

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF TOURISM RESEARCH

Call for Papers

Special Issue on: *Sustainable Transport and Mobility for Tourism in Non-urban Areas*

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AIMS AND SCOPE

Tourists looking for destinations in less urbanized areas are often attracted by the ecological and cultural attractiveness of these regions and landscapes. It is also documented in many studies that such tourists tend to be highly sensitive to environmental quality issues, to the need to protect local ecosystems, or to prevent global impacts of CO2 emissions. However, when visiting these areas with relatively low population density, they also face important challenges, such as long-distance travel or a relative scarcity of public transport, which constitutes a strong incentive for the utilization of private forms of transportation. These problems are relatively well documented in the literature (e.g., Gronau and Kagermeier, 2007; Dickinson and Robbins, 2007, 2008; Le-Klähn and Hall, 2015), while the positive impacts of the utilization of public transport by urban tourists on destination satisfaction has been identified in different studies and contexts (Thompson and Schofield, 2007; Romão and Bi, 2021). However, the development and implementation of public transport systems in non-urbanized areas remains an important challenge for the sustainable development of tourism in these areas.

Active forms of micro-mobility (e.g. walking or cycling) are often advocated as sustainable modes for leisure travellers, but have also intrinsic limitations. Although bicycles tend to be increasingly popular in the last decades (Les Lumsdon, 2000), they require a physical effort that is not always compatible with the characteristics of travelers (e.g., for small children or elderly visitors) and with the physical geography of many of these destinations, which may include mountains and remote areas, but also rural or coastal areas with sparse resident population. Moreover, attractive tourism resources in these areas are often dispersed along the territory, implying movements with relatively long distances. In this context, private cars may appear as the only effective solution to ensure the mobility of tourists within this type of destination. In that sense, methods and techniques to analyze different types of "Big Data" are increasingly adopted to analyze or to improve the mobility of tourists in different spatial contexts (Park et al., 2020; Turk et al, 2021), in order to identify more sustainable and efficient solutions, in a context in which habits and policies assume a central role (Zamparini and Vergori, 2021).

Recent approaches aiming at finding innovative solutions combining different motivations and needs of the populations in non-urban and rural areas have been proposed (Poltimäe et al, 2022), suggesting that the mobility of tourists and local residents can eventually be combined in an effective and sustainable way. By considering different innovative uses of shared or active mobility and the integration of different services (including demand responsive forms of transport), ITF (2021) proposes different examples of good practices and policy guidelines with great relevance for sustainable tourism mobility.

Assuming the importance of reducing the utilization of private cars and related problems of traffic congestion and CO2 emissions, this special issue aims at examining sustainability challenges caused to tourism activities by the lack of public transport facilities in less urbanized areas, along with potential

solutions and alternatives, keeping in mind the importance of ensuring an enjoyable, satisfactory and memorable experience, that mobilizes the diversity of territorial resources existing in these destinations.

TOPICS OF INTEREST:

The special issue accepts analytical contributions supported by different methodological approaches that are firmly rooted into the existing knowledge, while leading to innovative insights at the theoretical, conceptual or methodological levels, in order to increase our understanding of these problems and to open new perspectives and paths for further research. Papers may be related to following specific topics:

- Transport modes for tourism in areas of low population density;
- Public transport and satisfaction with tourism experiences in non-urban areas;
- Transport and territorial dispersion of tourism attractions;
- Sustainable tourism and sustainable transport in non-urban territories;
- Sustainable transport for touristic routes and networks;
- Mobility as a Service (MaaS) and Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) for tourism in non-urbanized areas;
- Use of “soft modes” of transportation to differentiate a tourism area as an “eco-friendly” destination;
- Sustainable transports for routes and networks of tourism attractions;
- Combining different needs of different groups (including residents and tourists) for integrated and sustainable mobility solutions;
- Shared and active mobility for tourism and non-urban communities;
- Electric vehicles and other types of mobility solutions potentially contributing to a sustainable energy transition;
- Other relevant aspects of smart and/or sustainable forms of mobility in non-urban tourism destinations;
- Big data, internet-of-things and other ICT applications for mobility support and management in non-urban destinations or networks of attractions;
- GIS-based modelling studies on non-urban tourism.

REFERENCES:

Dickinson, J.E. and Robbins, D. (2007) Using the car in a fragile rural tourist destination: a social representations perspective. *Journal of Transport Geography* 15: 116-126

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Gronau, G. and Kagermeier, A. (2007) Key factors for successful leisure and tourism public transport provision. *Journal of Transport Geography* 15: 127-135.

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Le-Klähn, D.-T. and Hall, C.M. (2015) Tourist use of public transport at destinations – a review. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 18(8): 785-803.

Lumsdon, L. (2000) Transport and Tourism: Cycle Tourism – A Model for Sustainable Development?. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 8(5): 361-377.

Park, S., Xu, Y., Jiang, L., Chen, Z. and Huang, S. (2020) Spatial structures of tourism destinations: A trajectory data mining approach leveraging mobile big data. *Annals of Tourism Research* 84: 102973

Poltimäe, H., Rehema, M. Raun, J and Poom, A. (2022) In search of sustainable and inclusive mobility solutions for rural areas. *European Transport Research Review* 14:13. Doi: 10.1186/s12544-022-00536-3

Romão, J. and Bi, Y. (2021) Determinants of collective transport mode choice and its impacts on trip satisfaction in urban tourism. *Journal of Transport Geography* 94: 103094

Thompson, K. and Schofield, P. (2007) An investigation of the relationship between public transport performance and destination satisfaction. *Journal of Transport Geography* 15: 136-144.

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Zamparini, L. and Vergori, A.S. (2021) Sustainable mobility at tourist destinations: The relevance of habits and the role of policies. *Journal of Transport Geography* 93: 103088.

Submission guidelines

Authors interested in this special issue are invited to submit an extended abstract (maximum 1000 words excluding references), until **31 January 2023**. Abstracts should include a title, a brief description of the study (objectives, methods, data, main results), authorship, author affiliation(s), contact information (including the email addresses of all authors) and keywords (maximum six).

Timeline:

Abstract submissions: 30 April 2023
Abstract decisions*: 28 May 2023
Full paper submissions: 30 September 2023
Expected date of publication *: 2024
** papers will be pre-published online when approved*

Review process:

Each paper submitted for publication consideration is subjected to the standard review process of *International Journal of Tourism Research*. The approval of an abstract and an invitation from the guest editors to submit a full paper does not guarantee publication. Contributions from researchers and practitioners from around the world are welcomed.