

NAMASTE

Monthly E-Newsletter of Hotel Association Nepal, JANUARY 2024

Chitwan Elephant and Tourism Festival



Nepal's popular wildlife destination Sauraha in the centre-southern Terai, organized the elephant festival after a three-year hiatus.

The festival discontinued the popular polo, football and races played by elephants. The five-day festival successfully concluded on December 30, 2023 which was inaugurated by the Finance Minister Dr Prakash Saran Mahat. At the inauguration ceremony HAN President Mr Binayak Shah said that we have resumed the elephant festival in Chitwan but this year, there won't be elephant polo, football and races.

Nepal's most popular but unusual sport, elephant polo used to be played every winter on a grass field in Meghauli, Chitwan. Football played by elephants was

introduced later.

President Mr Shah further said that we have decided to stop the games in response to animal rights activists and now onwards we continued the elephant beauty contest and elephant picnic only. The festival was successful in attracting tourists both from abroad and Nepal.

Nepal Hospitality Day 2024

Date : January 16, 2024

Venue : Hotel Yak & Yeti

Time : 2:30 pm

Activities:

- Launching of Nepal Hotel Year Book 2024 and E-Learning Hospitality Video
- Award Ceremony
- Gala Dinner Nepalese Heritage Food of 7 Provinces

HAN met with Vietnam Tourism Authority



President Binayak Shah presented & discussed areas of joint promotional activities including chartered flights to Bhairahawa International Airport with high officials of Vietnam Tourism Ministry and National Tourism Authority in Hanoi on December 12, 2023.

HAN Executive Meeting at Sauraha



Executive Committee Meeting concluded on December 3, 2023 at Jungle Safari Lodge, Sauraha Chitwan. On the sideline an Interaction Program on "Tourism of Chitwan Now & Then" was interacted in the presence of Deputy Mayor of Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Mayor of Ratnanagar Municipality, National Journalist & Stake Holders.

5 Cheapest Countries To Live in Asia

1. Pakistan

Monthly Cost of Living: \$294

Located between economically booming India and civil war-torn Afghanistan, Pakistan also has a troubled political history with struggles between the civilian and military powers. The country's real GDP is estimated to have contracted by 0.6% in FY23, contrasting with the substantial growth of 6.1% in FY22 and 5.8% in FY21.

2. Sri Lanka

Monthly Cost of Living: \$316

Sri Lanka, often referred to as the "Teardrop of India" because of its shape and strategic location, has a history marked by prolonged internal unrest among various minorities. The country is known for its tea exports and

its strong tourism industry, which capitalizes on its lush jungles, Buddhist history, and coastal climate.

3. Nepal

Monthly Cost of Living: \$385

Nepal is a mountainous country lying along the southern slopes of the Himalayan Mountain ranges. It is a relatively small country that relies on its giant neighbors, India and China, for most of its economic activities. In FY 23, Nepal's real GDP growth is estimated to have declined to 1.9%.

4. Afghanistan

Monthly Cost of Living: \$397

Afghanistan, situated in the heart of south-central Asia, is a multiethnic,

landlocked country that has faced prolonged regional challenges. The country is recognized for its significant reserves of economically important minerals. Over the last two years, Afghanistan's economy has contracted by 25%.

5. India

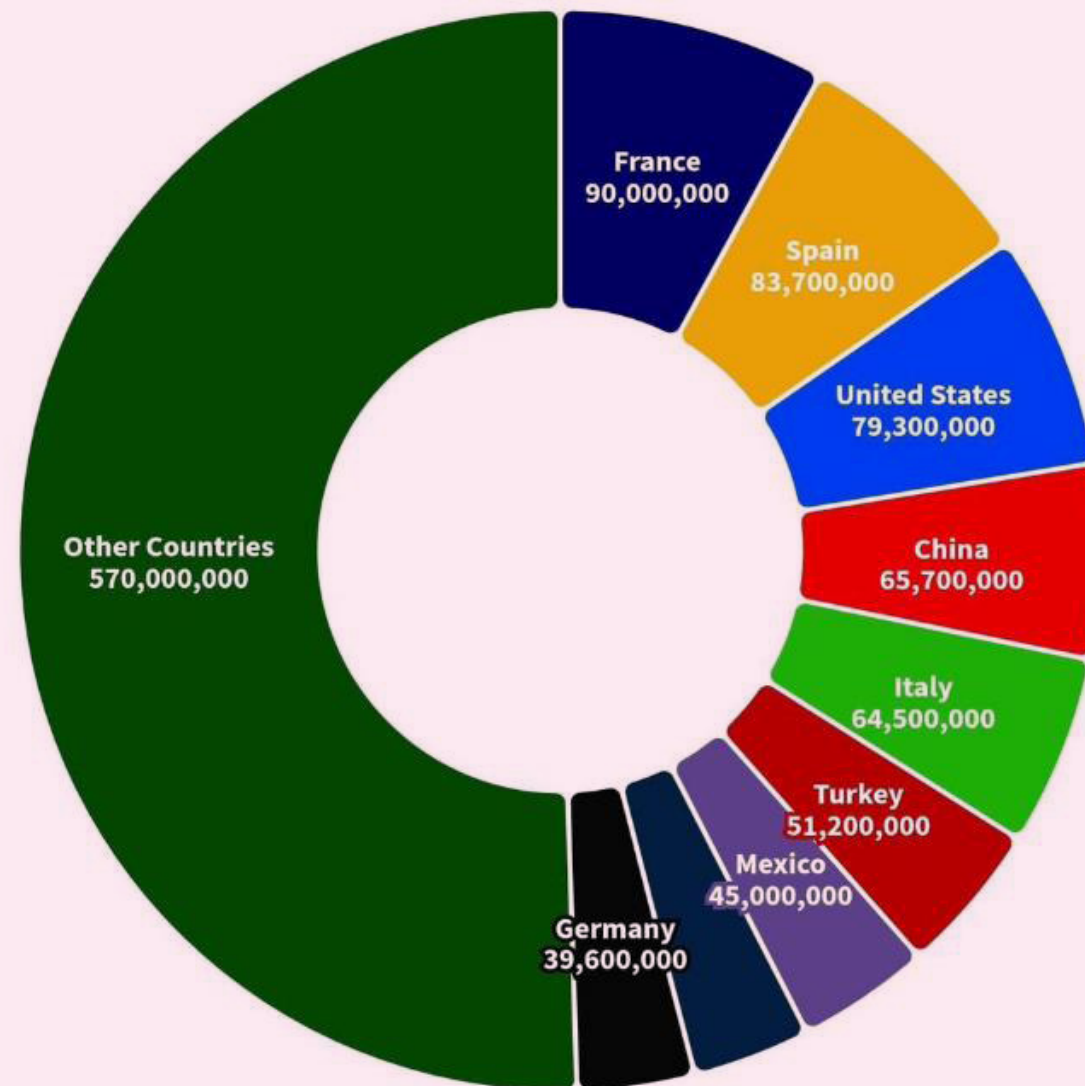
Monthly Cost of Living: \$416

India is being seen as the next major economic player in Asia. The country's economic performance faces challenges due to its massive population, leading to issues such as poverty and inadequate access to healthcare in rural areas. However, India's tech hub attracts numerous foreign businesses.

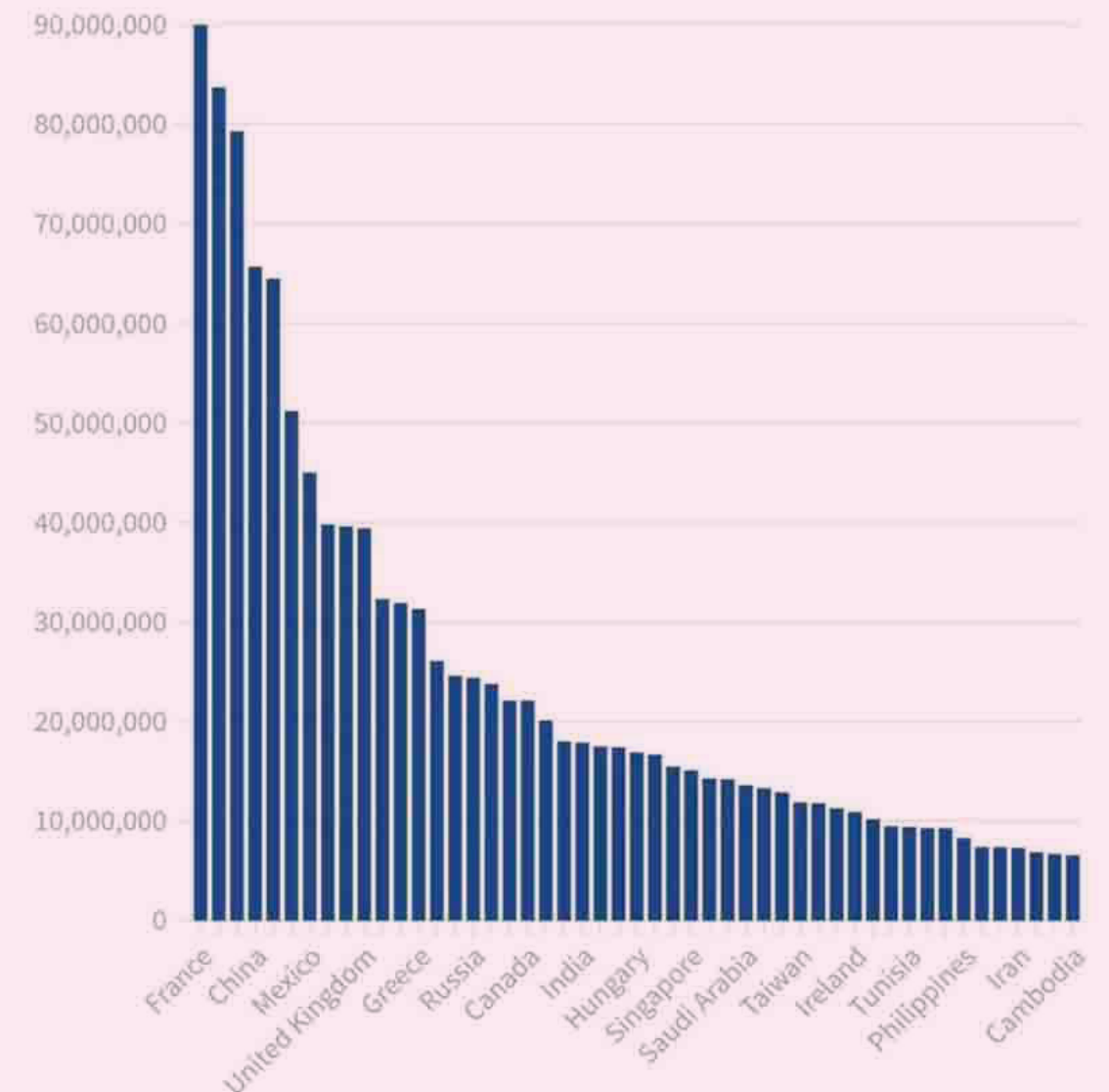
Source: insidermonkey.com

World Tourism Rankings by Country 2023

Rank	Country	Tourist Arrivals
1	France	90,000,000
2	Spain	83,700,000
3	United States	79,300,000
4	China	65,700,000
5	Italy	64,500,000
6	Turkey	51,200,000
7	Mexico	45,000,000
8	Thailand	39,800,000
9	Germany	39,600,000
10	United Kingdom	39,400,000
11	Japan	32,300,000
12	Austria	31,900,000
13	Greece	31,300,000
14	Malaysia	26,100,000
15	Portugal	24,600,000
16	Russia	24,400,000
17	Hong Kong	23,800,000
18	Poland	22,100,000
19	Canada	22,100,000
20	Netherlands	20,100,000



World Tourism Rankings by Country 2023



Nepal welcomes over one million tourists in 2023

- Secretary General Mr Sajjan Shukya and Treasurer Mr Youb Raj Shrestha attend the opening ceremony of Waiter Waitress & House Keeping Training in Bhairahawa and Butwal on December 17. EC member Mr. CP Shrestha and Gopal Rana also attended the program.
- President Binayak Shah presented status of hotel/tourism and tourism development policies to be incorporated in forthcoming 16th National Development Plan 2081-2086 at interaction program organised by National Planning Commission today in Everest Hotel Kathmandu on December 20, 2023.
- President Binayak Shah addressed a program on Tourism potential in Sudurpachhim Province organised by province government on December 25, 2023 at Basera Boutique Hotel Babar Mahal. Program was attended by Hon'ble Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, Chief Minister, Ministers, high officials and leading tourism operators & entrepreneurs.
- President Mr Binayak Shah and 1st VP Mr Prabin B Panday met with Finance Minister at his office for a Priority Industry Status on December 25, 2023.
- Treasurer Mr Youb Raj Shrestha attended as a Special Guest & EC Member Mr Rajendra Bhatta attended as a guest of the closing ceremony of Comprehensive Hospitality Training in Sindhuli on December 29, 2023. Member of Parliament Honorable Mr Chatra Bdr Bamjan attended as a Chief Guest. At the function Treasurer Mr Shrestha handover the Certificate of Affiliation to the President of HAN Sindhuli Mr Chandra Dev Shrestha.
- On the occasion of Silver Jubilee of NTB, president Mr Binayak Shah received the plaque of Honor distributed by NTB this after at the city hall, Kathmandu on December 31, 2023 on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of NTB. Former President Mr Yogendra Sakya and IP President Ms Shreejana Rana also spoke at the ceremony.
- Follow up meeting at Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs for priority industry status for hotels. President Mr Binayak Shah and Executive Member Ms Bidhata Shrestha attended the meeting on January 4, 2024.



Nepal witnessed a remarkable resurgence in its tourism sector, with more than one million foreign tourists arriving via air in 2023. According to data from the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), 1,008,614 tourists have visited the country, surpassing the government's goal set in the current fiscal year budget. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism, a critical sector for Nepal, has been mitigated as the industry has nearly regained its pre-pandemic vigor. The NTB reports an impressive 85 percent recovery in tourism this year, signaling a positive trajectory for the country's economy. In 2019, Nepal hosted around 1.2 million foreign tourists, and this year's influx, exceeding one million visitors, is being hailed as an

encouraging sign. Most of these tourists have arrived through the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. Noteworthy is the significant increase in the number of Indian tourists, reaching 317,481 this year compared to 254,150 in 2019. American tourists also showed a rise, with 99,985 arrivals in 2023 compared to 93,241 in 2019. Additionally, the number of Chinese tourists has seen a gradual increase, recording 60,160 visits this year compared to 169,543 in 2019. As the government gears up for the Visit Nepal Year and the broader tourism decade, these positive trends augur well for Nepal's continued growth in the global tourism landscape.