

Preparation for Labour Day Golden Week

The Tourism Commission (TC) has coordinated with various government departments and the tourism industry in drawing up measures to prepare for the possible surge of visitors from the Mainland during the Labour Day Golden Week. These measures aim at improving the flow of visitors through various boundary control points, increasing the capacity of transportation facilities, and stepping up promotion and information dissemination to visitors on consumer protection and health matters.

The Commissioner for Tourism, Ms Eva Cheng, said, "Hong Kong is a popular destination for Mainland tourists. We expect a large number of arrivals from the Mainland during the Labour Day Golden Week. The measures adopted for the last National Day Golden Week, Christmas and Chinese New Year were proven effective and demonstrated our capacity in receiving a large volume of visitors. With the extension of the Individual Visit Scheme to the whole of Guangdong Province on May 1 and further to nine other cities in Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Fujian on July 1, 2004, we have made the best possible preparations, constantly review the effectiveness of measures adopted, and continue to improve our service quality. We endeavour to enhance the travel experience of every visitor to Hong Kong."

Ms Cheng added, "I would like to take this opportunity to remind visitors and the trade to remain vigilant and maintain good personal hygiene. The Travel Industry Council has already reminded the trade to comply with guidelines issued by Department of Health (DH) and continue to take appropriate precautionary measures to protect visitors' health. The travel trade and DH will maintain close liaison. DH will closely monitor the situation, inform the tourism sector on the latest developments and provide appropriate health advice."

The Labour Day Golden Week measures cover seven key areas -

- (1) Arrangements for immigration clearance at Boundary Control Points;
- (2) Protection of visitors' health;
- (3) Arrangement of facilities;
- (4) Information dissemination;
- (5) Visitors' information service;
- (6) Consumer protection;
- (7) Coordination with Guangdong Province

"All the measures are by and large the same as those used in the previous Golden Weeks. The departments are well prepared and will flexibly deploy their resources in response to the situation on hand. We will continue to maintain close liaison with the Guangdong Provincial Tourism Administration regarding the visitors' travel pattern." Ms Cheng said.

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