

**US tourists continue to visit Malaysia despite air tragedies – Bernama
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Despite the three plane tragedies of last year, the 2014 tourist traffic from the United States (US) to Malaysia remained stable.

"The total number of arrivals from the US in Malaysia was around 262,000 in 2014. Despite the three tragedies, we achieved our targets.

"Indeed, without the tragedies, we could have achieved a much higher level of arrivals from the United States," Azlina Azni Zainal Abidin, the vice-president of the Los Angeles office of Tourism Malaysia, told Bernama during a visit to New York where she attended a meeting.

She was referring to Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 and MH17, as well as AirAsia Flight 8501.

"Though the three tragedies were terrible, we have been told by the US travel industry that Malaysia's image as an attractive tourist destination should not be affected. These tragedies, we were told, could happen anywhere," Azlina said.

"Tourists have told me that Malaysia's best asset is its people who are very warm, hospitable and helpful. As a destination, Malaysia has a lot to offer. We are continuing to promote Malaysia," she added. – Bernama, April 21, 2015.

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