

Country Reports - International



November 2018

Travel and Tourism - Uzbekistan

"Uzbekistan's tourism is headed in an upward trajectory both in terms of arrivals numbers and an encouraging investment environment. Although the country is rich in cultural heritage attractions, it is aiming to expand its tourism offerings such as ecotourism, adventure tourism and gastronomy, to appeal to a broader tourist base ...

Travel and Tourism - Taiwan, China

"In 2017, North East Asia recorded 150.5 million international visitors – up from 127 million in 2013. A number of factors account for this marked increase in the number of tourists – strong interregional travel due to better air connectivity, vibrant economies and the emergence of a middle class ...

Travel and Tourism - Macau, China

"After more than a decade of impressive visitor and expenditure growth driven by its multi-faceted casino resorts, Macau is promoting itself as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure, and is focusing on new family attractions and business-convention facilities to attract a broader visitor mix and increase the average length ...

August 2018

Travel and Tourism - Trinidad and Tobago

"The ability to grow Trinidad and Tobago's tourism industry in the future will always be hampered by two things – the country's geographical location (ie far from the other Caribbean nations and off the beaten track for cruise companies) and the economy's dependence on revenues and taxes from the energy ...

Travel and Tourism - Nicaragua

"Billed as 'quite possibly the Central American country that has it all: tropical rainforests and untouched beaches, fringed with palms, distant cloud-capped

Travel and Tourism - Kyrgyzstan

"Kyrgyzstan's location on the Silk Road and in two of the world's major mountain ranges, the Tien Shan and the Pamirs, gives the country fantastic cultural and natural advantages. Dramatic, snowy mountain peaks and extensive valleys, numerous glacial lakes, verdant summer pastures or 'jailoos', along with several UNESCO Silk Road ...

Travel and Tourism - Mongolia

"The fortunes of Mongolia's international tourism sector have been mixed in recent years, with sustained annual growth in the number of foreign visitors seemingly elusive. The year 2017, however, appears to have marked a big turning point with the number of international tourists growing by 16.1%. The Mongolian government ...

Travel and Tourism - Azerbaijan

"On the cusp of Europe and Asia, this safe and scenic oil-rich nation on the Caspian Sea is rapidly emerging as a tourism player. With an hospitable culture, it offers something for everyone, from luxurious modern city breaks to historic journeys along the ancient Silk Road, and a burgeoning eco- ...

Travel and Tourism - Panama

"While the Panamanian government appears committed to helping the country fulfil its tourism potential, significant challenges remain. These include creating a destination brand that captures the spirit of Panama and emphasises what is unique about the country, alongside a more joined-up approach to tourism promotion."

– Jessica Kelly, Senior ...

Travel and Tourism - Guatemala

"A ravishing, intriguing and unforgettable Central America country, Guatemala, the 'heart of the Mayan World', is taking steps to address challenges to the



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volcanoes, and recently some extraordinarily special eco-lodges' by travel magazine giant Conde Nast Traveller, Nicaragua is an aspirational country for global adventure tourists who are keen to discover ...

Travel and Tourism - Barbados

"Barbados is one of the most developed and reputable tourism markets in the Caribbean. Just over 663,500 arrivals were reported in 2017, increasing 5% year on year. As a mature tourism market, Barbados faces tough competition from its Caribbean neighbours and it can be challenging to sustain growth rates ... development of its huge, largely untapped, tourism potential."

- Jessica Kelly, Senior Tourism Analyst

Travel and Tourism - Bahamas

"The tourism industry in the Bahamas is showing every sign of going from strength to strength. The robust arrivals figures for 2018, which indicated such a dramatic increase over 2017, are certainly pointing in that direction. There are challenges however."

- Jessica Kelly, Senior Tourism Analyst

May 2018

Travel and Tourism - Palestinian Territory, Occupied

"It could be the lure of Bethlehem's Banksy hotel offering 'the worst view in the world' that is attracting tourists in their thousands to the West Bank, but whatever has propelled Palestine to the top of the list of 2017's fastest-growing tourist destinations is helping bring the world's attention to ...

Travel and Tourism - Bahrain

"Bahrain has a state-of-the-art international seaport, the Khalifa Bin Salman Port, which is surrounded by a diverse, dynamic manufacturing and logistics cluster. The Bahrain International Airport is just ten minutes away and offers unparalleled connectivity across the Middle East region as well as beyond."

- Dr Jarmo Kotilaine, chief ...

Travel and Tourism - Israel

"The all-time record number of tourists visiting Israel this year is no accident. It is the result of clear policy. We have implemented several significant initiatives including reaching out to new and focused markets, building sub-brands and launching new campaigns, collaborations with large online travel agents, giving financial incentives to ...



Travel and Tourism - Qatar

"Primarily known as a world-class business tourism destination, the tiny, safe, oil- and gas-rich state of Qatar is also a fast-growing cruise-tourism destination. A blockade by key Arab nations in mid-2017 has fasttracked a diversification of tourism source markets, as it gears up to host the FIFA World Cup in ...

Travel and Tourism - Cyprus

"The country's maritime sector continues to be an important contributor to growth, as Cyprus is considered one of the most important international hubs for ship owning and management services, and Cyprus' international ship register ranks third in the EU and is the tenth largest in the world. Tourism is also ...

Travel and Tourism - Iran, Islamic Republic of

"Voted by Bloomberg as 'one of the best 20 places to visit in 2017' and by Forbes as 'one of the coolest places to go in 2017', Iran is receiving increasing international recognition for its extraordinary cultural treasures that include 21 UNESCO World Heritage sites, outstanding hospitality and friendly locals ...



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Travel and Tourism - Spain

"Celebrating both another year of record international arrivals and the success of San Sebastián's year as a European Capital of Culture, the Spanish tourism industry entered 2017 on a high. The latter part of the year, however, was very challenging for Spain and its tourism sector. Despite the Barcelona terror ...

Travel and Tourism - Italy

"Italy is one of the world's most popular tourism destinations and its tourism product is truly exceptional ranging from art, architecture and culture, to stunning landscapes and coastlines along with its iconic fashion industry. The sector has fared well in times of economic difficulties and international arrivals have continued to ...

Travel and Tourism - France

"As the world's most popular tourist destination, France is endowed with an extraordinary wealth of tourist attractions and glorious scenery, coupled with outstanding gastronomy and impeccable wine credentials that are renowned all over the world. Following the devastating terrorist attacks that had a direct effect on the tourist industry, all ...

Travel and Tourism - Portugal

"The concerted efforts of those with vested interests in Portugal's tourism industry to improve the competitiveness of Portugal's tourism industry have reaped rewards. The WEF [World Economic Forum]'s Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2017 ranks Portugal as the 14th most competitive destination (out of 136) on the globe . . . Diversification ...

Travel and Tourism - Germany

"Perceived as a safe pair of hands, with untapped tourism potential, and good value for money, Europe's unofficial leader Germany is on the rise. A sought-after luxury tourism destination, and in pole position with an increased demand for city breaks, it is also a top flight business destination, heading up ...

Travel and Tourism - Austria

"Austria can boast of one of the most prolific tourism sectors in Europe and the world with over 42 million arrivals and 140 million nights spent in the November 2016 to October 2017 period. Despite the success, a more holistic approach to higher- and lower-grossing tourist destinations, better infrastructure and ...