

# Mekong Tourism NEWSLETTER

Issue: June 2024



Photo credit: Quaivatholochness from Pixabay

## Welcome Green Season with Community-Based Tourism in the Mekong Region

In Myanmar, a rise in tourist numbers is anticipated this year, driven by CBT in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone. Bagan remains one of Myanmar's top tourist destinations, drawing visitors from Thailand, China, Russia, and the United States in 2024.

Several other villages near Bagan are also becoming popular CBT destinations. Set-Set-Yo Village in Nyaung-U Township is known for preserving traditional Myanmar hairstyles, while Thepyintaw Village is a center for traditional crafts like weaving, toddy plant climbing, and traditional edible oil production.

In Vietnam's Hậu Giang province, CBT is essential to its tourism strategy, centered around the area's vast rice fields, craft villages, fruit orchards and tourism areas such as the 100-year-old Phụng Hiệp Floating Market in Ngã Bảy City, the Phú Hữu Tourism Area in Châu Thành District, and the Long Trị Tangerine Village in Long Mỹ District.

By leveraging their unique cultural and natural assets, Bagan and Hậu Giang are becoming premier examples of successful community-based tourism in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region. Read our newsletter, and find out about other ongoing tourism developments around the Mekong!



## Regional Spotlight: Savannakhet, Lao PDR

The province of Savannakhet is the largest province in the Lao PDR, but its size belies its wealth of historical sites and cultural attractions. It boasts diverse ethnic groups, lush forests, and significant archaeological sites. Key attractions include the thousand-year-old That Ing Hang Stupa, the province's most important religious site; and French colonial architecture in Savannakhet City. The Lao Silk-Cotton Weaving Centre is a must visit, where Lao silk products can be bought to take home.

([TourismLaos.org](http://TourismLaos.org))



## Sustainable Tourism News



### Xe Champhone Crocodile Conservation Area, a new tourist destination

Four districts in Savannakhet Province have become new tourist destinations that promote sustainable conservation of aquatic animals and wildlife.

[Read more](#)



### Purr-fect move: Big cats on their way to Cambodia

India is planning to send four tigers to Cambodia by the end of this year as part of conservation programme.

[Read more](#)



### Lai Chau developing tourism associated with forest protection

To leverage the local strengths, Tam Duong district has been developing hiking tourism linked with forest protection.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming Festivals



**29 May - 3 June**

### Via Ba Chua Xu Festival, Viet Nam

In An Giang Province in the Mekong Delta, the Ba Chua Xu temple festival is held annually from the 23rd to the 27th of the fourth lunar month. During the festival, a marble statue is washed and clothed, then rites performed for the next few days.

**10 June**

### Dragon Boat Festival, China PR

The Dragon Boat Festival in Yunnan is a lively celebration with thrilling boat races on rivers and lakes. Participants paddle to drumbeats, creating an exciting spectacle. Traditional activities include making and eating zongzi, displaying dragon decorations, and performing rituals to honor river deities and ward off evil spirits.



**12 - 18 June**

### Si Sa Ket Lava Durian Festival, Thailand

The Si Sa Ket Lava Durian Festival held annually celebrates the renowned "Lava" durian of Si Sa Ket Province. Located at the Town Hall Lawn, this event is perfect for durian enthusiasts and those interested in local culture. It features tastings, competitions, and various cultural activities, providing a unique and delightful experience.





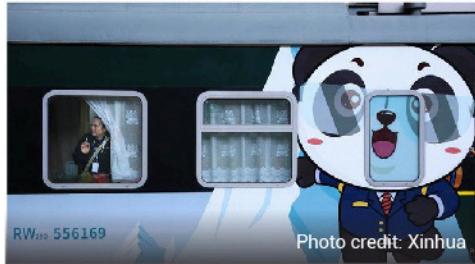
# News from the Greater Mekong Subregion



## Cambodia

- A delegation of Viet Nam's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism paid a working visit to Cambodia to enhance the two countries' cultural and arts cooperation. [Read more](#)
- The Apsara National Authority distributed water bottles and inaugurated a purification system at Banteay Srei Temple to reduce plastic waste in the Angkor area.

[Read more](#)



## China PR

- Guangxi has boosted high-quality development and strengthened regional industrial chains by targeting the ASEAN market and collaborating with over 160 leading enterprises since 2021. [Read more](#)
- China's vast railway network leading to rise of tourist trains as a fashionable new way of traveling across the country. [Read more](#)



## Lao PDR

- Lao PDR Tourism Ministry calls for stronger promotion in target markets, as Lao PDR received 1.3 million tourists in the first three months of this year. [Read more](#)
- Luang Prabang has approved a new 7,693-hectare economic zone to boost tourism, agriculture, and foreign investment. [Read more](#)



## Myanmar

- Bagan is implementing short-term and long-term plans to prevent flooding and restore ancient water management systems. [Read more](#)
- Myanmar welcomed over 430,000 foreign tourists in the first four months of this year, with the majority coming from China. [Read more](#)

## Thailand

- Thailand's new visa extension policy permits tourists from 93 countries to stay for up to 60 days, extends validity of digital nomad visas, and offers additional benefits. [Read more](#)
- Bangkok has been named the 'Best City' in the DestinAsian Readers' Choice Awards 2024, with other Thai destinations and services also earning top rankings. [Read more](#)



## Viet Nam

- Thai Nguyen authorities issue resolution approving project to preserve and develop the Tân Cương specialty tea region for 2021-25. [Read more](#)
- Localities in Vietnam developing smart tourism ecosystem to attract visitors in the digital era. [Read more](#)