



Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha stated that he asked for permission to represent Thai people of the whole country to thank travelers all over the world for voting some cities in Thailand as top tourist destinations.

In his national address on 5 October 2018, the Prime Minister referred to the Mastercard 2018 Global Destination Cities Index, which named Bangkok the number one city in the world this year. He was delighted to hear the news, saying that the Government regarded tourists as special guests of the Thai people.

According to the Mastercard Index, the top cities underscore the importance of robust infrastructure, both business and leisure attractions, plus strong local culture. The year 2018 is the third consecutive year that Bangkok has been ranked in the top spot. In 2017, more than 20 million travelers visited Bangkok, with the average length of stay at 4.7 nights, and daily spending of US\$173 (5,500 baht).

The Mastercard Index predicted a strong annual growth for tourism arrivals of 9.6 percent in 2018 for Bangkok. It also listed Phuket and Pattaya among the 20 most-visited destinations in the world.

The Prime Minister said that Thai people should be proud of their country and impress all visitors and make them happy while staying in Thailand. He also called on the public to serve as good hosts and be aware of the image of the country in the international arena, as well as on social media. Emphasis must be placed on ensuring safety standards, too.