

TOURIST SPENDING IN MEXICO IS CRITICALLY LOW

Average tourist spending by foreign visitors to Mexico is only half of what it is in Dominican Republic, and at least 300% below that of the United States, India and Australia, according to a study by Anahuac University and the National Tourism Business Council (CNET).

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THE LARGEST OPEN-AIR ICE RINK IN EUROPE OPENED IN MOSCOW

At the end of November, Moscow opened the largest open-air ice rink in Europe at the VDNKh exhibition centre. With 20,000 m² of ice surface, which is almost the size of three football fields, and the capacity of 4,500 people, the ice rink is one of the biggest attractions of the Russian capital.

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HOTEL INDUSTRY IN BRAZIL IS IN CRISIS AND FIGHTS SHARING ECONOMY

The financial situation of the hotel industry in Brazil is not very optimistic. The sector faces considerable downturn in occupancy and needs to cope with the competition of private rentals that are rising in popularity.

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BOOMING TOURISM IN SRI LANKA TO OPEN NEW ZONES

The small island of Sri Lanka currently enjoys booming tourism numbers according to reports. The local government has a positive outlook of the future of the sector.

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ITALIAN TOURISM INDUSTRY STEADILY ON THE RISE

Tourism industry in Italy has become the most important growth provider for the country's economy this year. The trend is expected to continue in 2017/18 as well. The gross domestic product is expected to increase by 0.9% in 2016 and tourism by 1.5%. The turnover in tourism accounts for 171 billion euros, which is 11.8% of the GDP. The sector employs 3.1 million people, 12.8% of the Italian workforce.

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MEDICAL TOURISM IN THAILAND STILL VERY ATTRACTIVE

According to estimates, the contribution of the Thai tourism industry to the country's GDP represents between 12% and 18% of the economy, employing approximately 6.2 million people directly and indirectly, or about 16% of the labor force. Hotels, restaurants, and shops are the main beneficiaries, but at the same time another form of travel is developing: medical tourism.

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CRUISE TOURISM IN EUROPE HAD A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Cruise tourism in Europe is expected to be on rise in the coming years despite global economic austerity measures, according to Pierfrancesco Vago, Chairman of CLIA Europe and Executive Chairman of MSC Cruises.

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THE FUTURE OF TOURISM IN CUBA UNCERTAIN

The future of tourism in Cuba is an issue of many discussions in the country after the death of Fidel Castro, the emblematic leader of the 'barbudos.' The travel sector is an important part of the island's economy and seems to continue its economic development. But far from the image offered to tourists, the locals hope above all to increase their standard of living.

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