the same period in 2022. This growth peaked in July, with over 145 million international tourists, accounting for more than 20% of the total tourists for those seven months.

**China Optimizes Visa Application Forms for Foreigners Coming to China**

To further facilitate visa applications by foreigners coming to China, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has optimized the visa application form. This optimization involves 7 major sections and 15 subsections, primarily related to the applicant's educational background, family information, and travel history, reducing the amount of text-based information required. For example, the reporting period for international travel history has been reduced from 5 years to 1 year, and now only the highest level of education needs to be reported. This will significantly reduce the time it takes for applicants to fill out the form, making the process of obtaining a visa for China more convenient. The new version of the visa application form was officially launched on September 20th.

**The Melbourne Geelong Conference and Exhibition Center Precinct Project is set to be completed in 2026**

The Geelong Conference and Exhibition Center Precinct, located in Melbourne, Australia, is set to commence construction shortly and is expected to be completed by 2026. The Geelong Conference and Exhibition Center Precinct plans to introduce multiple dedicated conference and exhibition venues, including a 1000-seat venue, two large exhibition spaces, a sizable public square, a premium Crown Holiday brand hotel with 200 rooms, as well as numerous meeting rooms, conference facilities, flexible event spaces, and dining and retail spaces.

**Dubai Tourism Industry Shows Strong Growth Trend**

According to statistics from relevant authorities in Dubai, in the first half of 2023, the number of international tourists in Dubai exceeded pre-pandemic levels, with a total of 8.55 million international visitors. This broke the record for the number of tourists in the region and surpassed the 8.36 million international visitors recorded during the same period in 2019. In the first half of 2023, it is expected that Dubai's tourism industry will reach its highest level since 2019 by the year of 2024. Furthermore, the data indicates that in the first half of 2023, the overall performance of the UAE's tourism industry was impressive, especially in the hotel sector, where all key indicators outperformed the pre-pandemic levels.



The above information is collated and summarized by our magazine. PHOTOGRAPHS / PANORAMA MEDIA LNC., VCG