

# QUARTER FOUR

*Quarterly Email Newsletter curated by our team*

## AND THAT'S 2024

It's the fourth quarter of 2024 at Be HUEmane, we are thrilled to share the highlights of our exciting fall! Our travelers had an unforgettable time, immersing themselves in new cultures and experiences. One of the most memorable trips was our immersive journey to Trinidad, Cuba—an enchanting country with a deep African influence preserved throughout the years due to Cuba's unique historical and cultural landscape.

In Trinidad, we were captivated by the stunning artwork that reflects the city's rich African heritage, moments in history of significance, and the everyday lives of the Cuban people. This showcases a great representation of how Cuba is captured in a likeness of smooth jazz and class. The streets came alive with vibrant colors and artistic expressions, offering a glimpse into the heart of this beautiful destination. We also had the chance to relax on some of Cuba's pristine beaches, soaking in the sun and natural beauty of the island.

We delved into the history of the city, learning about its significant African roots, which have remained intact due to the island's remarkable preservation of culture. The historical landmarks and the unspoiled character of Trinidad spoke to the strength of the traditions that still shape daily life.



TRINIDAD, CUBA  
SEPTEMBER 27TH -OCTOBER 2ND



Our journey also took us to Havana, the vibrant capital of Cuba, where we tasted the mouthwatering flavors of traditional Cuban cuisine. From hearty dishes to delicate pastries, the food was a true reflection of the country's cultural diversity. We explored the city's streets by car, visiting landmarks of great historical importance, and taking in the lively atmosphere of Cuba's capital.

As we reflect on this incredible experience, we're filled with gratitude for the opportunity to witness and learn from Cuba's rich culture. This trip was just one example of the incredible adventures we've facilitated this season. We've also been meeting with top suppliers to stay updated on the latest trends and changes in the travel industry, ensuring that we continue to provide our clients with exceptional and unique travel experiences.

At Be HUEmane, we are committed to bringing you unforgettable journeys, and we can't wait for what the future holds.



## VACATIONERS VS. TRAVELERS: EMBRACING BOTH STYLES OF TRAVEL

When it comes to planning a getaway, people often find themselves categorized as either vacationers or travelers. But the truth is, there's no right or wrong way to explore the world – it's okay to be one, the other, or even both at different times.

Vacationers are those who crave rest and relaxation. Their ideal escape revolves around luxury and convenience, with everything carefully planned around downtime. Think spa visits, leisurely meals at top-tier restaurants, and plenty of scheduled beach and pool time. For vacationers, the goal is to unwind, recharge, and enjoy the simple pleasures without the stress of spontaneity. They seek a balance of comfort and tranquility, with activities that allow them to slow down and fully enjoy the moment.

On the other hand, travelers have a more adventurous spirit. They want to immerse themselves in new cultures, explore hidden gems, and embrace the educational side of travel. These explorers often seek out experiences that challenge their perspective, whether it's visiting historical sites, meeting locals, or learning new skills. For travelers, the thrill comes from learning, growing, and discovering something unfamiliar.

### COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL PLANNING

Can't make it to one of our hosted experiences? No worries, we provide travel planning services for all group sizes. Contact us [here](#) to let us know how we can make your holiday uniquely memorable.

Find us on:



Both approaches to travel are valid and worthy of celebration. Sometimes you need a rejuvenating break by the pool, while other times you may crave a journey that takes you deep into the heart of a new culture. Whether you're a vacationer, a traveler, or a blend of both, the key is that travel should be enjoyable and enriching in the way that suits you best. And it's even better when you can do a little of both while you're away for the best experience.

And that's where we come in. We specialize in curating travel plans for both vacationers and travelers alike. Whether you need a seamless itinerary filled with relaxation or an immersive journey packed with cultural experiences, we're here to create the perfect trip tailored just for you. So whether you want to unwind or explore, we've got you covered.

## TRAVEL TEA

### TOURISM TAX HIKES: HOW NEW LEVY INCREASES WILL AFFECT TRAVEL IN 2025



In recent years, many countries have increasingly turned to tourism as a key source of revenue. However, as the global travel landscape continues to evolve, governments have also started to raise taxes and fees for tourists. Two of the most significant changes on the horizon come from Mexico and New Zealand, both of which are introducing steep increases in tourism-related taxes in 2025. Let's take a closer look at these changes and how they could impact the travel industry.

## **Mexico Raises Immigration Levy for Cruise Goers**

Starting in 2025, Mexico will increase its immigration levy for cruise passengers visiting the country. The new tax hike will see the current \$5 fee rise to \$42 per passenger. This 740% increase has sparked concern within the cruise industry, as it could have a significant impact on travelers planning to visit popular Mexican ports such as Cozumel, Cabo San Lucas, and Puerto Vallarta.

For cruise operators, this levy hike could lead to higher costs for passengers. Cruise lines may pass on the cost to travelers, making cruise vacations to Mexico more expensive. This may particularly affect budget-conscious travelers, as these additional fees could disrupt their travel plans. However, this move is part of a broader trend by the Mexican government to tap into the growing cruise tourism market, which contributes significantly to the country's economy.

Though this levy is relatively small when compared to the total cost of a cruise, it may encourage some travelers to look elsewhere, potentially seeking destinations with lower additional fees. As the industry recovers from the pandemic, these additional costs could pose challenges for Mexico's competitive standing as a cruise destination.

## **New Zealand's 185% Tourism Tax Increase**

New Zealand is also making waves in the tourism sector by hiking its tourism tax by a staggering 185% starting in 2025. The country has announced that international visitors will be required to pay a higher fee when entering the country. This tax, which is designed to help fund infrastructure and environmental preservation, will rise significantly from its previous levels. While the increase is a sharp one, the government argues that the funds will be used to maintain and improve New Zealand's tourism infrastructure, a crucial element for a country heavily reliant on international visitors.

However, such a steep increase in tourism tax could dampen New Zealand's appeal, particularly for budget travelers. The higher cost may make travelers think twice before booking a trip, especially considering that New Zealand is already one of the more expensive travel destinations.

While the hike could contribute to maintaining the country's tourism infrastructure and environmental resources, it may reduce the overall influx of international tourists, particularly those traveling on tighter budgets or looking for more affordable options.

## Other Countries Set to Raise Tourism Taxes in 2025

Mexico and New Zealand are not alone in raising their tourism taxes in 2025. Several other countries are also expected to increase their tourism-related fees in an effort to manage growing tourist numbers and fund local development. Here are a few notable examples:

- **Thailand:** In 2025, Thailand is set to increase its tourism fee to help support the country's infrastructure and environmental projects. The new fee, which will be applied to both international and regional visitors, could impact travelers planning to visit popular destinations like Bangkok, Phuket, and Chiang Mai.
- **Italy:** The Italian government is preparing to raise its tourism tax in major cities such as Rome, Venice, and Florence. This increase is designed to help fund the preservation of cultural landmarks and ease the burden on local communities affected by mass tourism. While the tax increase is not expected to be dramatic, it could impact those on a tight travel budget.
- **Indonesia (Bali):** Bali, one of Indonesia's top tourist hotspots, has announced plans to introduce higher entry fees starting in 2025. The fees are aimed at controlling mass tourism and promoting sustainable travel practices. This tax hike could affect the affordability of visiting this tropical paradise, which is a popular destination for international tourists.

## What This Means for Travelers

For travelers, these tax increases may mean higher overall travel costs, particularly for those visiting multiple countries or booking package tours that include destinations like New Zealand or Mexico. Cruise-goers, in particular, may face price hikes in their vacation costs due to the rising fees in Mexico, while New Zealand's tax increases could deter those seeking a budget-friendly adventure.

However, it's important to keep in mind that these changes also reflect the growing importance of sustainable tourism. The increased taxes are designed to help fund improvements to infrastructure, protect the environment, and support local communities that are often overwhelmed by high numbers of visitors. As travelers, we can choose to embrace these changes and recognize that they are helping to preserve the very destinations we love to visit.

## **How It Affects the Future of Travel**

These tax hikes represent a larger shift in the global tourism landscape. With tourism booming post-pandemic, many countries are adjusting their policies to strike a balance between benefiting from international visitors and managing the impact of mass tourism on local resources. For travelers, the key takeaway is to plan ahead, budget for new fees, and consider how these increased costs may affect their future travel choices.

Travelers can also support destinations that are committed to sustainable tourism practices, even if it means paying a bit more to visit. In the long run, these investments will help preserve the beauty and cultural heritage of the destinations that make travel so rewarding. In conclusion, while the tourism tax hikes in Mexico, New Zealand, and other countries may raise concerns for travelers, they also offer an opportunity to reflect on the importance of responsible tourism. For those planning to travel in 2025 and beyond, staying informed and budgeting accordingly will be essential to navigating the changing global travel landscape.