

Tourism

Tourism is the backbone of Macao's economy. With the long-term goal of building Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre, the government department responsible for tourism development – the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) – started adjusting tourism policies and measures in accordance with Macao's new positioning, and promoted sustainable and healthy development of the tourism industry in areas including marketing and promotion, tourism planning, products and events, tourism industry management, and training and quality control.

Overview of Tourism in Macao

According to the Statistics and Census Service, the total number of tourists visiting Macao in 2022 was 5,700,339 – representing a decrease of 26 percent from the 2021 figure. The number of overnight visitors during the year totalled 2,484,028, representing a decrease of 32.8 percent, and accounting for 43.6 percent of visitors to Macao. The average length of stay of overnight visitors was 3.4 days, representing an increase of 0.2 days, while the overall figure was 1.5 days; representing a decrease of 0.1 days.

Major Markets

In 2022, residents of Macao and the mainland China markets travelled relatively smoothly during the pandemic. Mainland China continued to be the largest market for visitors to Macao with 5,105,935 arrivals, accounting for 89.6 percent of the total number of visitors. Among the mainland China visitors, 1,681,823 (accounting for 32.9 percent of visitors from mainland China to Macao) travelled to Macao under the Facilitated Individual Travel (FIT) scheme. Hong Kong and Taiwan were the second and third largest markets for visitors to Macao, respectively; compared with 2021, the numbers of visitors from Hong Kong decreased by 12.8 percent to 513,447, and those from Taiwan decreased by 5.1 percent to 67,303.

The Hotel Industry

According to Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) statistics, at the end of 2022, Macao had a total of 142 hotel premises, of which 102 were hotels and apartment hotels, accounting for 71.8 percent of the total hotel premises, while 40 were budget accommodations, accounting for 28.2 percent of the total hotel premises.

Star Rating	Number of Hotels	Number of Rooms
Hotels and Apartment Hotels	102	45,576
Five-star Luxury Hotels	12	7,689
Five-star Hotels	27	20,510
Four-star Hotels	18	8,038

(Cont.)

Star Rating	Number of Hotels	Number of Rooms
Four-star Apartment Hotels	2	657
Three-star Hotels	17	6,142
Three-star Apartment Hotels	2	638
Two-star Hotels	24	1,902
Budget Accommodations	40	930
Total	142	46,506

In terms of the number of rooms, there were 46,506 rooms in Macao, 45,576 of which were hotel or apartment hotel rooms, accounting for 98 percent of the total number of rooms; 28,199 rooms were provided by five-star hotels or above (including five-star and five-star luxury hotels), accounting for over 60 percent of the total; 930 rooms were from budget accommodation, accounting for two percent of the total.

The total number of guests who stayed in hotels in Macao during 2022 was 5,114,551, representing a decrease of 22.8 percent from the figure in 2021. The average year-round occupancy rate of hotels decreased by 11.8 percentage points to 38.3 percent. The average length of stay was 1.8 nights, which remained the same as in 2021.

According to statistics from the Macau Hotel Association, the average room rate for three- to five-star Macao member hotels in 2022 was 749.8 patacas, representing a decrease of 14.5 percent from 2021.

Travel Agencies

At the end of 2022, there were 188 licensed travel agencies in Macao, 20 less than the number of 208 in 2021. A total of 1,736 people held tourist guide licences issued by the MGTO, 118 (6.4 percent) fewer than in 2021. The language abilities of these tourist guides spanned Cantonese, Putonghua, English, Portuguese, Indonesian, German, Japanese, Korean, Thai, French, Russian, Malay, Hokkien and Chaozhouese.

In 2022, a total of 46,686 Macao residents engaged with travel agent services to travel abroad, 68.4 percent less than in 2021.

Macau Government Tourist Office

The functions of the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) include assisting the formulation and implementation of local tourism policies; enhancing development and diversity of the tourism industry; monitoring tourism and related businesses and issuing licences; formulating tourism crisis emergency responses; managing the Travel Alert System; and realising the Government's overall

tourism objectives. In 2022, MGTO established a marketing representative office in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

In 2022, the MGTO was committed to organising a series of activities and offering travel discounts by launching online and offline publicity programmes to promote a healthy image of Macao as a safe city for travel, thereby achieving success in tourism recovery.

In 2022, the Experience Macao Unlimited roadshow was held in the Greater Bay Area cities, to promote Macao's "Tourism Plus" element. The Stay, Dine and See Macao programme continued, with new Educational Student Tours introduced in June, weaving together tourism resources for educational purposes, in order to teach students about the history of Macao and Chinese culture through itineraries featuring information on science and ecology.

As of 31 December 2022, a total of 42,253 participants had signed up for local tours, while 30,829 signed up for the "Educational Student Tours". A total of 48,104 hotel packages were sold, reaching 120,033 guests and a total of 112,168 participants for the entire campaign.

A total of 169 travel agencies, and 69 hotels and apartments participated in the programme, which benefited 534 bus drivers and 451 tour guides.

Tourism Planning and Study

The MGTO announced the review report on the first Macao Tourism Industry Development Master Plan in November 2021. There were 91 action plans established after the review and reform, including 77 interim plans (zero to five years) and 14 long-term plans (six years or more). The proposals and action plans will strengthen the interaction between the tourism industry and other associated industries, enriching Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre.

As of the end of 2021, 76 out of the 77 interim plans had been launched and followed up on, with 63 attaining the target, representing an achievement rate of 82 percent.

Also, the MGTO started using scientific research methods to continue reviewing the effectiveness of tourism products, in order to understand the behaviour and characteristics of the tourists from different countries, as a reference for product promotion and development.

Macao Tourism News plus (<https://newsplus.macaotourism.gov.mo/>) integrates a variety of news materials about Macao tourism, to enable the media and industry to more easily access and use the database through its one-stop service.

The MGTO continued updating the "Macao Tourism Data plus" (MTD plus) database (<http://dataplus.macaotourism.gov.mo>) and provided the public with provisional data on tourists visiting Macao every day during mainland China's Golden Week holidays.

Smart Tourism

In 2022, the Macao Grand Prix Museum introduced a new feature – a 360-degree panoramic virtual tour, and an expanded AR application, to enrich visitors' experience and further their understanding of the history of the Macao Grand Prix.

The Smart Application for Visitor Flows website was optimised, through utilising mobile phone statistics for analyses of passenger flows. The number of monitored attractions expanded to 109, to enhance the accuracy and predictability of Smart Application for Visitor Flows. The newly launched Dining Out website integrates video clips related to food, cooking and culinary culture, allowing Macao residents and visitors to discover the essence of Macao as a “Creative City of Gastronomy” and plan gourmet itineraries, thus driving community consumption and boosting the development of the tourism economy.

Licensing and Industry Management

In 2022, the MGTO issued six licences for hotels and 76 licences for catering premises, and followed up regarding applications for various licences. In 2022, the MGTO conducted 2,361 inspections of licensed premises and activities under its supervision, 503 inspections of border crossing checkpoints and tourist attractions, and 251 random inspections of “Stay, Dine and See Macao” local tours. Regarding combating illegal accommodation, nine units were closed to visitors in 2022.

The Legislative Assembly passed Law No. 8/2021 – Law on the Operation of Hotel Premises, which came into force on 1 January, 2022, together with By-law No. 44/2021 - Enforcement Rules for the Law on the Operation of Hotel Establishments and Executive Order No. 208/2021. The MGTO handled the license approval procedures in accordance with the law, publicised the new law to the public, and briefed the industry regarding its requirements.

In 2022, the MGTO supported the amendment of Law No. 3/2010 – Prohibition of Providing Illegal Accommodation, and joined hands with other government departments to publicise and enhance public awareness of the law through various channels in line with Law No. 3/2022 as Amendments to the Law No. 3/2010 – Prohibition of Providing Illegal Accommodation, which came into effect on 1 April, 2022.

Specific Financial Support Program 2022

The Specific Financial Support Program was launched in 2022, to provide funding support for organisations to develop diverse tourism activities, and support the organisation of “Tourism Plus” projects. Through the Community Economic Tourism Development, Food and Culture Promotion and Maritime Tourism schemes, local organisations were encouraged and subsidised to organise diverse tourism activities and projects that capitalised on tourism resources including community, culture, history, branded tourism events, food and maritime, to drive development of the tourism economy. The three financial support schemes attracted over 1,226,000 participants and benefited over 2,200 merchants.

Macao Tourism Mascot “Mak Mak”

The Mak Mak brand continued to be incubated, in preparation for licensing its intellectual property rights to the market. The Mak Mak trademark registration certificate for Macao and the certificate of registration of copyrighted works in mainland China were obtained.

Macao Grand Prix Museum

In 2022, the Macao Grand Prix Museum introduced a new feature – a 360-degree panoramic virtual tour, together with an expanded AR tour and “Formula-3 simulator”. An exclusive apparel collection under the MinM brand of the Industrial Association of Macau was introduced, for sale in the museum’s boutique gallery; a café themed on the Macao Grand Prix was opened next to the museum, serving fine coffee and original Macao cultural and creative products.

The Photo Collection Activity for the Macao Grand Prix and the “Dynamic Racing Car Workshops at the Macao Grand Prix Museum” were organised, to promote the culture and heritage of the Macao Grand Prix. In 2022, a total of 35,850 visitors were received, including 5,706 participants of 206 tours.

Business Tourism

The 10th Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo

The 10th Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo was held from 23 September to 25 September 2022. The event was hosted by the MGTO, supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People’s Republic of China and organised by the Macau Travel Agency Association.

The Travel Expo integrated both virtual and physical exhibitions to connect the travel and related industries from around the world, promoting exchanges and cooperation for business opportunities. The area of the expo venue was 23,000 square metres, and there were 830 exhibition booths and a total of 454 exhibitors from Macao, mainland China and foreign countries, along with 306 buyers which participated online and offline.

The Travel Expo attracted about 30,000 participants over three days, with 29 contracts signed, 4,564 business-to-business meetings conducted, and a total of 3.06 million views of the live broadcasts. The “Cloud Series” also featured “Cloud invitations” to recruit buyers and exhibitors from different sectors and regions.

During the Travel Expo, 52 sessions of travel promotions, forums and events were held.

Travel Stimulus Programme

The Travel Stimulus Programme was renewed. Only 1,338 travellers enjoyed the programme in 2022, due to the pandemic.

Events and Festivals

In 2022, the MGTO organised various large-scale events to boost the revitalisation of tourism, including Lunar New Year Celebration Activities 2022; Lunar New Year 2022 Parade; Lunar New Year 2022 Fireworks Displays; Light Up Macao Drone Gala 2022; World Tourism Day Celebration Activities; 2022 National Day Fireworks Celebration; and Light Up Macao 2022.

Lunar New Year 2022 Parade

The Parade for Celebration of the Year of the Tiger was organised by the MGTO, and held on 3 February and 12 February, 2022. Parade participants included 14 floats and 22 teams of 700 performers from mainland China and Macao, attracting over 85,000 spectators along the route. An exhibition of floats was held at the Macao Science Center Seaside and Tap Seac Square from 4 February to 11 February, and from 13 February to 20 February, attracting more than 30,000 visitors.

Lunar New Year 2022 Fireworks Displays

The Lunar New Year fireworks displays were held on the evenings of 3 February, 7 February and 15 February 2022 at the waterfront opposite the Macau Tower, with the each display lasting 15 minutes, to entertain visitors and residents, and brighten up the festive spirit.

Light Up Macao Drone Gala

Hosted by the MGTO, the Light Up Macao Drone Gala was held on 3 December, 4 December, 7 December and 8 December 2022. A professional team from Shenzhen was invited to operate 880 drones using computers. During the event, the average daily flow of visitors exceeded 26,000, representing an average increase of 100 percent over 2021. The event also received the collaborative support of six major integrated tourism and leisure enterprises.

2022 National Day Fireworks Celebration

In celebration of the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the MGTO held the 2022 National Day Fireworks Celebration on 1 October, which attracted massive crowds of residents and visitors, together with live broadcasts of the National Day fireworks display through two popular social media channels in mainland China, receiving close to 80,000 views.

Light Up Macao 2022

In 2022, the MGTO upgraded the content and scale of the Macao Light Festival, and renamed it Light Up Macao. Held from 9 December to 1 January 2023 jointly with six integrated tourism and leisure enterprises, the festival was themed “Dazzling Winter”, presenting a diverse array of light installations, project mapping and interactive games stretching from communities on the Macao Peninsula to Taipa and Coloane, in a total of 28 locations across eight different districts. The event attracted more than 6.39 million visitors and residents to visit different communities and drive spending.

Ongoing promotion of Macao · Creative City of Gastronomy

Organised by the MGTO, the 10th Macao International Tourism (Industry) Expo featured a “Cities of Gastronomy Kitchen”, bringing together 17 renowned chefs from the “Creative Cities of Gastronomy”, including Chengdu, Shunde, Yangzhou, Huai'an and Macao, to present 24

demonstrations by chefs, both online and offline; and continued with the “Gourmet Lounge”, which featured 18 restaurants from Macao to promote the city’s appeal as a UNESCO “Creative City of Gastronomy”.

The co-organised Crunch and Munch Fair in Macao - Fiesta for Five event invited the participation of four “Creative Cities of Gastronomy” from mainland China. Over 106 food, cultural and creative and tourism promotion booths from Macao, Chengdu, Shunde, Yangzhou and Huai’an were set up on site, with live demonstrations by local chefs from the five cities, to promote exchanges within the food industry. The event attracted over 61,000 visitors and was promoted through the integrated media matrix of China Media Group and GRT Greater Bay Area TV, with a total of 180 million views.

The MGTO subsidised local organisations to hold the Funny Islands Food Market, the 22nd Southeast Asia Food Carnival, World Cities of Gastronomy (China) Meet in Macao Activities 2022, the 22nd Macau Food Festival and the Thailand Culture Festival 2022, attracting over 383,000 participants.

Macao the Ultimate Guide and *A Handbook of Gastronomy in Zhongshan, Zhuhai and Macao* have been published to introduce Macao cuisine. The newly launched Dining Out website incorporates video clips related to food, cooking and culinary culture.

In 2022, the MGTO collaborated with the media, academic institutions and government departments to launch the *Macao Flavours: a Culinary Legacy* TV programme; a video series on Macanese cuisine; a short film, *Homemakers Cooking Macanese Cuisine*; along with the *Hong Kung Temple - A Journey to Senado Square*; and the *Discover the Taste of Macao* series, to introduce Macao’s culinary specialties and heartfelt stories of the city.

The June theme of the “Experience Macao, Unlimited” monthly city highlights was “Tasty June”, featuring Macao’s travel glamour as a Creative City of Gastronomy.

Jointly produced by the MSAR Government and China Media Group, the culinary, cultural and tourism reality show *Express Lane to Macau Tourism* - enriched story telling about food, culture and attractions, set out to explore Macao’s iconic delicacies and cultural and tourism destinations based on 12 themes and along 24 routes with different perspectives under the slogan of “Savouring all of Macao with a budget of your choice”. The TV series presented the diverse cultures of Macao, the city’s unique cultural landscape and essence, as well as the abundant and innovative events, leisure and entertainment, history and culture, sports performances and other quality facilities.

Another food TV programme, *Macau Wonderful Tour*, began its Macao tour in the style of a gameshow, featuring several renowned social media influencers to explore the taste and fun of Macao along the way.

The MGTO continued promoting Macao’s traditional and innovative eateries on social media, together with the launch of experience sharing by distinctive shop owners, and the Michelin Macao restaurant series in 2022.

Tourism Promotion

In 2022, the MGTO’s promotional strategy aimed at boosting the confidence of tourists in visiting

Macao, expand the number of visitors and promote the revitalisation of the tourism industry, and promoting Macao as a safe travel destination through comprehensive online and offline promotions, thereby creating synergy for promoting the revitalisation of the Macao tourism economy.

Outsourced Information Counter Service

To provide employment opportunities for local tourist guides whose jobs were lost or reduced as a result of the pandemic, the MGTO outsourced the services of a total of seven information counters to Macao Tourist Guide Association, so the counters could provide tourism information for visitors through professional tourist guides.

Tourism Promotional Strategies and Activities

The MGTO promoted “Tourism+” by cross-sector integration, leveraging elements including conventions and exhibitions, sports, cultural creativity and e-commerce; fusing the elements into various promotional activities; and adopting the name cards of Macao World Heritage and city of gastronomy as the tourism image, thereby promoting tourism products to the public, including events and festivals, gastronomy and comprehensive cultural tours of Macao.

Strengthening the Promotion of Special Evening Events

Special evening events such as the Parade for Celebrating the Year of the Tiger, Tiger Roars for Success of the Olympic Winter Games firework displays, Light Up Macao Drone Gala 2022, Light Up Macao 2022 and Crunch and Munch Fair in Macao - Fiesta for Five were publicised on social media platforms, with about 30 live broadcasts on the MGTO’s official Weibo and WeChat accounts and Facebook pages, as well as by influencers. A total of more than 118 million viewers watched the live broadcasts.

Cooperation with Airlines and Online Tourism Platforms

Through the “My Treat for You, See You in Macao” campaign, the MGTO collaborated with Air Macau, six participating e-commerce platforms in mainland China and online travel agencies to set up a dedicated page on Macao tourism and products, leveraging the online and offline resources of each platform for targeted promotions. In addition, shopping mall roadshows were held in Chongqing, Chengdu, Hangzhou, Shanghai and Nanjing from September to December, attracting a total of 36,300 participants in the five stops.

Promotion of the Guangdong–Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin and the Greater Bay Area

The MGTO worked with the travel industry and online travel platforms to organise Experience Macao Unlimited roadshows in the Greater Bay Area. The Zhuhai and Zhongshan, stops were completed between August and September, with over 410,000 participants attending the two

sessions. The roadshows also invited the tourism authorities of the Guangdong–Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, Zhongshan and Zhuhai to take part in the event, promoting multi-destination travel and mutual visits with various regions.

Social Media Promotion and Training Bloggers

The MGTO actively continued posting the latest information on Macao festivals and events, tourism, food, and daily life on mainland China social media platforms, in order to keep the public abreast of the latest trends and promote Macao’s tourism presence.

In addition to constantly posting promotional information on its official accounts, the MGTO launched the fun hashtag campaigns, with the “Monthly Macao Highlights” hashtag #monthlymacaohighlights on TikTok receiving over 75.43 million views. In December, a promotional campaign – “Let’s travel to Macao now” – was launched in partnership with TikTok.

The MGTO launched “The Second Incubation Plan for Macao Tourism Influencers”, to cultivate Macao culinary and tourism bloggers, with a total of 65 trainees successfully completing the programme in 2022, under the theme of gourmet promotion.

In 2022, the numbers of followers of MGTO’s social media accounts were 2.167 million on WeChat, 1.64 million on Weibo, 254,000 on TikTok, 75,800 on Xiaohongshu, 171,000 on Facebook and over 10,000 on Instagram. The MGTO created its TikTok account in 2022, garnering 275,000 followers.

Quality Tourism Services Accreditation Scheme

Due to the pandemic, the MGTO assessed the renewals of accreditation for merchants in the food and beverage sector in accordance with the Covid-19 surveillance mechanism, while the qualifications of the accredited travel merchants were retained. In 2022, among the accredited “Star Merchants”, there were 200 food and beverage businesses and 29 travel agencies, while the retail sector continued working with the Consumer Council, with 30 retail sector businesses receiving Star Merchant Awards in 2022.

Regional and International Cooperation

Regarding international cooperation, the conferences, seminars, and training courses organised by international tourism organisations were again held online in 2022. The MGTO actively participated in various conferences, seminars and events organised by international tourism organisations, thereby enhancing Macao’s participation and popularity in international tourism-related activities.

As an associate member of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the MGTO attended events including:

- The 34th Joint Meeting and Regional Conference of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia;
- International Code for the Protection of Tourists - Asia-Pacific Regional Webinar; and

- The 13th and 14th online training courses organised by the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies and the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

Also, the MGTO attended:

- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network Annual Conference;
- The Creative City of Gastronomy Virtual Conference and PATA Executive Board Meetings; and
- The PATA Annual General Meeting and the PATA Gold Awards 2022, which were sponsored by the MGTO.

In addition, the MGTO participated in:

- The 59th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Tourism Working Group (TWG) Meeting;
- The World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF) Conference on Asia-Pacific Tourism 2022;
- The Board of Directors election for the 61st International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) Annual Congress 2022; and
- The 17th Asian Federation of Exhibition and Convention Associations (AFECA) Annual General Meeting.

Regarding regional cooperation, the MGTO was invited to attend the launch ceremony and events of Beautiful China - Experience with Heart & Eyes Online Presentation Seminar 2021, hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism; participated online in the 2022 meeting for fostering the implementation of the Culture and Tourism Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; and signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement with the Shandong Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism.

Work on Prevention and Control of the Covid-19 Pandemic

In 2022, the MGTO continued coordinating the loans of Medical Observation Hotels, and organised and assisted in the selection of these hotels, along with cleaning and disinfecting the hotels after they have been used, in accordance with the Health Bureau's work on pandemic prevention and control. A third-party professional organisation was commissioned to inspect the hotels' infection control measures. In view of the transition period of Macao's pandemic prevention in December, the MGTO coordinated the arrangement of quarantine hotels.

From 1 January to 16 December 2022, 61,581 people were assisted, and stayed in 11 hotels for medical observations.

The MGTO forwarded the guidelines on pandemic prevention issued by the Health Bureau to premises licensed and supervised by the MGTO, and regularly inspected these premises to ensure their full compliance with the related guidelines.

During the outbreak that commenced on 18 June, the MGTO coordinated the use of hotels as quarantine and closed-loop facilities for asymptomatic infected individuals and the provision of

mobile beds for community treatment centres by several major hotel companies. After the lifting of the restrictions on specific premises and facilities in Macao on 2 August, the MGTO continued to deploy staff for inspections, to ensure the implementation of the pandemic prevention measures.

The MGTO also cooperated with multiple departments to provide anti-pandemic vehicles at all checkpoints to escort people considered a risk for COVID infections to designated quarantine stations and the Medical Observation Hotels. As the outbreak changed, a closed-loop management measure targeting drivers on medical observation routes was introduced from the end of 2021.

Tourism Training

Tourism and related industries employ a significant proportion of Macao's total workforce. The Government attaches great importance to training people employed in the tourism sector; it offers training courses for various tourism-related professionals through the Institute for Tourism Studies.

The Institute of Tourism Studies

Established in 1995, the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) is a public tertiary education institute that provides tourism education, and is the world's first educational institution to be granted the TedQual Certification by the UNWTO.

The IFT offers bachelor degree, master's degree and doctoral degree education and professional programmes, covering hotel services, tourism, cultural heritage, conventions and exhibitions, retail and marketing, leisure and entertainment, sports and recreation, cultural and creativity, and culinary arts. The institute also cooperates with renowned overseas colleges and training institutions to offer advanced management courses. In addition, the IFT has been commissioned by the Government and other institutions to conduct policy research on tourism planning and development. During the 2012/2022 academic year, the IFT initiated a number of research projects and assisted government agencies with research projects involving teams from industries and academia.

In 2017, the IFT was the world's first higher education institution that passed the International Quality Review (IQR) from the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). In 2022, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) renewed the International Quality Review (IQR) for the IFT, making it world's first higher education institution to receive this renewed accreditation. The IFT was ranked by QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022 as the best higher education institution in Macao in the field of hospitality and leisure management, the third best higher education institution in Asia, and the 23rd best higher education institution in the world in this field.

The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area proposes building a tourism education and training base for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, by capitalising on Macao's strengths in tourism education and training, and its tourism development experience. In December 2019, the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) was licensed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as a trustee unit of the Tourism Education and Training Base for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, to train talent.

Tertiary Education

The IFT is an all-round higher education institution that offers professional training, and bachelor degree, master's degree and doctoral degree programmes, to serve the development of tourism and meet Macao's tourism industry's future demands for human resources.

The enrolments in the programmes held during the 2021/2022 academic year were as follows:

IFT's diploma and degree programmes admitted 493 undergraduate and postgraduate students during the 2021/2022 academic year, with a total of 1,745 registered students (including 20 exchange students in the first semester) enrolled in the following degree programmes at the beginning of the academic year:

Degree Programmes	Diploma and Degree Programmes
(Taught in daytime, English as medium of instruction)	(Taught in the evening, Chinese as medium of instruction)
(1) Culinary Arts Management	(1) Hotel Management
(2) Heritage Management/ Cultural and Heritage Management	(2) Tourism Event Management
(3) Hotel Management	(3) Tourism Retail and Marketing Management
(4) Tourism Business Management	
(5) Tourism Event Management	
(6) Tourism Retail and Marketing Management	
Postgraduate Diploma Programme (Taught in the evening, English as medium of instruction)	Master's Degree Programmes (Taught in the evening, English as medium of instruction)
(1) Hospitality Management (2) International Gastronomy Management	(1) Hospitality and Tourism Management (2) International Hospitality Management (3) International Tourism Management (4) International Food and Beverage Management (5) International Gastronomy Management
Doctor of Philosophy Programme (English as medium of instruction)	
Hospitality and Tourism Management	

Non-tertiary Education

In the 2021/2022 academic year, a total of 9,637 students participated in the training and assessment offered by the School of Continuing Education of the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT). The IFT is widely recognised by the tourism and hospitality industry both at home and abroad for the certificates and certification programmes it offers in partnership with a number of international accreditation bodies.

The School of Continuing Education offered 25 new courses in the 2022 academic year, covering subjects such as English Conversation in Retail, Food and Beverage Management, and Customer Experience. The school regularly collaborates with public and private sector organisations in Macao to tailor-make a variety of vocational training programmes.

The School of Continuing Education of the IFT is also one of the course providers under the Continuing Education Programme launched by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau. In total, 168 courses were approved for the 2021/2022 academic year, benefiting about 1,238 students.

Regarding international exchanges and cooperation, as at August 2022, the IFT had built connections with 169 schools (136 of which are non-local), organisations and institutions in 33 countries and regions, including Macao, mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, America and Canada, to actively promote academic and cultural exchanges.

The IFT has actively expanded its collaboration with mainland China and overseas partners. In the 2021/2022 academic year, new non-local partners included the China Tourism Academy and Foshan University, two Swiss higher education institutions with hotel management courses and the Alibaba Cloud Academy in Singapore.

In 2022, despite the impact of the pandemic, the IFT actively arranged student exchange programmes and internships in mainland China, with a total of 43 students undertaking internships outside Macao. A total of 17 students attended one-semester exchange programmes in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Changsha, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, and two students attended online exchange programmes organised by universities in the United States and Finland.

During the summer holidays, 49 students participated in 11 online exchange programmes under the Ten Thousand People's Scheme, and 14 students participated in online exchange programmes organised by institutions in mainland China, Hong Kong, Japan and the United States.

A new articulation agreement was signed with two leading Swiss institutions, under which students will be awarded a Bachelor's degree from both the Swiss institutions and the IFT (dual degree) upon completion of their course requirements. Four students participated in this programme at Les Roches International School of Hotel Management (Spain campus) in the 2022/2023 academic year.

Tourism Resources

Boasting a brilliant and fascinating history encompassing 400 years of cultural exchanges between China and the West, Macao has a unique appeal to tourists. Its scenery is embellished with tourist

treasures of all types, including picturesque dwellings constructed in traditional styles and ancient temples built during the Ming and Qing dynasties, buildings with Southern European architectural features, baroque-style churches and impressive contemporary structures.

Churches

Ruins of St Paul's

The Ruins of St Paul's, the surviving facade of St Paul's Church, is Macao's landmark. Designed by a Spanish Jesuit, construction of the original church began in 1602, and it was completed between 1637 and 1640.

St Paul's Church has been destroyed by fire three times, but fortunately its original facade remained standing. The facade has since been repaired many times, and is now generally known as the Ruins of St Paul's.

St Paul's Church is a delicate mixture of European Renaissance and Eastern architectural styles. The Museum of Sacred Art and Crypt was built at the location of the church, and houses collections paintings, sculptures and ceremonial decorations from churches and abbeys.

The Chapel of Our Lady of Guia

Originally built in 1622, the Chapel of Our Lady of Guia is the oldest building on Guia Hill. A project to enlarge it was carried out in 1637 and was completed in 1638. The Portuguese dedicated the church to the protector of seafarers. The interior preserves features that were common in 17th century Portuguese abbeys.

In 1996, a mural was discovered inside the church; this is a rarity in the churches of southern China.

St. Anthony's Church

The oldest church in Macao, St Anthony's Church, was built by the Society of Jesus between 1558 and 1560. Catholics regard St Anthony as the patron saint of marriage, so locals also call it the "Wedding Church".

St. Augustine's Church

St Augustine's Church was built in 1591, and is one of the oldest churches in Macao. The church underwent considerable changes and assumed its present form when it was restored in 1874.

St Dominic's Church

St Dominic's Church stands on part of the former site of St Dominic's Convent. In 1587, Spanish friars built the original church, which was dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. It was initially

built of camphor wood, and later restructured with stucco bricks and cream-coloured stones. The architecture is in Portuguese style, which was popular in the Orient in the 17th and 18th centuries.

In the main chapel stands a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, from which the Parade of the Virgin commences on 13 May each year. Believers march to Penha Hill to commemorate the Virgin Mary's appearance in Fatima, Portugal. There is a museum of sacred art inside the chapel. The collection includes religious items of artistic value, as well as scriptures and carved wooden representations of saints.

Every year, the Macao Orchestra and guest orchestras from around the world choose St Dominic's Church as a performance venue, for mainly holding vocal and religious music shows.

St Lawrence's Church

St Lawrence's is one of Macao's most famous large churches. Built in the middle of the 16th century, it has undergone several restorations, and its present construction was completed in 1846. The Portuguese, who were great mariners and navigators, believed that St Lawrence offered protection and bestowed the gift of the wind.

Hermitage of Our Lady of Hope

The Hermitage of Our Lady of Hope, also called St Lazarus's Church, is the first cathedral built after the establishment of the Macao Diocese. Before the present cathedral was built, whenever a new bishop arrived in Macao to take up office, he first had to come to St Lazarus's Church to receive his crosier before he could exert his power. Consequently, this church is especially holy among Catholics in Macao. The present structure of St Lazarus's Church remains as it was in 1885.

The Cathedral

The Cathedral was built in 1576 and was originally a simple wooden structure. Between 1844 and 1850, Catholic parishioners collected donations to rebuild the church and enlarge it to its present size. Many major events in the Church's calendar centre on the Cathedral, especially during Easter. In addition to the procession of Our Lord of Passion, a solemn parade takes place on Good Friday and special masses are held on Easter Sunday.

Fortresses

Mount Fortress

Mount Fortress is one of Macao's major tourist attractions. Work on its construction began in 1617, during the reign of Emperor Shenzong of the Ming Dynasty, and it was completed in 1626. Mount Fortress was originally used by the Church to protect the clergymen of St Paul's Church from pirate attacks. It was later turned into a military installation. In the past, the fortress stood high above the city centre of Macao, and it was regarded as an important part of its defensive fortifications. It has now become a heritage site and witness to history.

Mount Fortress occupies about 8,000 square metres. The ancient fortress tower was once an office of the Society of Jesus. It was also used as the office of the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau, and it has since been rebuilt as the Museum of Macao. At the entrance, a stone carving records the fort's military successes in defending the city against invasions.

Mong Ha Fortress

Construction of Mong Ha Fortress began in 1849. It covers an area of 650 square metres. The fortress was once a barracks for African Portuguese soldiers stationed in Macao, and was called "Black Ghost Fortress". After the former Portuguese administration withdrew its Macao garrison during the 1970s, the barracks were abandoned. In the 1980s, Mong Ha Fortress was renovated and became the Government-owned Tourism School, now known as the Institute for Tourism Studies.

St Francis Fortress

St Francis Fortress was constructed in 1622. In 1584, Spanish clergymen built St Francis Convent on the site behind the fortress; subsequently, the convent was converted into a barracks. In the 20th century, after Portuguese soldiers withdrew from Macao, the barracks became the headquarters of the security forces in charge of the Marine Police, Public Security Police and Fire Service.

Guia Fortress

Guia Fortress occupies about 800 square metres. Its construction began in 1622, and it was expanded from 1637 to 1638. It was formerly valued for military purposes, because of its position overlooking the entire peninsula. It was therefore classified as a restricted military area until 1976, when the Portuguese army left. It was then turned into a tourist spot, and its appearance has been kept intact until now.

The Chapel of Our Lady of Guia was built in the fortress in 1622. Adjacent to the hermitage is the 13-metre-high Guia Lighthouse, which was built in 1864, and is one of the oldest lighthouses in the Far East. It resumed service in 1910 and has been guiding seamen ever since, with a visibility of 25 nautical miles from Macao.

When a typhoon approaches, typhoon signals are hoisted on the side of the lighthouse to warn nearby residents.

Barra Fortress

Barra Fortress, also called Pousada de S. Tiago Fortress or Sai Van Fortress, was built in 1622. It was an important fortress for protecting Macao's Inner Harbour. Inside the castle is the Chapel of St James. In 1981, the castle was converted into a hotel, while retaining its old characteristics.

Three Ancient Grand Temples

Macao's famous grand temples are the A-Ma Temple, Pou Chai Buddhist Monastery and Temple, and

Lin Fong Temple. Many visitors are attracted to these temples, because of the different generations and backgrounds they represent, and because of the gods to whom they are dedicated.

A-Ma Temple

The A-Ma Temple is one of the most famous tourist attractions in Macao and the oldest of Macao's three ancient grand temples.

Built in the Ming Dynasty, the A-Ma Temple was originally called the "A-Ma Pavilion" or "Tin Hau (Heavenly Queen) Temple" by local people. The entire temple consists of four main structures: the Stone Hall, the Main Hall, the Hong Ren Hall and the Kun Iam Pavilion. This ancient structure is distinguished by its traditional Chinese cultural characteristics.

Between Hong Ren Hall and Kun Iam Pavilion, there are many stone inscriptions along the cliff path written by celebrities, statesmen, poets and scholars and engraved in different calligraphic styles.

Pou Chai Buddhist Monastery and Temple

Built in the late Ming Dynasty, Pou Chai Buddhist Monastery and Temple is also called Kun Iam Tong Temple. The Buddhist monastery is built in the ancient Chinese architectural style of Hui Fei, resembling ancient Chinese temples on famous mountains.

The first large hall in the monastery is dedicated to the Three Precious Buddhas, the second to the Buddha of Longevity, and the third to Kun Iam. Besides the large halls, there are also some other buildings, such as the western hall, the eastern hall, the backyard garden, and so forth. Such a large Buddhist temple complex is unusual in Macao and Hong Kong.

Many collections of paintings, items of calligraphy and antiques by famous masters are housed in the temple. They include the works of Gao Jianfu, a famous painter of the Ling Nan (Guangdong and Guangxi areas) school, and his student Guan Shanyue; Chen Gongyin, who ranked among the three great poets in Ling Nan; and the famous scholar Zhang Taiyan; as well as inscriptions by ancient celebrities such as Mi Fu, Dong Qichang, and Liu Yong. The unequal Treaty of Wanghia between the United States of America and the Qing regime of China was signed in the temple garden.

Lin Fong Temple

Built in the Ming Dynasty, Lin Fong Temple is one of the most famous temples in Macao. Formerly named the "Tin Fei Temple", Lin Fong is a comparatively small monastery and temple dedicated to Tin Hau. Since the Qing Dynasty, it has been expanded and renovated from time to time, and has gradually been expanded to its present size.

In the middle of the 19th century, Lin Zexu, a Qing Dynasty imperial commissioner, received Portuguese officials in Lin Fong Temple during his temporary residence in Macao.

As well as the three ancient grand temples, there are many other old temples in Macao, such as the Na Tcha Temple, Hong Kung Temple, Tam Kung Temple, Bhaisajyaraja Bodhisattva Buddhist Monastery (Yeok San), Chu Lam Chi Buddhist Monastery, Sam Po Temple, Po Tai Buddhist

Monastery, Lin Kai Temple, Pak Tai Temple and Tin Hau Temple.

Cybernetic Fountains

Macao has a cybernetic fountain at Nam Van Lake. The fountain comprises various spouts and lights for fountain shows. The Municipal Affairs Bureau schedules two musical fountain shows and laser fountain shows on Saturdays and Sundays. More shows are staged during special festivals, such as New Year's Day, Chinese New Year, the Mid-Autumn Festival and Christmas.

Macau Tower

The Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre, which was funded and constructed by the Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau, officially opened on 19 December 2001 as Macao's new signature landmark. Soaring 338 metres high, the Macau Tower was the tenth-highest freestanding tower in the world and the eighth-highest in Asia when it was completed.

The main observation level is 223 metres above the ground, and consists of four floors. Two floors accommodate an indoor viewing deck, cafe, revolving restaurant and outdoor viewing deck. The indoor viewing deck provides visitors with panoramic views of up to 55 kilometres.

The multifunction convention and entertainment centre integrated with the tower also has four floors containing exhibition and conference facilities.

A-Ma Statue

Located at the top of the Alto de Coloane, the A-Ma Statue is the tallest white marble statue of this goddess in the world. Constructed from 120 white marble boulders and completed on 28 October 1998, it is 19.99 metres in height. The face is carved from a single white marble boulder, and the statue weighs 500 tonnes.

International Sports and Cultural Events

Macao hosts a variety of international sports and cultural events throughout the year. These play an important role in promoting Macao, enhancing its international profile and attracting tourists and visitors.

Macau Grand Prix

The Macau Grand Prix began in 1954, and was originally an amateur sports event for Macao motor racing fans. Today, it has become a major event for the world's leading racing teams.

Every year in late November, world-class drivers and thousands of visitors flock to Macao to join the world's only street track event that includes both a formula touring car race and a motorcycle race.

The Formula Three race of the Macau Grand Prix is the premier event, drawing national

championship racers from throughout the world to compete for the honour of first prize. Grand Prix street track riders and motorcycle superstars such as Ayrton Senna, Michael Schumacher, David Coulthard, Jenson Button, Kevin Schwantz, Carl Fogarty, Didier de Radigues and Ron Haslam have competed at the Guia Circuit.

Macao International Marathon

The Macao International Marathon seeks to foster sports development, enhance international friendship and promote Macao's sports and tourism industry to the world.

The Macao International Marathon is held every December and is the largest track-and-field event in Macao. The route circles the Macao peninsula and crosses to Taipa and Coloane islands, and has a total length of 42.195 kilometres. Marathon competitors come from all over the world, and include athletes from Macao and Hong Kong as well as famous international track-and-field stars.

Macao International Fireworks Display Contest

The Macao International Fireworks Display Contest is recognised throughout the world. It attracts numerous prominent fireworks companies and is attended each year by large numbers of tourists and Macao residents. The contest provides an opportunity for Macao to showcase its tourism industry and reputation.

The first Macao International Fireworks Display Contest was held in 1989, and was contested by just five teams. The contest has gradually become a major annual tourism event, attracting high standard fireworks companies from countries and regions such as mainland China, the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Australia, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, France, Germany, Portugal and Spain. The Macao International Fireworks Display Contest is usually held between September and October each year, on the seafront near the Macau Tower.

Other major sports events and cultural activities held in Macao include the FIVB World Grand Prix, the Macao Open (Golf Tournament), the annual Macao International Dragon Boat Races, the Macao Arts Festival from March to May, the Macao International Music Festival in October, and Macau Food Festival.

Culinary Delights

Since Chinese and Western cultures coexist in Macao, it offers food that blends culinary influences from around the world. Different cuisines can be sampled throughout the area, and tourists may taste the regional dishes of Beijing, Shanghai, Sichuan, Guangdong and Taiwan to their heart's content. They can also enjoy authentic cuisines from Portugal, Italy, France, Japan, India, Vietnam, South Korea, Brazil and Thailand.

Regarded as one of the world's unique cuisines, Macanese cuisine is actually a distillation of the culinary arts of Portugal, Africa, India, Malaysia and mainland China's Guangdong Province. Bacalao balls, African chicken, spicy prawns, Portuguese chicken, stewed duck with herbs, stewed knuckle with red beans, stuffed crab shells, and grilled sardines are celebrated delicacies in Macao.

Macao specialties also include almond cakes, egg rolls, crackers, peanut candy, chicken-shaped pastries, dried preserved fruits and various dried meats, which are tourists' favourites. Clusters of pastry houses and snack shops are found along Almeida Ribeiro Avenue to the Auto Novo Alley, Sao Paulo Road and around the old district on Taipa island.



Unforgettable Melodies at the Ruins of St. Paul's



Since early November 2022, the Cultural Affairs Bureau has regularly held the Unforgettable Melodies outdoor performances at the Ruins of St Paul's, on Saturdays and festive days. These feature the Macao Orchestra and Macao Chinese Orchestra, which take turns to present Chinese and foreign classical music pieces, enabling audiences to hear wonderful melodies while enjoying the beauty and charm of the World Heritage Site. The performances have been well received by the public, and certain concerts are livestreamed, widely promoting Macao's urban image and world heritage as well as its arts attractions.

