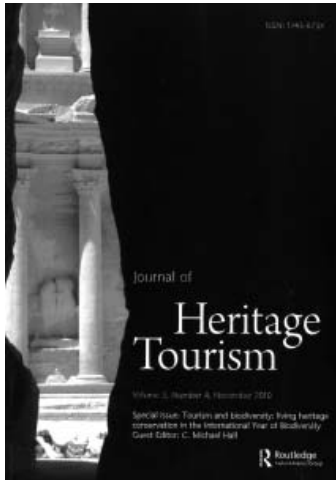


journal review

Journal of Heritage Tourism



Tourism and culture as multi-layered syntagm often attracted the researchers of different scientific orientations.

As a recent phenomenon, from its beginnings tourism shows causal relationship with the culture in the broadest sense. Namely, in the vast majority of its forms, tourism includes some cultural motives, so the cultural heritage is its base and "primary raw material" as well. So, we often talk about the concepts such as cultural tourism, culture in tourism, as well as tourism culture. Complementarities of tourism and cultural policies should be mentioned too. The cultural functions of tourism are known as well as the tourism functions of culture. However, the basic approach assumes research interdisciplinarity regarding the interconnectedness of both globalized social realities.

An international Journal of Heritage Tourism (JHT) which was relatively recently (2006) introduced, assumes such a character. It deals with many aspects of heritage tourism as one of the oldest and most widespread types of tourism and travel in general. Chief editor of the quarterly, Dallen J. Timothy from Arizona State University (School of Community Resources and Development), with his programmatic article in the first issue pointed that the papers within this theme were previously published in various publications, so it was necessary to initiate a publishing of scientific journal that would deal with a wide range of articles commonly referred to a cultural tourism, i.e. historic and natural heritage tourism. With theoretical papers and case studies, the journal seeks to bridge the gap between academic and practical understanding of this undoubtedly a very complex problem. It refers to the attractions such as architectural, artistic and environmental heritage, located mostly in the cities but in the rural areas too. This problem is subject to various scientific classifications and typologies by value, location, number of visits, etc. The cultural-historical heritage in tourism certainly includes historic buildings and historic sites, monuments, archeological sites and zones, folklore and traditions, handicrafts, museums, as well as so called cultural itineraries, gastronomic and enological culture and corresponding events.

In the last two decades the studies of tourism as globally important social phenomenon experienced a major specializations and sub-specializations. This justifies the existence of such a journal that publishes high quality peer-reviewed papers written by authors from different countries. For example, there are contributions about: naive art in America, Vi-

king festivals in Europe, World War II sites in Singapore, the role of museums in the presentation of cultural heritage, visitor perceptions of cultural products authenticity, examples of living history events, heritage of the Bedouins in Jordan, reidentification of Jewish youth in the Diaspora, etc. Within this framework, there are also published papers on religious tourism destinations that offer attractions which could be included into the concept of cultural tourism, as for example the temple complex in Haifa Bahai sect, a religious heritage in Georgia, cathedrals in England, etc. Another interesting paper is contribution of Renata Fox from the University of Rijeka about the "literary tourism" related to Marin Drzic, a famous Dubrovnik writer from the 16th century.

In the past few years JHT has published three special issues (actually Proceedings) on: world cultural heritage management (World Heritage Sites), the anthropological aspects of cultural and ethnic tourism, and tourism and biodiversity. The last issue was published on the occasion of the World Year of Biodiversity (2010). Seven articles deal with this topic linking resources protection (conservation) and sustainable tourism development. Particularly important are issues of tourism in protected natural areas and the so-called wildlife tourism as well as the impact of climate change on biodiversity. There should be mentioned a review of the famous UN Convention on Biological Diversity adopted at a Rio de Janeiro Summit in 1992 and its consequences for tourism, and the influence of biodiversity to an important market for cruises, especially in the Arctic region, etc.

The comparative overview of the previous issues shows that the Journal meets the goal gradually filling some gaps in this academic discipline, although, as pointed out, other journals gladly accept similar contributions too. However, the focus is not on the situation description only, but on the possible and desirable trends, which is in line with Croatia cultural tourism strategy in 2003, for example. Culture as a tourism product is a great challenge and opportunity all over the world, so the articles in this journal are globally interesting and inspiring as well.

Journal Editorial board brings together twenty members from different, mainly overseas universities. Each issue generally contains three to seven papers and few bibliographic reviews.

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