

## Summary

# Interculturalism and Tourism: New Dimensions of Free Time<sup>2</sup>

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The paper analyses intercultural and pedagogical characteristics of modern tourism. Interculturalism is a feature of many fields of human activity. One of them is tourism, as it brings together all categories of people: children, youth, adults, senior citizens, people of different nationalities, cultures, religions, values and sexes. Through many types of activities tourism brings together millions of people, putting them in intense patterns of communication and cooperation. Tourism is thus a first-rate intercultural phenomenon.

In addition to rest, recreation, relaxation and entertainment, modern-day tourism provides increasingly more opportunities for satisfying people's need to meet and get to know other people, communities, cultures and social environments and the need to make contact, dialogue and cooperation based on equality and leading to better mutual understanding and sense of togetherness.

Chief elements in defining the intercultural dimensions of tourism lie in the very nature of tourism: contact, meeting, dialogue, exchange, exchange of information, understanding and acceptance. Interaction between the host and the guest represents a dialogue between different cultural and national identities. Each participant in a contact or exchange represents and portrays their culture, providing instances of intercultural communication of the first order. Meeting different people is the most salient feature of tourism. In viewing tourism as a crossing of borders we look upon tourists as interculturalists or promoters of interculturalism, irrespective of their personal view of culture and interculturalism.

**Key words:** culture, interculturalism, tourism, free time, tourist culture.

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