



UN Tourism News - #10 - 27 February 2020



Responsibility and Coordination!

UNWTO and WHO Joint Statement on COVID-19

As the current outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) continues to develop, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) are committed to working together in guiding the travel and tourism sectors' response to COVID-19.

UNWTO at the Highest Level



[UNWTO at ITB Berlin 2020](#)



[Greece Welcomes UNWTO Support](#)



UNWTO Places Tourism in the European Parliament

The UNWTO Secretary-General addressed the European Parliament in the context of several high-level meetings aimed at placing tourism high on European Union's agenda. Europe is the world's most visited region and home to international tourism leaders such as France, Spain or Italy, as well as leading outbound markets, like Germany.



1st Rural Tourism Startup Competition



Training Seminar in China

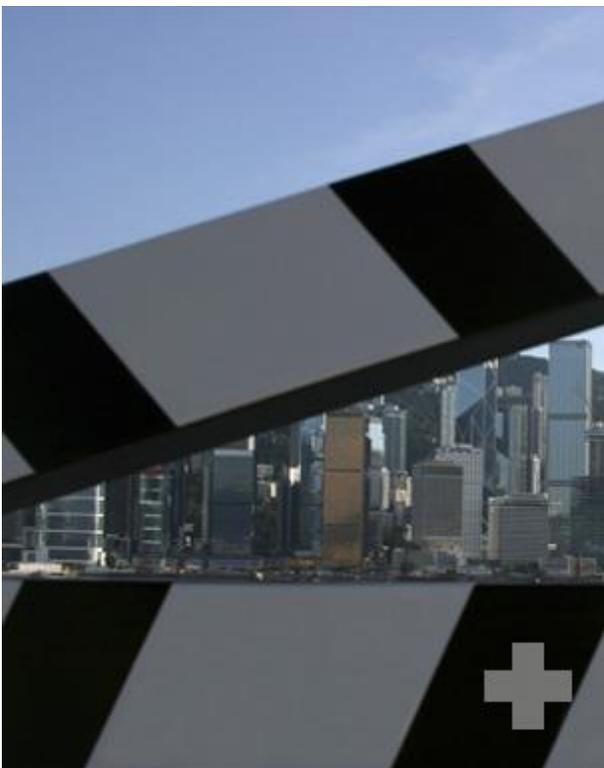
Coming Up...



[11th World Congress on Snow and Mountain Tourism](#)



[Tourism Tech Adventure Forum: Middle East](#)



[Conference on Tourism and the Audiovisual Industry](#)



[World Sports Tourism Congress](#)

In the News



Landmark African Tourism Investment Forum in Côte d'Ivoire

The first UNWTO Global Investment Forum in Africa was held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). The event, part of the wider UNWTO Agenda for Africa, brought together representatives from more than 40 countries, with discussions focusing on the opportunities and challenges of boosting investment in African tourism.



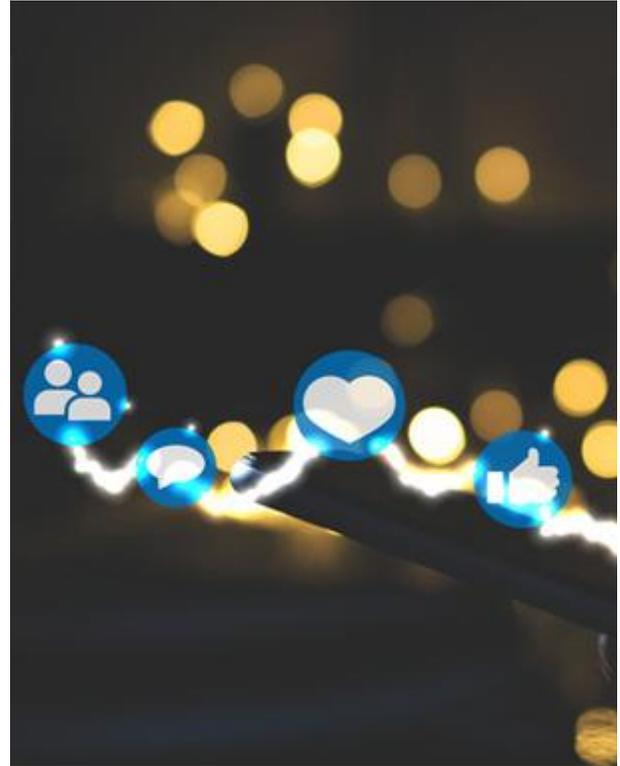
Moving Closer to New Headquarters

Spain's Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Reyes Maroto has announced the launch of a feasibility study into making the Palacio de Congresos the new home of UNWTO. At FITUR 2019, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez first announced his government's intention to transform part of the historic venue into a headquarters reflecting UNWTO's national and international influence. This feasibility study brings the move a step closer.



UNWTO Celebrates Power of New Ideas

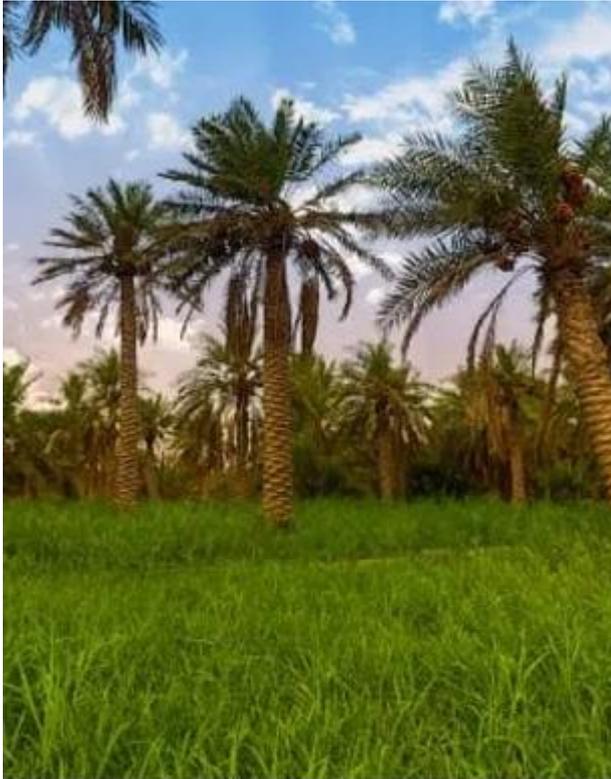
The growing importance of innovation and digital transformation was celebrated at UNWTO headquarters with the first Open Innovation Day. Held to mark the launch of the UN Innovation Toolkit, the event gave UNWTO personnel the chance to share their ideas on how tourism can embrace change at every level and make innovation 'the new normal'.



UNWTO's Digital Reach up 300%!

UNWTO's social media presence and influence has grown significantly over the past year. On LinkedIn, follower numbers are up 300% from 30,000 at the start of 2019 to more than 90,000 now. LinkedIn gives UNWTO the opportunity to share its latest news and insights with tourism professionals, further cementing its status as the global thought leader for the sector.

On Our Radar...



SAUDI ARABIA HAS GRANTED
400,000 VISAS SINCE OPENING
TO TOURISM



NEW GREEN FINS INITIATIVE
AIMS TO ENCOURAGE
TOURISTS TO PROTECT
CORAL REEFS

Most Popular On Social Media...



When traveling you **MUST**:

Follow: @WHO health guidance: <https://bit.ly/3bQZ4by>

Remember: **Tourism helps communities**

Be: Respectful and understanding

We can all be part of **positive change** and stability - tourism is our vehicle!



Do you have an idea that can transform the growing gastronomy tourism sector?
**UNWTO and Basque Culinary Centre Launch the 2nd Gastronomy Tourism
Start-Up Competition!**



All around the world, movies and TV are **inspiring people to travel to the
places they have seen on the big screen. Managing this growing tourism is a
challenge and an opportunity. Join us for the Conference on Tourism and the
Audiovisual Industry!**



The **Decade of Action** has started! We now have just 10 years to achieve the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, and the tourism sector is already shown it is up to the challenge. From the **Global Tourism Plastics Initiative** to playing a central role in the **EU Green Deal**, our sector is offering solutions to the biggest challenges!



#UNWTO is honored to count on Spain's support at the highest level! For the first ever **His Majesty the King of Spain** chaired a ministerial dinner on the occasion of **Fitur** trade fair, the first of the world's big tourism gatherings!



The **World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**, a United Nations specialized agency, is the leading international organization with the decisive and central role in promoting the development of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. It serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and a practical source of tourism know-how. Its membership includes 159 countries, 6 territories, 2 permanent observers and over 500 Affiliate Members.

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