



UN Tourism

26th General Assembly

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA 7 - 11 NOVEMBER 2025



As of July 2025

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Place and dates of the meetings

In accordance with resolution A/RES/772(XXV), the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization will hold its twenty-sixth session in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The session will be held from 7 to 11 November 2025 at the Mandarin Oriental “Al Faisaliah” Hotel in Riyadh

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Contact information of the organizing committee

UN Tourism coordinator

Ms. Yolanda Sansegundo
Coordinator
Conference Services

assembly@untourism.int

Host-country coordinators

**General Assembly team
from the Ministry of Tourism
of Saudi Arabia**

GA2025@mt.gov.sa

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Registration

Registration for the Assembly session will be carried out online until 13 October 2025. The registration form is available on the UN Tourism website: <https://www.unwto.org/general-assembly-twenty-sixth-session-home>.

The online registration platform will be collecting all necessary information regarding the participation in the conference, visa information and technical visits. Participants are kindly requested to register at their earliest convenience.

The online registration platform should be completed with all the necessary information regarding participation in the conference, airport pick-up, visa information and technical visits.

Access to the areas set aside for the General Assembly will be restricted exclusively to the participants wearing the corresponding accreditation. Participants can collect their accreditations at the registration desk located at the Mandarin Oriental “Al Faisaliah” Hotel, in Riyadh. Detailed information on how to pick up the accreditation will be communicated in a later stage.

In order to collect their accreditation, participants must have received a registration confirmation email.

Accreditations are issued to specific individuals and are not transferable. Participants should always keep their accreditation and personal ID with them during their stay in Riyadh. The accreditation is the only document that identifies individuals as participants of the General Assembly and provides access to the venues of the different events.

Participants are kindly requested to wear their accreditations throughout the Assembly session in the area reserved for the meetings and at all social events.



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Transfers

Participants will be provided with transportation upon arrival and departure between the airport and the main hotels, the venue and other designated locations within the agenda during the event. Airport transportation services will be provided starting one day before and up to one day after the Meeting.

To enable the authorities to properly organize the welcome and shuttle services, participants must complete and submit the online registration form indicating their arrival and departure flight information and their accommodation details, before 13 October 2025.

A detailed schedule of shuttle services for local transportation will be provided in due course and will be available at the official hotels.

Local transportation of delegation members will be provided between King Khalid International Airport and the hotels indicated in section 5.

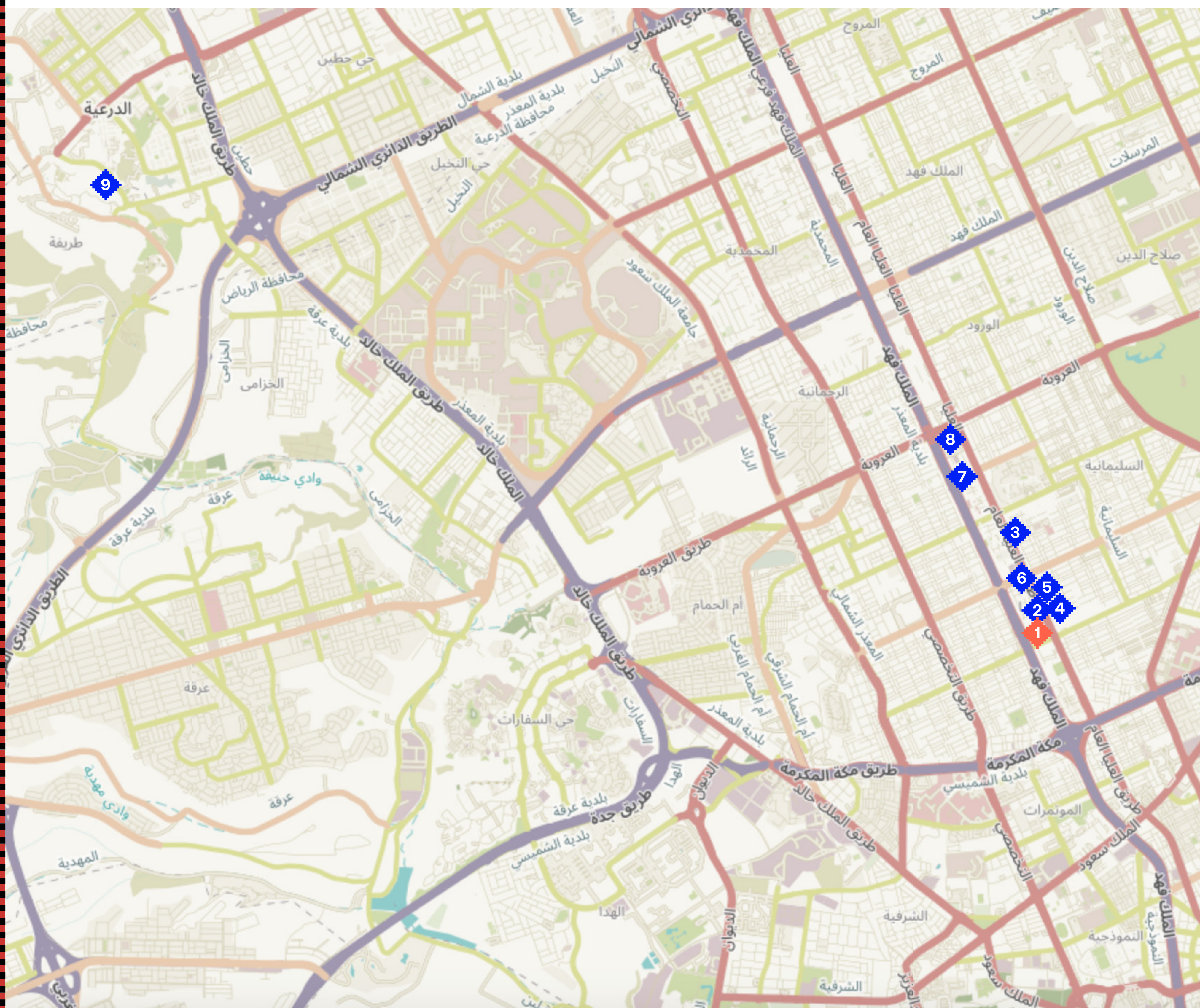
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Accommodation

Participants are responsible for booking their accommodation in Riyadh. Below are suggested hotels.



Hotel	Room type	Rate per night (including breakfast and taxes)	Booking contact	Distance from the venue	Booking link
Mandarin Oriental ☆☆☆☆☆	Superior room	7,000 SAR	Rashid Altuwaijri 0536041171 raltweijri@mohg.com	Venue	Luxury 5 Star Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group
Rio Hotel Olaya ☆☆☆☆	Single room	657 SAR	Mohsen Abdul Hafez 0533964455 sales@riohotel.sa	700 m	-
Narcissus The Royal ☆☆☆☆☆	Single room	1700 SAR	Ali Alhumaid 0583583300 op.sales@boudl.com	1.4 km	Bould code: GA
Boudl Olaya ☆☆☆	Standard room	581 SAR	Ali Alhumaid 0583583300 op.sales@boudl.com	1.4 km	Bould code: GA
Rosh Rayhaan by Rotana ☆☆☆☆	Superior room	1,964 SAR	Wael Idrees 0594495929 wael.idris@rotana.com	1.5 km	-
Narcissus Riyadh Hotel ☆☆☆☆☆	Classic room	1200 SAR	Ali Alhumaid 0583583300 op.sales@boudl.com	1.8 km	Bould code: GA
Novotel Alanoud ☆☆☆☆	Single room	1,068.04 SAR	Meshal Alkhlaqi 0545210764 Meshal.alkhlaqi@accor.com	2.4 km	-
Four Seasons, Riyadh ☆☆☆☆☆	Premium room	4,226.25 SAR	Abdalmohsen Alsukaybi 0507117945 abdalmohsen.alsukaybi@fourseasons.com	2.5 km	Riyadh Hotel Suites & Luxury Rooms Four Seasons Hotel Riyadh
Bab Samhan, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Diriyah ☆☆☆☆☆	Seffah guest room	2,000 SAR	Abdulkareem Alabdulkriem 0504986665 Abdulkareem.asaad@luxurycollection.com	32 km	Reservation-Link



1. Mandarin Oriental
☆☆☆☆☆
(Event venue)
2. Rio Hotel Olaya
☆☆☆☆
3. Rosh Rayhaan by Rotana
☆☆☆☆
4. Narcissus The Royal
☆☆☆☆☆
5. Boudl Olaya
☆☆☆
6. Narcissus Riyadh Hotel
☆☆☆☆☆
7. Novotel Alanoud
☆☆☆☆
8. Four Seasons, Riyadh
☆☆☆☆☆
9. Bab Samhan, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Diriyah
☆☆☆☆☆

Programme

The provisional programme and other documentation for the session will be available on the Assembly's website: <https://www.unwto.org/general-assembly-twenty-sixth-session-home>

The General Assembly will hold its meetings on 9 and 10 November 2025 when the provisional agenda for the session is to be examined by the Members. The 124th and 125th sessions of the Executive Council will also be held in the framework of the Assembly on 8 and 11 November, respectively.

The following subsidiary organs will also meet in the framework of the 26th General Assembly:

- Programme and Budget Committee
- Committee on Statistics
- Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness
- Committee on Tourism and Sustainability
- Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership

Thematic session: “AI-Powered Tourism: Redefining the Future”

The theme of the General Assembly will be “AI-Powered Tourism: Redefining the Future”. The theme showcases the growing importance of the Artificial Intelligence technology in the tourism sector.

The thematic session will be organized in the framework of the Assemble to feature a curated series of presentations and discussions that showcase cutting-edge integrations of AI in tourism, highlighting transformative strategies and technological innovations as essential tools redefining the sector.

The first global report on AI in Tourism, complete with strategic policy guidelines and sector-specific recommendations based on feedback from Member States will be featured alongside a digital toolkit that will also be introduced to support the implementation of these guidelines. The thematic session will feature a keynote address that highlights the transformative impact of AI on tourism, setting the stage for a panel discussion with industry experts. The discussions will focus on collaborative efforts to establish a global AI framework for tourism.

The programme includes the finale of the UN Tourism Global AI Challenge, interactive demonstrations of the latest AI technologies with live data visualizations. The session will conclude with an AI-enhanced networking event, facilitated by advanced matchmaking software, designed to foster professional collaboration and exchange. Finally, the event will feature the Riyadh Declaration on AI, affirming the sector's commitment to these new technologies.

Submission of credentials and identification papers

The names of the delegates of Full Members and Associate Members, of the observers of the Affiliate Members and of the invited representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, shall be communicated to the Secretary-General, if possible, at least fifteen days before the session of the Assembly opens. (Rule 12(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).

The credentials of the delegates of Full Members and Associate Members, issued by the competent authority of the State, shall be handed to the Secretary-General, if possible, at least one day before the session of the Assembly opens. (Rule 12(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).

It should be pointed out that, ever since the tenth session of the Assembly, only formal letters or faxes bearing the signature of the competent authority are considered valid credentials. Since the twelfth session of the General Assembly, only credentials from Heads of State or Prime Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs or Ministers responsible for tourism of the respective State or his/her equivalent or Ambassadors of States accredited to Spain are regarded as valid. Furthermore, credentials can be accepted only if written in one of the working languages of the General Assembly or if an appropriate translation is attached. Only duly accredited delegates shall be authorized to exercise the right to vote and to take the floor at the meetings of the General Assembly. Please refer to the model credential letter on the website: <https://www.unwto.org/general-assembly-twenty-sixth-session-home>.

To facilitate the work of the Credentials Committee, delegations are kindly requested to submit a scanned copy of their credentials at least fifteen days in advance by e-mail to Ms. Ilenia García-Riano, Office of the Secretary-General, e-mail: igarcia@untourism.int, and to submit the original upon their arrival in Riyadh prior to collecting their accreditations.

Identification papers of the observers of the Affiliate Members and invited representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations to attend as observers shall be handed to the Secretary-General, if possible, at least one day before the session of the Assembly opens. (Rule 12(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).



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Status of participants

In accordance with resolution 772(XXV) adopted by the General Assembly, the UN Tourism Secretariat has entered into a host agreement with the Government of Saudi Arabia in connection with this session that complies with General Assembly resolution 631(XX) on privileges, immunities and facilities applicable to its meetings.

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Flights

Participants are responsible for their international travel to and from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Further information regarding King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh is available on the following [website](#).

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Entry formalities

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will grant free visas to all delegates attending the 26th session of the General Assembly.

Saudi Arabia will issue electronic visas to each registered participant approved by UN Tourism. Visas will be sent to participants via email and should be requested through the following link: [Visa registration link](#)

Accurate and valid registration information is required for visa issuance, including names as they appear on the applicant's passport, email addresses, mobile phone numbers, and clear headshots. Passports must be valid for at least six months beyond the date of the visit.

The last day for the submission of visa applications is **30 October 2025**

Any enquiries about visas can be sent to the following contacts:

Saudi Arabia
GA2025@mt.gov.sa

UN Tourism
Ms. Ilenia García-Riano
Office of the Secretary-General
igarcia@untourism.int

Procedure for proxies

If a Full Member is unable to participate in the General Assembly, it can be exceptionally represented by a member of another State's delegation, provided it submits a formal letter or fax signed by the competent authority designating the individual who will represent it and, if applicable, giving him/her the power to vote on its behalf. Unless the items for which the power to vote is given are clearly specified, it will be understood that the delegate has full powers to cast a vote on behalf of the government he/she is representing by proxy on any agenda item.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the General Assembly, at its twentieth session, adopted resolution 633(XX), which stipulates the following regarding mandates for representation:

- (a) A mandate for representation can be given only in exceptional circumstances, duly explained in writing by the State giving the mandate;
- (b) The Credentials Committee will assess the validity of these explanations;
- (c) Only one mandate for representation may be given to a delegate representing another State;
- (d) A mandate for representation may not be given to the Head of Delegation of another State; and
- (e) The mandate for representation is valid for the whole session of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly, at its twenty-first session in Medellín, Colombia, in 2015 (resolution 649(XXI)) decided the following:

- (a) The Credentials Committee will consider as invalid credentials in breach of the principle of secrecy of the vote;
- (b) Once the Report of the Credentials Committee is issued, no further credentials or proxy letters will be considered by the Committee except:
 - When the Committee itself has invited the Full or Associate Member concerned to regularize its credentials or its proxy; and
 - When a State whose credentials have been accepted by the Committee does not have a representative for the remaining part of the session for reasons duly explained in writing by the State giving the mandate; in such case, the Committee will assess the existence of the exceptional circumstances justifying the proxy;
- (c) The Chairs of the Regional Commissions will verify that the credentials and proxy letters comply with the applicable rules.

Please refer to the model of credentials for representation (proxy format) on the website:

<https://www.unwto.org/general-assembly-twenty-sixth-session-home>



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Working Documents

In light of the United Nations mandate to promote sustainability, UN Tourism is strengthening its efforts towards environmental sustainability by implementing paperless events and conferences.

Delegates are kindly requested to take note that the working documents will not be distributed on paper at the venue of the event. Participants are encouraged to bring their own electronic devices to access the working documents during the session.

All the documents will be posted online at <https://www.unwto.org/general-assembly-twenty-sixth-session-home>. Delegates will be notified by email of the posting of the documents.

The documents for the session will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

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Working languages

Simultaneous interpretation in the six official languages will be provided at the plenary sessions.

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Official website

All official documents will be made available on the UN Tourism website:
<https://www.unwto.org/general-assembly-twenty-sixth-session-home>

The website of the event will provide detailed information on the host country, meeting venues, side and special events, technical visits, social programmes, transport, accommodation and tours.

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Media

Saudi Arabia-based media wishing to cover the General Assembly session should contact the Press Service of the Ministry of Tourism of Saudi Arabia by email at: najla@mt.gov.sa

International media wishing to cover the General Assembly meeting should contact the UN Tourism Communication Department, at: comm@unwto.org

A photograph of a natural rock arch in a desert landscape, with the sun low in the sky, casting long shadows. The arch is made of layered sandstone. The desert floor is sandy with some sparse vegetation. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

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Internet access

An area equipped with several computers with free Internet connection will be reserved and made available to delegates.

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List of participants

A provisional list of participants will be available for consultation in advance at the following link:
<https://www.unwto.org/general-assembly-twenty-sixth-session-home>.

The final list of participants will also be posted on the same website.

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Access to the meetings

Full Members

Delegations of Full Members, consisting of five delegates at most, one of whom shall be designated head of delegation, shall be entitled to attend the plenary meetings of the Assembly. Each delegation may also include alternate delegates and as many advisers, technical advisers, experts and persons of similar status as may be required by it. (Rule 9(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).

Associate Members and Affiliate Members

Delegations of Associate Members, consisting of five delegates at most, one of whom shall be designated head of delegation, and not more than three observers designated by the Committee of Affiliate Members, as well as one observer designated by each Affiliate Member shall be entitled to attend the plenary meetings of the Assembly. (Rule 9(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).

Non-members and international organizations

Invited representatives of States that are not members of the Organization but that are members of the United Nations or of a specialized agency of the United Nations or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as well as invited representatives of international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, shall be entitled to attend the public plenary meetings of the Assembly as observers. (Rule 9(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly)





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Seating arrangements

Delegations will be seated in the plenary meetings in English alphabetical order, beginning with the Member that is hosting the session of the General Assembly.

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Safety and security

Emergency numbers

Medical emergencies (Ambulances): 911
Police: 911

Health care service

Medical and emergency services will be provided to registered delegates who require assistance at the event venue. The healthcare service locations in Riyadh and their contact information are as follows:

SMC Hospitals King Fahd Road

King Fahd Rd, Al Olaya, Riyadh 12311
+966 114343800

Dr Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Center- DQ

7163 Altawqi St, Al Safarat, 3595, Riyadh 12511
+966 112444444

Dr Sulaiman Al Habib Hospital Al Takhassousi

Al Takhassousi, Ar Rahmaniyyah, Riyadh 12344
+966 112833333

UN Tourism Safety & Security Coordinator

Name: Mr. Antonio Garcia
Cell: +34 699976040

Practical information

Official language: Arabic is the official language of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. English serves as an informal second language in the Kingdom and is spoken by a large section of its society.

Local time: The official time in Saudi Arabia is GMT + 3 hours

Local & international phone calls:

- The international country code for Saudi Arabia is: +966
- To make a local phone call to a Saudi mobile, dial 05 followed by the 8-digit number.

Country: Saudi Arabia

Capital: Riyadh

Largest city: Riyadh

About Riyadh: Riyadh combines ancient history with modern dynamism, offering a glimpse into Arabia's past and future. Explore the city's rich heritage through souqs, museums, and historical architecture, and experience its modern side with high-rises and a thriving art scene, highlighted by the Riyadh Art initiative that turns the city into an open-air gallery.

Weather: The average maximum temperature is 27°C and the average low is 15°C.

Local currency and exchange rates: Saudi Arabian Riyal (SAR)

Electricity: Electrical sockets in Saudi Arabia usually supply electricity at 110/220 volts AC. Electrical plugs are type G.

Credit cards, shopping and tipping: Debit and credit cards are widely accepted and there are ATMs throughout the city. The vast majority of establishments accept payment for goods and services with a credit card. Major credit cards, such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express, are accepted in most hotels, restaurants, and stores throughout the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia imposes an indirect tax of 15% (VAT) on all goods and services purchased and sold by enterprises.

The concept of tipping is directly related to customer satisfaction regarding the treatment received. Tipping continues to be considered in its original meaning as being "voluntary" and at the discretion of the consumer.

Currency and banking: The currency in Saudi Arabia is the Saudi Riyal (SAR). Authorized money changers are available at the airport and near the event venue. Delegates can also withdraw SAR through Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), which are widely available in Riyadh.

Tourism information

Saudi Tourism Authority: <https://sta.gov.sa/en/>

Official Saudi Arabian tourism website: www.visitsaudi.com/en



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