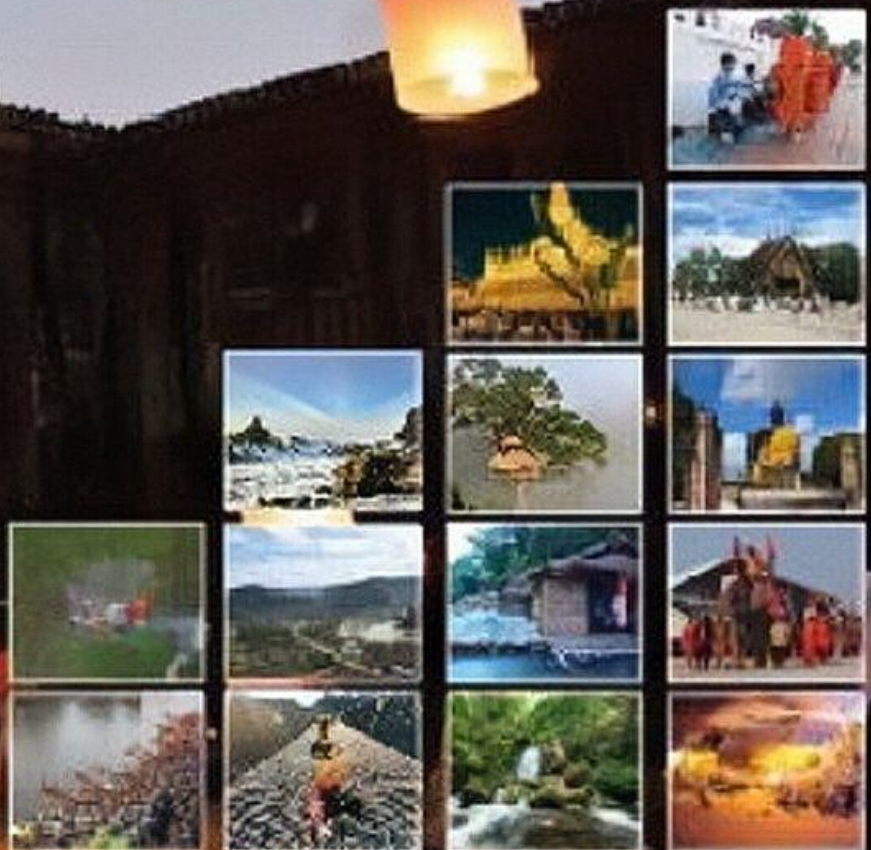


Statistical Report on Tourism in Laos

2022



Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
Tourism Development Department
Tourism Statistics and Research Division



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tourism Development Department (TDD) and the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism cooperated and collaborated with all Provincial Departments of Information, Culture, and Tourism to collect statistical tourism data annually and publish a Statistical Report on Tourism in Laos. Tourism statistics include the number of tourist arrivals, income from tourism activities, tourist expenditures, average length of stay, occupancy rates of tourist establishments, etc.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the world and regions has gradually declined, which resulted in positive tourism trends and an increasing number of worldwide tourists. Since Lao PDR reopened the country on 9 May 2022, it has been able to collect international tourist statistics for 2022. Data produced in this Statistical Report on Tourism could be used as a reference by interested parties who would like to conduct further research and studies on tourism and other related issues, given that the tourism sector is a vital industry that cuts across several other sectors in Lao PDR.

The Tourism Development Department would like to express its gratitude to the following stakeholders who contributed data and information to this Statistical Report on Tourism, including the Information, Culture, and Tourism Departments of Vientiane Capital and all provinces, the Immigration Department, travel agents, tour operators, hotels, and all tourism-related businesses, for their cooperation and facilitation in collecting tourism statistical data.

We also would like to express our gratitude to the USAID Laos Business Environment Project for their technical support in data analysis and translation of our Statistical Report on Tourism 2022 from Lao into English.

We hope this Statistical Report on Tourism in Laos 2022 will benefit all relevant parties.

Director General



Mrs. Phonemaly INTHAPHOME

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Introduction

This section elaborates on the meaning of the data presented in this report to give users a better understanding and to demonstrate the data collection methodology and data sources in this report.

Categories of Foreign Visitors

Two categories of foreign visitors to Lao PDR are international and cross-border or regional tourists.

- International tourists enter Lao PDR using a passport and obtain a visa from the Lao embassy or consulate or a visa upon arrival at an international checkpoint.
- Cross-border or regional tourists enter from neighboring countries bordering Lao PDR, such as Thailand, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar. Tourists from these countries enter Lao PDR by using border passes.

A Same-day visitor / Day Tripper / Excursionist refers to a tourist visiting Lao PDR only for a day, for instance, arriving in the morning and departing in the evening or making a visit for less than 24 hours.

From 1991 to 2002, there was a category of visitors called "Tourists for visa extension." This was a person who temporarily worked in a neighboring country and came to Lao PDR every three months for a visa extension and then reentered such a neighboring country. These people were mainly from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh. However, since 2003, this type of tourist has been classified as "international tourist."

Sources of Data

Both regional and international tourism statistical data were collected from records taken from embarkation and disembarkation cards from the Immigration Department, Vientiane Capital Department, and all Provincial Departments of Information, Culture, and Tourism. The statistics include nationality, sex, passport, length of stay, entry-exit checkpoints, and accommodation.

Since 1995, regional and international tourist statistical data has been collected from embarkation and disembarkation cards from the Immigration Department.

- Cross-border or regional tourist statistical data is collected from the entry-exit tabulation of each international checkpoint nationwide.
- Data on tourist characteristics, length of stay, and average expenditure per person per day is obtained from surveys of tourist arrivals in Lao PDR.

Tourist Arrivals and Departures through International Checkpoints

By air:

- **Wattay International Airport** hosts 12 international airlines such as Thai AirAsia, Lucky Air, Sichuan Airline, Vietnam Airline, Lao Airlines State Enterprise, Thai Smile Airways, Jeju Air, China Eastern Airlines, China Express Airlines, Scoot Tiger Air, China Southern Airlines, which connect Vientiane with Bangkok, Hanoi, Chongqing, Ho Chi Minh, Kunming, Phnom Penh, Incheon-South-Korea, Shangi-Singapore and Guangzhou.
- **Luang Prabang International Airport** is another Lao PDR international airport that services many airlines, such as Lao Airlines, Bangkok Airways, Thai AirAsia, Vietnam Airlines, Lucky Air, China Eastern Airlines, and Charter Flights.
- **Savannakhet International Airport** is an international airport with international flights operated by Lao Airlines (currently, the services are temporarily suspended).
- **Pakse International Airport** is used only by Lao Airlines, which operates international flights to Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh.

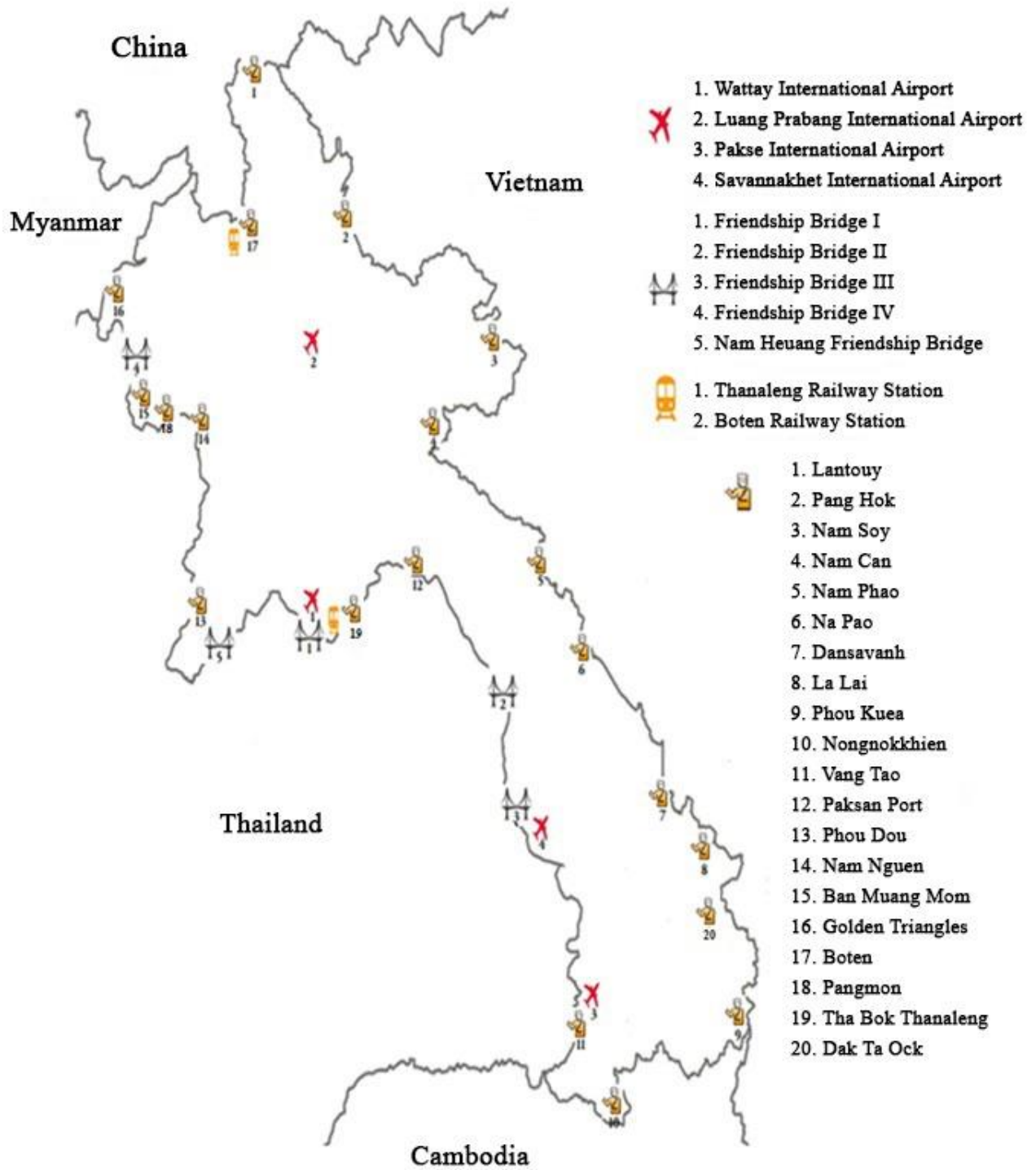
In addition, domestic airports in several provinces offer domestic flights within Lao PDR.

By land:

International Checkpoints between Lao PDR and Thailand :

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Golden Triangles | Bokeo Province - Golden Triangles, Chiang Rai Province |
| • Friendship Bridge IV | Bokeo Province - Chiang Rai Province |
| • Nam Nguen | Saiyabuli Province - Huai Kon, Nan Province |
| • Nam Hueng Friendship Bridge | Saiyabuli Province - Loei Province |
| • Phou Dou | Saiyabuli Province - Uttaradit Province |
| • Mittaphab (Friendship Bridge I) | Vientiane Capital - Nong Khai Province |
| • Thanaleng Railway Station | Vientiane Capital |
| • Paksan | Bolikhamxai Province - Bueng Kan Province |
| • Friendship Bridge III | Khammouane Province - Nakhon Phanom Province |
| • Friendship Bridge II | Savannakhet Province - Mukdahan Province |
| • Pangmon | Saiyabuli Province - Ban Huak, Phayao Province |
| • Tha Bok Thanaleng | Vientiane Capital |
| • Vang Tao | Champasak Province - ChongMek, UbonRatchathani Province |

Laos International Border Checkpoints



Part I: Number of International Tourists Arrivals in Lao PDR in 2022

Overview

Situations of International Tourists

Due to its strategic location, situated in the heart of the Indochinese Peninsula and Southeast Asia, Lao PDR is one of the destinations for long-haul tourists who first travel to neighboring countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia and then extend their visits to Lao PDR. International tourist arrivals in Lao PDR depend on various factors, such as the convenience of transport, ease of arrival and departure, diversity of tourist attractions, quality of tourism products, safety and security, etc. In addition, other factors include the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, economic and political situations, terrorism, and others.

Given that tourism is one of six priorities in the Lao National Socio-Economic Development, the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism has developed the Lao PDR Tourism Development Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 to align with the Government of Lao PDR's policy to promote nature-based, cultural heritage, and agricultural tourism in a green and sustainable manner. There are six goals set in the Lao PDR Tourism Development Strategic Plan: (1) Human Resource Development in the Tourism Sector and Technical Capacity Building in both quantity and quality, (2) Development and Improvement of Tourism Infrastructure and Facilities in both quantity and quality, (3) Making, Amendment and Dissemination of Laws and Regulations in Tourism Sector comprehensively and consistently in each period, (4) Development and Improvement of Quality and Sustainability of Tourism Attractions, Products and Services, (5) Promotion and Advertising Lao Tourism to attract key targeted tourist markets, (6) Coordination and Cooperation with Stakeholders from both domestic and foreign public and private sectors to effectively develop, advertise and manage tourism.

From 1990 to 2015, the number of international tourist arrivals in Lao PDR steadily increased, from 14,400 in 1990 to 4,684,429 in 2015. In 2016, the number of tourist arrivals decreased by -10% compared to 2015 and further decreased by -8.7% in 2017 (the total number was 3,868,838 visitors). However, the tourism sector remained a key driver in the socio-economic development of Lao PDR. In 2018, statistics showed a slight increase in tourist arrivals by 8.2% compared to 2017. In 2019, tourist arrivals jumped 14.4% compared to 2018.

Overall, the number of tourist arrivals in Lao PDR has increased continuously and is projected to be optimistic despite some periods where the number has dropped.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had severely impacted on global tourism. To prevent the outbreak of the pandemic, the Lao government announced strict prevention and control measures, including closures of international checkpoints from April 2020 onward. This caused a decrease in international tourists by -81.5%, or from 4,791,065 in 2019 to 886,447 visitors. From April 2020 to December 2021, the Lao government took measures to control the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic by closing down their borders. As a result, no international and regional tourists entered Lao PDR in 2021.

From January to late April 2022, Lao PDR implemented the Green Travel Zone scheme, which allowed tourists to visit the country as group tourists via registered tour companies with strict travel measures. Since 9 May 2022, Lao PDR has fully reopened the country, which lifted most measures. However, the number of international tourist arrivals in the country was relatively small compared to the same period before the outbreak of COVID-19 due to high prices of air tickets, regional and international inflation, increased fuel prices, and labor shortages in the tourism sector. These were the leading causes of the increase in tourism prices. This could be seen from the decrease of number of tourists from 4,791,065 in 2019 to 1,294,365 in 2022 (-73%).

A decrease in international tourist arrivals caused a reduction in tourism income from USD 934,710,409 in 2019 to USD 264,511,231 in 2022 (-71.7%). A drop in revenue was in a similar percentage with the decrease of tourist arrivals at 72.9%, which showed that tourist spending behaviors had not changed compared to the same period before the outbreak of COVID-19.

The importance of tourism as an industry that generates international exchange earnings needs to be recognized. In 2022, the tourism sector generated an income of USD 537.5 million, ranking it the 5th most valuable export earner in Lao PDR. From 2017 to 2019, it was the 4th highest export earner, with revenues in 2017, 2018, and 2019 being USD 648.0 million, USD 811.0 million, and USD 934.7 million, respectively. The tourism industry is one of the most important sources of export earnings for Lao PDR after electricity, mining, and agriculture.

Table 1: Number of Tourist Arrivals in Lao PDR, Tourism Revenue and Average Growth Rate 1990-2022

Year	Number of Tourist Arrivals	(%) Δ	Average Length of Stay (Days) for International Tourists	Average Length of Stay (Days) for Regional Tourists	Average Length of Stay (Days) for the Total Tourist Arrivals	Revenue from Tourism (Dollars)
1990	14,400	-	-	-	-	-
1991	37,613	161.2	-	-	-	2,250,000
1992	87,571	132.8	-	-	-	4,510,000
1993	102,946	17.5	3.5	-	-	6,280,000
1994	146,155	41.9	5.1	-	-	7,557,600
1995	346,460	137.0	4.3	-	-	24,738,480
1996	403,000	16.3	4.8	1.8	3.3	43,592,263
1997	463,200	14.9	5.0	3.0	4.0	73,276,904
1998	500,200	7.9	5.0	2.4	3.7	79,960,145
1999	614,278	22.8	5.5	2.4	4.0	97,265,324
2000	737,208	20.0	5.5	2.4	4.0	113,898,285
2001	673,823	-9.0	8.0	2.4	5.2	103,786,323
2002	735,662	9.1	6.5	2.1	4.3	113,409,883
2003	636,361	-14.0	6.0	2.0	4.0	87,302,412
2004	894,806	41.0	6.5	2.0	4.3	118,947,707
2005	1,095,315	22.0	7.0	2.0	4.5	146,770,074
2006	1,215,106	11.0	7.0	2.0	4.5	173,249,896
2007	1,623,943	34.0	7.0	2.0	4.5	233,304,695
2008	1,736,787	7.0	6.5	2.0	4.3	275,515,758
2009	2,008,363	16.0	7.0	2.0	4.5	267,700,224
2010	2,513,028	25.0	7.0	2.0	4.5	381,669,031
2011	2,723,564	8.0	7.0	2.0	4.5	406,184,338
2012	3,330,072	22.3	7.2	2.0	4.6	506,022,586
2013	3,779,490	13.0	8.4	2.0	5.2	595,909,127
2014	4,158,719	10.0	7.9	2.0	4.9	641,636,543
2015	4,684,429	13.0	7.5	2.0	4.8	725,365,681
2016	4,239,047	-10.0	7.5	2.0	4.8	724,191,957
2017	3,868,838	-8.7	8.3	2.0	5.2	648,067,008
2018	4,186,432	8.2	7.9	2.0	5.0	811,010,661
2019	4,791,065	14.4	7.9	2.0	5.0	934,710,409
2020	886,447	-81.5	7.9	2.0	5.0	213,367,141
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022	1,294,365	-73	9.6	2.0	5.8	264,511,231

Table 2: Revenue from Tourism and Major Exports from 2017-2022

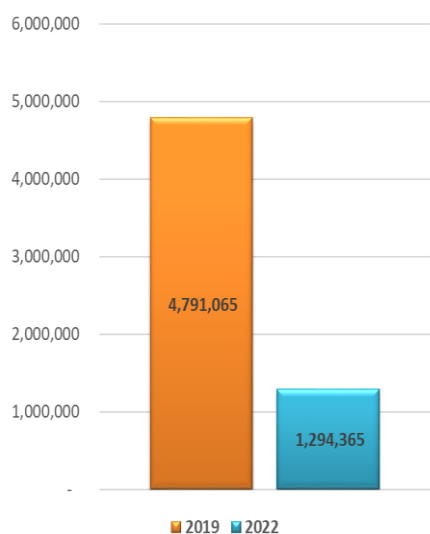
Product	2022		2021		2020		2019		2018		2017	
	Revenue	Rank	Revenue	Rank	Revenue	Rank	Revenue	Rank	Revenue	Rank	Revenue	Rank
Tourism	537.5	5	93.5	7	213.3	5	934.7	4	811.0	4	648.0	4
Garments	256.7	6	190.0	5	192.5	6	213.5	6	193.9	6	182.3	6
Electricity	2,503.3	2	2,317.3	1	1,976.4	1	1,326.8	3	1,408.1	3	1,280.3	3
Wood Products	46.4	8	42.4	8	27.2	8	58.9	8	184.5	7	48.6	8
Coffee	98.9	7	95.2	6	90.8	7	69.4	7	102.6	8	105.1	7
Agricultural Products	969.1	4	1,155.1	4	1,186.2	4	921.0	5	586.4	5	582.5	5
Minerals	1,792.1	3	1,701.2	3	1,314.4	3	1,438.0	2	1,439.4	2	1,390.5	1
Handicrafts	14.2	9	12.9	9	4.6	9	54.3	9	18.0	9	3.2	9
Other Industries	2,516.9	1	2,112.5	2	1,375.7	2	1,781.7	1	1,476.9	1	1,295.0	2

Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce (Unit: Millions of US Dollars)

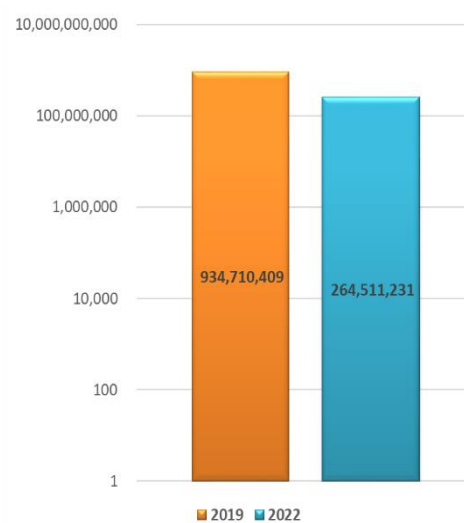
Graph 1: Changes in Number of Tourist Arrivals and Tourism Revenue



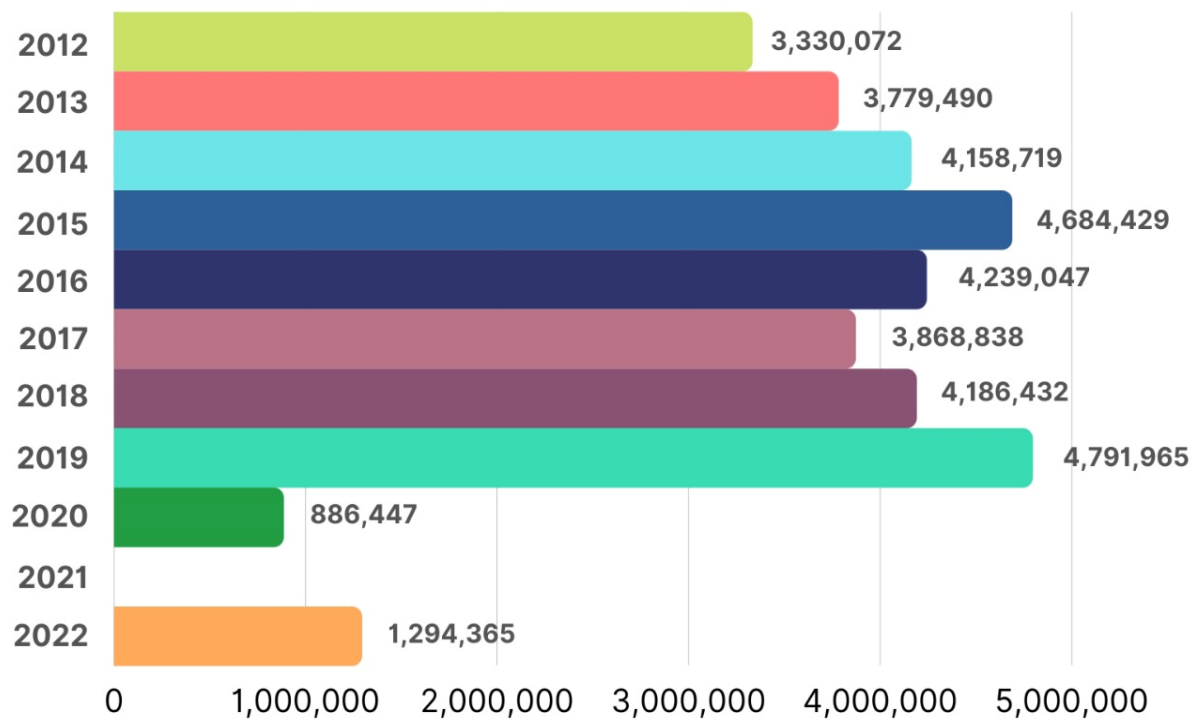
Increase in Percentage % ▼
-72.9



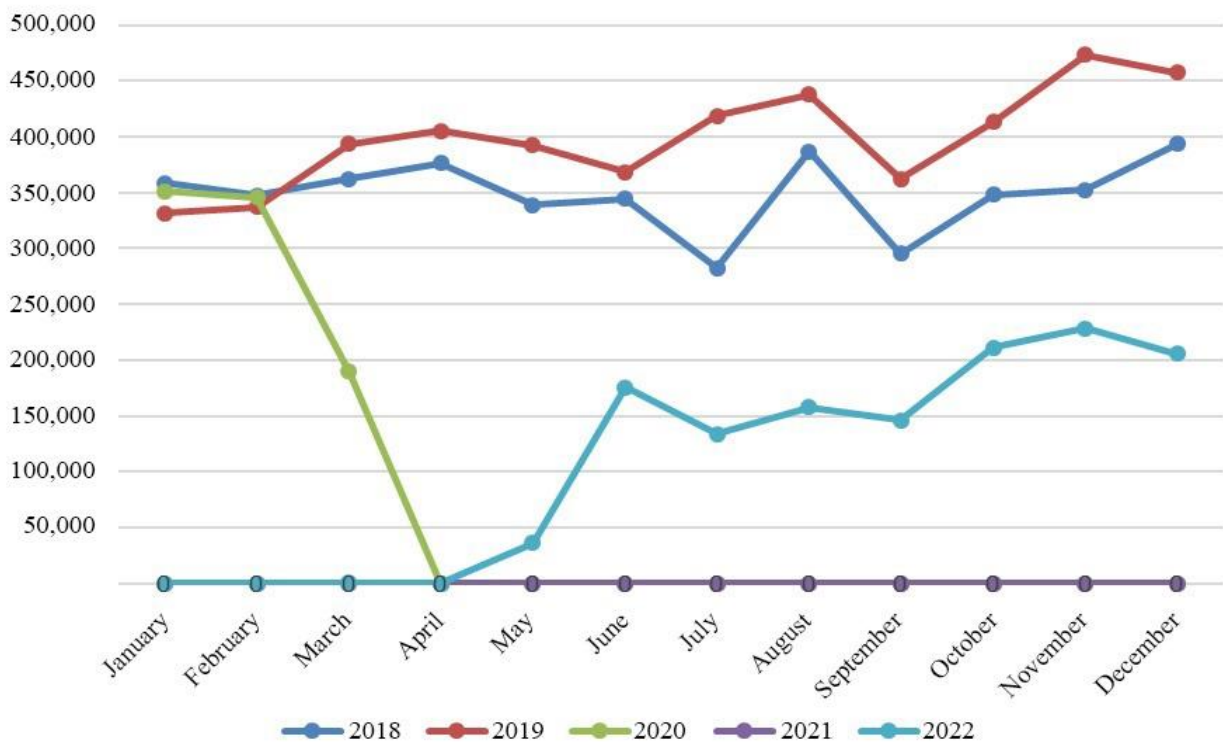
Increase in Percentage % ▼
-71.7



Graph 2: Tourist Arrivals 2012-2022



Graph 3: Number of Tourist Arrivals by Month 2018-2022



Situations of Regional Tourists

Findings have shown that tourists from the ASEAN region are essential for Lao tourism. In 2022, there were 1,124,376 tourists, which accounted for 86.87%, compared to 72.74% in 2016, 71.01% in 2017, 68.96% in 2018, 66.77% in 2019, and 62.67% in 2020. Lao PDR is a landlocked country with few direct flights to international routes; thus, it requires connections with international airlines in the region, such as Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, China, and Cambodia. Therefore, it is more convenient for tourists from nearby Asian countries to visit Lao PDR than tourists from other regions.

There were interesting observations to be made on tourists from ASEAN, Asia, and the Pacific regions before the outbreak of COVID-19, which rapidly increased and ranked the second highest. In 2016, it accounted for 19.73%, an increase of 7%; in 2017, it was 22.87% (an increase of 6%); In 2018, it was 25.21% (an increase of 19%) and in 2019, it was 27.50% (an increase of 25%). However, after the COVID-19 outbreak in 2022, the growth was only 7.21% because these regions had not yet fully opened their countries, including China and Japan.

Graph 4: Regional Tourists in 2022

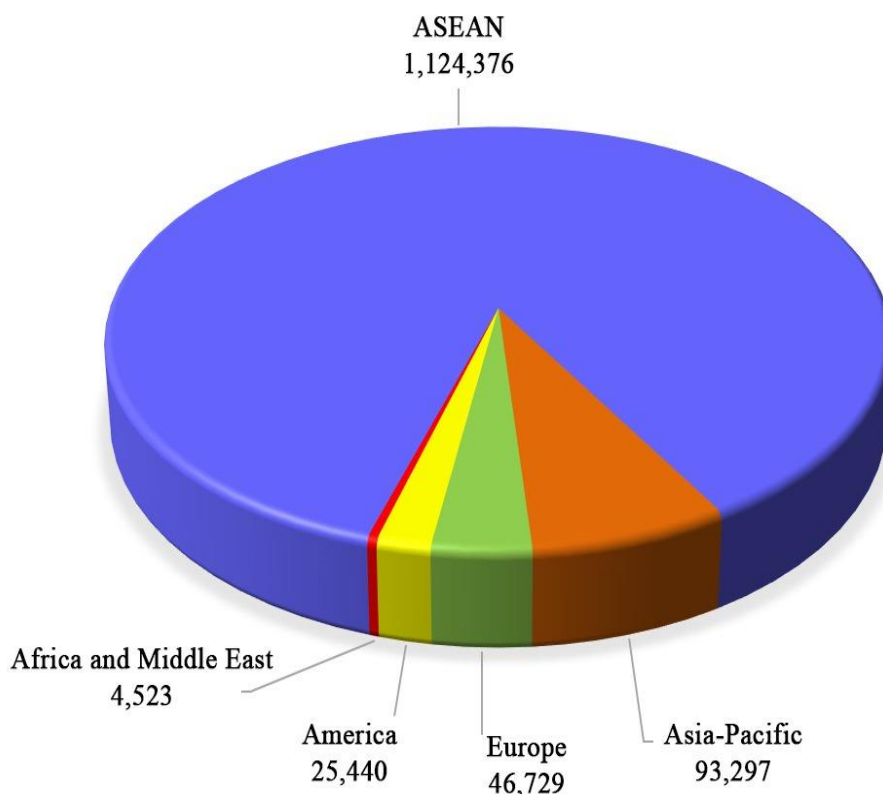


Table 3: Tourist Arrivals in Lao PDR in 2022

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ASEAN	3,083,383	2,747,096	2,886,844	3,198,829	555,519	-	1,124,376
Asia Pacific	836,282	884,875	1,055,415	1,317,478	226,297	-	93,297
Europe	221,908	161,194	165,808	182,465	70,459	-	46,729
Americas	86,211	64,227	69,101	82,652	30,176	-	25,440
Africa and Middle East	11,263	11,446	9,264	9,641	3,996	-	4,523
Grand Total	4,239,047	3,868,838	4,186,432	4,791,065	886,447	-	1,294,365

Table 4: Market Shares of Tourist Arrivals by Region (%) 2016-2022

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ASEAN	72.74%	71.01%	68.96%	66.77%	62.67%	-	86.87%
Asia Pacific	19.73%	22.87%	25.21%	27.50%	25.53%	-	7.21%
Europe	5.23%	4.17%	3.96%	3.81%	7.95%	-	3.61%
Americas	2.03%	1.66%	1.65%	1.73%	3.40%	-	1.97%
Africa and Middle East	0.27%	0.30%	0.22%	0.20%	0.45%	-	0.35%
Year	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	100%

Table 5: Changes in Tourist Arrivals in Recent Years (%)

Year	16/15	17/16	18/17	19/18	20/19	21/20	22/19
ASEAN	-14%	-11%	5%	11%	-83%	-	-65%
Asia Pacific	7%	6%	19%	25%	-83%	-	-93%
Europe	2%	-27%	3%	10%	-61%	-	-74%
Americas	-3%	-26%	8%	20%	-63%	-	-69%
Africa and Middle East	6%	2%	-19%	4%	-59%	-	-53%
Grand Total	-10%	-8.73%	8.2%	14.4%	-81.5%	-	-73%

Tourist Arrivals

In 2022, most tourist arrivals in Lao PDR used border passes, with 1,058,439 people (averaging 81.77%), including foreign tourists at 143,426 people and cross-border tourists at 915,013 people. It can be seen that most cross-border tourists use border passes to travel within specific areas. However, most tourists arriving in Lao PDR in 2022 needed to travel to various locations, mainly taking the Lao-China Railway during the COVID-19 pandemic, including Luang Prabang, Vang Vieng, Oudomxay and Boten, which required the use of passports. While Thai tourists mostly used passports to enter Lao PDR, with a total number of 539,405 people (averaged 46.87%) out of total passport holders, followed by tourists from Vietnam with a total number of 330,052 people (averaged 28.68%). There were 235,926 tourists using border passes, mainly from Thailand, with 192,349 people (averaging 81.53%) of all tourists using border passes, most of whom were temporary and one-day travelers and used different accommodations.

Out of total tourist arrivals, the average length of stay was 5.84 days, with an average spending of USD63.97/person/day. As long-haul travelers, international tourists stayed longer than cross-border tourists, with an average length of stay of 9.67 days, and spent USD98.63/person/day on average, whereby group tourists were the leading revenue generators for Lao tourism. Cross-border tourists using passports from Thailand, China, Cambodia, and Myanmar had an average length of stay of around three days, and their spending was between USD 30 and USD 52/person/day. In addition, travelers using border passes stayed in Lao PDR for only 1 to 2 days and spent less than other groups, spending around USD12 to 20/person/day.

The main purpose of the 1,216,703 international travelers arriving in Lao PDR in 2022 was mainly for tourism, with an average number of 94% compared to 2019 (83.70%), and those who entered for business purposes were around 38,831 people (averaged 3% compared to 6% in 2019); people who visited families were 16,827 people (averaged 1.3%, which was the same percentage as of 2021). The critical point was that there was no data on tourist arrivals in Lao PDR for educational tourism in 2022, whereas there were 301,837 visitors in 2019. In 2022, while many countries officially reopened their countries, travel lengths were limited, and many countries still imposed COVID-19 measures. Regarding educational tourism, people might have been cautious about the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in no tourists from this group in 2022.

The number of international tourist arrivals in Lao PDR by air transport was 578,581 people, accounting for 44.7%, compared to 14.6% in 2018 and 45.49% in 2019. Due to the opening of new routes to accommodate tourists from China and Korea, the number of tourists traveling by air has recently increased. Tourists from China did not travel directly by air to Lao PDR because China did not allow its citizens to travel overseas in 2022. However, some airlines from Thailand, Vietnam, and Korea connected with other countries whose citizens then connected onto flights to Lao PDR. Most tourists entering the country by land transport were from nearby regions, totaling 715,784 people (55.3%).

Table 6: Number of Tourist Arrivals by Categories in 2022

Category	Border Pass		Border Pass	Passport	Total
	Day tripper	Stay Overnight			
	2022		2022	2022	2022
Grand Total	91,704	144,222	235,926	1,058,439	1,294,365
International Tourist				143,426	143,426
Regional Tourist	91,704	144,222	235,926	915,013	1,150,939
Thailand	76,940	115,409	192,349	539,405	731,754
Vietnam	9,898	20,095	29,993	330,052	360,045
China	3,217	6,244	9,461	35,788	45,249
Cambodia	1,649	2,474	4,123	7,420	11,543
Myanmar	-	-	-	2,348	2,348

Table 7: Revenue from Tourism by Category, 2022

Category	Number of Tourist Arrivals (person)	Average Length of Stay (days)	Average Expenditure per Person per day (dollars)	Revenue from Tourism in 2022 (dollars)
Total	1,294,365	5.84	63.97	264,511,231
International Tourist	143,426	9.67	98.63	136,792,849
Regional Tourist	1,150,939			127,718,383
Thai (Passport)	539,405	3	52	84,147,176
Thai (Border pass)	192,349	1	20	3,846,981
Vietnam (Passport)	330,052	3	30	29,704,680
Vietnam (Day Tripper)	29,993	1	12	359,916
China (Passport)	35,788	3	80	8,589,120
China (Day Tripper)	9,461	1	15	141,915
Cambodia (Passport)	7,420	3	30	667,800
Cambodia (Border pass)	4,123	1	12	49,476
Myanmar (Passport)	2,348	3	30	211,320
Myanmar (Border pass)	-	1	12	-

Table 8: Modes of Transport and Purposes of Visits 2016-2022

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Grand Total	4,239,047	3,868,838	4,186,432	4,791,065	-	-	1,294,365
Mode of Transportation							
Air	578,925	520,176	612,967	1,906,844	-	-	578,581
Land	3,660,122	3,348,662	3,573,465	2,884,221	-	-	715,784
Purpose of Visit							
Business	373,036	479,735	309,796	287,464	-	-	38,831
Holiday	3,403,955	2,816,509	3,391,010	4,010,121	-	-	1,216,703
Visit family	178,039	352,064	138,152	62,284	-	-	16,827
Official, convention and seminar	93,259	81,245	58,610	100,612	-	-	5,177
Education		61,902	121,407	301,837	-	-	-
Enroute/In transit		11,606	20,932	-	-	-	2,589
Others	190,758	65,777	146,525	28,746	-	-	12,944

International Tourist Arrivals in Lao PDR

Most tourists who visited Lao PDR were from Thailand, Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Korea, the United States, and France. Out of the total number of foreign tourists, most were from Asian countries due to the convenience of transport, sharing borders, and availability of direct flights to Lao PDR.

Tourists from Thailand ranked first in terms of tourist arrivals in Lao PDR in 2022, with a total number of 731,754 people (56.53%) due to the convenience of transport and having similar languages and cultures, which many deemed to require little effort to adapt and consider Lao PDR as good value. The second highest number of tourists is from Vietnam, with 360,045 people (27.82%). Lao PDR shares borders with Vietnam in the East, and Vietnamese tourists have continuously traveled to Lao PDR. As a result, this has contributed to many tourists entering Lao PDR, and some Lao people could also communicate with them in Vietnamese, which eased their visits. The third highest number were tourists from China, despite China did not reopen its country in 2022. The Chinese tourists who entered Lao PDR in 2022 are tourists for visa extensions and those who transit to other countries, with 45,249 people (3.50%).

In 2022, the total number of tourist arrivals in Lao PDR was 1,294,365 people, averaging 27.01% of total tourists in 2019. According to the post-COVID tourism statistical data, Thai tourists are one of the most valuable tourist groups for Lao PDR. The number of Thai tourists revisiting Lao PDR was about 33.87%, and Vietnam tourists at approximately 38.92%, which accounted for a relatively high percentage compared to the

total number of tourists, and Chinese tourists accounted for 4.42% due to China having yet officially reopen the country.

Regarding tourists revisiting the country by region, 35.14% were from the ASEAN region, 7.08% from Asia and the Pacific, 25.60% from Europe, 30.77% from America, and 46.91% from Africa & Middle East. Since Lao PDR fully opened the country on 9 May 2022 (8 months), it could be observed that tourists from Europe were high-spending (high-end) tourists, staying longer and had a more significant number of revisits to Lao PDR, as Lao PDR is considered as one of the tourist destinations for European tourists who like to enjoy beautiful nature and peaceful culture.

Since June 2022, the first group of tourists revisiting Lao PDR was from Thailand, thanks to the popularity and high demand to experience Lao-China high-speed trains, which attracted 114,451 people. However, the number decreased to 77,463 people in July but gradually increased from August to December (high season) due to the cooler weather, making tourism more attractive. It could be seen that Vietnamese tourists entering Lao PDR were relatively consistent, around 40,000 to 50,000 people per month. Most European tourists are seasonal tourists, who usually come to Lao PDR from October until the end of winter because the weather in Lao PDR is much warmer than in Europe and is not too hot – making it suitable for tourism.

However, Lao PDR also received tourists from other regions who alternately visited the country periodically. From analyzing the previous tourist arrivals on a quarterly or monthly basis, the quarterly number of tourists was as close as 2015 to 2019. During the third quarter of each year, the number of tourists decreased slightly due to the rainy season in Lao PDR, which was inconvenient to travel. It could be seen that in the last six months of such a period, the number of tourists was similar to the period before the outbreak of COVID-19 compared to 2022. For monthly comparison, 211,000 tourists visited the country in October 2022, which accounted for 51.00% compared to October 2019; there were 228,550 tourists in November (48.25%) and 205,658 tourists in December (44.9%). This has shown that tourism is gradually recovering compared to the yearly average of 27.01%.

**Table 9: Tourist Arrivals in Lao PDR by Nationality
(Percent Increase) 2017-2022**

Region	Country	2017	2018	2019	2020	% ▽	2021	2022	% ▽ 22/19
Grand Total		3,868,838	4,186,432	4,791,065	886,447	-81.5	-	1,294,365	-73
ASEAN		2,747,096	2,886,844	3,198,829	555,519	-83	-	1,124,376	-65
	Brunei	342	278	389	103	-74	-	172	-56
	Cambodia	15,108	18,908	28,342	5,012	-82	-	11,543	-59
	Indonesia	3,241	3,487	5,161	1,217	-76	-	2,134	-59
	Malaysia	19,114	26,002	28,321	5,800	-80	-	6,382	-77
	Myanmar	2,848	22,132	22,524	1,417	-94	-	2,348	-90
	Philippines	10,168	10,826	17,187	3,679	-79	-	4,986	-71
	Singapore	6,829	7,692	11,730	2,008	-83	-	5,012	-57
	Thailand	1,797,803	1,929,934	2,160,300	350,103	-84	-	731,754	-66
	Vietnam	891,643	867,585	924,875	186,180	-80	-	360,045	-61
Asia and Pacific		884,875	1,055,415	1,317,478	226,297	-83	-	93,297	-93
	Australia	20,886	19,607	24,750	7,271	-71	-	6,501	-74
	China	639,185	805,833	1,022,727	138,466	-86	-	45,249	-96
	India	4,343	4,864	8,152	1,743	-79	-	3,568	-56
	Japan	32,064	38,985	41,736	11,085	-73	-	6,848	-84
	Korea (Rep)	170,571	174,405	203,191	40,210	-80	-	26,008	-87
	New Zealand	3,202	3,460	3,965	1,226	-69	-	864	-78
	Taiwan (pr. of Ch)	4,329	4,823	6,956	1,714	-75	-	1,514	-78
	Others	10,295	3,438	6,001	24,582	310	-	2,745	-54
Europe		161,194	165,808	182,465	70,459	-61	-	46,729	-74
	Austria	2,874	3,237	3,320	1,250	-62	-	568	-83
	Belgium	4,371	5,322	6,099	1,970	-68	-	1,492	-76
	Denmark	3,198	3,892	3,134	1,591	-49	-	985	-69
	Finland	2,023	2,287	1,719	780	-55	-	454	-74
	France	36,760	39,315	44,416	15,509	-65	-	10,355	-77
	Germany	23,776	22,915	25,346	8,632	-66	-	6,077	-76
	Greece	481	520	586	246	-58	-	128	-78
	Italy	7,537	6,198	7,330	2,751	-62	-	1,320	-82
	Netherlands	5,500	7,804	8,877	2,287	-74	-	2,564	-71
	Norway	2,334	2,913	2,248	874	-61	-	500	-78
	Russia	10,986	8,963	12,054	3,144	-74	-	4,410	-63
	Spain	4,589	5,309	6,157	1,476	-76	-	1,416	-77
	Sweden	3,483	4,802	3,475	1,419	-59	-	767	-78
	Switzerland	7,956	9,749	8,512	2,921	-66	-	1,537	-82
	United Kingdom	27,723	26,801	31,976	11,592	-64	-	8,664	-73
	Others	17,603	15,781	17,216	14,017	-19	-	5,492	-68
Americas		64,227	69,101	82,652	30,176	-63	-	25,440	-69
	Canada	13,467	10,759	12,873	4,638	-64	-	2,974	-77
	USA	38,765	49,178	61,184	18,116	-70	-	18,447	-70
	Others	11,995	9,164	8,595	7,422	-14	-	4,019	-53
Africa and Middle East		11,446	9,264	9,641	3,996	-59	-	4,523	-53
	Israel	2,128	2,997	4,041	1,664	-59	-	1,170	-71
	Others	9,318	6,267	5,600	2,332	-58	-	3,353	-40

**Table 10: Tourist Arrivals in Lao PDR by Nationality
(Market Share) 2017-2022**

Region	Country	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	2022	
Grand Total		3,868,838	100%	4,186,432	100%	4,791,065	100%	886,447	100%	-	1,294,365	100%
ASEAN		2,747,096	71.01	2,886,844	68.96	3,198,829	66.77	555,519	62.67	-	1,124,376	86.87
	Brunei	342	0.01	278	0.01	389	0.01	103	0.01	-	172	0.01
	Cambodia	15,108	0.39	18,908	0.45	28,342	0.59	5,012	0.57	-	11,543	0.89
	Indonesia	3,241	0.08	3,487	0.08	5,161	0.11	1,217	0.14	-	2,134	0.16
	Malaysia	19,114	0.49	26,002	0.62	28,321	0.59	5,800	0.65	-	6,382	0.49
	Myanmar	2,848	0.07	22,132	0.53	22,524	0.47	1,417	0.16	-	2,348	0.18
	Philippines	10,168	0.26	10,826	0.26	17,187	0.36	3,679	0.42	-	4,986	0.39
	Singapore	6,829	0.18	7,692	0.18	11,730	0.24	2,008	0.23	-	5,012	0.39
	Thailand	1,797,803	46.47	1,929,934	46.10	2,160,300	45.09	350,103	39.50	-	731,754	56.53
	Vietnam	891,643	23.05	867,585	20.72	924,875	19.30	186,180	21.00	-	360,045	27.82
Asia and Pacific		884,875	22.87	1,055,415	25.21	1,317,478	27.50	226,297	25.53	-	93,297	7.21
	Australia	20,886	0.54	19,607	0.47	24,750	0.52	7,271	0.82	-	6,501	0.50
	China	639,185	16.52	805,833	19.25	1,022,727	21.35	138,466	15.62	-	45,249	3.50
	India	4,343	0.11	4,864	0.12	8,152	0.17	1,743	0.20	-	3,568	0.28
	Japan	32,064	0.83	38,985	0.93	41,736	0.87	11,085	1.25	-	6,848	0.53
	Korea (Rep)	170,571	4.41	174,405	4.17	203,191	4.24	40,210	4.54	-	26,008	2.01
	New Zealand	3,202	0.08	3,460	0.08	3,965	0.08	1,226	0.14	-	864	0.07
	Taiwan (pr. of Chi)	4,329	0.11	4,823	0.12	6,956	0.15	1,714	0.19	-	1,514	0.12
	Others	10,295	0.27	3,438	0.08	6,001	0.13	24,582	2.77	-	2,745	0.21
Europe		161,194	4.17	165,808	3.96	182,465	3.81	70,459	7.95	-	46,729	3.61
	Austria	2,874	0.07	3,237	0.08	3,320	0.07	1,250	0.14	-	568	0.04
	Belgium	4,371	0.11	5,322	0.13	6,099	0.13	1,970	0.22	-	1,492	0.12
	Denmark	3,198	0.08	3,892	0.09	3,134	0.07	1,591	0.18	-	985	0.08
	Finland	2,023	0.05	2,287	0.05	1,719	0.04	780	0.09	-	454	0.04
	France	36,760	0.95	39,315	0.94	44,416	0.93	15,509	1.75	-	10,355	0.80
	Germany	23,776	0.61	22,915	0.55	25,346	0.53	8,632	0.97	-	6,077	0.47
	Greece	481	0.01	520	0.01	586	0.01	246	0.03	-	128	0.01
	Italy	7,537	0.19	6,198	0.15	7,330	0.15	2,751	0.31	-	1,320	0.10
	Netherlands	5,500	0.14	7,804	0.19	8,877	0.19	2,287	0.26	-	2,564	0.20
	Norway	2,334	0.06	2,913	0.07	2,248	0.05	874	0.10	-	500	0.04
	Russia	10,986	0.28	8,963	0.21	12,054	0.25	3,144	0.35	-	4,410	0.34
	Spain	4,589	0.12	5,309	0.13	6,157	0.13	1,476	0.17	-	1,416	0.11
	Sweden	3,483	0.09	4,802	0.11	3,475	0.07	1,419	0.16	-	767	0.06
	Switzerland	7,956	0.21	9,749	0.23	8,512	0.18	2,921	0.33	-	1,537	0.12
	United Kingdom	27,723	0.72	26,801	0.64	31,976	0.67	11,592	1.31	-	8,664	0.67
	Others	17,603	0.45	15,781	0.38	17,216	0.36	14,017	1.58	-	5,492	0.42
Americas		64,227	1.66	69,101	1.65	82,652	1.73	30,176	3.40	-	25,440	1.97
	Canada	13,467	0.35	10,759	0.26	12,873	0.27	4,638	0.52	-	2,974	0.23
	USA	38,765	1.00	49,178	1.17	61,184	1.28	18,116	2.04	-	18,447	1.43
	Others	11,995	0.31	9,164	0.22	8,595	0.18	7,422	0.84	-	4,019	0.31
Africa and Middle East		11,446	0.30	9,264	0.22	9,641	0.20	3,996	0.45	-	4,523	0.35
	Israel	2,128	0.06	2,997	0.07	4,041	0.08	1,664	0.19	-	1,170	0.09
	Others	9,318	0.24	6,267	0.15	5,600	0.12	2,332	0.26	-	3,353	0.26

Table 11: Tourist Arrivals in Lao PDR by Month 2022

Region	Country	Months												Total 2022
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Grand Total		30	128	266	122	36,006	175,419	133,673	157,489	146,024	211,000	228,550	205,658	1,294,365
ASEAN		5	17	125	44	33,443	165,404	120,383	136,435	125,487	178,005	194,304	170,724	1,124,376
	Brunei	-	-	-	-	3	12	16	19	37	45	17	23	172
	Cambodia	-	-	-	-	130	613	3,407	1,033	1,218	1,326	2,516	1,300	11,543
	Indonesia	-	-	-	1	65	138	211	166	300	442	476	335	2,134
	Malaysia	-	-	3	9	57	390	770	1,075	1,236	972	977	893	6,382
	Myanmar	-	-	-	-	26	114	181	263	493	484	430	357	2,348
	Philippines	-	2	26	6	47	292	458	720	695	831	996	913	4,986
	Singapore	-	-	-	2	43	225	241	366	2,660	438	613	424	5,012
	Thailand	5	14	88	26	18,622	114,451	77,436	85,555	70,609	120,548	130,710	113,690	731,754
	Vietnam	-	1	8	-	14,450	49,169	37,663	47,238	48,239	52,919	57,569	52,789	360,045
Asia and Pacific		23	100	33	50	1,703	6,447	7,514	12,360	11,449	21,453	16,674	15,491	93,297
	Australia	-	-	-	2	224	456	551	809	891	1,048	1,462	1,058	6,501
	China	-	9	9	-	1,148	3,448	3,410	5,938	5,030	13,361	6,501	6,395	45,249
	India	-	1	-	-	83	316	273	498	536	578	698	585	3,568
	Japan	-	1	1	-	110	489	636	1,175	1,161	1,101	1,187	987	6,848
	Korea (Rep)	23	33	16	30	43	1,347	2,074	3,240	3,136	4,439	5,905	5,722	26,008
	New Zealand	-	-	-	-	6	44	75	124	121	165	180	149	864
	Taiwan (pr. of Chi)	-	-	-	-	38	159	137	235	230	275	232	208	1,514
	Others	-	56	7	18	51	188	358	341	344	486	509	387	2,745
Europe		-	11	80	6	375	1,974	2,828	5,054	4,975	6,411	11,608	13,407	46,729
	Austria	-	-	-	-	4	28	23	40	52	66	158	197	568
	Belgium	-	-	-	-	25	69	113	193	169	212	358	353	1,492
	Denmark	-	-	-	-	3	45	43	107	94	203	209	281	985
	Finland	-	-	35	-	3	26	14	28	33	74	108	133	454
	France	-	-	-	4	134	539	562	1,173	928	1,378	2,605	3,032	10,355
	Germany	-	-	-	-	52	269	331	595	644	877	1,417	1,892	6,077
	Greece	-	-	-	-	-	17	9	27	14	15	24	22	128
	Italy	-	-	6	-	8	61	96	235	169	167	283	295	1,320
	Netherlands	-	1	-	-	5	108	184	309	270	280	667	740	2,564
	Norway	-	-	-	-	-	29	52	62	67	84	97	109	500
	Russia	-	-	-	-	14	94	208	244	371	529	1,405	1,545	4,410
	Spain	-	-	-	-	4	40	76	244	160	211	300	381	1,416
	Sweden	-	-	-	-	7	36	46	82	78	102	201	215	767
	Switzerland	-	-	16	1	8	76	9	30	16	263	519	599	1,537
	United Kingdom	-	7	19	1	61	352	553	825	900	1,328	2,212	2,406	8,664
	Others	-	3	4	-	47	185	509	860	1,010	622	1,045	1,207	5,492
Americas		2	-	25	20	466	1,375	2,296	2,972	3,029	4,479	5,384	5,392	25,440
	Canada	-	-	-	1	39	161	188	269	331	494	739	752	2,974
	USA	2	-	25	19	400	1,094	1,217	2,076	2,165	2,880	4,310	4,259	18,447
	Others	-	-	-	-	27	120	891	627	533	1,105	335	381	4,019
Africa and Middle East		-	-	3	2	19	219	652	668	1,084	652	580	644	4,523
	Israel	-	-	-	1	2	39	73	78	174	335	150	318	1,170
	Others	-	-	3	1	17	180	579	590	910	317	430	326	3,353

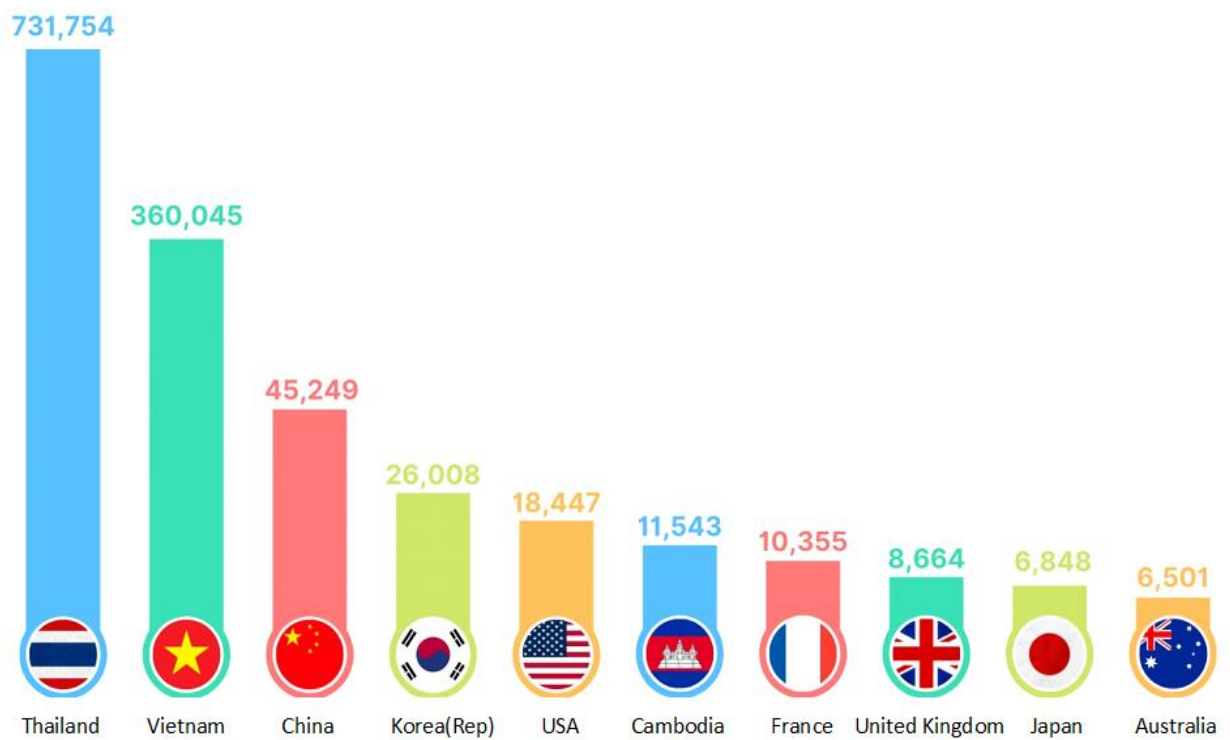
Table 12: Tourist Arrivals in Lao PDR by Quarterly 2015-2022

Months	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Grand Total	4,684,429	4,239,047	3,868,838	4,186,432	4,791,065	886,447	-	1,294,365
1st QUARTER	1,284,896	1,248,017	1,045,329	1,067,696	1,062,377	886,447	-	424
January	436,358	400,140	339,768	358,248	331,524	351,104	-	30
February	426,697	450,902	350,344	347,227	337,356	345,900	-	128
March	421,841	396,975	355,217	362,221	393,497	189,443	-	266
2nd QUARTER	1,040,693	1,002,972	959,209	1,059,584	1,166,082	-	-	211,547
April	416,628	363,538	346,559	376,133	404,945	-	-	122
May	325,095	343,162	314,344	339,165	392,491	-	-	36,006
June	298,970	296,272	298,306	344,286	368,646	-	-	175,419
3rd QUARTER	1,158,084	922,826	822,418	964,806	1,218,128	-	-	437,186
July	337,805	296,242	278,971	282,602	418,537	-	-	133,673
August	358,358	323,603	280,983	386,911	437,586	-	-	157,489
September	461,921	302,981	262,464	295,293	362,005	-	-	146,024
4th QUARTER	1,200,756	1,065,232	1,041,882	1,094,346	1,344,478	-	-	645,208
October	400,054	336,863	325,574	348,281	413,251	-	-	211,000
November	420,650	367,964	358,997	352,225	473,648	-	-	228,550
December	380,052	360,405	357,311	393,840	457,579	-	-	205,658

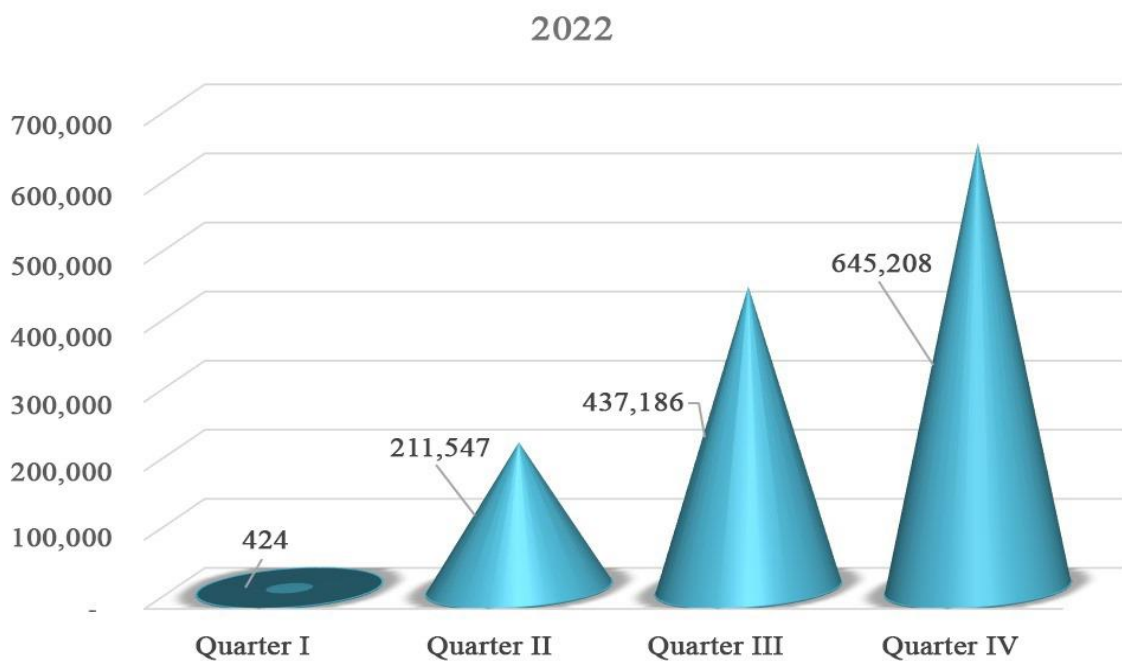
Table 13: Tourist Arrivals by Month through Category, 2018-2022

Months	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		
					International	Regional	Total
Grand Total	4,186,432	4,791,065	886,447	-	1,058,439	235,926	1,294,365
January	358,248	331,524	351,104	-	30		30
February	347,227	337,356	345,900	-	128		128
March	362,221	393,497	189,443	-	266		266
April	376,133	404,945	-	-	122		122
May	339,165	392,491	-	-	25,604	10,402	36,006
June	344,286	368,646	-	-	136,588	38,831	175,419
July	282,602	418,537	-	-	116,647	17,026	133,673
August	386,911	437,586	-	-	133,244	24,245	157,489
September	295,293	362,005	-	-	126,740	19,284	146,024
October	348,281	413,251	-	-	168,589	42,411	211,000
November	352,225	473,648	-	-	186,637	41,913	228,550
December	393,840	457,579	-	-	163,844	41,814	205,658

Graph 5: Top 10 Tourist Arrivals to Laos 2022



Graph 6: Number of International Tourists by Quarterly 2022



Tourist Travel Routes

Tourists arrive to and depart from Lao PDR through four main routes (by order of the international checkpoints with the highest to the lowest number of tourists passing through): (i) Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge 1 that links Vientiane Capital with Nongkhai had 350,987, accounted for 27.12%, (ii) Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge 3 that links Khammouane Province with Nakhon Phanom had 142,173, accounted for 11.03%, (iii) Wattay International Airport had 117,177, accounted for 9.05%, and (iv) Dansavanh International Customs Border Checkpoint that links Savannakhet Province and Quảng Trị Province (Vietnam) had 112,596 tourists, accounted for 8.59%.

In 2022, there were 1,026,190 cross-border tourist arrivals, accounting for 79.28%, who were mainly from Thailand by entering via Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge 1 and 2. Vietnamese tourists especially entered Lao PDR via the Dansavanh International Checkpoint as their primary route. However, international tourists entered Lao PDR via many routes, such as Wattay International Airport, which tourists from the top four countries used the most. These included 17,680 people from China, 17,508 people from Thailand, 17,382 people from Korea, and 12,990 people from Vietnam. This was due to direct flights operating to and from these four countries.

Wattay International Airport remains the top route with the most foreign tourists because it receives connecting flights from nearby countries. Tourists from Europe who visited Thailand and Vietnam also continued their visits to Lao PDR through various border checkpoints. There were 4,821 tourists from Europe and 4,233 from America who traveled from Thailand and used the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge 1 to visit Lao PDR. In comparison, 1,324 tourists from Europe entered Lao PDR via Dansavanh International Checkpoint, and 5,930 tourists from Europe and 2,656 tourists from America entered Lao PDR via Luang Prabang International Airport.

The top tourist destinations that most tourists decided to visit in Lao PDR were divided into three main groups: the first leading group included Vientiane Capital, Luang Prabang, and Savannakhet, which had more than 200,000 international tourists per year. Vientiane Capital was the main gateway for tourists, and most tourists started from here to travel to other tourist destinations, especially Luang Prabang. The percentage of tourists visiting these three provinces was close to 2019 or before the outbreak of COVID-19. The second leading group with 50,000-200,000 tourist arrivals included Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Champasak, Khammouane, Vientiane, and Saiyabuli Provinces. Provinces that had tourism promotion campaigns included the Vientiane and Champasak provinces. Bokeo province has a Special Economic Zone where many tourism activities are situated. Khammouane province, which links with Nakhon Phanom (Thailand) via Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge 3, has many natural and adventure tourist attractions such as Phu Pha Man and The Loop (Bolikhamxay-Khammouane). Champasak province has Wat Phou Champasak, Khonphapheng Waterfalls, Tad Somphamit Waterfalls (Lee Phee), Don Ded - Don Khone, and many beautiful waterfalls and coffee plantations in plateau areas around Paksong District. Saiyabuli province has opened a new route that connects Luang Prabang with Nan Province (Thailand), which has eased access to Lao PDR. The third leading group, less than 50,000 people, would likely visit smaller towns with few tourist attractions and are less convenient to travel.

Table 14: Tourist Arrivals by Port of Entry through Category, 2017-2022

Porty of Entry	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Regional Visitors	Precent Share	Precent Change
Grand Total	3,838,157	4,186,432	4,791,065	886,447	-	1,294,365	1,026,190	% Δ 100	% ▽ 22/19
Wattay Airport	364,714	355,621	574,137	103,559	-	117,177	-	9.05	-80
Savanh Airport	3,709	18,236	2,966	643	-	-	-	-	-100
Pakse Airport	12,378	14,567	12,545	5,152	-	-	-	-	-100
Luang Prabang Airport	139,375	224,543	202,159	65,844	-	20,639	-	1.59	-90
Mittha Phab Bridge I	863,642	1,124,613	1,321,006	212,499	-	350,987	308,386	27.12	-73
Thanaleng Railway Station	4,048	17,310	2,923	730	-	-	-	-	-100
Boten	493,308	485,873	536,906	79,827	-	8,289	8,289	0.64	-98
Mittha Phab Bridge IV	174,161	156,677	156,478	41,998	-	91,386	77,682	7.06	-42
Golden Triangles	-	163,544	240,777	22,909	-	36,902	22,958	2.85	-85
Ban Mone	-	21,304	19,478	540	-	499	482	0.04	-97
Mittha Phab Bridge II	517,903	419,304	405,031	79,427	-	142,713	126,795	11.03	-65
Dane Savanh	208,626	215,190	236,403	42,446	-	112,526	99,076	8.69	-52
Vang Tao	181,587	200,149	206,030	50,012	-	61,980	56,340	4.79	-70
Nong Nok Khian	28,915	31,332	51,904	10,721	-	15,657	8,677	1.21	-70
Nam Phao	168,933	177,238	128,093	27,034	-	66,233	63,436	5.12	-48
Pak Xan	28,294	32,299	40,410	5,576	-	12,756	12,410	0.99	-68
Mittha Phab Bridge III	153,076	73,293	94,017	20,624	-	50,225	43,682	3.88	-47
Na Phao	141,574	112,589	135,667	33,019	-	60,795	58,548	4.70	-55
Nam Heuang Bridge	42,857	40,276	69,827	8,492	-	13,087	12,796	1.01	-81
Nam Ngeun	50,303	52,099	53,351	13,337	-	21,932	21,336	1.69	-59
Phou Dou	15,849	10,579	9,371	1,537	-	3,431	3,264	0.27	-63
Nam Kanh	73,406	45,361	61,261	13,328	-	20,296	19,807	1.57	-67
Nam Souy	16,943	10,913	14,766	4,289	-	9,157	8,079	0.71	-38
Pang Hok	33,983	34,311	45,597	8,587	-	15,486	14,057	1.20	-66
Larn Tuai	6,420	19,451	33,176	2,365	-	1,793	1,469	0.14	-95
Phou Keua	64,044	55,917	61,664	9,643	-	29,831	28,893	2.30	-52
La Lai	50,109	73,843	75,122	22,309	-	20,894	20,316	1.61	-72
Dak Ta Ock	-	-	-	-	-	4,868	4,670	0.38	-
Pang Mone	-	-	-	-	-	4,826	4,742	0.37	-
Thabok Thanaleng	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boten Railway Station	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 15: Tourist Arrivals to Laos Through the Checkpoint by Nationality in 2022

Country of Origin	Port of Entry														
	Attapeu	Bokoe			Bolikhamsay		Champasak			Huaphanh	Khammoune		Luang Prabang	Luang Namtha	
	Phou Keua	Mittha	Golden	BanMone	Pakxan	Namphao	Vang Tao	Pakse	Nong	Nam Souy	Mittha	Naphao	Luang prabang	Boten	Boten
		phab	Triangles					Airport	Nok		phab				
	Bridge IV							Khian		Bridge III				Station	
Grand Total	29,831	91,386	36,902	499	12,756	66,233	61,931	49	15,657	9,157	50,225	60,795	20,639	8,289	-
ASEAN	29,549	78,610	25,895	483	12,654	65,164	58,636	49	12,677	8,805	48,821	60,474	10,084	-	-
Brunei	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	12	-	-
Cambodia	7	19	102	-	11	14	245	-	8,677	3	21	-	126	-	-
Indonesia	1	38	488	-	3	35	9	-	53	5	26	-	102	-	-
Malaysia	2	172	538	-	32	15	129	-	29	16	103	8	148	-	-
Myanmar	-	31	146	-	4	3	37	-	9	8	16	6	91	-	-
Philippines	14	97	264	-	1	153	85	-	30	1	22	8	134	-	-
Singapore	-	136	153	-	43	22	72	-	17	5	223	2	114	-	-
Thailand	632	77,682	22,958	482	12,410	1,486	56,340	14	250	688	43,682	1,902	9,118	-	-
Vietnam	28,893	434	1,246	1	150	63,436	1,719	35	3,609	8,079	4,728	58,548	239	-	-
Asia and Pacific	77	1,840	9,722	-	15	331	1,043	-	1,081	107	671	83	1,648	8,289	-
Australia	11	592	46	-	-	18	149	-	64	9	69	1	505	-	-
China	18	355	8,533	-	1	53	216	-	357	43	412	38	225	8,289	-
India	5	52	333	-	-	69	119	-	161	18	29	17	158	-	-
Japan	7	240	74	-	13	62	195	-	60	6	75	8	451	-	-
Korea (Rep)	35	368	155	-	1	104	306	-	68	25	48	17	181	-	-
New Zealand	-	161	6	-	-	2	22	-	14	-	17	-	64	-	-
Taiwan (pr. of China)	-	11	326	-	-	14	13	-	121	6	6	1	21	-	-
Others	1	61	249	-	-	9	23	-	236	-	15	1	43	-	-
Europe	116	9,019	322	-	9	630	1,357	-	1,522	138	435	23	5,930	-	-
Austria	-	125	2	-	-	9	2	-	21	3	6	-	132	-	-
Belgium	2	292	6	-	-	28	54	-	60	16	26	-	201	-	-
Denmark	1	304	7	-	-	15	45	-	22	-	6	2	124	-	-
Finland	-	65	2	-	-	2	23	-	10	-	6	-	47	-	-
France	13	965	35	-	4	159	571	-	537	15	51	15	1,343	-	-
Germany	3	1,251	24	-	-	77	213	-	218	15	90	2	790	-	-
Greece	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	11	-	-
Italy	3	294	2	-	-	20	30	-	32	7	17	-	197	-	-
Netherlands	2	892	10	-	-	46	57	-	129	10	28	-	291	-	-
Norway	1	87	2	-	-	5	18	-	15	1	19	-	26	-	-
Russia	82	168	76	-	1	40	27	-	9	6	10	-	90	-	-
Spain	1	399	12	-	-	23	26	-	63	12	20	-	359	-	-
Sweden	-	179	6	-	-	6	27	-	7	8	9	-	65	-	-
Switzerland	1	291	3	-	2	7	58	-	62	11	35	2	314	-	-
United Kingdom	4	2,776	39	-	-	131	145	-	181	28	71	2	1,004	-	-
Others	3	916	96	-	2	62	61	-	142	6	41	-	936	-	-
Americas	75	1,518	733	-	2	82	862	-	245	56	254	212	2,656	-	-
Canada	-	378	21	-	-	20	132	-	38	5	67	6	304	-	-
USA	7	891	158	-	-	32	698	-	140	18	159	4	2,090	-	-
Others	68	249	554	-	2	30	32	-	67	33	28	202	262	-	-
Africa and Middle East	14	399	230	16	76	26	33	-	132	51	44	3	321	-	-
Israel	-	307	7	-	-	15	15	-	89	-	18	-	263	-	-
Others	14	92	223	16	76	11	18	-	43	51	26	3	58	-	-

Port of Entry																Total
Phongsaly		Savannakhet			Sekong	Sravanh	Vientiane				Xayabouli				Xieng Khouang	
Larn Tuai	Pang Hok	Mittha phab Bridge II	Dane Savanh	Savanh Airport	Dokta Ock	Lalai	Mittha phab Bridge I	Thanaleng Railway Station	Wattay Airport	Thabok Thanaleng	Nam Heuang Bridge	Nam Ngeun	Phou dou	Pang Mong	Nam Kanh	
1,793	15,486	142,713	112,526	-	4,868	20,894	350,987	-	117,175	2	13,087	21,932	3,431	4,826	20,296	1,294,365
324	14,853	133,924	107,074	-	4,838	20,834	328,370	-	39,404	-	12,871	21,765	3,410	4,773	20,035	1,124,376
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	96	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	172
-	2	57	24	-	-	5	941	-	1,227	-	8	4	48	-	2	11,543
-	5	28	21	-	-	-	535	-	773	-	1	10	-	-	1	2,134
-	17	341	117	-	2	-	1,509	-	3,153	-	11	32	1	3	4	6,382
-	-	319	11	-	-	-	894	-	767	-	-	4	-	-	2	2,348
-	5	1,267	131	-	-	-	1,571	-	1,186	-	8	8	-	-	1	4,986
-	5	600	67	-	1	-	1,610	-	1,741	-	43	97	32	27	2	5,012
-	762	126,795	7,627	-	165	513	308,386	-	17,508	-	12,796	21,336	3,264	4,742	216	731,754
324	14,057	4,516	99,076	-	4,670	20,316	12,828	-	12,990	-	4	274	65	1	19,807	360,045
1,469	102	5,541	1,919	-	17	34	12,742	-	46,334	-	80	27	12	51	62	93,297
-	9	88	261	-	2	1	1,228	-	3,442	-	-	2	-	-	4	6,501
1,469	14	4,199	157	-	3	2	3,101	-	17,680	-	11	13	7	43	10	45,249
-	4	248	155	-	-	1	401	-	1,790	-	5	-	-	-	3	3,568
-	36	271	109	-	5	6	1,582	-	3,585	-	40	7	-	2	14	6,848
-	34	242	1,134	-	7	24	5,818	-	17,382	-	22	5	4	6	22	26,008
-	1	20	47	-	-	-	123	-	383	-	1	-	-	-	3	864
-	-	62	7	-	-	-	178	-	742	-	-	-	-	-	6	1,514
-	4	411	49	-	-	-	311	-	1,330	-	1	-	1	-	-	2,745
-	492	2,036	2,157	-	12	15	4,821	-	17,442	2	23	48	7	2	171	46,729
-	10	8	11	-	-	-	57	-	181	-	-	-	-	-	1	568
-	32	28	26	-	-	2	216	-	496	-	-	-	-	-	7	1,492
-	2	21	46	-	-	-	100	-	286	-	-	-	-	-	4	985
-	3	26	21	-	-	-	74	-	175	-	-	-	-	-	-	454
-	243	377	420	-	-	8	381	-	5,141	-	6	6	-	-	65	10,355
-	37	120	223	-	1	-	688	-	2,316	-	-	8	1	-	-	6,077
-	-	2	16	-	-	-	30	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	128
-	9	48	73	-	3	-	141	-	439	-	-	2	-	-	3	1,320
-	68	67	121	-	-	1	246	-	567	-	7	3	-	-	19	2,564
-	-	36	35	-	-	-	112	-	141	-	-	-	-	-	2	500
-	8	699	193	-	6	-	984	-	1,996	-	5	3	4	2	1	4,410
-	25	10	53	-	-	-	77	-	325	-	-	-	-	-	11	1,416
-	2	35	46	-	-	-	121	-	253	-	-	-	-	-	3	767
-	16	45	25	-	1	-	219	-	434	1	2	5	1	-	2	1,537
-	18	303	594	-	1	-	729	-	2,614	1	2	4	-	-	17	8,664
-	19	211	254	-	-	4	646	-	2,038	-	1	17	1	-	36	5,492
-	22	952	1,342	-	1	11	4,233	-	12,121	-	23	16	2	-	22	25,440
-	1	100	154	-	-	-	511	-	1,227	-	2	-	-	-	8	2,974
-	10	641	616	-	1	7	3,042	-	9,888	-	19	14	-	-	12	18,447
-	11	211	572	-	-	4	680	-	1,006	-	2	2	2	-	2	4,019
-	17	260	34	-	-	-	821	-	1,874	-	90	76	-	-	6	4,523
-	6	28	10	-	-	-	63	-	345	-	-	-	-	-	4	1,170
-	11	232	24	-	-	-	758	-	1,529	-	90	76	-	-	2	3,353

Table 16: International Tourist Arrivals by Province, 2016-2022

Province	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Grand Total	6,783,874	6,372,514	6,553,315	7,358,039	1,490,073	-	2,012,152
Attapeu	130,773	71,924	98,720	164,139	22,445	-	40,309
Bokeo	219,603	207,864	331,477	637,842	155,359	-	134,432
Bolikhamxay	231,920	181,710	215,513	157,607	60,449	-	114,088
Champasak	621,870	831,779	979,264	1,077,645	17,807	-	92,642
Houaphanh	50,039	50,154	39,877	58,757	10,723	-	13,018
Khammouane	538,027	464,584	283,494	444,396	39,283	-	138,541
Luang Namtha	531,366	600,369	573,145	661,852	79,998	-	15,747
Luang Prabang	643,319	472,942	576,610	638,101	142,435	-	256,896
Oudomxay	192,496	186,351	130,540	118,468	40,817	-	39,862
Phongsaly	103,583	144,012	135,593	160,012	35,064	-	33,502
Saravanh	88,325	92,550	37,453	112,770	23,895	-	17,356
Savannakhet	866,630	724,243	603,623	650,339	144,914	-	292,432
Sekong	34,024	38,429	30,720	55,438	1,711	-	6,925
Vientiane Capital	1,643,692	1,347,866	2,018,174	1,868,985	520,758	-	633,726
Vientiane Province	589,948	592,650	295,583	329,857	129,419	-	87,943
Xaisomboun	26,465	15,831	8,069	21,252	561	-	968
Xaiyabouli	197,628	218,995	118,190	117,172	42,497	-	70,835
Xieng Khouang	74,166	130,261	77,270	83,407	21,938	-	22,930

Lao Traveling Overseas (Outbound tourists)

Before 2018, most Lao people made overseas trips, mainly cross-border trips to neighboring countries, to buy consumer goods, receive medical services, and visit families. However, such a trend seems to have changed since the start of 2019. This may have resulted from increased retail shops in the country where people can conveniently buy goods. In April 2020, the Government closed its borders to prevent Lao people from traveling overseas. Since 9 May 2022, after the Government officially reopened the country, the number of Lao people traveling abroad was 1,023,389 compared to 2,690,430, accounting for 38.04% in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. This decrease is due to many cross-border travel restrictions imposed in the early period, where travelers had to show their vaccination certificates, go through temperature checks, and buy health insurance. Another issue contributing to this drop is the appreciation of the international currency, which led to less spending power.

The main overseas travel routes for Lao people were the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge 1 (Vientiane - Nong Khai), which had a total number of 528,783 travelers using

both border passes and passports, followed by Savannakhet - Mukdahan (Thailand) international checkpoint which had a total number of 98,034 travelers, of which 20,820 used border passes and 77,214 used passports. Saiyabouli – Nan (Thailand) international checkpoint had a total number of 85,746 travelers, of which 37,987 people used border passes and 47,759 people used passports. Champasak – Ubon Ratchathani (Thailand) had 85,371 travelers, of whom 24,709 used border passes and 60,662 used passports. Khammoaune - Nakhon Phanom (Thailand) had 72,964 travelers, of whom 27,014 used border passes and 45,950 used passports.

It could be observed that most Lao people travel to Thailand due to the convenience of communication, the lack of a language barrier, the convenience of buying consumer goods, and the convenience of boarding Thai domestic flights to connect with other regional and international flights.

Table 17: Lao Traveling Overseas by Province 2016-2022

Province	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% ▽	2021	2022
Grand Total	3,058,815	3,049,152	3,206,870	2,690,430	706,904	-73.7	-	1,023,389
Attapeu	5,249	5,569	4,322	3,842	1,648	-57.1	-	3,665
Bokeo	54,223	43,222	83,887	65,602	20,904	-68.1	-	38,947
Bolikhamxay	105,683	103,780	118,121	86,243	30,367	-64.8	-	41,541
Champasak	216,080	260,246	261,998	217,821	74,552	-65.8	-	85,371
Houaphanh	5,617	2,293	5,632	3,710	1,422	-61.7	-	2,736
Khammouane	495,540	393,197	92,312	68,488	23,406	-65.8	-	72,964
Luang Namtha	130,575	113,235	145,205	106,106	24,451	-77.0	-	-
Luang Prabang	1,890	1,801	8,873	7,878	1,368	-82.6	-	-
Phongsaly	4,756	4,721	30,536	32,682	8,767	-73.2	-	7,165
Saravanh		11,384	9,964	11,506	3,491	-69.7	-	4,341
Savannakhet	329,345	389,178	604,589	381,415	133,122	-65.1	-	98,034
Vientiane Capital	1,543,693	1,535,634	1,635,403	1,331,654	311,563	-76.6	-	577,128
Xaiyabouli	159,343	174,752	197,276	366,915	68,874	-81.2	-	85,746
Xieng Khouang	6,821	10,140	8,752	6,568	2,969	-54.8	-	4,378
SeKong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,373

Table 18: Purposes of Lao Traveling Overseas 2019-2022

Border Check Point	2019	2020	2021	2022					Total 2022
				Official	Visit	Travel	Business	Other	
Grand Total	2,690,430	706,904	-	2,233	366,863	555,342	26,603	72,348	1,023,389
Friendship bridge I	1,189,344	271,086	-	-	251,712	229,908	-	47,163	528,783
Border Pass	345,353	124,450	-	-	236,953	17,073	-	-	254,026
Passport	843,991	146,636	-	-	14,759	212,835	-	47,163	274,757
Wattay Airport	142,310	40,477	-	-	-	39,950	-	8,395	48,345
Border Pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Passport	142,310	40,477	-	-	-	39,950	-	8,395	48,345
Luangnamtha	106,106	24,451	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Border Pass	98,093	23,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Passport	8,013	1,051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bolikhamsay	86,243	30,367	-	59	18,764	18,106	3,554	1,058	41,541
Border Pass	29,312	12,017	-	-	3,645	3,673	3,554	1,058	11,930
Passport	56,931	18,350	-	59	15,119	14,433	-	-	29,611
Khammouane	68,488	23,406	-	112	11,421	51,676	4,135	5,620	72,964
Border Pass	6,523	772	-	-	11,421	6,790	3,183	5,620	27,014
Passport	61,965	22,634	-	112	-	44,886	952	-	45,950
Savannakhet	380,913	132,841	-	803	16,719	78,190	705	1,617	98,034
Border Pass	156,857	65,013	-	5	12,232	6,353	682	1,548	20,820
Passport	224,056	67,828	-	798	4,487	71,837	23	69	77,214
Savannakhet Airport	502	281	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Border Pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Passport	502	281	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bokeo	65,602	20,904	-	82	2,983	34,930	140	812	38,947
Border Pass	31,826	9,408	-	82	2,895	24,394	140	812	28,323
Passport	33,776	11,496	-	-	88	10,536	-	-	10,624
Champasak	202,715	66,847	-	10	402	84,959	-	-	85,371
Border Pass	75,586	24,720	-	-	132	24,577	-	-	24,709
Passport	127,129	42,127	-	10	270	60,382	-	-	60,662
Champasak Airport	15,106	7,705	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Border Pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Passport	15,106	7,705	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Xayabouli	366,915	68,874	-	7	60,080	1,624	17,072	6,963	85,746
Border Pass	156,187	27,653	-	-	13,952	-	17,072	6,963	37,987
Passport	210,728	41,221	-	7	46,128	1,624	-	-	47,759
Huaphanh	3,710	1,422	-	707	803	993	180	53	2,736
Border Pass	939	362	-	113	246	504	180	53	1,096
Passport	2,771	1,060	-	594	557	489	-	-	1,640
Luangprabang Airport	7,878	1,368	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Border Pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Passport	7,878	1,368	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Xiengkhouang	6,568	2,969	-	59	485	3,819	15	-	4,378
Border Pass	1,189	529	-	2	350	1,385	8	-	1,745
Passport	5,379	2,440	-	57	135	2,434	7	-	2,633
Attapeu	3,842	1,648	-	8	610	3,047	-	-	3,665
Border Pass	260	77	-	-	194	756	-	-	950
Passport	3,582	1,571	-	8	416	2,291	-	-	2,715
Phongsaly	32,682	8,767	-	337	1,027	4,334	800	667	7,165
Border Pass	25,407	7,322	-	-	261	2,646	800	667	4,374
Passport	7,275	1,445	-	337	766	1,688	-	-	2,791
Sravanh	11,506	3,491	-	24	617	3,700	-	-	4,341
Border Pass	3,853	1,088	-	-	-	647	-	-	647
Passport	7,653	2,403	-	24	617	3,053	-	-	3,694
SeKong	-	-	-	25	1,240	106	2	-	1,373
Border Pass	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	-	38
Passport	-	-	-	25	1,202	106	2	-	1,335

Tourism in Luang Prabang

Luang Prabang province has world-famous tourist attractions such as the World Heritage City (Luang Prabang City), inscribed by UNESCO in 1995, attracting tourists worldwide. This is due to the preservation of Lao identity in the form of Luang Prabang. As a result, it has become an essential destination for domestic and international tourists. The tourism situation of Luang Prabang province in 2022 was similar to those of regional and international tourism. International tourists started arriving in the province in the middle of the year after the country had reopened for visitors, where the number of tourists was not as high as pre-COVID-19.

However, the tourism situation in Luang Prabang has recovered rapidly, partly due to domestic tourism. An important factor that contributed to this was the launch and operations of the Lao-China Railway on 2 December 2021 - which has provided travelers with more convenience to travel to the World Heritage City of Luang Prabang. Traveling from Vientiane Capital to Luang Prabang by private car would take 6-8 hours, by public bus would take 11-13 hours, and by plane would take 1 hour, but flying is much more expensive. In the past, traveling from Vientiane to Luang Prabang used to take 3-5 days for a round trip; however, since the Lao-China Railway is in operation, the travel time now takes only 2 hours and 30 minutes, and the visitors can return within two days. This has made travel and tourism activities much more convenient.

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, the number of tourist arrivals in Luang Prabang was 655,412 in 2017, 757,019 in 2018, and 880,035 in 2019, which gradually increased year-over-year. On 19 March 2020, the Government shut down the country, and people were ordered to stay home for approximately two months. As a result, the total number of tourists was only 275,847 people. In 2021, stricter measures were taken to prevent and mitigate the outbreak of COVID-19, which restricted travel between provinces and closed many accommodation services. As a result, the number of domestic tourist arrivals in Luang Prabang was only 69,731 people. In 2022, after the Government fully reopened the country and the Lao-China Railway was in operation, Lao tourism had recovered to a high level and accommodated tourists up to 301,482 people.

The number of domestic tourist arrivals in Luang Prabang was 182,470 in 2017, 178,409 in 2018, 221,934 in 2019, 133,212 in 2020, 69,731 in 2021, and 280,823 in 2022 (the highest number of tourists since 2017). Before the outbreak of COVID-19, tourist arrivals in Luang Prabang were mainly from Thailand, China, the United States, France, Germany, and England. Tourists from Thailand and China were the most convenient to travel to Luang Prabang compared to tourists from other countries. The number of tourist arrivals from the United States in Luang Prabang has increased since the visit of their President in 2016, which rose 66.33% in 2019 compared to 2018 or 57,020 in 2022.

However, in 2019, before the outbreak of COVID-19, the most important groups of tourist arrivals in Luang Prabang were 213,850 people from Europe and 115,682 people from America. Tourists from these regions stayed longer and spent more per person per day than tourists from other regions. These tourists were considered high-value contributors to the economy. However, these tourists have not yet revisited Luang Prabang in 2022. There were only 5,930 tourists, averaging 2.77% from Europe and 2,656, averaging 1.70% from America, who have returned to Luang Prabang compared to 2019.

In 2022, tourists from Asia and Pacific, especially China and Korea, had not yet returned to Luang Prabang as much as they had previously, where tourist arrivals were only 1,648 people, averaging 0.87% compared to 2019. Because China had not yet allowed its people to travel outside the country in 2022, Thailand was the fastest group of tourists from ASEAN member countries to revisit Luang Prabang. In 2022, there was a total number of 10,084 tourists, averaging 9.29%, of which 9,118 were from Thailand, which dominated the majority of tourists in this group, accounting for 11.71% compared to 2019.

Table 19: Tourist Arrivals in Luang Prabang 2017-2022

Region	Country	2017		2018		2019		2020		% ▽	2021	2022
Grand Total		655,412		755,019		860,035		275,647		-68	69,731	301,462
Laos		182,470		178,409		221,934		133,212		-40	69,731	280,823
International		472,942	100%	576,610	100%	638,101	100%	142,435	100%	-78	-	20,639
ASEAN		73,719	15.59	84,827	14.71	105,496	16.53	31,471	22.09	-70	-	10,084
	Brunei	56	0.01	62	0.01	248	0.04	38	0.03	-85	-	12
	Cambodia	737	0.16	290	0.05	882	0.14	325	0.23	-63	-	126
	Indonesia	146	0.03	150	0.03	1,454	0.23	382	0.27	-74	-	102
	Malaysia	124	0.03	349	0.06	4,884	0.77	1,146	0.80	-77	-	148
	Myanmar	454	0.10	166	0.03	481	0.08	336	0.24	-30	-	91
	Philippines	153	0.03	317	0.05	3,050	0.48	541	0.38	-82	-	134
	Singapore	162	0.03	226	0.04	6,985	1.09	2,348	1.65	-66	-	114
	Thailand	64,372	13.61	75,035	13.01	77,892	12.21	24,418	17.14	-69	-	9,118
	Vietnam	7,515	1.59	8,232	1.43	9,620	1.51	1,937	1.36	-80	-	239
Asia and Pacific		136,530	28.87	171,726	29.78	188,725	29.58	44,173	31.01	-77	-	1,648
	Australia	15,883	3.36	18,719	3.25	19,301	3.02	3,440	2.42	-82	-	505
	China	66,392	14.04	81,052	14.06	90,567	14.19	19,926	13.99	-78	-	225
	India	247	0.05	304	0.05	3,598	0.56	1,580	1.11	-56	-	158
	Japan	17,930	3.79	19,213	3.33	19,312	3.03	7,015	4.93	-64	-	451
	Korea (Rep)	34,578	7.31	38,470	6.67	38,531	6.04	2,666	1.87	-93	-	181
	New Zealand	257	0.05	616	0.11	2,729	0.43	305	0.21	-89	-	64
	Taiwan (pr. of China)	1,189	0.25	3,261	0.57	4,351	0.68	1,192	0.84	-73	-	21
	Others	54	0.01	10,091	1.75	10,336	1.62	8,049	5.65	-22	-	43
Europe		178,784	37.80	215,322	37.34	213,850	33.51	41,261	28.97	-81	-	5,930
	Austria	3,415	0.72	4,549	0.79	4,738	0.74	1,031	0.72	-78	-	132
	Belgium	1,127	0.24	1,248	0.22	4,190	0.66	1,133	0.80	-73	-	201
	Denmark	3,582	0.76	3,887	0.67	3,965	0.62	912	0.64	-77	-	124
	Finland	4,530	0.96	5,616	0.97	5,732	0.90	667	0.47	-88	-	47
	France	31,468	6.65	33,480	5.81	33,592	5.26	7,170	5.03	-79	-	1,343
	Germany	30,749	6.50	32,291	5.60	32,561	5.10	6,342	4.45	-81	-	790
	Greece	859	0.18	946	0.16	834	0.13	349	0.25	-58	-	11
	Italy	13,156	2.78	15,673	2.72	16,055	2.52	3,389	2.38	-79	-	197
	Netherlands	8,953	1.89	9,725	1.69	10,601	1.66	1,885	1.32	-82	-	291
	Norway	4,382	0.93	4,697	0.81	4,732	0.74	1,011	0.71	-79	-	26
	Russia	14,874	3.14	16,810	2.92	17,384	2.72	238	0.17	-99	-	90
	Spain	7,147	1.51	8,713	1.51	8,792	1.38	1,618	1.14	-82	-	359
	Sweden	4,899	1.04	5,972	1.04	5,923	0.93	1,070	0.75	-82	-	65
	Switzerland	9,367	1.98	9,757	1.69	9,538	1.49	2,113	1.48	-78	-	314
	United Kingdom	33,965	7.18	34,795	6.03	35,007	5.49	4,924	3.46	-86	-	1,004
	Others	6,311	1.33	27,163	4.71	20,206	3.17	7,409	5.20	-63	-	936
Americas		74,407	15.73	90,926	15.77	115,682	18.13	23,425	16.45	-80	-	2,656
	Canada	21,937	4.64	22,497	3.90	25,973	4.07	3,323	2.33	-87	-	304
	USA	29,178	6.17	34,280	5.95	57,020	8.94	13,282	9.32	-77	-	2,090
	Others	23,292	4.92	34,149	5.92	32,689	5.12	6,820	4.79	-79	-	262
Africa and Middle East		9,502	2.01	13,809	2.39	14,348	2.25	2,105	1.48	-85	-	321
	Israel	5,324	1.13	5,791	1.00	5,130	0.80	692	0.49	-87	-	263
	Others	4,178	0.88	8,018	1.39	9,218	1.44	1,413	0.99	-85	-	58

Tourism Situations in 2022

In 2022, there were 1,685,359 domestic tourists, which increased 103% compared to 2021, and generated income of USD273,028,158, increasing 192% compared to the same period of 2021. Provinces with top domestic tourists were Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Vientiane, Khammouane, Oudomxay, Champasak, and others.

The launch of the Vientiane Capital-Vang Vieng Expressway and Lao-China Railway has contributed to the improvement of transport and led to the increase of domestic tourism, especially in Vientiane Province, which connects with the expressway and railway, including new tourist destinations in Feuang District (Meung Feuang). The Lao-China trains run through the provinces of Oudomxay and Luang Prabang, making transportation more convenient and helping to increase the number of tourists visiting these three provinces in 2022. There were 280,823 domestic tourists visited Luang Prabang in 2019, which was the highest number since 2016. Vientiane Province accounted for 12.69%, which increased by 14.42%, while Oudomxay Province accounted for 2.91%, which increased by 10.27%. In addition, in Khammouane Province, which had no access to an expressway and railway, the percentage of tourists still rose from 6.34% to 13.28% due to the promotion of domestic tourism and attractive tourist attractions such as Phu Pha Man, which is located not very far from Vientiane Capital and Savannakhet Province, which have the highest population in Lao PDR. Domestic tourism began to gain popularity in 2020, with a total number of 274,122 travelers. Unfortunately, in 2022, the country was under lockdown, and more people preferred to travel within the country. However, the number of travelers was only 223,823 people. In 2019, transportation was difficult due to road construction and expansion, and tourists in Champasak province decreased from 11.69% to 5.89% and Savannakhet from 20.27% to 14.42%, respectively.

In 2022, by month, there were exciting observations on domestic tourist behaviors as follows:

During December 2021, Luang Prabang had many domestic tourist arrivals, especially many Lao people who had never visited Luang Prabang before had a chance to see the city due to the convenience of transport. It used to take 6-8 hours by private cars or even 11-13 hours by public transport to reach Luang Prabang; however, it now takes only 2 hours and 30 minutes by train. The number of domestic tourists dropped from 27,000 to 13,000 (October - December) after full reopening due to the influx of foreign tourists in such areas, and hotels and other types of accommodation were packed. As a result, prices had increased according to market mechanism.

Vientiane Province had a significant increase in tourist arrivals due to the opening of new tourist attractions, hotels, and facilities to accommodate tourists, as well as continual advertisement and easy access for people from Vientiane Capital to both Vang Vieng and Meung Feuang, domestic tourist arrivals had jumped from 6,078 in January to 24,789 people in June and the highest number was in December with 71,169 people. Due to the convenience and lower cost, domestic tourists appeared to shift their travel preferences from Luang Prabang, the World Heritage City, to Vientiane Province, a nature-based destination.

Khammouane province, one of the destinations for seasonal tourists, especially during Lao New Year, the public holiday, had more tourist arrivals than usual, increasing from 11,000 -17,000 to 53,275. Because of the many attractions nearby, there are more activities for tourists to enjoy and more hotels with different price points for tourists to stay.

Table 20: Number of Domestic Tourists by Province, 2016-2022

Province	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Grand Total	1,986,738	2,236,914	2,818,576	2,350,851	1,581,100	828,592	1,685,359
Attapeu	27,571	28,840	85,549	66,793	41,247	16,585	58,039
Bokeo	42,561	48,565	53,020	52,442	17,932	6,058	10,982
Bolikhambay	60,875	60,950	73,115	134,169	68,926	28,228	50,736
Champasak	399,692	479,838	329,609	292,093	25,122	73,455	99,266
Houaphanh	12,642	17,707	30,682	23,401	12,226	11,318	12,488
Khammouane	163,799	135,516	140,336	149,078	274,122	203,516	223,854
Luang Namtha	14,754	242,883	182,392	40,549	36,955	23,586	35,750
Luang Prabang	173,733	182,470	178,409	221,934	133,212	69,731	280,823
Oudomxay	78,148	71,597	82,063	112,118	93,525	118,469	173,143
Phongsaly	40,063	60,807	-	8,623	39,910	29,418	34,776
Saravanh	65,025	66,700	73,383	82,450	17,294	20,653	79,727
Savannakhet	335,279	341,364	369,840	476,697	434,325	55,269	243,036
Sekong	13,121	10,764	26,409	53,559	38,289	17,266	23,075
Vientiane Capital	65,680	55,953	706,677	144,232	10,504	4,698	29,802
Vientiane Province	363,061	353,874	357,836	382,139	261,562	104,599	230,865
Xaisomboun	19,022	15,272	19,569	17,465	15,175	10,215	15,635
Xaiyabouli	99,892	15,928	42,229	29,222	17,923	9,988	22,698
Xieng Khouang	11,820	47,886	67,458	63,887	42,851	25,540	60,664

Graph 7: Number of Domestic Tourists, 2016-2022

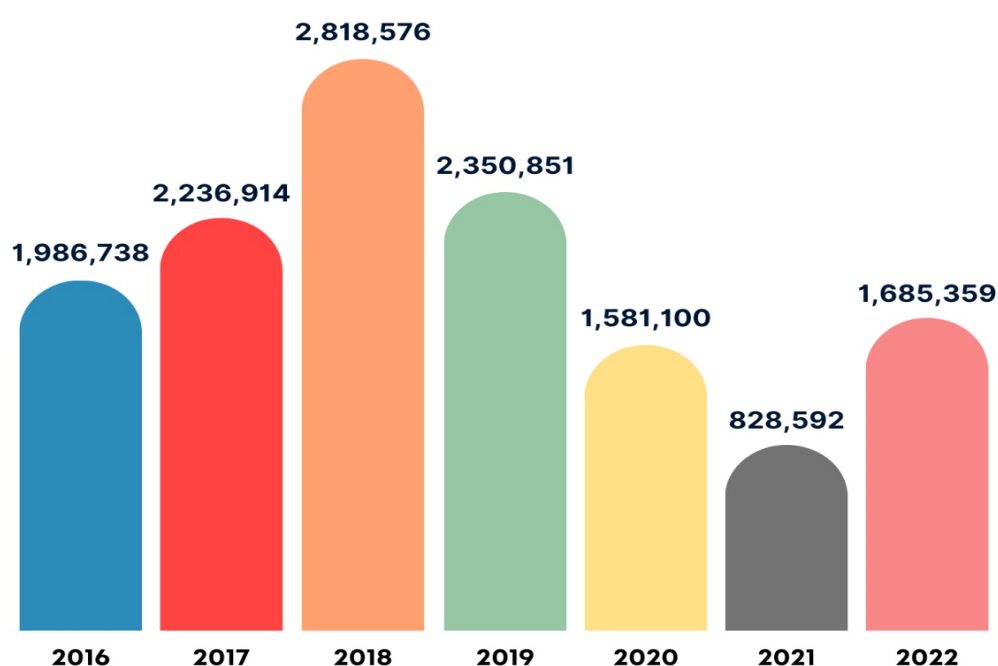
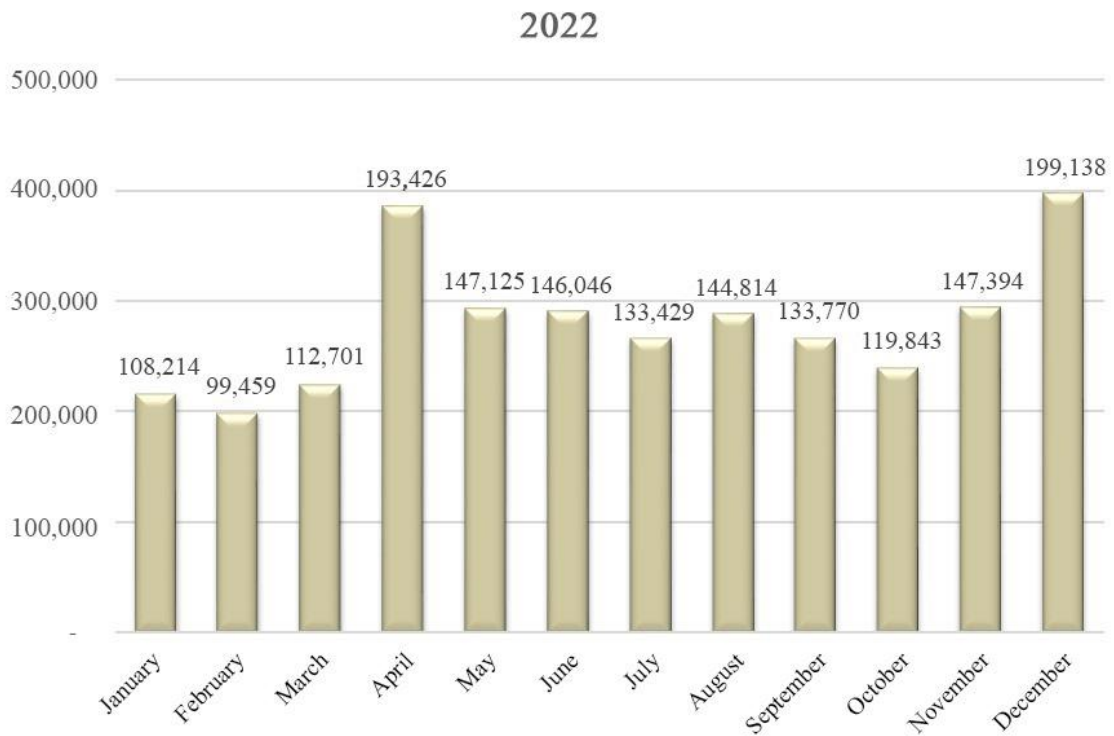


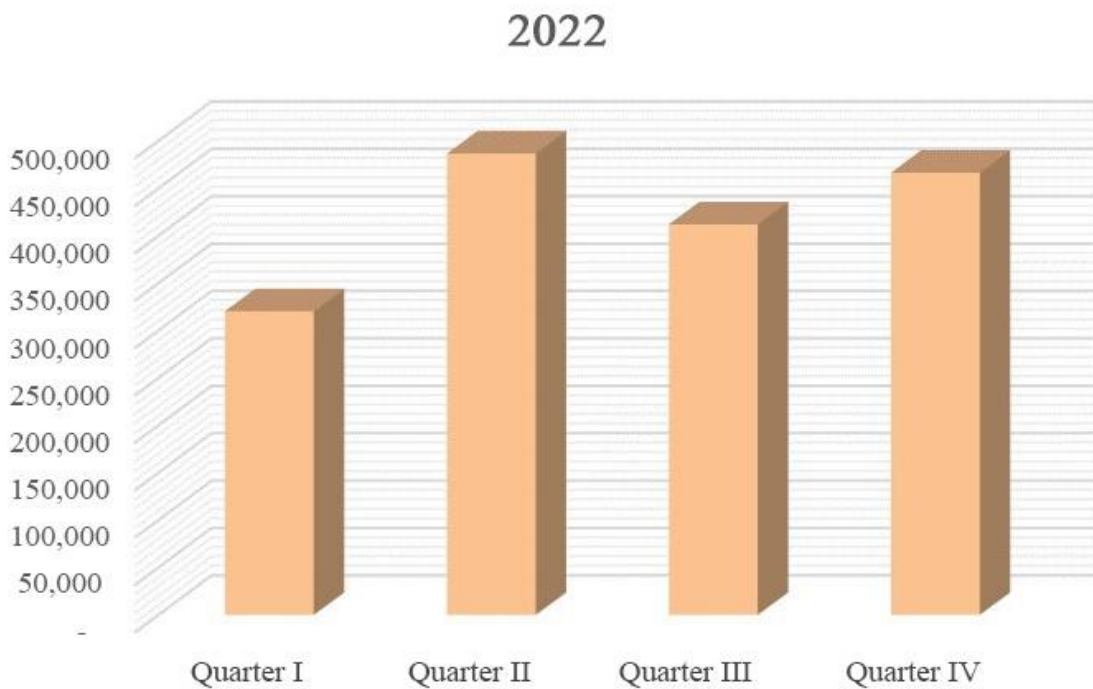
Table 21: Domestic Tourists by Province and Month in 2022

Province	Months												Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2022
Grand Total	108,214	99,459	112,701	193,426	147,125	146,046	133,429	144,814	133,770	119,843	147,394	199,138	1,685,359
Attapeu	1,115	1,464	2,982	4,104	7,594	7,006	6,114	6,529	6,309	5,122	4,934	4,766	58,039
Bokeo	144	171	203	247	223	299	808	1,816	2,100	2,207	911	1,853	10,982
Bolikhambxay	1,302	966	771	2,685	2,625	3,079	5,826	5,570	7,406	6,758	6,337	7,411	50,736
Champasak	4,673	7,443	7,341	7,047	4,472	7,151	5,501	7,505	12,427	11,737	10,863	13,106	99,266
Houaphanh	873	946	1,248	1,538	1,128	854	789	833	809	944	865	1,661	12,488
Khammouane	12,176	11,031	13,153	53,275	33,921	17,012	13,339	17,915	16,632	11,026	12,424	11,950	223,854
Luang Namtha	2,064	2,189	3,031	3,078	2,844	3,461	2,807	2,836	2,710	3,881	3,627	3,222	35,750
Luang Prabang	36,733	22,805	26,266	27,904	27,024	25,003	27,228	25,852	21,993	14,664	14,420	10,931	280,823
Oudomxay	15,210	14,814	17,311	18,715	14,265	13,489	13,313	12,734	11,613	13,546	13,991	14,142	173,143
Phongsaly	1,850	1,965	2,470	3,639	3,926	3,213	3,501	2,412	1,627	3,731	4,217	2,225	34,776
Saravanh	4,114	4,555	5,608	23,733	5,599	4,761	4,778	3,890	6,341	5,929	6,969	3,450	79,727
Savannakhet	16,370	17,055	15,192	26,806	20,933	24,001	20,910	30,484	19,324	15,517	16,704	19,740	243,036
Sekong	1,320	987	624	1,476	3,050	3,047	1,337	4,258	375	80	2,694	3,827	23,075
Vientiane Capital	283	577	626	1,037	2,127	2,690	2,561	3,527	3,359	4,882	4,176	3,957	29,802
Vientiane Province	6,078	8,076	10,796	10,638	10,732	24,789	16,781	12,286	13,087	11,638	34,795	71,169	230,865
Xaisomboun	1,014	1,115	1,079	1,558	1,328	970	1,037	1,331	1,497	1,496	1,547	1,663	15,635
Xaiyabouli	-	-	-	46	2,058	2,121	2,899	2,580	3,422	3,329	2,850	3,393	22,698
Xieng Khouang	2,895	3,300	4,000	5,900	3,276	3,100	3,900	2,456	2,739	3,356	5,070	20,672	60,664

Graph 8: Number of Domestic Tourists by Month in 2022



Graph 9: Number of Domestic Tourists by Quarter in 2022



Graph 10: Number of Domestic Tourists by Province in 2022

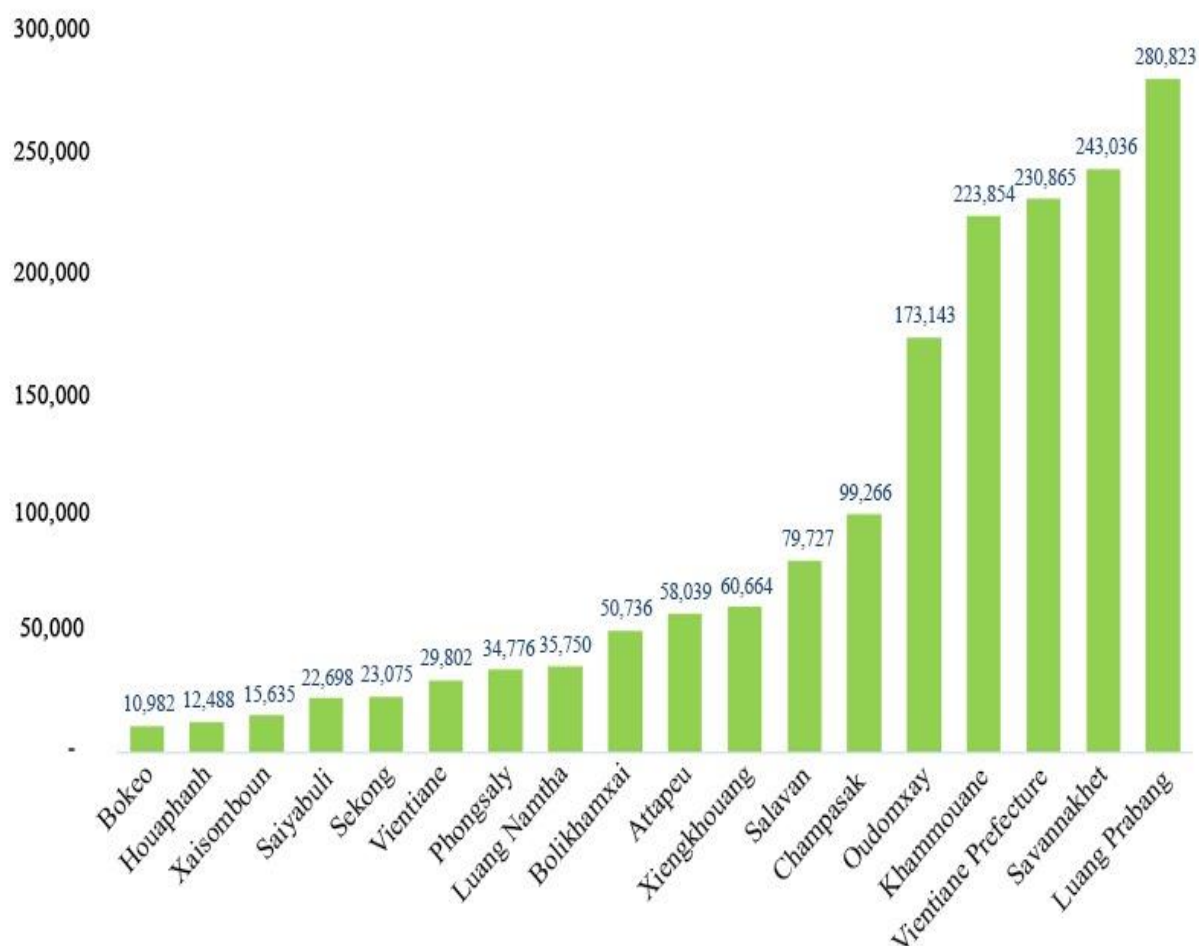


Table 22: Domestic Tourism Revenue in 2022

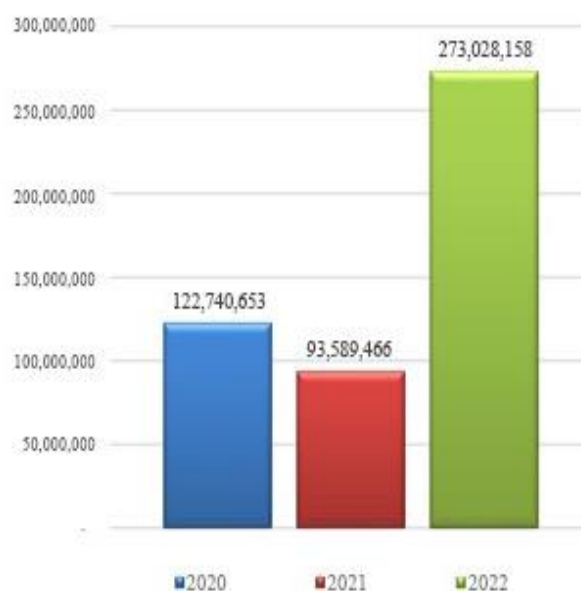
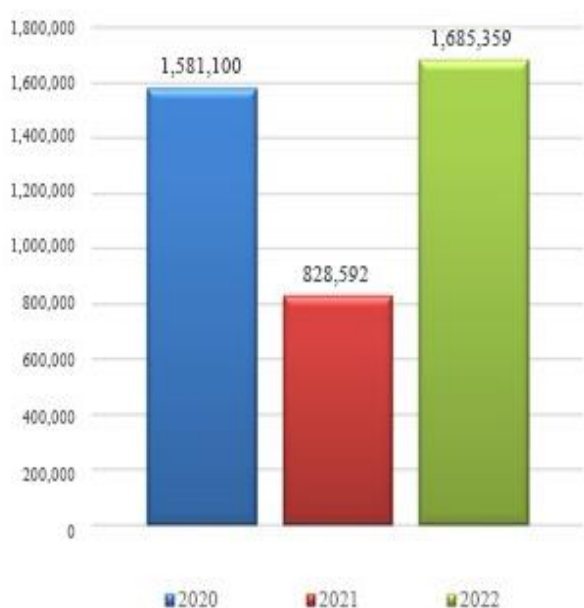
Year	Number of Domestic Tourists	Average Length of Stay (days)	Average Expenditure per Person per day (LAK)	Average Expenditure per Person per day (USD)	Revenue from Tourism in 2022 (LAK)	Revenue from Tourism in 2022 (USD)
2020	1,581,100	3	245,000	26	1,162,108,500,000	122,740,653
2021	828,592	2.51	530,000	45	1,102,275,937,600	93,589,466
2022	1,685,359	3	914,000	54	4,621,254,378,000	273,028,158

Graph 11: Increasing Rate and Income from Domestic Tourism

Domestic Tourists		Income	
2021	2022	2021	2022
828,592	1,685,359	\$ 93,589,466	\$ 273,028,158
Increase in percentage (%) ▲		Increase in percentage (%) ▲	

103

192



Tourism Services

Tourism services include tourist attractions, hotels, guesthouses, resorts, apartments, convention halls, food gardens, restaurants, karaoke, and entertainment venues that accommodate domestic and foreign tourists. The number of tourism service venues remained generally static, except in Vientiane Capital, where those numbers slightly increased. Most accommodations were guesthouses due to low investment costs and ease of management. The province with the most significant number of guesthouses was Luang Prabang because local people have transformed their houses into guesthouses, mainly in the World Heritage area. Most tourists staying at guesthouses were domestic, cross-border tourists and backpackers who wanted to be closer to local people's lifestyles and enjoyed lower prices than staying at hotels. They were followed by

Vientiane Province, especially Vang Vieng and Meung Feuang, where many popular nature-based destinations exist among domestic and foreign tourists.

Vientiane Capital has the highest number of hotels because it is the center and gateway of the country for international tourists. Tourists need higher service quality than guesthouses. Vientiane Capital is also an economic and commercial center of the country, which is more cost-effective for making significant investments in hotels than other provinces in Lao PDR. The number of hotel rooms in Vientiane Capital in 2022 stood at 18,869, accounting for 28% of the total hotel rooms in the country. From 2017 to 2022, hotel rooms increased annually from 13,030, accounting for 7.46% to 18,896. In 2021, the number increased from 14,066 to 16,372, accounting for 16.39%, and 18,869 accounted for 5.25% in 2022, despite such a period when the country was shut down and travel restrictions were in place. Between 2015 and 2019, Lao PDR had the highest number of tourist arrivals. Therefore, there was more investment in the construction of hotels in Vientiane Capital to attract more tourists. However, building a hotel took around two (2) to three (3) years, contributing to increased rooms during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The occupancy rate in Lao PDR was 40% to 70%, whereas Luang Prabang had the highest rate between 69% and 73%. Luang Prabang, being a World Heritage site, has limited land area, and, therefore, the growth of hotels was minimal. This shows that tourist arrivals in Luang Prabang almost fully utilize accommodation capacity. Phonsaly, the northmost part of the country, where transportation was not convenient either by road or air, had the lowest tourist occupancy rate between 39% and 47%. However, the highest hotel growth was in Luang Namtha Province at 30% in 2016 and 64% in 2019 due to the province bordering China, mainly due to connectivity for transporting goods and cross-border passengers.

The hotel stay rate in 2022 was consistent with the number of international tourist arrivals in Lao PDR. From the country's reopening on 9 May 2022 until December 2022, there was a continuous influx of tourists, and the hotel stay rate was between 42% and 60%. By the end of 2022, the influx rate was still high or close to the maximum level of accommodation services in each area.

Lao PDR has 2,199 tourist destinations to accommodate tourist arrivals. Luang Prabang, with 224 sites, is the front-runner regarding the number of tourist destinations, followed by Champasak, 217 sites; Khammouan, 207 sites; and Vientiane Province, 200 sites. Most Lao tourist attractions are natural (1,314 sites), including Vientiane, Khammouan, and Champasak provinces, followed by Luang Prabang with 77 cultural tourist sites. Therefore, there is plenty of potential for developing tourism in Lao PDR; based on the survey, there are 1,040 potential tourist sites, of which 963 sites have already been opened, and 587 sites are being developed.

Despite the many tourist venues, the Lao Government has developed a policy on Homestay Program Development to accommodate tourists wishing to experience the livelihood of local people by organizing homestay programs in 14 provinces, 30 districts, and 39 villages, with a total service providers of 335 homes with 439 rooms and 1,115 beds. Homestay has been developed to provide services in areas where tourism services

are less available, and this aims to complement tourism activities in areas with limited hotels and guest houses. The province with the most significant number of Homestay services was Khammouane, which had 64 homes, 75 rooms, and 238 beds. It has many natural tourist sites, and some new tourist attractions are being developed, followed by Savannakhet with 40 homes, 61 rooms, and 183 beds, and Sayabouli with 50 homes, 51 rooms, and 104 beds. Provinces that did not have homestay services were Attapeu, Bokeo, Xaisomboun, and Vientiane Capital.

From 2017 to 2019, tour operators continuously grew, from 422 in 2017 to 549 companies in 2019, in response to the increase in international tourists. The number of tour operators was steady during the outbreak of COVID-19 due to the decreasing number of international tourists, and most companies did not close down. However, these companies waited for the country to reopen for tourists after the COVID-19 restrictions were eased. In 2022, there were ten new registered tour operators, totaling 559 companies (7 companies were in Vientiane Capital, two companies in Saiyabouli, and one in Phongsaly provinces).

Table 23: Number of Hotels, Guesthouses, Resorts, Apartments, Restaurants, Food Gardens, Bars, Karaoke and Entertainment Establishments in 2022

Province	Type									Total 2022
	Hotel	Guest House	Resort	Apartment	Food Garden	Cabaret	Resturant	Karaoke	Entertainment	
Grand Total	759	2244	87	5	27	33	2944	191	139	6429
Attapeu	22	28	1	0	1	0	88	0	3	143
Bokeo	22	120	3	0	1	6	89	96	2	339
Bolikhambxay	37	108	7	0	2	0	200	9	11	374
Champasak	72	216	8	0	0	2	430	0	17	745
Houaphanh	12	44	1	0	2	0	202	2	1	264
Khammouane	25	104	8	0	0	0	155	11	4	307
Luang Namtha	14	115	2	1	3	6	150	0	4	295
Luang Prabang	95	266	6	0	0	0	89	8	10	474
Oudomxay	27	118	7	0	2	6	95	18	6	279
Phongsaly	10	60	0	0	3	0	126	0	3	202
Saravanh	8	44	1	0	1	0	78	8	23	163
Savannakhet	50	194	2	0	5	0	185	0	7	443
Sekong	9	28	3	0	0	4	46	12	2	104
Vientiane Capital	273	198	5	4	4	4	144	16	16	664
Vientiane Province	53	216	23	0	1	0	467	0	10	770
Xaisomboun	3	68	0	0	0	1	110	0	1	183
Xaiyabouli	7	192	6	0	0	0	114	8	17	344
Xieng Khouang	20	125	4	0	2	4	176	3	2	336

Source: Tourism Business Management Department

Table 24: Number of Accommodations Establishments and Rooms 2017-2022

Province	Number of Establishments						Number of Rooms					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Grand Total	2,734	3,102	2,920	3,237	3,261	3,095	50,600	56,825	55,541	56,347	60,840	67,370
Attapeu	59	54	56	56	57	51	960	1,013	823	873	940	977
Bokeo	85	86	90	87	94	145	1,332	1,297	1,412	1,536	1,516	2,501
Bolikhambxay	126	160	159	128	127	152	2,388	2,884	2,913	2,314	2,365	2,662
Champasak	235	285	283	297	299	296	4,059	5,182	3,793	4,995	5,165	5,165
Houaphanh	68	74	73	84	84	57	883	956	984	1,038	1,072	731
Khammouane	135	139	139	138	138	137	2,174	2,261	2,286	1,824	2,333	2,323
Luang Namtha	107	105	110	109	110	132	1,545	1,519	1,509	1,837	1,802	1,985
Luang Prabang	313	477	348	491	501	367	5,368	5,276	6,746	6,447	6,799	5,477
Oudomxay	107	134	130	146	150	152	1,906	2,271	2,231	2,224	2,507	2,677
Phongsaly	71	73	74	80	65	70	746	905	915	1,154	973	1,009
Saravanh	54	58	55	62	61	53	517	814	816	840	868	919
Savannakhet	205	223	210	222	223	246	4,521	4,482	4,686	4,362	4,479	5,257
Sekong	52	46	44	47	43	40	628	599	706	619	609	561
Vientiane Capital	459	483	452	476	527	480	13,030	14,244	14,013	14,066	16,372	18,869
Vientiane Province	312	344	340	404	399	292	5,592	6,203	6,372	6,370	7,017	10,008
Xaisomboun	38	45	38	60	63	71	336	475	336	575	713	716
Xaiyabouli	181	173	185	192	173	205	2,257	2,343	2,557	2,422	2,533	2,721
Xieng Khouang	127	143	134	158	147	149	2,358	4,101	2,443	2,851	2,777	2,812

Source: Tourism Business Management Department

Table 25: Number of Hotels, Guest Houses, Resorts, Apartments, Rooms and Beds in 2022

Province	Hotel			Guest House			Resort			Apartment			Total		
	No	Room	Bed	No	Room	Bed	No	Room	Bed	No	Room	Bed	No	Room	Bed
Grand Total	759	27,914	37,185	2,244	37,267	41,749	87	2,090	2,832	5	99	117	3,095	67,370	81,883
Attapeu	22	651	972	28	299	370	1	27	35	-	-	-	51	977	1,377
Bokeo	22	781	1,102	120	1,693	2,047	3	27	66	-	-	-	145	2,501	3,215
Bolikhambay	37	1,145	1,605	108	1,443	1,900	7	74	88	-	-	-	152	2,662	3,593
Champasak	72	2,731	3,346	216	2,276	2,974	8	158	232	-	-	-	296	5,165	6,552
Houaphanh	12	266	359	44	458	604	1	7	7	-	-	-	57	731	970
Khammouane	25	912	1,222	104	1,224	1,575	8	187	250	-	-	-	137	2,323	3,047
Luang Namtha	14	554	713	115	1,412	1,778	2	19	29	1	-	-	132	1,985	2,520
Luang Prabang	95	2,642	4,138	266	2,649	3,847	6	186	275	-	-	-	367	5,477	8,260
Oudomxay	27	1,037	1,502	118	1,416	2,059	7	224	294	-	-	-	152	2,677	3,855
Phongsaly	10	318	492	60	691	1,035	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	1,009	1,527
Saravanh	8	196	300	44	708	885	1	15	24	-	-	-	53	919	1,209
Savannakhet	50	2,195	2,797	194	2,934	3,426	2	128	157	-	-	-	246	5,257	6,380
Sekong	9	245	288	28	298	342	3	18	26	-	-	-	40	561	656
Vientiane Capital	273	10,533	12,851	198	8,148	5,162	5	89	74	4	99	117	480	18,869	18,204
Vientiane Province	53	2,620	3,960	216	6,594	8,056	23	794	1,135	-	-	-	292	10,008	13,151
Xaisomboun	3	54	72	68	662	709	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	716	781
Xaiyabouli	7	241	340	192	2,410	2,658	6	70	76	-	-	-	205	2,721	3,074
Xieng Khouang	20	793	1,126	125	1,952	2,322	4	67	64	-	-	-	149	2,812	3,512

Source: Tourism Business Management Department

Table 26: Room Occupancy Rates by Province, 2014-2022

Province	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Grand Total	57%	51%	54%	53%	54%	-	-	50%
Attapeu	52%	39%	41%	44%	54%	-	-	46%
Bokeo	56%	47%	50%	51%	67%	-	-	51%
Bolikhambay	45%	42%	45%	46%	47%	-	-	53%
Champasak	56%	45%	56%	53%	49%	-	-	46%
Houaphanh	51%	43%	46%	41%	40%	-	-	42%
Khammouane	71%	75%	72%	75%	57%	-	-	57%
Luang Namtha	56%	30%	48%	54%	64%	-	-	47%
Luang Prabang	73%	75%	71%	70%	69%	-	-	60%
Oudomxay	56%	52%	54%	56%	65%	-	-	51%
Phongsaly	46%	39%	44%	41%	47%	-	-	46%
Saravanh	53%	65%	69%	53%	52%	-	-	53%
Savannakhet	71%	53%	54%	57%	53%	-	-	56%
Sekong	48%	47%	52%	42%	51%	-	-	49%
Vientiane Capital	74%	56%	59%	62%	59%	-	-	54%
Vientiane Province	65%	62%	65%	63%	61%	-	-	51%
Xaisomboun	48%	45%	43%	45%	46%	-	-	42%
Xaiyabouli	47%	44%	46%	44%	41%	-	-	43%
Xieng Khouang	56%	53%	57%	55%	51%	-	-	54%

Source: Tourism Business Management Department

Table 27: Number of Tourist Sites in Lao PDR

Province	Natural sites	Cultural sites	Historical sites	Garand Total	Registered	Under Development	Operated 2019	Operated 2022
Total	1,314	591	294	2,199	1,040	587	809	953
Attapeu	33	18	12	63	11	7	19	16
Bokeo	53	14	10	77	40	41	18	23
Bolikhamxay	100	12	3	115	47	7	30	35
Champasak	127	55	35	217	13	16	217	29
Houaphanh	43	28	62	133	83	4	15	61
Khammouane	143	33	31	207	157	120	28	87
Luang Namtha	55	47	7	109	68	15	62	49
Luang Prabang	114	77	33	224	90	25	24	158
Oudomxay	54	40	12	106	58	46	30	25
Phongsaly	27	74	4	105	69	7	80	53
Saravanh	50	38	6	94	90	16	33	31
Savannakhet	74	32	11	117	24	60	112	122
Sekong	19	6	9	34	17	14	5	6
Vientiane Capital	45	24	15	84	11	21	19	86
Vientiane Province	171	25	4	200	168	165	44	58
Xaisomboun	57	5	10	72	35	8	4	3
Xaiyabouli	70	19	7	96	5	13	49	68
Xieng Khouang	79	44	23	146	54	2	20	43

(Survey data in 2019)

Table 28: Number of Homestays in Lao PDR in 2022

Province	Homestay				
	District	Village	No	Room	Bed
Grand Total	30	39	335	438	1,115
Attapeu	-	-	-	-	-
Bokeo	-	-	-	-	-
Bolikhamxay	2	3	22	28	44
Champasak	4	5	38	66	113
Houaphanh	1	1	2	9	15
Khammouane	3	4	64	75	238
Luang Namtha	1	3	26	34	34
Luang Prabang	2	2	36	36	106
Oudomxay	3	4	33	33	180
Phongsaly	2	2	6	6	24
Saravanh	1	1	1	4	4
Savannakhet	4	5	40	61	183
Sekong	1	1	2	5	10
Vientiane Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Vientiane Province	2	2	13	26	52
Xaisomboun	-	-	-	-	-
Xaiyabouli	3	5	50	51	104
Xieng Khouang	1	1	2	4	8

Table 29: Number of Lao Travel Agents from 2017-2022

Province	Number of Travel Agents						Number of Branch Travel Agents					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	422	503	539	549	549	559	45	36	36	34	32	33
Attapeu	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bokeo	17	15	15	15	15	15	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bolikhamxay	4	4	6	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Champasak	30	32	27	27	27	27	7	7	7	7	7	7
Houaphanh	2	2	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Khammouane	5	6	6	5	5	5	2	1	1	0	0	0
Luang Namtha	7	7	7	9	9	9	1	1	1	1	1	1
Luang Prabang	67	78	81	81	81	81	20	17	16	16	14	14
Oudomxay	3	3	5	5	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phongsaly	1	3	2	2	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Saravanh	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Savannakhet	11	11	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sekong	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vientiane Capital	238	292	317	327	327	330	8	3	5	4	4	4
Vientiane Province	18	25	32	32	32	32	2	3	3	3	3	3
Xaisomboun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Xaiyabouli	8	12	16	15	15	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Xieng Khouang	6	8	8	8	8	7	3	3	2	2	2	3

Source: Tourism Business Management Department

Part II: Tourist Survey in 2022

International Tourists

The following tables show the findings from 922 surveys conducted with tourists from February to December 2022 in Vientiane Capital, including Wattay International Airport, Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge 1, and tourist sites in Luang Prabang, Vientiane, and Champasak provinces. The survey respondents represented all tourists visiting Lao PDR.

The tourist surveys aimed to collect basic information from individual tourists and their behaviors, presenting an overview of international tourists.

Of the international tourists arriving in Lao PDR, 62.4% were males and 37.6% were females, where the percentage of male tourists had increased from 52.8% in 2019. Most tourists were working-age: 20- to 29-year-olds accounted for 20.1%, 30-39 accounted for 31.2%, and 40-49 accounted for 24.6%; these three age groups accounted for 75.9%. Most questionnaire respondents were private company employees, accounting for 31.6%, while 15.3% were government employees.

International tourists who traveled by land and air transport had almost the same percentage, where tourists who traveled by land transport accounted for 55.3% and by air 44.7%. Tourist arrivals in Lao PDR via Thailand accounted for 71.6%, and Cambodia, China, and Vietnam accounted for 38.4%. Tourists who traveled to Lao PDR mainly were from countries with direct flights, such as South Korea.

In terms of international tourist behaviors, the majority of tourists wanted to visit Laos' beautiful nature and enjoy natural activities, accounting for 91.6%; those who were interested in history in the form of the World Heritage in Luang Prabang accounted for 71.1%, those who wanted to have direct experience through the visit of world heritage accounted for 52.7%, those who wanted to see beautiful temples and architectures accounted for 57% and those who wanted to taste Lao food accounted for 42.4%. International tourists arriving in Lao PDR want to try new experiences that they see via various media channels.

The traditional way of obtaining tourism information has been changed. In former times, most tourists received information from friends and tour operators. However, in 2022, tourists obtained tourism information from various online websites and channels, which accounted for 73%, followed by social media. During the lockdown, people around the globe went online and used social media as their primary communication tool, including searching for tourism information.

Once tourists arrived in Lao PDR, they preferred to travel by themselves, especially using tuk-tuk services, 46.7%, and bus services, 45.6%. In addition, 37.7% of tourists also used bicycles, and up to 44.6% used other modes of transport, including the Lao-China Railway. However, the use of taxi services was relatively low, accounting for only 8.6%. Regarding tourist characteristics, tourists traveling alone accounted for 38.7%, and tourists traveling as a couple accounted for 37.1%. Tourists traveling as a group account only for 15.9%. In 2022, the number of tourists entering Lao PDR for the first time reached 80.4%, an increase of 61.8% compared to 2019. Those who revisited was only 9.7% when compared to 23.9% in 2019.

Data from the findings above has indicated that tourists visiting Lao PDR are mainly here to explore new experiences that are different from what they can experience in their home countries and to go on new adventures. The top destinations tourists visited in Lao PDR were Luang Prabang, which accounted for 93.6%, Vientiane Capital, 78.4%, and Vang Vieng, 69.2%. Upon arrival at their destinations, they preferred to stay in two types of accommodations: tourists who needed more comfort staying at hotels accounted for 51.1%, and budget tourists staying at guesthouses accounted for 49.9%. The average length of stay was 9.6 days, with an average spending of USD98.6 per day. Tourists' perceptions of their spending in Lao PDR, 42.3% were highly satisfied, 31.9% were most satisfied, 25.2% were moderately satisfied, and 0.7% were less satisfied.

**Table 30: Characteristics of International Tourist Arrivals to Laos
2018-2022**

CHARACTERISTIC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
MODE OF ARRIVAL	100%	100%	-	-	100%
Air	31.4	39.8	-	-	44.7
Land	68.5	60.2	-	-	55.3
SEX	100%	100%	-	-	100%
Male	52.4	52.8	-	-	62.4
Female	47.6	47.2	-	-	37.6
AGE GROUP	100%	100%	-	-	100%
15 to 19	3.7	3.1	-	-	1.2
20 to 29	35.9	25.3	-	-	20.1
30 to 39	24.2	31.9	-	-	31.2
40 to 49	10.1	18.6	-	-	24.6
50 to 59	11.3	11.3	-	-	6.4
60 and above	14.6	9.6	-	-	16.5
OCCUPATION	100%	100%	-	-	100%
Government	9.6	12.7	-	-	15.3
Private company	36.4	50.3	-	-	31.6
Student	13.2	8.4	-	-	8.8
Housewife	2.8	2.4	-	-	5.2
Retired	11.7	8.5	-	-	15.6
Self-employed	10.1	8.7	-	-	16.7
Others	15.9	9.0	-	-	6.8
PURPOSE OF VISIT	100%	100%	-	-	100%
Business	7.4	6.0	-	-	3.0
Holiday	81	83.7	-	-	94
Visit family	3.3	1.3	-	-	1.3
Official, convention and seminar	1.4	2.1	-	-	0.4
Education	2.9	6.3	-	-	-
En Route / In transit	0.5	-	-	-	0.2
Others	3.5	0.6	-	-	1.0

CHARACTERISTIC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
PERSONS ACCOMPANIED WITH	100%	100%	-	-	100%
Alone	24.1	22.6	-	-	38.7
Spouse/partner	39.4	27.1	-	-	37.1
Child	6.2	2.9	-	-	1.8
Colleague	3.2	10.4	-	-	4.8
Friend	26.1	34.4	-	-	15.9
Others	5.3	4.6	-	-	1.7
TYPE OF TRANSPORTATION IN LAO PDR	%	%	-	-	%
Airplane	43.5	22.8	-	-	21.5
Bus	48.6	74.9	-	-	45.6
Boat	31.6	15.6	-	-	28
Tuk-Tuk	44.1	30.1	-	-	46.7
Taxi	32.4	17.6	-	-	8.6
Car	20.8	16.9	-	-	6.8
Bicycle	16.6	9.8	-	-	37.7
Others	11.8	6.5	-	-	44.6
FREQUENCY OF VISIT	100%	100%	-	-	100%
First	78.2	61.8	-	-	80.4
Second	7.9	23.9	-	-	9.7
Three or more	13.9	14.3	-	-	9.9
SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT LAOS	%	%	-	-	%
Website	-	47.6	-	-	73.0
Twitter	-	71.1	-	-	4.0
Facebook	16.4	11.5	-	-	12.8
Book or magazine	19.2	15.9	-	-	11.1
TV or radio	3.5	3.4	-	-	2.7
Friend	28.4	40.6	-	-	14.4
Travel Agency/Tour Operator	17.3	27.8	-	-	5.6
Other	8.2	4.3	-	-	8.9
MAIN INTERESTS	%	%	-	-	%
Nature	59	55.9	-	-	91.6
Historical Tourism	44.1	54	-	-	71.1
Culture	63.4	-	-	-	-
Heritage Tourism	11.5	24.8	-	-	52.7
Community Base Tourism	12.4	9.5	-	-	33.7
Eco-Tourism	13.4	13.7	-	-	27.3
Ethnic Group	23.2	13.7	-	-	35.4
Adventure	13.8	20.1	-	-	26.8
Agri-Tourism	37.2	3.6	-	-	15.0
Temple and monuments	37.2	35.8	-	-	57.0
Cruising	16	7.0	-	-	30.0
Food	31	29.2	-	-	42.4
Shopping	20.4	26.6	-	-	22.1
New destination	21.9	24	-	-	22.7
Other	13	5.4	-	-	4.1

CHARACTERISTIC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION	%	%	-	-	%
Hotel	57.9	70.9	-	-	51.1
Guest House	43.9	31.6	-	-	49.9
Home Stay	7	5.5	-	-	2.3
Private house	4	2.4	-	-	1.1
Others	5.9	4.1	-	-	2.6
PROVINCES VISITED	%	%	-	-	%
Attapeu	1.2	0.4	-	-	0.7
Bokeo	4.8	4.3	-	-	15.7
Bolikhamxay	2	1.1	-	-	2.1
Champassak	10.2	11.1	-	-	21.4
Huaphanh	1.3	0.7	-	-	6.7
Khammouane	6.4	10.3	-	-	10.8
Luang Namtha	4.3	3.2	-	-	4.7
Luang Prabang	79.4	45.4	-	-	93.6
Oudomsay	4.4	2.5	-	-	9.2
Phongsali	2.5	1.6	-	-	1
Saravanh	1.2	0.8	-	-	1.1
Savannakhet	5.2	48.3	-	-	11
Sekong	1.8	1.2	-	-	1.4
Vientiane Capital	66.5	52.1	-	-	78.4
Vientiane Province	38.2	32.5	-	-	16.1
Xaisomboun	1.6	3.5	-	-	-
Xaiyabouli	1.5	0.8	-	-	0.2
Xieng Khouang	5.3	4.1	-	-	14.3
VangVieng District	-	-	-	-	69.2
COUNTRIES VISITED ON THESE TRIPS	%	%	-	-	%
Only Lao PDR	27.1	50.1	-	-	33
Thailand	53	58.0	-	-	71.6
Cambodia or China or Vietnam	46.2	35.0	-	-	38.4
Other Southeast Asian countries	24.1	16.6	-	-	15.4
None of above	1.8	1.8	-	-	1.7
SATISFACTION OF YOUR VISIT COMPARED WITH YOUR EXPECTATION	100%	100%	-	-	100%
Much higher	28.8	21.7	-	-	31.9
Higher	40.2	43.7	-	-	42.3
Same	25.2	31.7	-	-	25.2
Lower	4.3	2.6	-	-	0.7
Much lower	1.5	0.3	-	-	-
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)	7.9	7.9	-	-	9.6
AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER DAY PER PERSON (US Dollars)	90.7	83.6	-	-	98.6

Domestic Tourists

The following tables are findings from 1,600 surveys conducted with tourists between March and December 2022 at Wattay Domestic Airport, Luang Prabang, Vientiane, and Champasak provinces. Those survey respondents represented all domestic tourists traveling to each province in Lao PDR.

Findings from domestic tourist surveys have shown that male respondents accounted for 46.7% while females were 53.3%. By age, 21-40 accounted for 39.1%, and 31-40 were 39.8%. Most were salary workers, of which 22.6% were government employees, 32.5% were private company employees, and 39.8% were organization employees. Respondents earning income from 4,000,001 to 5,000,000 LAK per month accounted for 34%, and the rest made around 1,000,001 to 2,000,000 LAK per month, which accounted for 27.8%.

About 53.9% of domestic tourists traveled by private cars; however, the percentage in 2021 was 90%. In late 2021, when the Lao-China Railway was launched, domestic traveler behaviors changed, and the number of tourists traveling by train increased by 22%. Tourists use their private cars for convenience compared to other modes of transport. However, since the Lao-China Railway came into operation, tourists traveling by train experienced more comfort, arrived faster, and paid lower prices if traveling in a small group. About 34.6% of domestic tourists preferred to travel with their families, and 40.6% traveled with friends, a percentage similar to 2020 and 2021. This means domestic tourists prefer to travel in groups rather than solo.

Domestic travel's primary purpose was tourism, which accounted for 69.9%, and 15.5% was for family visits. About 49.3% stayed at guesthouses due to lower prices, which helped them save some travel expenses, and 16.6% preferred to stay with relatives who combined the trip to visit their relatives and travel on the same trip. However, some domestic tourists prefer more convenience by staying at hotels, accounting for 30%, which has remained constant compared to 2020 and 2021.

Table 31: Characteristics of Domestic Tourists 2020-2022

CHARACTERISTIC	2020	2021	2022
SEX	100%	100%	100%
Male	43.7	57.2	46.7
Female	56.3	42.8	53.3
AGE GROUP	100%	100%	100%
Below 20	7.0	10.1	6.2
21 to 30	47.0	33.9	39.1
31 to 40	28.0	37.2	39.8
41 to 50	15.0	16.7	11.6
51 to 60	2.0	2.0	3.0
61 and above	1.0	0.1	0.4
OCCUPATION	100%	100%	100%
Government	26.6	15.8	22.6
Private company	26.4	33.9	32.5
Organization	-	-	26.9
Student	10.4	33.5	14.0
Housewife	32.1	13.6	-
Retired	1.7	0.8	1.2
Self-employed	2.4	0.4	2.8
Others	0.4	2.0	-
PURPOSE OF VISIT	%	%	%
Holiday	84.7	87.4	69.9
Business	6.0	7.7	3.1
Visit family	6.7	19.4	15.5
Official, convention and seminar	8.5	10.0	6.7
Education	-	0.2	3.1
Therapy	0.7	2.0	-
Religion	0.6	3.0	1.8
Others	0.3	1.2	-
MONTHLY INCOME	100%	100%	100%
Less than 1,000,000	19.3	13.7	7.1
1,000,001-2,000,000	10.2	4.4	27.8
2,000,001-3,000,000	14.2	12.2	12.1
3,000,001-4,000,000	19.5	16.6	19.0
4,000,001-5,000,000	9.2	11.2	34.0
5,000,001-6,000,000	12.4	18.4	-
More than 6,000,001	15.2	23.6	-

CHARACTERISTIC	2020	2021	2022
TYPE OF TRANSPORTATION	%	%	%
Airplane	22.1	9.3	6.4
Bus	9.0	3.9	11.4
Private car	67.1	90.0	53.9
Tour bus	1.2	1.3	6.1
Boat	2.2	0.9	0.1
Others/Train	0.6	2.0	22.0
PERSONS ACCOMPANIED WITH	%	%	%
Alone	13.6	9.0	7.6
Family	39.0	46.1	34.6
Spouse/Partner	-	7.4	15.3
Colleague	-	21.7	1.9
Friend	46.7	25.6	40.6
Others	0.9	2.4	-
TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION	%	%	%
Hotel	26.4	33.4	30
Guest House	45.7	11.2	49.3
Resort	-	-	3.6
Private house	24.6	10.3	-
Relative's house	-	5.2	16.6
Others	3.3	49.0	0.5
AVERAGE EXPENDITURE (LAK)			2,743,776
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)	3	2.51	3

Part III: Estimated Tourism Statistics

After reopening the country and easing the COVID-19 measures in 2022, regional, international, and national tourism has returned to being active. For the tourism industry's recovery, the Government of Lao PDR has planned and announced that 2024 will be the Visit Laos Year. This is connected with investment in improving tourism infrastructure, facilities, and tourist attractions, along with the recovery of tourism-related businesses and public relations campaigns on tourism within the country and internationally. Tourism in Lao PDR is expected to recover fully in 2026. If there are no external impacts, the number of international tourists may return to what it was in 2019.

It is estimated that in 2023, the number of international tourists will be 2,504,213 people, which will increase by 93.47% from 2022, generating an income of USD367,588,360, an increase of 37.97%, with an average length of hotel stays slightly increased from 9.67 days to 9.73 days. In 2024, as it would be the Visit Laos Year, the number of tourists would increase to 2,728,181 people, with an estimated income of USD401,153,373. In 2025, it is projected to have an increasing number of tourists of 2,952,148 people, with an estimated revenue of USD434,718,385; and in 2026, it is expected to have more than 3,176,116 foreign tourists, who would generate an income of USD468,283,398.

The estimated number of international tourists will span three (3) periods: March to June, when the Lao New Year festival takes place with long holidays in the region; August to September, the rainy season (Green Season), with the heaviest rainfall in the year, which leads to a decrease of several tourists due to the rain caused difficulties for travelers. On the other hand, in the West, it is summertime and a great time for people to travel from Europe and America. From November to January, tourist influx would return from Europe and America as the weather is cool in Lao PDR and comfortable for travelers, including many given long holidays at the end of the year. As a result, this makes tourism in Lao PDR more vibrant.

In 2026, it is expected that domestic tourism will recover further. In 2023, domestic tourism will recover rapidly due to changes in transport infrastructure such as the Lao-China Railway, expressways, improvements of main roads, and the launch of Nong Khang Airport in Houaphanh Province. In 2023, the total number of tourists was 1,751,666 people; domestic tourists are expected to increase by 5.86% from 2022. Domestic tourists are expected to be 1,881,717 in 2024, 2,011,768 in 2025, and 2,141,819 in 2026. The length of stay is expected to increase slightly from 2.51 days to 3 days because of the convenience of new and improved transport modes/roads, where tourists could go to many places and have longer lengths of stay. It is expected that income from domestic tourism will increase from USD273,028,360 in 2022 to USD367,438,024 in 2026, with an annual average increase of 7.42%.

Table 32: Estimated International Tourist Arrivals, Income, and Average Length of Stay 2023-2026

Year	Number of Tourist Arrivals	Revenue from Tourism (Dollars)	Average Length of Stay (Days) for international tourists	Remark
1993	102,946	6,280,000	3.5	
1994	146,155	7,557,600	5.1	
1995	346,460	24,738,480	4.3	
1996	403,000	43,592,263	4.1	
1997	463,200	73,276,904	5.0	
1998	500,200	79,960,145	5.0	
1999	614,278	97,265,324	5.5	
2000	737,208	113,898,285	5.5	
2001	673,823	103,786,323	8.0	
2002	735,662	113,409,883	6.5	
2003	636,361	87,302,412	6.0	
2004	894,806	118,947,707	6.5	
2005	1,095,315	146,770,074	7.0	
2006	1,215,106	173,249,896	7.0	
2007	1,623,943	233,304,695	7.0	
2008	1,736,787	275,515,758	6.5	
2009	2,008,363	267,700,224	7.0	
2010	2,513,028	381,669,031	7.0	
2011	2,723,564	406,184,338	7.0	
2012	3,330,072	506,022,586	7.2	
2013	3,779,490	595,909,127	8.4	
2014	4,158,719	641,636,543	7.9	
2015	4,684,429	725,365,681	7.5	
2016	4,239,047	724,191,957	7.57	
2017	3,868,838	648,067,008	8.39	
2018	4,186,432	811,010,661	7.99	
2019	4,791,065	934,710,409	7.93	
2020	886,447	213,367,141	7.93	
2021	-	-	-	
2022	1,294,365	264,511,231	9.67	
2023	2,504,213	367,588,360	9.73	Estimated
2024	2,728,181	401,153,373	9.73	Estimated
2025	2,952,148	434,718,385	9.73	Estimated
2026	3,176,116	468,283,398	9.73	Estimated

Table 32: Estimated Tourist Arrivals by Month 2023-2026

Year	Months												Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2005	77,093	81,766	113,722	100,477	83,665	96,140	67,878	85,940	77,694	99,437	100,217	111,286	1,095,315
2006	111,917	112,520	104,675	99,928	94,017	85,016	79,525	93,045	86,762	108,720	111,747	127,234	1,215,106
2007	150,853	140,238	137,463	117,805	141,771	117,741	121,541	127,687	126,071	152,366	139,478	150,929	1,623,943
2008	158,776	149,744	140,256	142,321	150,314	149,299	133,355	122,636	128,427	134,943	158,673	168,043	1,736,787
2009	186,668	176,596	154,059	101,288	117,754	140,929	161,055	156,239	178,194	191,697	190,132	253,752	2,008,363
2010	229,032	196,746	210,337	224,753	179,168	140,929	182,876	201,273	195,318	220,925	237,692	265,613	2,484,662
2011	265,367	237,554	257,454	221,854	266,080	237,153	244,181	219,440	209,259	182,671	192,683	189,868	2,723,564
2012	298,227	283,945	285,583	314,494	287,100	267,306	213,953	238,725	228,186	275,948	347,212	289,393	3,330,072
2013	345,411	350,459	308,847	331,717	297,038	273,152	297,439	308,065	280,235	326,579	331,823	328,725	3,779,490
2014	367,980	384,664	360,675	366,610	339,580	232,400	316,631	304,725	368,666	382,064	365,824	368,900	4,158,719
2015	436,358	426,697	421,841	416,628	325,095	298,970	337,805	358,358	461,921	400,054	420,650	380,052	4,684,429
2016	400,140	450,902	396,975	363,538	343,162	296,272	296,242	323,603	302,981	336,863	367,964	360,405	4,239,047
2017	339,764	350,380	355,217	346,559	314,344	298,306	278,971	280,983	262,464	325,574	358,997	357,280	3,868,838
2018	358,248	347,227	362,221	376,133	339,165	344,286	282,602	386,911	295,293	348,281	352,225	393,840	4,186,432
2019	331,524	337,356	393,497	404,945	392,491	368,646	418,537	437,586	362,005	413,251	473,648	457,579	4,791,065
2020	351,104	345,900	189,443										886,447
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022	30	128	266	122	36,006	175,419	133,673	157,489	146,024	211,000	228,550	205,658	1,294,365
2023	173,282	176,331	205,675	211,658	205,149	192,685	218,763	228,719	189,214	216,000	247,568	239,169	2,504,213
2024	188,780	192,101	224,069	230,588	223,497	209,918	238,328	249,175	206,137	235,318	269,710	260,560	2,728,181
2025	204,278	207,871	242,464	249,518	241,844	227,152	257,893	269,631	223,059	254,636	291,851	281,950	2,952,148
2026	219,775	223,642	260,859	268,448	260,192	244,385	277,459	290,087	239,982	273,954	313,993	303,340	3,176,116

Table 33: Estimated Domestic Tourist Arrivals, Income, and Average Length of Stay 2023-2026

Year	Number of Domestic Tourist	Revenue from Tourism (Dollars)	Average Length of Stay (Days) for Domestic tourists	Remark
2016	1,986,738	-	-	
2017	2,236,914	-	-	
2018	2,818,576	-	-	
2019	2,350,851	-	-	
2020	1,581,100	122,740,653	3.00	
2021	828,592	93,589,466	2.51	
2022	1,654,688	273,028,158	3.00	
2023	1,751,666	283,830,360	3.00	Estimated
2024	1,881,717	311,699,582	3.00	Estimated
2025	2,011,768	339,568,803	3.00	Estimated
2026	2,141,819	367,438,024	3.00	Estimated

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